



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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Annual Crescerance Contract and Legislative Geocoding Action Plan for 2023-2024

Since January 2007, the Tuition Grants Commission has contracted with Capitol Impact annually to provide geocoded listings of all South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients. This information has been used in two ways: first, it is used to provide each participating college a list of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients attending their college with their corresponding House and Senate Member for their district, and second, it gives the Commission the ability to provide each state legislator information and a spreadsheet (available via secure internet download) initiating the names of recipients from their legislative district with an estimated amount of total funds that those recipients receive in South Carolina Tuition Grants.

For the past several years, Engagifii by Crescerance has maintained the legacy Capitol Impact system for the Commission's use, at a continued flat-rate fee year over year. It was anticipated that the 2022-2023 legislative cycle would be the final year Capitol Impact would be used as it has been in the past.

During the most recent use of the legacy system, several errors and issues occurred, significantly delaying the availability of the data, and later leading to a discovery of erroneous data. Despite assurances made by Crescerance that the results of the redistricting process that took place following the 2020 Census were accounted for and accurate in the system, nearly 1/3 of the data geocoded through the address match process were incorrect. This discovery came as a result of a freshman legislator noticing 17 of the 19 students on his list resided in a town not within his district. After several attempts to rectify the situation with Crescerance, Commission Deputy Director, Zachary Christian, found an alternative process to provide the geocoding match to Tuition Grants recipients' addresses through use of the U.S. Census Bureau data. This alternative process was used to correctly geocode the 2022 fall South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients, with a thorough sample size being tested and confirmed.

While this process will be more manual than the Capitol Impact system has allowed it to be from the end-user side, it is proven to be more accurate and at no additional cost to the Commission, and eliminates the need for the agency to enter into a sole source procurement contract with Capitol Impact, which has historically required approval by the Commission.

Commission Staff plan to use alternative, no-cost methods, to provide each college and university with a listing of the South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients attending their institution along with their respective legislator's information for the 2023-2024 Legislative Cycle. These files will be made available via secure download through the Commission's Website in early-January, once all fall grants have been disbursed and the matching process is completed.