



2023 Annual Accountability Report

**Higher Education Tuition
Grants Commission
Agency Code: H060**

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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is a need-based grant program that was enacted in 1970 by the South Carolina General Assembly as a tuition grants program designed to offset the differences between public college tuition and independent colleges tuition to give South Carolina students the ability to afford to attend the South Carolina college that best meets the student's academic needs.

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is a sound and intelligent investment for the State of South Carolina. The South Carolina independent colleges attended by students receiving Tuition Grants have total operating budgets of over \$750 million and combined capital assets (physical plants and endowments) of over one billion dollars. Thus, the state's current investment of \$44.9 million in the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program supports an industry whose economic impact to the state exceeds \$1.75 billion. Although the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program receives less than 5% of the total state dollars going to higher education, South Carolina independent colleges educated nearly 17% of our state's full-time students last year, and graduate annually over 22% of the state's bachelor's degree recipients. In addition to leveraging available private facilities with this modest investment of funds, the Tuition Grants Program saves the State of South Carolina millions of dollars each year. The savings result from attracting South Carolina students into the South Carolina independent college sector, thereby saving the automatic per student state subsidy that goes to all students attending South Carolina public colleges regardless of financial need and regardless of academic progress towards graduation. The per-student state subsidy averaged \$5,831 in fiscal year 2022-2023 while the average tuition grant was \$4,142. Because of that differential, the State recognized a cost-avoidance savings of \$20,328, last year. Since its inception in 1970, it is estimated that the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has saved the State in excess of \$955 million that taxpayers would have spent through direct subsidies to educate these same students in the State's public colleges. This amount does not include the additional state dollars that would have been needed during the last 53 years to build classrooms and dormitories and to hire additional faculty and staff members. It also does not include dollars that went to public colleges in the form of revenue bond issues.

With a customer-service oriented philosophy and staff, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission takes great pride in its outstanding public reputation for customer service. The customers and constituents served by the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program are the students of South Carolina and their families, the South Carolina independent colleges participating through statutory eligibility in the grants program, all the high schools located throughout the state, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, and the various state agencies with which the Commission coordinates its operations. The South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission encounters each of these constituents throughout the normal operating cycle of a fiscal year.

The day-to-day operation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program includes the following:

- 1) Processing over 31,500 applications that are submitted each year for South Carolina Tuition Grant assistance;
- 2) Analyzing all applications for financial need using the federal methodology approved by Congress;
- 3) Analyzing all applications to determine if they meet Program eligibility requirements as required by statute and policy;
- 4) Notifying the students and their colleges of their eligibility or ineligibility for grant funds;
- 5) Processing appeals of eligibility from students who are not initially eligible;
- 6) Disbursing tuition grant funds to each student at his/her college once full-time enrollment status and other eligibility requirements are confirmed;
- 7) Securely issuing various reports to the participating independent colleges regarding grant eligibility of their South Carolina students;

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- 8) Extensively disseminating South Carolina Tuition Grants Program information to the general public, the South Carolina high schools, and the guidance counselors;
- 9) Responding to all communications from the public concerning general Program information and Program eligibility requirements;
- 10) Communication and coordination with the State Treasurer’s Office, the Comptroller General’s Office, the State Auditor’s Office, the State Executive Budget Office, the State Department of Technology Operations, the State Division of Information Security, the State Human Resources Office, the Commission on Higher Education, the Governor’s Office, the South Carolina General Assembly and its various committees, and all other state agencies involved with administering a state program

Some of the past year's efforts and results that the Commission would like to highlight, all of which may not show up with quantitative results, include:

- A) In March 2023, The Commission consolidated and modernized the verbiage of its Mission and Vision statements, which had both been originally adopted over 35 years ago.

The updated Mission statement is:

The mission of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is to provide access and opportunity for more South Carolinians to pursue a postsecondary education by providing need-based tuition grants to students who choose an independent higher education.

The Mission statement is supported by numerous program goals, as outlined on the Reorganization and Compliance section of the FY23 Accountability Report.

The updated Vision statement is:

Providing opportunity and promoting choice while supporting South Carolina’s postsecondary attainment goals

- B) In March 2023, The Commission also voted to simplify the definition of an eligible non-traditional program of study by revising the timeline of such programs to begin in August and end in May, rather than adhering to a previous timeline requiring strict adherence to a 10-day calendar requirement tied to a college's traditional day program. This change will have a positive impact on adult learners enrolled in programs with more flexible academic calendars or instructional methods than traditional programs.

- C) In the 2022-2023 academic year, 12,036 financially and academically eligible students received South Carolina Tuition Grants. Since the creation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 1970, over 499,000 Tuition Grants have been made assisting South Carolina students to attain their educational and career goals, enabling them to contribute economically and educationally to the State of South Carolina.

- D) In an effort to streamline and modernize student-related application processes, the Commission has moved all student-based forms relating to the Tuition Grants Program online. Utilizing this functionality, students can access the Commission’s website from any computer or mobile device to fill out forms, such as the Tuition Grant Transfer Request, and submit those to the agency within a few minutes. Once submitted, the results are emailed directly to the appropriate Commission staff member to process. This has decreased burden on students to have to print and submit the form, either by scanning and emailing or by mailing to the Commission’s office. This updated process provides the student with a confirmation that his/her form was submitted and will be processed within 1-3 business days, if not sooner.

