

South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Budget Request 2024-25

House Ways & Means

Higher Education Subcommittee

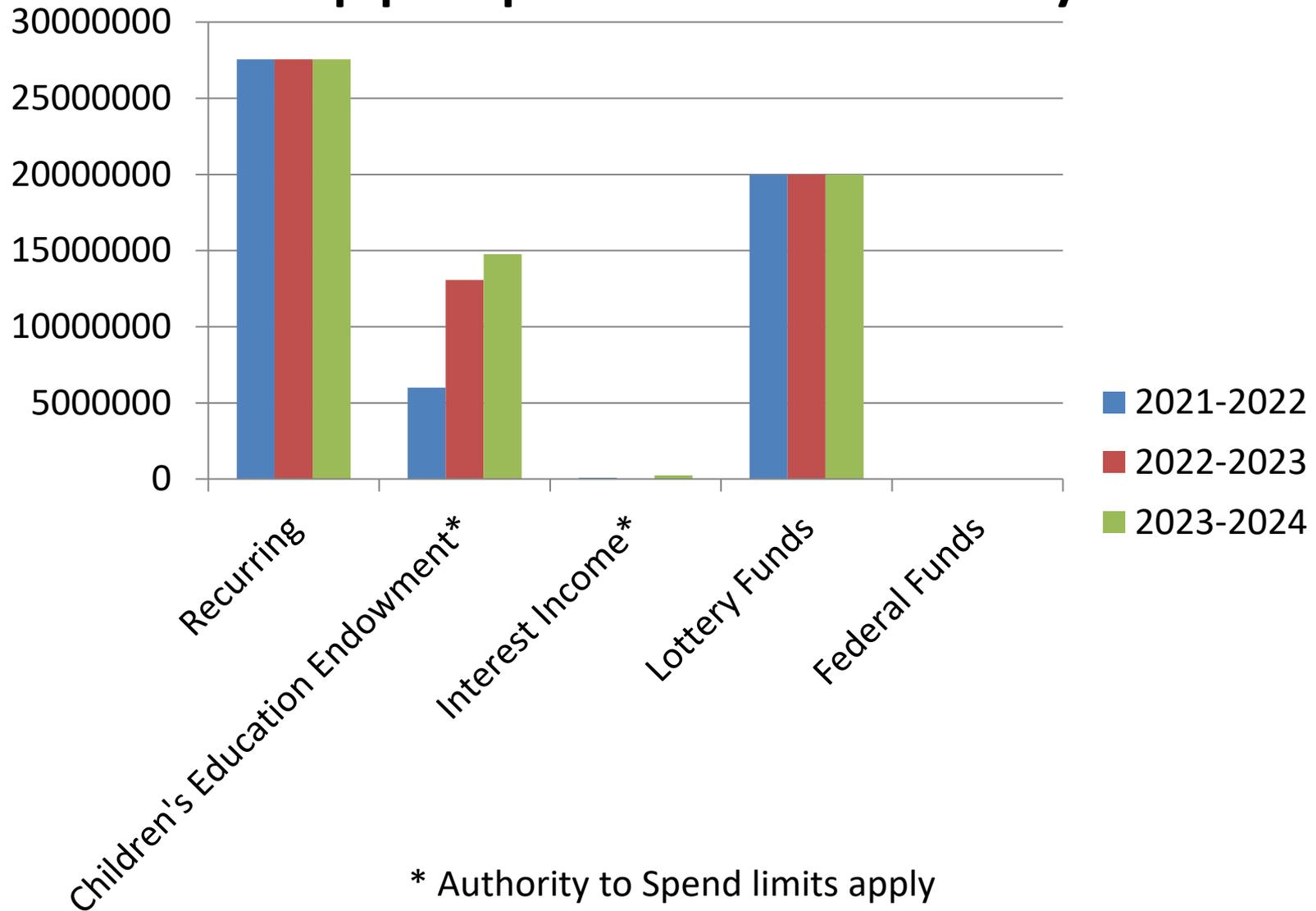
South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Agency Attendees:

