



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

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 20, 2023; 10:30 A.M.

Zoom Web Conference: Meeting ID: 893 4201 5586; Passcode: 735437

If needed, attendees may dial in using any of the numbers below:

1-312-626-6799

1-929-205-6099

1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 893 4201 5586

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Welcome and Commission Roll Call..... | Katie Harrison |
| 2. | * Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2023 Commission Meeting..... | Scott Cochran, Chair |
| 3. | Agency Updates..... | Katie Harrison |
| 4. | Review of 2022-2023 Award Year Ending June 30 and Update
on the 2023-2024 Award Year..... | Zach Christian |
| 5. | Report on the Status on the 2023 Legislative Session..... | Jeff Perez, SCICU |
| 6. | Discussion of the Treatment of Negative SAI for SCTG..... | Katie Harrison |
| 7. | * Approval of the 2024-2025 Budget Request to the State Budget
Division for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program..... | Katie Harrison |
| 8. | Discussion of Crescerance Contract and Legislative Geocoding
Action Plan for 2023-2024..... | Zach Christian |
| 9. | SC Tuition Grants Program Reviews Due from the
Colleges by December 31..... | Zach Christian |
| 10. | 2022-2023 Agency Director Performance Evaluation..... | Scott Cochran, Chair |
| 11. | * Rotation of the Tuition Grants Commission and Election
of Officers..... | Scott Cochran, Chair |
| 12. | New Business..... | Scott Cochran, Chair |
| 13. | Adjournment..... | Scott Cochran, Chair |

***Next Scheduled Commission Meetings:
Tuesday; March 12, 2024; 10:30 AM
Tuesday; June 18, 2024; 10:30 AM***

* Commission Vote or Action Needed

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission notified media outlets of the time and location of this meeting on June 13, 2023.



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MINUTES

South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Teleconference Call
Columbia, South Carolina

Commission Members Participating via Conference Call:

Mr. Scott Cochran, Spartanburg Methodist College, Chair
Dr. Dondi Costin, Charleston Southern University, Vice Chair
Dr. Leroy Staggers, Morris College, Secretary
Dr. Maurice Scherrens, Newberry College
Dr. Gene Fant, North Greenville University
Dr. Matthew vandenBerg, Presbyterian College
Ms. Hannah Craig by proxy on behalf of Dr. William Barker, Southern Wesleyan University
Dr. Rusty Monhollon, CHE President and Executive Director, Ex-officio

Commission Members Absent:

Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford College

Non-Commission Member College Presidents Participating:

Dr. Tom Bogart, Columbia College
Dr. Rick Christman, Columbia International University
Dr. Monica Baloga, Limestone University
Dr. Dwaun Warmack, Claflin University

Mr. Scott Cochran, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Ms. Katie Harrison, Commission Executive Director, informed participants the meeting is being recorded and is being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, welcomed all in attendance and conducted a roll call of the Commission Members participating via conference call. Ms. Harrison confirmed all participating Commission Members in attendance. A quorum was established. Ms. Harrison recognized and welcomed the non-Commission members in attendance.

Mr. Cochran called for a motion to approve the June 21, 2022, Commission Minutes. Dr. Leroy Staggers moved to approve the Minutes and Dr. Dondi Costin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Cochran called on Ms. Harrison to report on 2021-2022 Program Reviews. Ms. Harrison reported on the twenty-one colleges who underwent Program Reviews for the 2021-2022 year, stating all reviews were submitted by the deadline, and all have been closed. Ms. Harrison reported there were only two findings program-wide with neither being repeat findings from the previous year. As a result of one of the findings, Ms. Harrison reminded all colleges of the record-maintenance requirements to prevent similar future findings. Ms. Harrison thanked all participants for their work during the Programs Reviews this year.

Mr. Cochran called on Mr. Zachary Christian, Commission Deputy Director, to report on the 2022-2023 Award Year. Mr. Christian began by adding to Ms. Harrison's record-maintenance requirements by stating that there will be additional guidance written into the 2023-2024 Policies and Procedures Manual. Mr. Christian reported that the Agency has a total available funding amount just over \$53,800,000 for the 2022-2023 Award Year. Our current maximum award amount for 2022-2023 is \$4,500. As of today, the Agency has seen an increase in total number of applications received, total commitments made, and total grants realized. Mr. Christian attributes the rise in applications to the 2022 Commission meeting's unanimously approved changes to the program, allowing the Agency to expand eligibility to more students. The agency awarded and disbursed to over 12,000 students which is up 7% from the previous year. Mr. Christian announced that for the first time in recent history, applicant show-up rate for 2021-22 is greater than forty-five percent.