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E) The Commission continued to provide each state legislator a listing of Tuition Grants Recipients from his/her district along with a notice of the total aggregate amount of Tuition Grants funding disbursed to students in that legislative district. These listings, which only contain directory information for Tuition Grants Recipients, have been used to demonstrate the importance of the Tuition Grants Program and to thank the legislature for the continued support of the Program. Although these files contain no sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII), they are encrypted with a password specific to each legislative district and in accordance with the Commission’s information security procedures. By continuing to provide the listings online, the Commission has streamlined this process and eliminated the need to purchase packages of CDs to mail to the legislators. This has saved the Commission time and money. This process also allows the Commission to identify how many listings are being accessed, confirming the importance of providing this information.

F) Of the total state dollars appropriated for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 2022-2023, 1% or less of the agency budget, including salaries, benefits and required information security expenses, goes into program Administration, with the remaining 99% of the state funds being awarded directly to South Carolina students in the form of need-based state tuition grants.

Outside Factors Affecting Measurements

For many years, the Tuition Grants Commission has reported on measurements designed to increase the number of students applying for the grant and the number of students who ultimately receive the grant. These numbers, however, are greatly impacted by factors completely outside the control of the Commission or any state agency. The main factor revolves around a natural, generational cycle of the number of college-bound students graduating high school, which has been steadily decreasing for several years. As the college-going population can change drastically from year to year, the Commission’s goal is to maintain a proportional number of students who are provided the opportunity to attend an independent college or university. Therefore, the agency has revised the verbiage surrounding some of these measurements to more accurately predict and describe the numbers being reported. Major disasters (i.e. hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding) and public health emergencies like COVID-19 can also have a significant impact on the number of students who are able to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities. Revising the descriptive verbiage of the agency’s measurements allows the agency to continue reporting important information while not necessarily being held to the idea of increasing our base numbers, which could be prohibited by external factors.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

The most negative impact on the public would be to reduce access to higher education for thousands of college students and their families. This would hinder the State’s goals to increase the educational level of its citizens and would result in a further negative impact on the economic future of the State. There is no outside help that could resolve this issue because the General Assembly holds fully within its responsibilities the ability to appropriate funds to keep this from happening. There is only one option for what the General Assembly could do to help resolve the issue before it became a crisis and that is to simply appropriate the needed funds to continue enabling grant-eligible students and their families to afford to pursue their degrees.

Restructuring Recommendations

N/A

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Program Needs

The Tuition Grants Commission is very appreciative of the overwhelming support of the Governor and the General Assembly in maintaining recently approved new Lottery funds in the amount of \$10,000,000 for the Tuition Grants Program in the FY24 State Budget. This monumental investment has allowed the maximum value of the Tuition Grant to increase to a historical maximum of \$4,800 for the 2023-2024 academic year.

To maintain the momentum for increases in need-based financial assistance for college students, the Commission will request that this increase of \$10,000,000 in appropriations be moved from Lottery to Recurring Appropriations as part of its FY25 State Budget Request. This amount would allow the Commission to continue growing its investment in eligible students pursuing a postsecondary degree by increasing the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant for another consecutive year, allowing more students to graduate with less debt and supporting the State’s goal of having 60% of its adult population with a quality postsecondary credential or degree by the year 2030.

Approximately 8% of Tuition Grant recipients are enrolled in non-traditional programs geared toward adult learners, encouraging degree completion and allowing for flexibility in educational delivery methods.

Funding that has been provided for the Program during several years of economic turmoil and the increase in funding that was provided in recent years for the Tuition Grants Program is greatly appreciated by students and their families.

Agency Information Technology and Software System Needs (Program-Related):

To administer the Tuition Grants Program, the agency has utilized a dated, homegrown Access database that is currently functional but is rapidly approaching the end of its useful life. As a result of the approved increase in administrative funds for FY22, Agency staff were able to begin working through the State Procurement process to procure an integrated student information system that will create a more stable and efficient solution to processing grant applications and awards. The Agency entered a contract with the selected vendor on April 1, 2023, and is on track to implement the new system for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Not only will this new software platform provide more effective and user-friendly administration of program funds, it will also allow the agency to better protect highly sensitive student data currently housed by the agency. In addition, the new system will further modernize the agency’s communications efforts with students and will allow for even greater efficiencies when students wish to transfer their grant between institutions, which will occur in real-time.

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Concerns

1. Disparity of State Funding of Need-based aid versus Merit-based aid: The State’s financially needy college students who are average academically, and therefore do not qualify for merit-based scholarships, continue to need the support of the General Assembly through funding of need-based aid programs. The SC Tuition Grant and the SC Need-Based Grant, coupled with federal and institutional financial aid, provide these students the opportunity to succeed in college, despite their lack of financial resources.

For all 2022-2023 Tuition Grants Recipients:

Palmetto Fellows: 9.2% receive both SCTG and Palmetto Fellows.

LIFE: 42.6% receive both SCTG and LIFE.

HOPE: 9.4% receive both SCTG and HOPE.

TOTAL: 61% receive both Merit and Need-based funds.

39% of all Tuition Grants recipients receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO Merit-based Aid.

For Tuition Grants Recipients attending the HBCUs where students may receive Tuition Grants:

37.6% receive both Merit and Need-based funds – this is well below the overall 61% for all grant recipients.