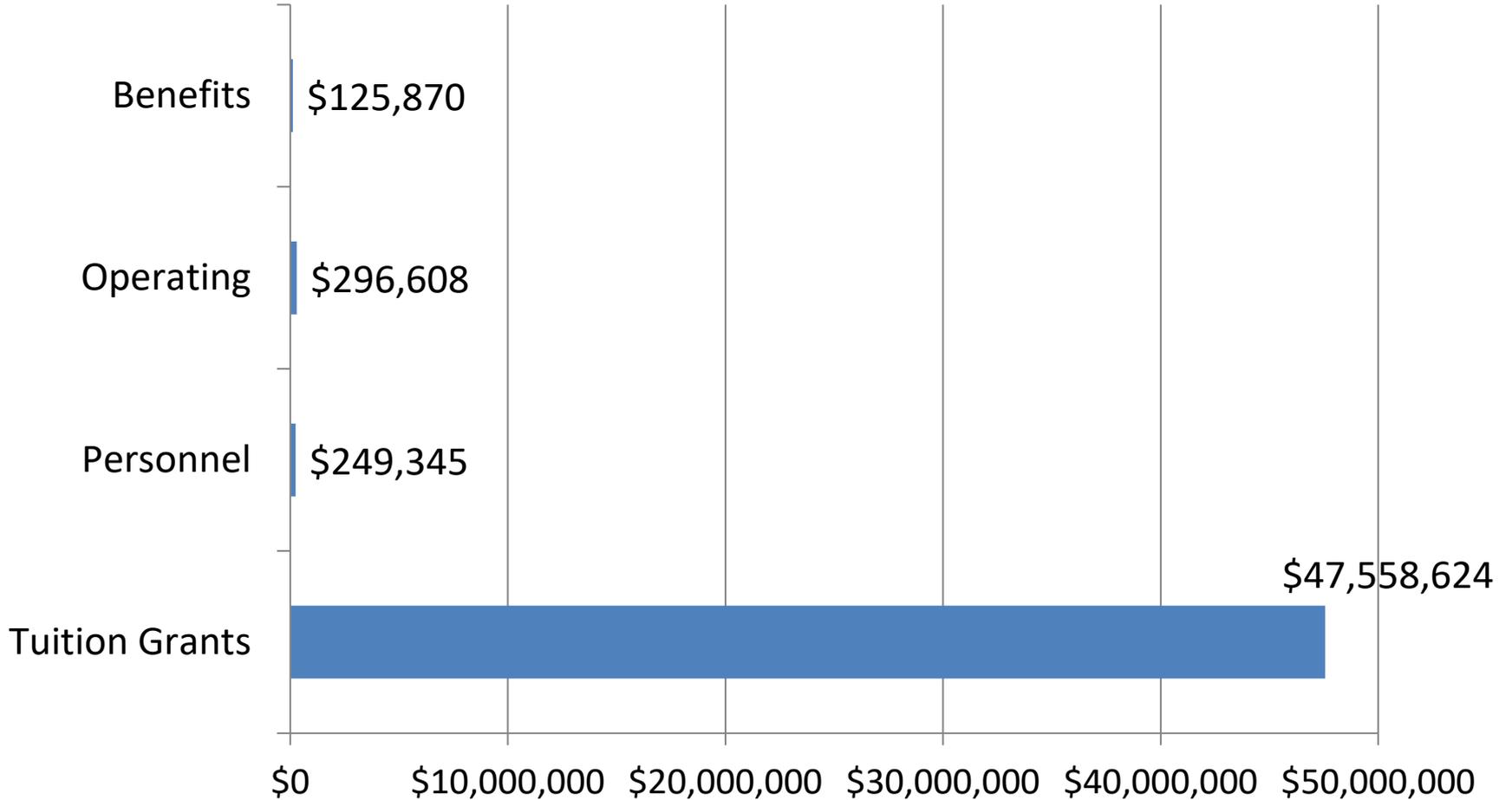
Katie Harrison
Executive Director
(803) 896-1121
katie@sctuitiongrants.org

