



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

111 Executive Center Drive
Suite 242
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 896-1120
info@sctuitiongrants.org

Katherine H. Harrison
Executive Director

Overview of the 2023 SC General Assembly as Related to the SC Tuition Grants Program

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission submitted its 2023-2024 State Budget Request last September, requesting continuation of funding of the \$10 million increase for the Tuition Grants Program realized in FY23. The Commission's Budget Request asked for consideration of these funds being moved from Lottery (non-recurring) to General Fund (recurring). The Request also asked for an increase in the Tuition Grants Commission's "Authority to Spend" the allocation received through CHE for the Children's Education Endowment to a total of \$16 million (up from \$6 million currently).

Governor Henry McMaster released his 2023-2024 Executive Budget in January. The Executive Budget recommended continued funding of the recent increases for both the Tuition Grants Program and CHE's Need-Based Grant Program. The Governor's Executive Budget recommended the funding source for these funds continue to be allocations from the Lottery account.

On January 17, 2023, the Commission appeared before the House Ways and Means Higher Education Subcommittee to present its Budget Request. The Commission thanked the legislature for the funding provided in previous years and expressed support not only for the Governor's continued support of Tuition Grants funding, but also for the increase in funding for the State Need-Based Grant Program supporting needy students attending the state's public institutions of higher education. In its final deliberations, the House Ways and Means Committee recommended and approved the continuation of last year's \$10 million increase in Tuition Grants funding provided through the Lottery.

On January 31, 2023, the Commission presented its Budget Request to the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, once again expressing support for the Need-Based Grant Program in addition to advocating for the Tuition Grant. The Subcommittee reported favorably, and the full Senate's version of the FY24 Budget recommended the continuation of an increase of \$10 million for Tuition Grants through Lottery appropriations.

Both the House and Senate also approved the \$10 million increase to the agency's authority limit to spend funds it receives annually through the Children's Education Endowment fund.

After the Conference Committee met to address differences in the House and Senate versions of the FY24 Budget, the full General Assembly voted to approve the FY24 budget on June 14, 2023. The budget once again retains the additional \$10 million in lottery allocations for the Tuition Grants Program, bringing the total amount of lottery funding to \$20 million again this year. The increase in Authority for the Children's Education Endowment fund was also approved.