62.4% of HBCU students receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO merit-based aid.

Broader Perspective: The State of South Carolina offers numerous state aid programs based on either merit-based qualifications or financial need, as listed below.

Merit-Based Scholarships Administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education

Palmetto Fellows

LIFE

HOPE

Need-Based Grants Administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education

SC Need-Based Grant

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

Need-Based Grant Administered by the SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

SC Tuition Grant

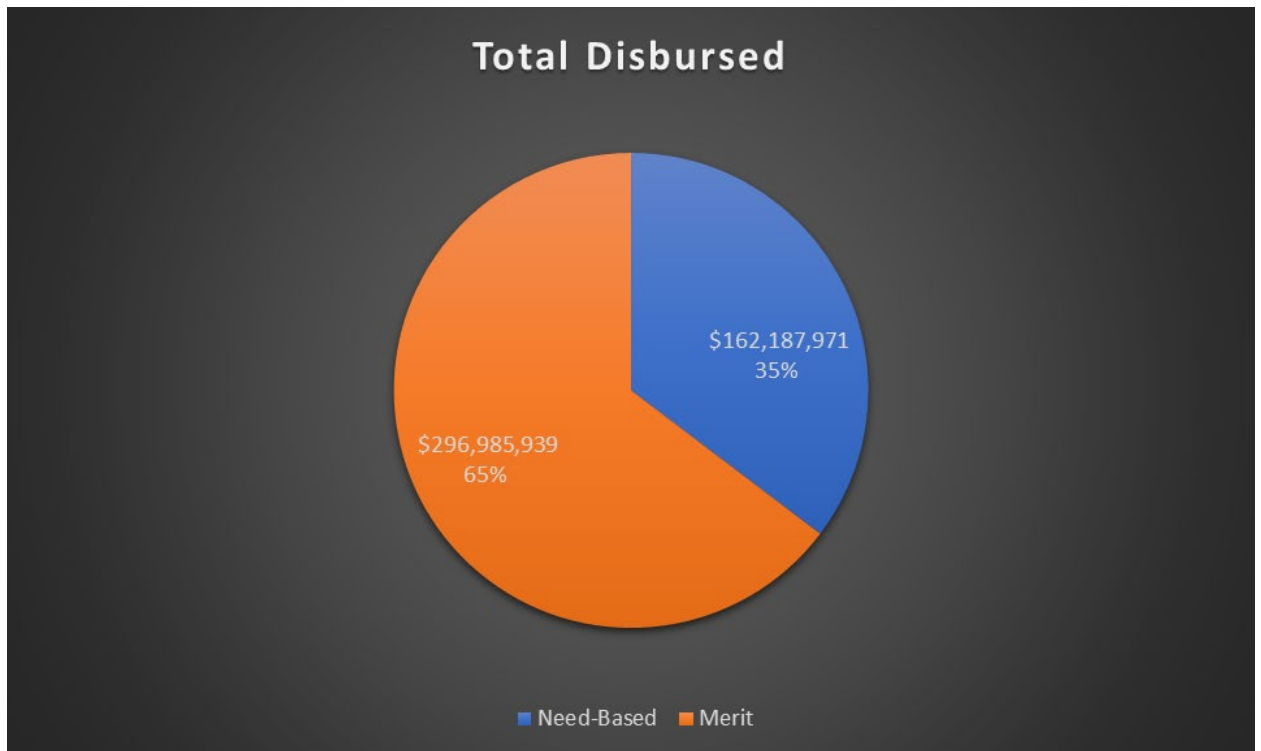
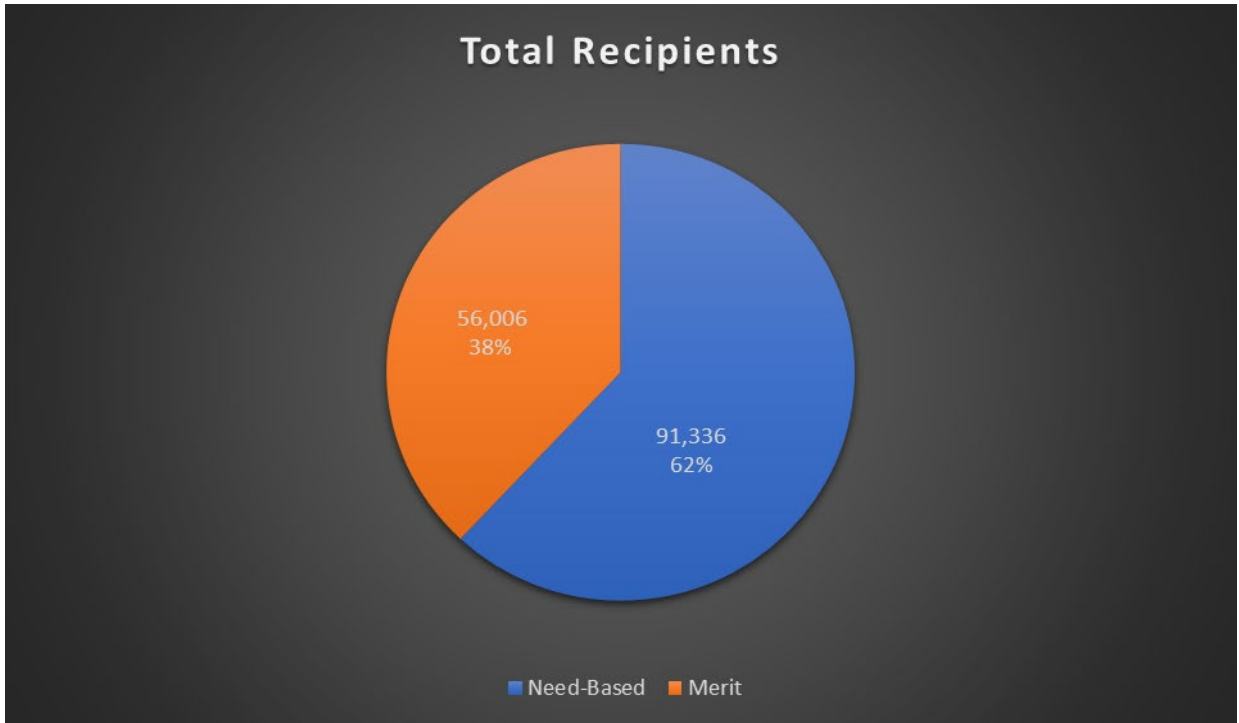
These six programs disbursed \$459 million during the 2021-2022 academic year to a total of 147,342 eligible recipients. Students who were eligible for the merit-based scholarships received a total of \$296.9 million, or 65% of the overall available funding, but comprised only 38% of total recipients.