Zachary Christian
Deputy Director
(803) 896-1122
zachary@sctuitiongrants.org

Tuition Grants Program 3-Year Appropriations History



Current Funding FY 23-24



FY 23-24 Updates

- The continuation of recent investments in need-based student aid by the Governor and the General Assembly has allowed the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant to increase from \$4,500 to \$4,800 for the 2023-2024 academic year, the largest maximum grant in Program history.
- Changes implemented in 2022-2023 allowed the Commission to disburse Tuition Grant funds to an additional 750 students last year, expanding access and eligibility to deserving students. These changes included simplification of the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy, allowing certain students the ability to receive the grant for up to two additional semesters, and increasing the value of the Tuition Grant to students enrolled in approved non-traditional curriculum models.
- Effective with the 2023-2024 academic year, the Commission also voted to simplify the definition of an eligible non-traditional program of study by revising the timeline of these programs to begin in August and end in May, rather than adhering to a previous timeline requiring a 10-day calendar requirement tied to a college's traditional academic calendar. This change will have a positive impact on adult learners enrolled in programs with more flexible academic calendars or instructional methods than traditional programs.

FY 23-24 Updates

- 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 updated Vision statement is:

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

- For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Commission has increased its impact by disbursing grants to nearly 12,500 eligible students, an increase of 478 students over the prior year.

FY 23-24 Updates

- 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 to 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 went live with the new system on September 6, 2023.
- Not only does this new software platform provide more effective and user-friendly administration of program funds, it also allows 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 or submit documentation to the agency, which will now occur in real-time.

FY 23-24 Updates

(803) 896-1120

info@sctuitiongrants.org



SC Higher Education
Tuition Grants Commission
Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Student Information](#) [Participating Institutions](#) [Resources](#) [myTG](#) [Contact Us](#)

[Home](#) [South Carolina Tuition Grants "myTG" Access](#)

South Carolina Tuition Grants "myTG" Access



[myTG Student Portal](#)

