



# 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

## **REVIEW OF THE 2024-2025 STATE BUDGET REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA TUITION GRANTS PROGRAM**

At the June 2023 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 2024-2025 fiscal year. The agency submitted documents in September 2023 asking for continued funding of the \$10 million increase for the Tuition Grants Program realized beginning in FY21. 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 \$10,000 increase to support the agency's obligation to pay employee benefits.

Executive Director Katie Harrison met with representatives from the Governor's office and the Executive Budget Office on **October 12, 2023**, to review the request and to discuss the budget request, the impact of the program, and to answer questions.

Governor Henry McMaster released his 2024-2025 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 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 11, 2024**, 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. The House is scheduled to debate the FY25 Budget during the week of **March 11, 2024**.

The Commission appeared appear before the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee on **February 13, 2024**. The Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee is chaired by Senator Ronnie Cromer (Newberry/Lexington/Union). He is joined on the subcommittee by Senators Thomas McElveen (Richland/Kershaw/Lee/Sumter), Darrell Jackson (Richland), Ross Turner (Greenville), and Tom Corbin (Greenville/Spartanburg). The full Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to meet during the week of **April 9, 2024**, while the full Senate is tentatively scheduled to make its recommendations during the week of **April 23, 2024**.