Mr. Cochran called on Ms. Harrison to report on Agency Updates and Initiative. Ms. Harrison formally introduced Ms. Kira Demery, the Agency's new Program Coordinator, who joined the staff in January 2023. Ms. Harrison stated that Ms. Demery has proven herself as a strong employee who has been quick to comprehend the many nuances of the financial aid profession and state government. Both Ms. Demery and Mr. Christian attended the teleconferenced Commission meeting from South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators' (SCASFAA) New Aid Officer Workshop, where Mr. Christian is a presenter and Ms. Demery is an attendee.

Ms. Harrison reported that Ms. Gena Miles has been completing a momentous amount of training through the state's contracted LinkedIn Learning platform. Ms. Miles has successfully completed over twenty Courses, Learning Paths and modules in the system. Ms. Miles has actively sought out ways to increase her skills and knowledge, and to discover new ways to increase efficiencies in internal processes through the LinkedIn Learning platform.

Ms. Harrison acknowledged Mr. Christian's role as President-Elect of SCASFAA and his recent opportunity to advocate for student financial aid issues and programs on Capitol Hill as part of the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators' (NASFAA) annual leadership and legislative conference through his recently acquired role.

Ms. Harrison described recently concluding her term as President of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) in October. Ms. Harrison continues to serve as part of the leadership planning team for the combined NASSGAP and State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) collaboration project to assist state agencies with their FAFSA Simplification efforts.

The Agency has been following FAFSA Simplification developments closely and have actively engaged in conversations with the U.S. Department of Education and national organizations such as NASSGAP, SHEEO, National College Achievement Network (NCAN), and NASFAA in regard to efforts and issues surrounding upcoming changes for the 2024-2025 year. Based on current information of the upcoming changes, Ms. Harrison described more students will be eligible for more Pell grant funds. Ms. Harrison stated that based on the information available at this time, possible changes would have impacts to institutions the Agency serves to include ability to package need-based aid early, and possible implications for institutional aid if indexed to Pell grant and/or financial need.

Ms. Harrison reported that the Agency has been working diligently with the state's Procurement Office to complete the process of acquiring a new Student Information System. The Agency has recently received the funding, chosen a vendor and is working through the final language of the contract with the undisclosed vendor to enter into said contract. Ms. Harrison stated the Agency's readiness to implement the chosen system, as well as training all college Financial Aid staff members on the utilization of the selected solution.

The Agency is currently undergoing a House Legislative Oversight Committee Review process. Ms. Harrison updated the Commission on the current state of the process. Ms. Harrison thanked President Scott Cochran

and Dr. Jeffrey Perez for their attendance and positive remarks on behalf of the Agency at the House Legislative Oversight Committee's Public Input Hearing on March 9, 2023.

Mr. Cochran called upon Eddie Shannon, Executive Vice President, South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) to update the Commission on their Letter Writing Campaign. Mr. Shannon reported on last year's campaign where twenty out of twenty-one colleges participated, and acknowledged two colleges' efforts: Allen University, which had one hundred percent participation from their students and Anderson University, which had the most student letters written at 1,770 letters. Mr. Shannon stated that the campus Legislative Coordinators met with SCICU in December 2022, to discuss the Legislative Strategy for 2023. During that meeting, sample letters were given to the coordinators and the upcoming State Budget was discussed. Mr. Shannon reported that the letter writing campaign began in January, and information on the participation of the students during the campaign must be submitted to SCICU by April 4 in preparation for Higher Education Day on April 19. Mr. Shannon thanked all the colleges for all their hard work and support during these campaigns.

Mr. Cochran called upon Ms. Harrison to report on the Review of the 2023-2024 State Budget Request for Funding of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program. Ms. Harrison stated that the budget process is underway, with the House scheduled to meet during the week of March 14, and the Finance Committee of the Senate scheduled to meet on April 4 to discuss the budget. The House is tentatively scheduled to make their budget recommendations the week of April 18. Ms. Harrison reported the Agency asked for continued funding of the \$10,000,000 increase from lottery appropriations for the Tuition Grants Program realized in FY 2022 and 2023 but did not request any additional funding.