By contrast, financially needy students who were eligible for need-based programs received a total of \$162.1 million, or 35% of the overall available funding, and comprised 62% of total recipients.

These figures are displayed as graphs on the following page.

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2022-2023 Academic Year State Aid Program Merit/Need Breakdown



AGENCY NAME:

Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

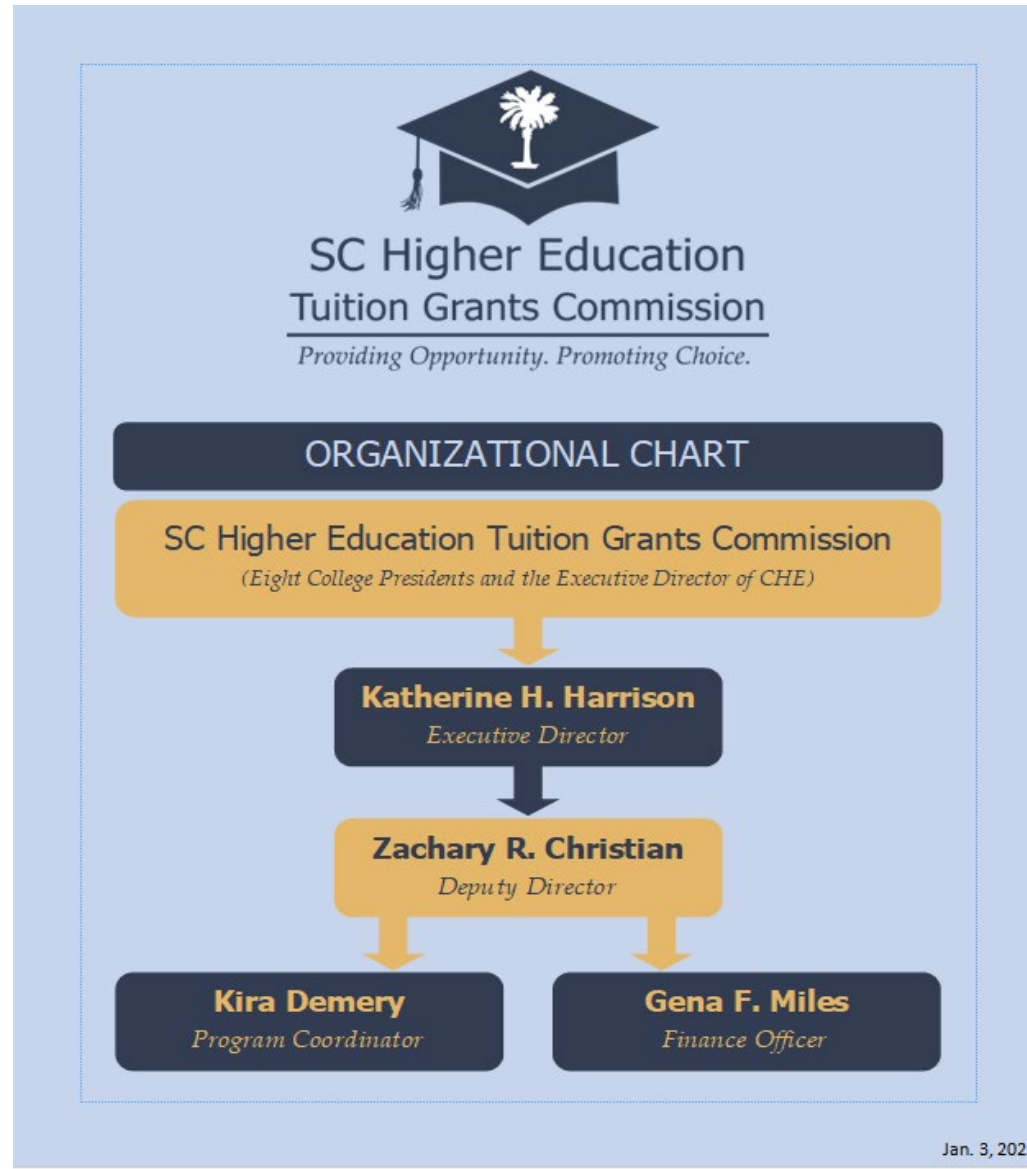
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AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2023

Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Katie	Harrison	Executive Director	katie@sctuitiongrants.org	803-896-1121

Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Zachary	Christian	Deputy Director	zachary@sctuitiongrants.org	803-896-1122

Agency Mission

Adopted in:

2023

The mission of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is to provide access and opportunity for more South Carolinians to pursue a postsecondary education by providing need-based tuition grants to students who choose an independent higher education.

