



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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Overview of the 2024 SC General Assembly as Related to the SC Tuition Grants Program

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission submitted its 2024-2025 State Budget Request last September, requesting continuation of funding of the \$10 million increase for the Tuition Grants Program realized in FY24. The Commission's Budget Request asked for consideration of these funds being moved from Lottery (non-recurring) to General Fund (recurring).

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 recommended the funding source for these funds continue to be allocations from the Lottery account.

On January 11, 2024, 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 the \$10 million increase in Tuition Grants funding provided through the Lottery.

On February 13, 2024, 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 FY25 Budget recommended the continuation of an increase of \$10 million for Tuition Grants through Lottery appropriations.

As of the writing of this report, the Conference Committee is still meeting to address differences in the House and Senate versions of the FY25 State Budget.