Mr. Cochran called upon Dr. Jeffrey Perez, President and CEO of SCICU, to report on the 2023 Legislative Outlook. Dr. Perez began by addressing the Capitol Impact issues facing the letter writing campaigns this year, stating that it was a glitch in the system regarding redistricting. Dr. Perez thanked the Agency for all of the work that they have done to mediate these issues first-hand to get correct information out. Dr. Perez reported that he has communicated with the legislative coordinators and requested that they continue working with the data they have. Dr. Perez stressed the need for each campus to bring at least five students to Higher Education Day at the State House on April 19 to have a strong showing to complement the letter writing campaign.

Dr. Perez stated he does not expect any major changes to the Ways and Means recommendations, such as \$20,000,000 from lottery going to South Carolina Tuition Grants Program, which is the same as has happened in past years. Dr. Perez also reported that the suggested \$69,000,000 for tuition freeze in the public sector for 2-year institutions as recurring funds, \$15,000,000 to the technical colleges in recurring funds, and \$100,000,000 in Workforce Scholarship Grants to the technical college system are expected to be passed. Dr. Perez fielded a question from Mr. Cochran asking for an update on the Commission on Higher Education need-based grant changes. Dr. Perez reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services (CAESS) has decided to forego the discussion on making changes to CHE need-based grants until the state budget has been passed so they know how much money is at their disposal. Dr. Perez called upon Dr. Rusty Monhollon, CHE President and Executive Director to comment on behalf of CHE. Dr. Monhollon alluded to a June meeting of CAESS where changing the formula used to calculate award amounts would be discussed.

Mr. Cochran yielded to Dr. Dondi Costin, Commission Vice Chair, to facilitate the remainder of the meeting in his absence subsequent to Dr. Perez ending his report. Ms. Harrison stated that with Mr. Cochran's absence, a quorum was still met.

Dr. Costin called upon Ms. Harrison to present the Staff Recommendation for Change to the Mission and Vision Statements for consideration. Ms. Harrison opened by reminding participants that the Agency is undergoing the Review of the House Legislative Oversight Committee process, which includes the review of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission Mission and Vision Statements. Ms. Harrison presented the Commission's current Mission Statement, which dates back to 1974, as being lengthy and difficult to remember, and

proposed an option to make the verbiage more clear and concise. Ms. Harrison noted the basis of the Mission Statement remains the same, with changes primarily being made to the layout of the information. The proposed changes to the Vision Statement also take current lengthy verbiage and cuts to a concise one-sentence statement. Dr. Costin called for a motion to discuss changes. Dr. Maurice Scherrens moved to discuss changes in the Mission and Vision Statements; Dr. Gene Fant seconded the motion.

A discussion about verbiage took place, with Dr. Scherrens noting a need for the word "college" to be in the Mission Statement, as well as "private, higher education" to be in the Vision Statement. Dr. Monhollon agreed with Dr. Scherrens' point. A proposed change had been agreed upon to change the end of the initial proposed Mission Statement to "providing need-based tuition grants to students who choose to attend an independent college or university." Dr. Matthew vandenBurg noted the Vision Statement does not speak to the future. Ms. Harrison agreed and presented an option that a new proposal for the change in the Vision Statement would be disseminated to the Commission members. Dr. Costin presented the recommendation of the Statements to be approved as written in the proposal with the agreed upon change, and a new set of Statements to be presented for vote at a later date. Dr. Costin put the changes' acceptance to a vote, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Costin called upon Mr. Christian to present upon a Staff Recommendation for a change to the Agency's Non-Traditional Calendar Program Eligibility. The Commission's current Eligibility Requirements include verbiage stating the approved Non-Traditional Program must "begin classes no sooner than 10 working days prior to the beginning of the college's traditional fall semester and no later than 10 working days after the beginning of the college's traditional fall semester, and end no earlier than 10 working days prior to the end of the college's traditional spring semester and no later than 10 working days after the end the of college's traditional spring semester." In the proposed changes, the verbiage is shortened to one concise sentence stating the program must "begin classes no sooner than the first day of August and end classes no later than the last day of May, to coincide with the traditional fall and spring semesters." Mr. Christian described the proposed update as eliminating the fear or worry of institutions losing eligibility for their students in these populations, as well as eliminating the need for financial aid offices and administrators to work with academic offices to make sure the start and end dates are within the previously described definition. Dr. Costin requested a motion to begin the discussion of the proposed changes to the Non-Traditional Program Eligibility Requirements. Dr. Fant moved to approve the proposed changes. Dr. Staggers seconded the motion. No discussion was found necessary, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Costin called upon Ms. Harrison to present upon a Staff Recommendation regarding Initial 2023-2024 South Carolina Tuition Grant award amount. Based on the support of the additional \$20,000,000 in Lottery Funding continuing for the 2023-2024 year, the agency recommended the Maximum Grant should be increased from the current 2022-2023 Maximum Grant of \$4,500 to a Maximum Grant of \$4,700 for the 2023-2024 Award Year with confidence that the amount will not need to adjusted if the vote were to go through. Dr. Costin called for a motion to increase the Maximum Grant for 2023-2024 Award Year to \$4,700. Dr. Scherrens moved to approve the change. Dr. Staggers seconded the motion. Dr. Costin presented a question about funding not being approved through the budget affecting the requested change in Maximum Grant Award Amount. Ms. Harrison described the process in which the amount recommendation was arrived upon, and assured the Commission that the carry-over funds at the disposal of the Agency would cover any funds not received through the budget approvals. No other discussion was had. Dr. Costin put the motion to a vote which passed unanimously. Ms. Harrison thanked the Commission for supporting the greatest award amount in the history of the program once again.