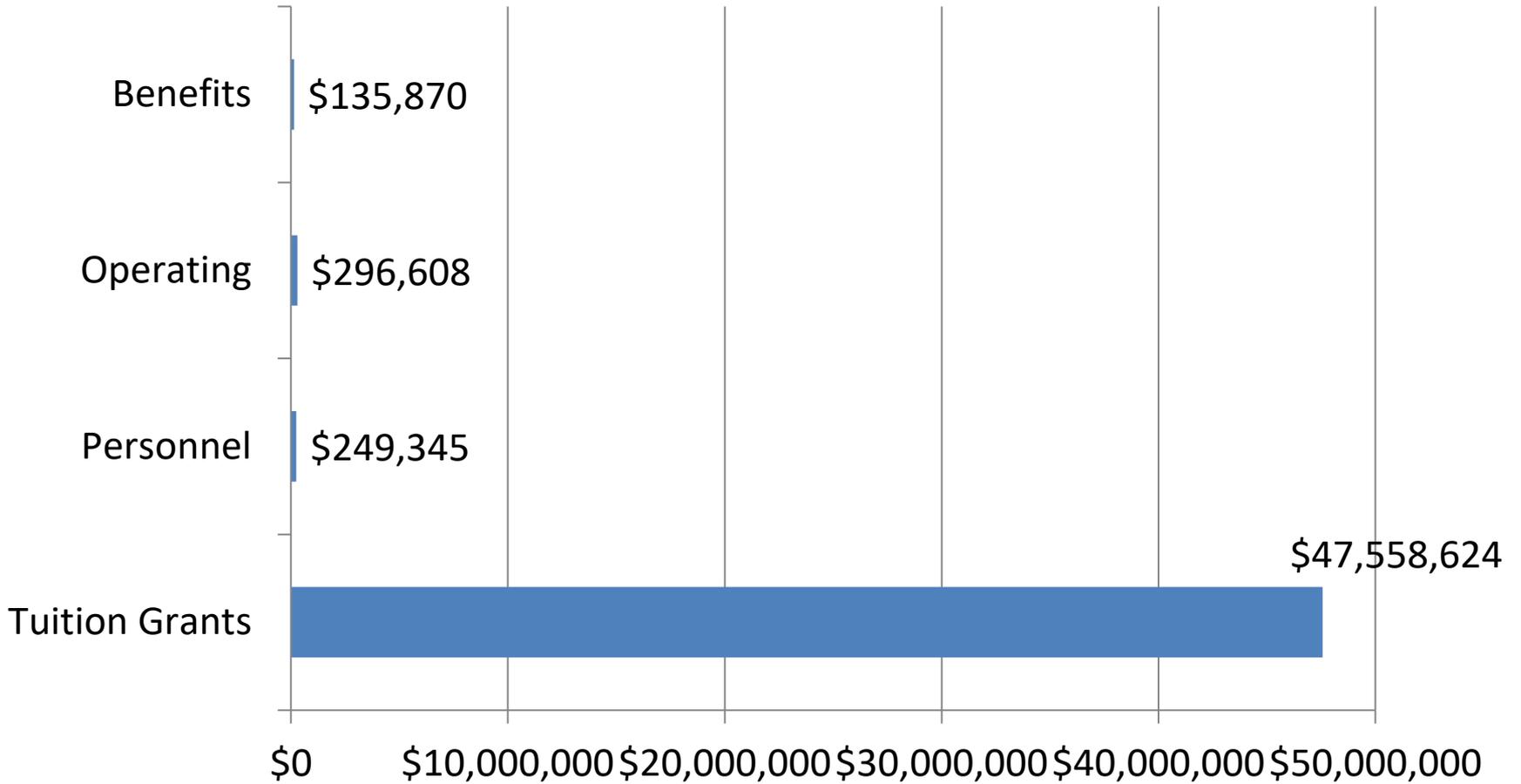
[myTG Student User Guide](#)

The myTG Student Portal is your way to access your South Carolina Tuition Grant application and award information. Students must have a FAFSA on file for the current academic year to create an account. The myTG Student Portal allows students to view their South Carolina Tuition Grants application and eligibility status, review past disbursements of SC Tuition Grants funds, securely upload documentation for appeals (if applicable) and transfer their SC Tuition Grant from one eligible institution to another.

[myTG Aid Administrator Portal](#)

Access to the myTG Aid Administrator Portal is limited to authorized staff employed at the participating colleges & universities to access South Carolina Tuition Grants eligibility information for the students attending their institution.

Budget Request FY 24-25



Recurring Appropriations Request

FY 24-25

- \$10,000,000: Student Grants (Move from non-recurring to recurring)
 - No new or additional funds being requested
 - Agency is requesting consideration of moving the recent increase of \$10 million from Lottery to General Fund, if possible, to provide a more stable source of funding and to provide the opportunity to better plan for future disbursements and eligibility changes allowing more students to benefit under the Program
 - If funds are unable to be moved from Lottery to General Fund, please continue level funding of \$20 million through Lottery allocations to maintain the recent increase in need-based aid programs
- \$10,000: State Employer Contributions
 - To prevent a shortfall beginning in FY25, the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is requesting an increase of \$10,000 in State recurring funds to cover an increased cost of providing State employee benefits to eligible employees who qualify for benefits for themselves and their dependents. The agency is required to pay the employer portion of benefits for all eligible employees.

Non-Recurring/Capital Request

FY 24-25

- No Non-Recurring Requests
- No Capital Requests

Proviso Request

FY 24-25

- No Proviso Changes Requested

Other/Federal Fund Request

FY 24-25

- No Other/Federal Fund Requests

3% General Fund Reduction Analysis

FY 24-25

- \$846,690: Tuition Grants
 - A 3% reduction would effectively reduce the Tuition Grant amount by up to \$70 per student. In the most recently completed academic year, over 12,000 South Carolinians qualified for the Tuition Grant and would be impacted by this change.