Agency Vision

Adopted in:

2023

Providing opportunity and promoting choice while supporting South Carolina's postsecondary attainment goals

Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

None

Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2023

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
The Commission voted to simplify the definition of an eligible non-traditional program of study by revising the timeline of such programs to begin in August and end in May, rather than adhering to a previous timeline requiring strict adherence to a 10-day calendar requirement tied to a college's traditional day program	March	June	Provide funding to a number of Tuition Grant recipients based on enrollment data, not to fall 5% below prior year number of recipients (1.1.2)	Number of Tuition Grant Recipients may increase as a result of this change, which expands academic calendar timelines for non-traditional programs of study

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).

Yes

Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)

Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 20-1-10 through 20-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).

Yes

Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?

Yes

Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:

59-113-10

Has the agency promulgated any regulations?

No

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?

Yes

(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)

Strategic Plan Results

FY2023

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

- Goal 1** Provide increased state economic benefits and a more educated citizenry by enabling more South Carolinians to obtain a college education by providing financial assistance in the form of need-based state tuition grants to qualified South Carolina residents electing to attend on a full-time basis certain eligible accredited South Carolina independent junior and senior colleges.
- Goal 2** Provide protection of agency information and data.
- Goal 3** Support statewide efforts to provide information and guidance concerning higher education funding options to college-going populations.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1 Gain maximum usage of the available independent college facilities located in South Carolina by assisting eligible students afford the cost of the independent colleges and thereby help in the educating of our state citizenry.														
State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development														
1.1.1	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students	30,686	30,800	31,586	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total applications received from federal processor	Agency Data Base, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Determination of eligibility for need-based financial assistance to attend college	South Carolina residents indicating possible enrollment at an eligible independent institution of higher education located in South Carolina	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
1.1.2	Provide funding to a number of Tuition Grant recipients based on enrollment data, not to fall 5% below prior year number of recipients	11,262	11,600	12,036	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total eligible applications processed by Commission	Agency Data Base, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
1.2 Help offset the higher education costs of attending South Carolina independent colleges for South Carolina students just as the state offsets the higher education costs of state residents attending South Carolina public colleges.														
State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development														
1.2.1	Increase the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant Award	\$ 4,390	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	Dollar Amount	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Dollar amount of Maximum Tuition Grant Award. Calculated based on prior year awards, projected next year awards, and projected appropriations	Commission Meeting Decision in March	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records; Most recently approved Commission Meeting Minutes also available on Tuition Grants Commission website	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Meets target amount
1.2.2	Increase the value of the average Tuition Grant Award	\$ 3,952	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,142	Dollar Amount	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total dollars disbursed by total recipients	Agency Data Base, Updated Weekly	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	
1.3 Preserve the dual system of public and independent college higher education in South Carolina which provides healthy competition between the two sectors.														
State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development														
1.3.1	Maintain a proportional percentage, within 5% of prior year totals, of SC resident FTEs attending eligible independent colleges	17%	13%	16.37%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina resident students attending eligible independent colleges by total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina resident students attending all institutions of higher education in the state	CHEMIS reports through CHE	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records	Provides evidence supporting the need for the state to continue providing need-based financial assistance to college students choosing to attend an eligible independent college or university	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
1.3.2	Maintain an appropriate percentage of SC FTEs, based on predicted student enrollment targets, attending eligible independent colleges receiving a Tuition Grant		66%	65%	71%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total number of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients by total number of full-time undergraduate students attending eligible independent colleges	Combined CHE and Tuition Grants Commission Data, Updated Annually	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records and Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
1.4 Attract SC residents into the SC independent college sector to save State tax dollars that would have to be appropriated at a higher dollar value via the automatic subsidy to those students if they migrated into the SC public college system. State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development															
1.4.1	By effective administration of the Tuition Grants Program, continue to save the State tax dollars that would otherwise subsidize the public college sector by providing need-based financial assistance, at a lower amount than the average public college subsidy, to eligible students attending independent institutions of higher education.	\$12,162,960	\$ 6,000,000	\$20,328,804	Dollar Amount	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Average subsidy per public college minus average TG per recipient times number of TG recipients	Combined CHE and Tuition Grants Commission Data, Updated Annually	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records and Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Promote sound fiscal stewardship of state funds that would otherwise be allocated at a higher rate to South Carolina residents attending public institutions of higher education	South Carolina taxpayers	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount; Average subsidy per public college student increased by a larger than expected amount between FY22 and FY23, creating a higher differential amount used in the calculation	
2.1 Ensure compliance with State and Federal PII and data security requirements by utilizing all available security and encryption mechanisms and by ensuring all software applications maintain current software updates and security patches. State Objective: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security															
2.1.1	Number of security incidents resulting in compromised data	0	0	0	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Count of SOC notifications that show compromised data, confirmed by Department of Technology Operations.	Notification Emails to Agency from Security Operations Center (SOC)	Security Operations Center records and agency emails, if applicable	Prevention of identity theft and compromised personal data	Students attending universities located in South Carolina, and all South Carolina residents who completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the US Department of Education, regardless of college location or enrollment status	0	Meets target amount	
2.2 Provide information security training for agency personnel and track completion rates to ensure all staff members receive training. State Objective: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security															
2.2.1	Percentage of agency personnel completing information security training	100%	100%	100%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	# of employees who have completed all required Information Security Training / total # of employees	Agency Training Records	MySCLearning through SCEIS	Prevention of identity theft and compromised personal data	Students attending universities located in South Carolina, and all South Carolina residents who completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the US Department of Education, regardless of college location or enrollment status	0	Meets target amount	
3.1 Increase awareness of Tuition Grants Program and financial aid application process by participating in a variety of outreach opportunities. State Objective: Government and Citizens															
3.1.1	Maintain the base number of outreach events and activities attended by staff, including high school counselor workshops, financial aid nights, and other events in which information concerning the Tuition Grants Program and the application process can be provided.	10	10	11	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of events	Agency Tracking Records	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Provides critical information concerning the Tuition Grant and other financial aid programs, and the financial application process to South Carolina residents intending to obtain a postsecondary credential or degree and other interested parties in support of that population	South Carolina residents intending to obtain a postsecondary credential or degree; K-12 Guidance/School Counselors; College Admissions and Financial Aid Personnel	0100.010000.000	Exceeds target amount	