Dr. Costin reminded all Commission members to complete their Ethics filing by the March 31, 2023 deadline.

Dr. Costin asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Dr. Costin reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2023 at 10:30 am.

Dr. Costin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Staggers moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Fant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Dr. Costin adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Kira Demery
Acting Secretary for
Dr. Leroy Staggers, Secretary
South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission



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Agency Updates and Initiatives

Personnel: Kira Demery, Program Coordinator, attended a Leadership Symposium, held at Claflin University, and hosted by the SC Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA), on April 25th. She has also recently earned the Consumer Information credential through the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Kira and Gena Miles, Financial Officer, attended an in-person class offered by the Statewide Training Team on the 5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity, a Franklin Covey course, in April.

Zachary Christian, Deputy Director, successfully presided over his first Executive Board Meeting as President of SCASFAA on June 8th and 9th and will represent the State of South Carolina on the Executive Board of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) once again this year. Zachary will also attend the annual NASFAA conference in San Diego beginning June 29th as SCASFAA President.

Executive Director Katie Harrison has continued her work as Past President of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP), including in-depth work with the US Department of Education on the upcoming FAFSA changes. She is one of four people who will represent the State of South Carolina at a "Train the Trainer" workshop hosted by the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) and Federal Student Aid (FSA) in Washington, DC, in July. She will also represent the agency at the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Policy Conference in August and their State Learning Community FAFSA Convening event in September.

Status of Audits and Other Reviews: The Office of the State Auditor recently began its review of the agency's FY22 and FY23 accounting records. Once the review is complete, the final report will be made available to all Commission members. Agency staff have begun working on the material that will be presented to the House Legislative Oversight Committee later this year as part of their review and study. At this time, these hearings have not been scheduled. The Committee is currently holding its hearings with the Commission on Higher Education.

Student Information System: With the long-awaited procurement process finalized, the agency entered into a contract with Nelnet Diversified Solutions on April 1st for the planning, development, implementation, and maintenance of a new Student Information System. The Nelnet system is called GrantPro and will be branded for the Tuition Grants Commission as "myTG." The team is making great progress in the development of the system, and we anticipate a go-live date of September 1st, just in time for processing Tuition Grants for the Fall 2023 semester. In addition to streamlining the process for aid administrators, the "myTG" system will also include a student portal, which will allow students to register and view the status of their grant award and disbursements, request a transfer from one college to another, upload documents when required, and more. Demonstrations and training for the new system will be made available to all college financial aid offices later this summer, and the agency has made recent improvements to its conference room, which will allow for enhanced opportunities for additional training, either virtually or in person. Thank you to Zachary and Kira, who have been heavily involved with the development process.