FTEs

- The Commission currently has:
- 5 authorized State FTEs, 1 vacant FTE
- 0 authorized Federal FTEs
- 0 authorized Other Funded FTEs
- 5 Total FTEs

- There are no requests for additional FTEs.

Additional Information

Eligible Colleges

All Based in South Carolina by Statute (59-113-50)

- ✦ Allen University
- ✦ Anderson University
- ✦ Benedict College
- ✦ Bob Jones University
- ✦ Charleston Southern University
- ✦ Claflin University
- ✦ Clinton College
- ✦ Coker University
- ✦ Columbia College
- ✦ Columbia International University
- ✦ Converse University
- ✦ Erskine College
- ✦ Furman University
- ✦ Limestone University
- ✦ Morris College
- ✦ Newberry College
- ✦ North Greenville University
- ✦ Presbyterian College
- ✦ Southern Wesleyan University
- ✦ Spartanburg Methodist College
- ✦ Voorhees University
- ✦ Wofford College

Five Year Grant History

- 2023-2024 – ~12,491 Recipients
Max. Grant - \$4,800; Average Grant ~\$4,700
- 2022-2023 – 12,036 Recipients
Max. Grant - \$4,500; Average Grant - \$4,142
- 2021-2022 – 11,262 Recipients
Max. Grant - \$4,390; Average Grant - \$3,952
- 2020-2021 – 12,202 Recipients
Max. Grant - \$3,600; Average Grant - \$3,258
- 2019-2020 – 12,817 Recipients
Max. Grant - \$3,500; Average Grant - \$3,177

Maximum Grant History

2023-2024 -- \$4,800
2022-2023 -- \$4,500
2021-2022 -- \$4,390
2020-2021 -- \$3,600
2019-2020 -- \$3,500
2018-2019 -- \$3,300
2017-2018 -- \$3,200
2016-2017 -- \$3,200
2015-2016 -- \$3,100
2014-2015 -- \$3,000
2013-2014 -- \$2,900
2012-2013 -- \$2,800
2011-2012 -- \$2,600
2010-2011 -- \$2,600
2009-2010 -- \$2,800

The Statutory Maximum Grant for the Tuition Grant may not exceed the average state appropriation for each FTE in the state-supported institutions of higher learning with four-year undergraduate degree programs in the previous year.