Strategic Plan Development

FY2024

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

- Goal 1** Provide increased state economic benefits and a more educated citizenry by enabling more South Carolinians to obtain a college education by providing financial assistance in the form of need-based state tuition grants to qualified South Carolina residents electing to attend on a full-time basis certain eligible accredited South Carolina independent junior and senior colleges.
- Goal 2** Provide protection of agency information and data.
- Goal 3** Support statewide efforts to provide information and guidance concerning higher education funding options to college-going populations.

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Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value	Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number	Responsible	Notes
1.1 Gain maximum usage of the available independent college facilities located in South Carolina by assisting eligible students afford the cost of the independent colleges and thereby help in the educating of our state citizenry.											State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development				
1.1.1	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students	31,586		31,000	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total applications received from federal processor	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Determination of eligibility for need-based financial assistance to attend college	South Carolina residents indicating possible enrollment at an eligible independent institution of higher education located in South Carolina	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000		
1.1.2	Provide funding to a number of Tuition Grant recipients based on enrollment data, not to fall 5% below prior year number of recipients	12,036		12,000	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total eligible applications processed by Commission	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000		
1.2 Help offset the higher education costs of attending South Carolina independent colleges for South Carolina students just as the state offsets the higher education costs of state residents attending South Carolina public colleges.											State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development				
1.2.1	Increase the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant Award	\$ 4,500		\$ 4,700	Dollar Amount	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Dollar amount of Maximum Tuition Grant Award. Calculated based on prior year awards, projected next year awards, and projected appropriations	Commission Meeting Decision in March	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records; Most recently approved Commission Meeting Minutes also available on Tuition Grants Commission website	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000		
1.2.2	Increase the value of the average Tuition Grant Award	\$ 4,142		\$ 4,250	Dollar Amount	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total dollars disbursed by total recipients	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000		
1.3 Preserve the dual system of public and independent college higher education in South Carolina which provides healthy competition between the two sectors.											State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development				
1.3.1	Maintain a proportional percentage, within 5% of prior year totals, of SC resident FTEs attending eligible independent colleges	16%		16%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina resident students attending eligible independent colleges by total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina resident students attending all institutions of higher education in the state	CHEMIS reports through CHE	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records	Provides evidence supporting the need for the state to continue providing need-based financial assistance to college students choosing to attend an eligible independent college or university	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000		