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Review of Award Years to Date

<u>MAXIMUM GRANT FUNDING SOURCES:</u>	<u>AVAILABLE FUNDS 2022-2023</u>	<u>PROJECTED FUNDS 2023-2024</u>
State Recurring:	\$27,558,624	\$27,558,624
Children's Ed. Endowment:	\$6,000,000 *	\$13,065,525 **
State Funds Interest:	\$242,055	\$242,055 ***
State Lottery Funds:	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000
<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>\$53,800,679</u>	<u>\$60,866,204</u>
Approved Maximum Grant:	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>\$4,700</u>
Funding Cutoff Date:	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2022
Applications Received:	31,569 (+2.88%)	32,358 (+2.50%)
Commitments Made:	25,706 (+3.79%)	26,191 (+1.89%)
Grants Realized:	12,036 (+6.87%)	12,262 (+1.88%)
Show-up Rate:	46.82%	46.82% (Estimate)
Average Grant:	\$4,142	\$4,326 (Estimate)

* Independent College Full-time Enrollment for South Carolina Residents for Fall 2021 calculated at 15.85% of the state-wide total. For 2022-23, annual CEE spending authority is \$6,000,000.

** Independent College Full-time Enrollment for South Carolina Residents for Fall 2022 estimated at 15.85% of the state-wide total; to be updated by the Commission on Higher Education in August 2023. For 2023-24, annual CEE spending authority increased to \$16,000,000 (up from \$6,000,000) regardless of the amount received.

*** The authority to spend in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 is set at \$250,000 regardless of the actual interest amount received.



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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.



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FAFSA Simplification: Treatment of Negative Student Aid Index (SAI) for SC Tuition Grants Purposes

Effective with the 2024-2025 FAFSA, the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) will be replaced with the Student Aid Index (SAI) as part of the broader changes being implemented by the FAFSA Simplification and FUTURE Acts. While the new formula will allow an individual's SAI to be as low as negative \$1,500, the US Department of Education has issued guidance stating the following:

"A student's SAI may be a negative number (down to -1,500). A negative SAI should be treated as a zero in determining a student's eligibility for need-based financial aid. In other words, treat a negative SAI as a zero when subtracting the SAI value from cost of attendance to determine a student's unmet need." *

The current formula for determining eligibility for a South Carolina Tuition Grant is:

Cost of Attendance (COA) minus Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) = Financial Need

With the change from SAI to EFC, and based on the guidance provided by the US Department of Education, the new formula for determining eligibility for a South Carolina Tuition Grant effective with the 2024-2025 FAFSA cycle will be:

Cost of Attendance (COA) minus Student Aid Index (SAI – NOT TO FALL BELOW ZERO) = Financial Need

This change will take effect beginning with the 2024-2025 award year, with processing of applications to begin in December 2023 upon release of the new FAFSA form by the US Department of Education.

* 2024-2025 DRAFT SAI GUIDE SUPPLEMENT: EFC-to-SAI CROSSWALK

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/202425DRAFTSAIGuideSupplementEFCtoSAICrosswalk.pdf>



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State Budget Request for Funding of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program

Each Fall, the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission must submit its Budget Request to the Executive Budget Office to be used by the Governor's Office, the House, and the Senate for funding in the next fiscal year. Because the Commission will not meet again before this request is submitted, the Budget Request for funding for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program for 2024-2025 must be approved by the Commission at the June 2023 meeting.

At this time, Commission Staff project that the Program can sustain a maximum grant of \$4,700 while also potentially increasing eligibility to additional students for the 2023-2024 year. This maximum grant was approved by the Commission at the March 2023 meeting.

With the passage of the FY24 budget, the \$10 million in additional funds for the Tuition Grants Program (\$20 million total in lottery funds) will be available for the third year in a row; however, there is once again no guarantee that this increase in lottery funds for the Tuition Grant and the recent increases to the Need-Based Grant for public colleges will be sustained going forward.

To maintain the momentum of increased funding for need-based programs for both public and private college students, it has been recommended that the Commission continue to ask for these funds as part of the budget process. No additional new funding is needed at this time.