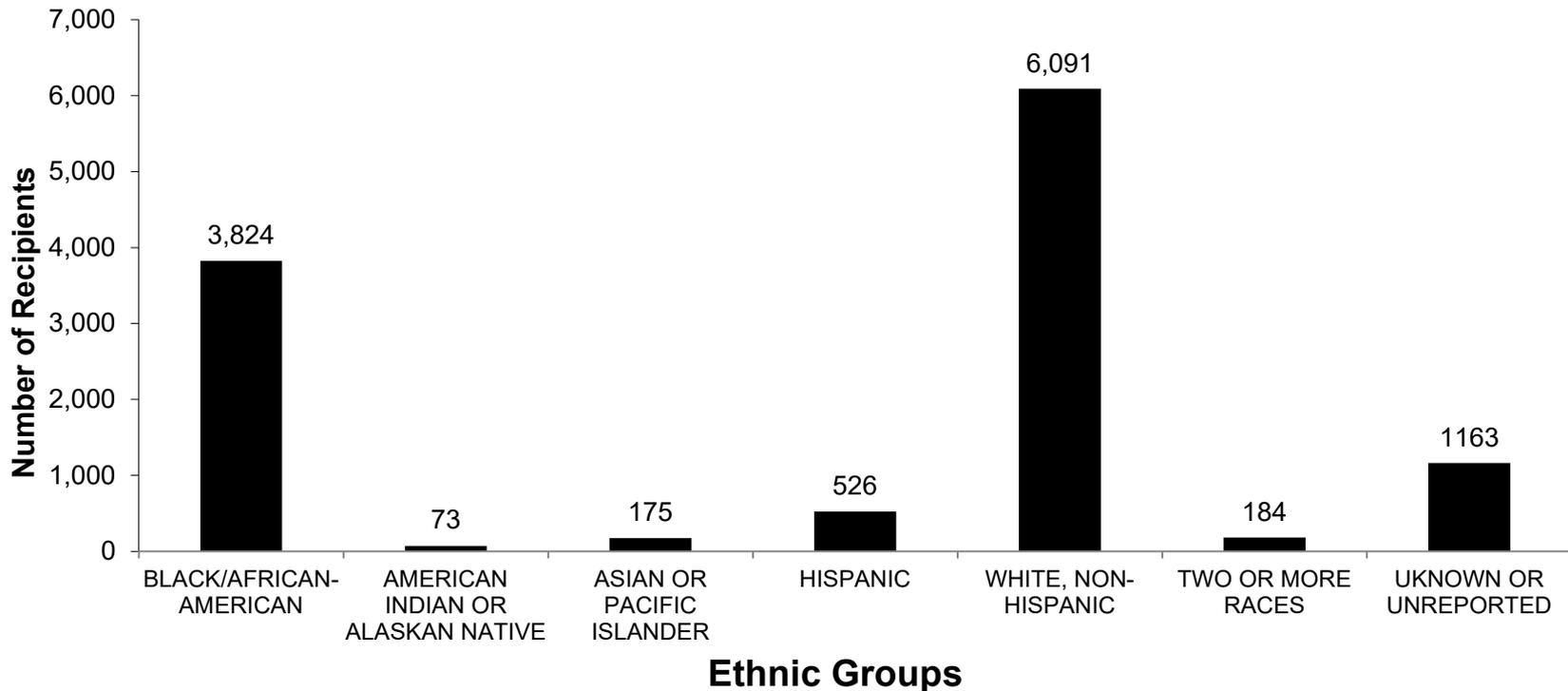
For the most recent academic year, the average state appropriation for these FTE students was \$5,831.

2022-2023 Recipients By College

<u>College Attended</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Tuition Grants</u>
• Allen University	227	\$936,000
• Anderson University	1,552	\$6,485,535
• Benedict College	498	\$2,071,204
• Bob Jones University	518	\$2,110,626
• Charleston Southern University	1,208	\$4,983,020
• Claflin University	927	\$3,952,313
• Clinton College	32	\$124,210
• Coker University	383	\$1,524,643
• Columbia College	412	\$1,653,110
• Columbia International University	258	\$1,052,180
• Converse University	433	\$1,827,715
• Erskine College	413	\$1,718,720
• Furman University	421	\$1,721,397
• Limestone University	634	\$2,440,164
• Morris College	198	\$786,192
• Newberry College	719	\$3,010,540
• North Greenville University	927	\$3,910,252
• Presbyterian College	420	\$1,789,065
• Southern Wesleyan University	352	\$1,431,089
• Spartanburg Methodist College	693	\$2,815,184
• Voorhees College	140	\$552,522
• Wofford College	671	\$2,954,709

TOTALS: 12,036 \$49,850,390

2022-2023 Student Demographics: Recipients by Ethnic Group



Just under forty-four percent (43.98%) of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients, whose racial status could be determined, were minority students. African American students represented nearly thirty-two percent (31.77%) of all recipients.

Additional Information

- Independent colleges in South Carolina have a combined enrollment of over 36,000 students annually and graduate over 22% of the state's Bachelor's degree recipients
- Over 15% of South Carolina's full-time undergraduate students are enrolled at our state's independent colleges
- On average, tuition and fees at South Carolina's independent colleges has risen just 1.8% over the last three years; Tuition and fees at South Carolina's independent colleges are approximately 30% less than the national average for private, non-profit colleges and universities.

