



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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REVIEW OF THE 2023-2024 STATE BUDGET REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TUITION GRANTS PROGRAM

At the June 2022 South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission Meeting, the Commission approved the budget request to be sent to the State Executive Budget Office for funding of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The agency submitted documents in September 2022 asking for continued funding of the \$10 million increase for the Tuition Grants Program realized in FY 2022 and 2023. The Commission's Budget Request asked for consideration of these funds being moved from Lottery (non-recurring) to General Fund (recurring). In addition, the Budget Request included a request to increase the agency's Authority to Spend Other Funds by an additional \$10 million (for a total of \$16 million). This adjustment would provide the agency with the ability to spend the additional funding it has received from the Commission on Higher Education as its share of need-based grants through the Educational Endowment Fund as a result of the recent increases to need-based funding through the Lottery.

Executive Director Katie Harrison met with representatives from the Governor's office and the Executive Budget Office on **October 6, 2022** to review the request and to discuss the budget request, the impact of the program, and to answer questions.

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 and included an additional \$10 million allocation to CHE for the Need-Based Grant. The Governor's Executive Budget recommends the funding source for these funds continue to be allocations from the Lottery account.

The General Assembly convened in January to begin the legislative year for the State of South Carolina. The South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission appeared before the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee on **January 17, 2023**, in Columbia. The Higher Education Subcommittee is chaired by Representative Nathan Ballentine (Richland/Lexington). He is joined on the subcommittee by Representatives Gilda Cobb-Hunter (Orangeburg) and Bill Taylor (Aiken/Lexington).

The House Ways & Means Committee has approved the recommendations of the Governor and has submitted to the full House a budget which includes the \$10 million increase in Lottery appropriation for the Tuition Grants Program and the \$10 million increase in "Authority to Spend Other Funds." The House is scheduled to debate the FY24 Budget during the week of **March 13, 2023**.

The Commission appeared appear before the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee on **January 31, 2023**. The Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee is chaired by Senator Ronnie Cromer (Newberry/Lexington/Union). He is joined on the subcommittee by Senators John Scott (Richland), Darrell Jackson (Richland), Ross Turner (Greenville), and Tom Corbin (Greenville/Spartanburg). The full Finance Committee is scheduled to meet during the week of **April 4, 2023**. The full Senate is tentatively scheduled to make its recommendations during the week of **April 18, 2023**, which includes Higher Education Day at the State House.