There are two different approaches the Commission can take when asking the General Assembly to maintain the increase in funding for the Program:

- (1) Create a request for recurring general funds (State appropriations) in the requested amount. Using this approach, the Legislature will view the request as a monetary need to sustain the increased grant amount moving forward. If approved, this would create a more stable source of funding; however, if the amount is not available in recurring funds through general State appropriations, they could opt to provide the funding once again through Lottery allocations.
- (2) Create an annual request for non-recurring funds in the requested amount as Lottery appropriations. According to Jake Scoggins, Senior Budget Analyst for Senate Finance, programs relying on Lottery appropriations should technically be asking for funds in this manner each year since they are considered non-recurring annual allocations. Some agencies currently take this approach while others do not. Since the Tuition Grants Commission began receiving a portion of its Program funding through Lottery allocations, it has always been considered a "given" that the Program would continue to receive a base amount in Lottery funding, although theoretically this pot of money is supposed to be treated with zero-based budget principles in mind.

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission needs to approve a Budget Request for 2024-2025 for Tuition Grants Program funding, determining both the amount and the source (recurring or non-recurring) of the request. A vote of the Commission is required.



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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.



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Rotation of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

The rotation of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission occurs each year after the summer meeting and is effective July 1.

2022-2023 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Scott Cochran, Spartanburg Methodist College, Chair
Dr. Dondi Costin, Charleston Southern University, Vice Chair
Dr. Leroy Staggers, Morris College, Secretary
Dr. Maurice Scherrens, Newberry College
Dr. Gene Fant, North Greenville University
Dr. Matthew vandenBerg, Presbyterian College
Dr. William Barker, Southern Wesleyan University
Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford College
Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President and Executive Director, CHE, Ex-officio

ROTATING OFF

Mr. Scott Cochran, Spartanburg Methodist, Chair
Dr. Leroy Staggers, Morris College, Secretary

ROTATING ON

Dr. Lester McCorn, Clinton College
Dr. Boone Hopkins, Converse University

2023-2024 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. Dondi Costin, (CSU's New President) (Dr. Costin Currently Vice Chair)
Dr. Lester McCorn, Clinton College
Dr. Boone Hopkins, Converse University
Dr. Maurice Scherrens, Newberry College
Dr. Gene Fant, North Greenville University
Dr. Matthew vandenBerg (PC's New President), Presbyterian College
Dr. William Barker, Southern Wesleyan University
Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford College
Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President and Executive Director, CHE, Ex-officio

REQUESTED ACTION: With Scott Cochran and Leroy Staggers rotating off the Commission, and with Dondi Costin no longer at Charleston Southern University, a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the 2023-2024 South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission need to be elected.



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

SC Tuition Grants Commission Rotation Schedule *2022-2023 through 2042-2043*

2022-2023

ON: NGU, PC, SWU

OFF: Erskine, Voorhees, Limestone

2023-2024

ON: Clinton, Converse

OFF: Morris, SMC

2024-2025

ON: Columbia, Allen, Coker

OFF: CSU, Wofford, Newberry

2025-2026

ON: Furman, BJU, Claflin

OFF: NGU, PC, SWU

2026-2027

ON: SMC, CIU

OFF: Clinton, Converse

2027-2028

ON: Anderson, Benedict, CSU

OFF: Columbia, Allen, Coker

2028-2029

ON: Limestone, Voorhees, Newberry

OFF: Furman, BJU, Claflin

2029-2030

ON: Erskine, Wofford

OFF: SMC, CIU

2030-2031

ON: Morris, NGU, PC

OFF: Anderson, Benedict, CSU

2031-2032

ON: SWU, Clinton, Converse

OFF: Limestone, Voorhees, Newberry

2032-2033

ON: Columbia, Allen

OFF: Erskine, Wofford

2033-2034

ON: Coker, Furman, BJU

OFF: Morris, NGU, PC

2034-2035

ON: Claflin, SMC, CIU

OFF: SWU, Clinton, Converse

2035-2036

ON: Anderson, Benedict

OFF: Columbia, Allen

2036-2037

ON: CSU, Limestone, Voorhees

OFF: Coker, Furman, BJU

2037-2038

ON: Newberry, Erskine, Wofford

OFF: Claflin, SMC, CIU

2038-2039

ON: Morris, NGU

OFF: Anderson, Benedict

2039-2040

ON: PC, SWU, Clinton

OFF: CSU, Limestone, Voorhees

2040-2041

ON: Converse, Columbia, Allen

OFF: Newberry, Erskine, Wofford

2041-2042

ON: Coker, Furman

OFF: Morris, NGU

2042-2043

ON: BJU, Claflin, SMC

OFF: PC, SWU, Clinton