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
1.3.2	Maintain an appropriate percentage of SC FTEs, based on predicted student enrollment targets, attending eligible independent colleges receiving a Tuition Grant		71%	65%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total number of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients by total number of full-time undergraduate students attending eligible independent colleges	Combined CHE and Tuition Grants Commission Data, Updated Annually	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records and Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	
1.4 Attract SC residents into the SC independent college sector to save State tax dollars that would have to be appropriated at a higher dollar value via the automatic subsidy to those students if they migrated into the SC public college system.											State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development			
1.4.1	By effective administration of the Tuition Grants Program, continue to save the State tax dollars that would otherwise subsidize the public college sector by providing need-based financial assistance, at a lower amount than the average public college subsidy, to eligible students attending independent institutions of higher education.	\$ 20,328,804	\$ 10,000,000	Dollar Amount	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Average subsidy per public college minus average TG per recipient times number of TG recipients	Combined CHE and Tuition Grants Commission Data, Updated Annually	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records and Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Promote sound fiscal stewardship of state funds that would otherwise be allocated at a higher rate to South Carolina residents attending public institutions of higher education	South Carolina taxpayers	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000		
2.1 Ensure compliance with State and Federal PII and data security requirements by utilizing all available security and encryption mechanisms and by ensuring all software applications maintain current software updates and security patches.											State Objective: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security			
2.1.1	Number of security incidents resulting in compromised data	0	0	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Count of SOC notifications that show compromised data, confirmed by Department of Technology Operations.	Notification Emails to Agency from Security Operations Center (SOC)	Security Operations Center records and agency emails, if applicable	Prevention of identity theft and compromised personal data	Students attending universities located in South Carolina, and all South Carolina residents who completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the US Department of Education, regardless of college location or enrollment status	0		
2.2 Provide information security training for agency personnel and track completion rates to ensure all staff members receive training.											State Objective: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security			
2.2.1	Percentage of agency personnel completing information security training	100%	100%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	# of employees who have completed all required Information Security Training / total # of employees	Agency Training Records	MySCLearning through SCEIS	Prevention of identity theft and compromised personal data	Students attending universities located in South Carolina, and all South Carolina residents who completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the US Department of Education, regardless of college location or enrollment status	0		
3.1 Increase awareness of Tuition Grants Program and financial aid application process by participating in a variety of outreach opportunities.											State Objective: Government and Citizens			
3.1.1	Maintain the target number of outreach events and activities (minimum of 10) attended by staff, including high school counselor workshops, financial aid nights, and other events in which information concerning the Tuition Grants Program and the application process can be provided.	11	10	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Count of events	Agency Tracking Records	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Provides critical information concerning the Tuition Grant and other financial aid programs, and the financial application process to South Carolina residents intending to obtain a postsecondary credential or degree and other interested parties in support of that population	South Carolina residents intending to obtain a postsecondary credential or degree; K-12 Guidance/School Counselors; College Admissions and Financial Aid Personnel	0100.010000.000		

2023

Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General2	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal4	(Projected) Total
0100.010000.000	Administration	Director Salary, Classified Personnel Salary, Admin Operating Expenses, Lottery Admin Allowance	\$ 323,661.54	\$ 57,558.65	\$ -	\$ 381,220.19	\$ 579,526.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ 649,526.00
0510.000000.000	Tuition Grants	Recurring State Appropriations for Tuition Grants, Interest Earnings, and Childrens Education Endowment Funds, all used specifically to fund Tuition Grants for students	\$ 26,117,895.00	\$ 8,811,120.00	\$ -	\$ 34,929,015.00	\$ 27,558,624.00	\$ 14,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 41,558,624.00
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	Agency's portion of employer benefits expenses	\$ 111,426.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,426.25	\$ 127,478.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127,478.00
9802.010000.000	Tuition Grants	Annual Lottery Allocation received by the Tuition Grants Commission to disburse to eligible students as Tuition Grants	\$ -	\$ 14,912,595.00	\$ -	\$ 14,912,595.00	\$ -	\$ 19,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 19,000,000.00

2023

Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2023
59-112-10	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-100	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-20	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-30	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-40	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-50	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-60	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-70	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-80	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-90	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-113-10	State	Statute	Establishment of the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission including the make up of the Commission and authority to administer Chapter 113.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
59-113-20	State	Statute	Establishes qualifications of applicants for grants.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
59-113-30	State	Statute	Establishes students covered by the chapter and the amount of grants.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2023
59-113-40	State	Statute	Indicates purpose of grants.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
59-113-45	State	Statute	Disbursement requirements for grants and authority to earn interest for grants from State Appropriations.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
59-113-47	State	Statute	Mid-year budget reduction exemption.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
59-113-50	State	Statute	Defines eligible institutions of higher learning for use of the grant.	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-142-20	State	Statute	Directs that a portion of funds be directed to the Tuition Grants Program	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
59-142-70	State	Statute	Defines eligible students who may receive Tuition Grant funding	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
P117.99 (H. 5150, 2022-2023 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.99)	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing data breach notification	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso: H. 4100, 2021-2022 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.100	Amended Proviso Number Only
P117.105 (H. 5150, 2022-2023 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.105)	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing data agency Information Technology and Information Security plan submission	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso: H. 4100, 2021-2022 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.107	Amended Proviso Number Only
P117.98 (H. 5150, 2022-2023 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.98)	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing information security	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso: H. 4100, 2021-2022 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.99	Amended Proviso Number Only
H. 5150, 2022-2023; Section 3 - H660	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing Lottery funds use.	Report our agency must/may provide	Previous Proviso: H. 4100, 2021-2022; Section 3 - H660	Amended Proviso Number Only
Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1001g; 34 CFR Part 600)	Federal	Statute	Federal statute authorizing the FAFSA as a common application for need analysis and determination of eligibility for aid programs	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change

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Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2023	Summary of changes to services
Need-based tuition grant	General Public/Tuition Grant Recipients: Avg. Age=22; Male=38.4%, Female=61.5%, Gender Unspecified=0.1%; Dependent=86.9%, Independent=13.1%; Traditional=92.1%, Non-Traditional=7.9%; Freshman=27.6%, Sophomores=28.2%, Juniors=22.9%, Seniors=21.3%	Tuition Grant Recipients	General Public	Tuition Grants	The agency's responsibility is to administer a state need-based grant program for state residents attending in-state independent higher education institutions. Program is designed to assist students to afford to attend the institution that best meets their academic needs by helping offset tuition differences between public and independent institutions and to provide full use of all higher education facilities in the state. (Mandated at SC Code 59-113-10 through 50)	The most negative impact on the public would be to reduce access to and affordability of higher education for eligible independent college students and their families. This would hinder the State's goals to increase the educational level of its citizenry and would result in a further negative impact on the economic future of the State.	No Change	

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Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Higher Education Institute	22 Eligible SC Independent Colleges	Assists with determination of student eligibility including enrollment and academic eligibility and disburses Tuition Grant funds to recipients	Amend
K-12 Education Institute	All SC High Schools	Distribute Program information and assist students with applications	No Change
Professional Association	CACRAO	Provides opportunities for Program communication to college admissions personnel and high school guidance counselors	No Change
State Government	Commission on Higher Education	Provides data to assist with program administration; Original recipient of Children's Education Endowment Funds, of which the Tuition Grants program receives a percentage	No Change
State Government	Department of Technology Operations	Provides agency-wide desktop computer support and secure server environment for agency data; Provides critical security patches and updates to ensure secure computer operations	No Change
State Government	Division of Information Security	Assists agency personnel with security-related procedures and provides cybersecurity training for agency employees	No Change
State Government	Enterprise Privacy Office	Assists agency personnel with training and guidance on privacy assessments and protection of sensitive data housed by the agency	No Change
State Government	General Assembly	Provides 100% of Program funding	No Change
Professional Association	NASSGAP	Provides professional training and advocates for State financial aid programs in Washington, DC and nationwide	No Change
Professional Association	SCASFAA	Provides professional training and assistance for employees and provides public information on the Program to high schools and colleges state-wide	No Change
State Government	SCETV	Provides annual broadcast about Program to citizens	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	SCICU	Advocates for Independent Higher Education in South Carolina including federal and state financial aid, assists with communications to students	No Change
Non-Governmental Organization	SCISA	Advocates for Independent K-12 Education in South Carolina, assists with communications to students	No Change

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
K-12 Education Institute	Spartanburg Academic Movement/Spartanburg County School District	The partner entities provided high school cohort data to the Tuition Grants Commission, allowing agency to provide student-level FAFSA completion data to assist with awareness of aid programs and access to higher education opportunities	Amend
Federal Government	U. S. Department of Education-Federal Student Aid Office	Provides applications for students and assists with determination of financial need	No Change

2023

Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September-22	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	Provided to LSA for posting online	No Change	
Agency Annual Report	§59-113-10	Provide the Governor, General Assembly, and other interested parties with general Commission and Program information, including annual statistics relating to tuition grant recipients	January-23	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on agency's website	https://sctuitiongrants.org/about-us/	No Change	
Annual Survey Report on State-Sponsored Student Financial Aid		State Aid Awarded	February-23	Annually	Other	Available on another website	https://www.nassgapsurvey.com/survey_reports.aspx	No Change	
Audit & Certification Agency Quarterly Procurement Report	§11-35-2440	Reports agency's procurement activity (or certification of no activity) for the following procurement types: Sole Source, Emergency, Applied Preferences, Unauthorized, 10% Rule, and Trade-in	June-23	Quarterly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic file available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
CAFR Year-End Reports	§11-7-20(b)	Reports financial information about the agency's operations during the year and describes its financial position at the end of each fiscal year	October-22	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	https://cg.sc.gov/financial-reports/annual-comprehensive-financial-reports-acfrs	No Change	
Debt Collection Report	Proviso 117.33	Confirmation that agency has no outstanding debt due to the agency	January-23	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	
Deficit Monitoring	Proviso 117.77	Monitoring of General and Other Funds expenditures and revenues to avoid an overall agency deficit	June-23	Monthly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Hard copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Division of Human Resources	Annual Appropriations Act; §9-1-1140 and 9-11-50 (Retirement Incentive); §8-11-192 (Furlough); §8-1-170 (Group Productivity Incentive); §8-11-770 (Leave Transfer); §1-1-970 (Organizational Chart)	Annual reporting of information as required by the General Appropriations Act and SC Code of Laws	August-22	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
Lottery Expenditures by County		Number of Tuition Grant recipients residing in each county, and the amount of lottery funding each recipient received as a portion of their overall Tuition Grant	November-22	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
Lottery Expenditures by Institution		Number of Tuition Grant recipients, listed by institution, and the amount of lottery funding each recipient received as a portion of their overall Tuition Grant	November-22	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
Small & Minority Business Contracting and Certification MBE Quarterly Progress Report	§11-35-5010	Measures agency's progress toward Small & Minority Business Utilization Plan Goals	March-23	Quarterly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
State Auditor's Office	§11-7-20	Required annual financial audit of all state agencies by the State Auditor	August-23	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	https://osa.sc.gov/reports	No Change	OSA completed their financial audit of the agency's FY23 records in July 2023, but did not issue the final report until August 2, 2023 - just outside of the fiscal year calendar
Tuition Grant Recipients		Provides CHE with a listing of Tuition Grant recipients, by semester, at each participating institution; Aggregate information used by CHE to report total need-based expenditures through the Children's Educational Endowment fund	July-23	Twice a year	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	12

**2023
Accountability Report**

SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
 - Reorganization and Compliance
 - FY2023 Strategic Plan Results
 - FY2024 Strategic Plan Development
 - Legal
 - Services
 - Partnerships
 - Report or Review
 - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency’s budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i> (TYPE/PRINT NAME):	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 9/05/2023 9:53 AM
	Katherine Harrison	

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i> (TYPE/PRINT NAME):	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 9/05/2023 9:53 AM
	Boone Hopkins	