Sources: South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

South Carolina Tuition Grants

- The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program was created to help educate our South Carolina citizenry by making the cost of attending in-state independent colleges more affordable, thereby gaining maximum usage from all available educational facilities located in South Carolina. The Tuition Grants Program also helps preserve the dual system of education in South Carolina and saves the state tax dollars (estimated at over \$922 million since Program creation) by attracting South Carolina residents into the independent college sector, thereby saving the automatic state tax subsidy that goes to all students attending South Carolina's public colleges regardless of the financial need of the family.

South Carolina Tuition Grants

- SC Tuition Grants Program was established in 1970 with over 510,000 student grants awarded since then.
- In the current academic year, nearly 12,500 students, attending 22 eligible South Carolina independent colleges, are receiving a South Carolina Tuition Grant.
- By Statute, all recipients are South Carolina Residents.
- SC Tuition Grants are grants, not scholarships, and require financial need to qualify; By statute, a measure of academic merit is also required to qualify.
- Tuition Grants are awarded directly to eligible South Carolina students and can only be used to assist in paying their tuition. No funds are provided directly to colleges.

Agency Name:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
Agency Code:	H060	Section:	12



Fiscal Year FY 2024-2025

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B1)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B2)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS <i>(FORM C)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS <i>(FORM D)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Katie Harrison	(803) 896-1121	katie@sctuitiongrants.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Zachary Christian	(803) 896-1122	zachary@sctuitiongrants.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2024-2025 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:		

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission
Agency Code:	H060
Section:	12

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Grants	10,000,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	State Employer Contributions	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			10,029,329	0	0	0	10,029,329	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
Agency Code:	H060	Section:	12

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
------------------------	---

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Tuition Grants
--------------	----------------

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$10,000,000</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$10,000,000</p>
---------------	---

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
----------------------	------

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1</p> <p>These strategies are advanced as students receive sufficient funding to afford to pay college tuition. Additionally, the request advances these strategies by increasing the maximum and average Tuition Grant funds provided to eligible college students. Evaluation of funds occurs in the form of compliance audits at each institution enrolling eligible students. Agency management will continue to provide sound policies and procedures for managing program funds and will provide training, at least annually, to financial aid personnel who administer the program for their institution.</p>
--------------------------------	---

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	Postsecondary students eligible for Program funds per Statute
----------------------	---

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

This is not a request to increase funds available for the Program over the total appropriated during the FY24 year. Rather, the agency is requesting that the General Assembly consider moving the recent increase of \$10 million for the Tuition Grants Program from Lottery appropriations to recurring General Fund appropriations in FY25 and beyond. The Tuition Grant is funded by a combination of General Fund and Lottery revenues each year. General Fund allocations provide a more stable source of funding available at the beginning of each academic year, and also provide the agency with the opportunity to better plan for future disbursements and eligibility under the Program.

Building on the incredible momentum of the current year as a result of the State's significant increase in need-based college aid programs will allow the Tuition Grants Commission the ability to increase funding to financially needy and academically capable students, not to exceed the Statutory maximum, which is the average state appropriation for each full-time student enrolled in the state supported institutions of higher learning with four year undergraduate degree programs in the previous year (for FY25, that amount will be \$5,831).

The current level of funding, whether comprised of General Fund or Lottery allocations, is sufficient to fully fund the Maximum Grant for the FY25 academic year. The agency is simply requesting the General Assembly to consider moving \$10 million in available funding from Lottery to General Fund appropriations.

FUTURE IMPACT: There are only two sources of funds available for funding the Tuition Grants Program; recurring state appropriations and lottery funds. The impact of adopting this request would be to allow for a more stable source of (recurring) funds that both allow grant funds to be fully disbursed to students during the Fall and Spring semesters and allow the agency to better plan for future disbursement cycles and even potentially increase the number of students qualifying for the Tuition Grant by expanding existing eligibility criteria. The impact of not honoring the request is that Maximum Grants may not be increased, which reduces the value of the grant for eligible students. In some cases, student loan debt levels may increase as students search for ways to make up the difference. Another impact of continuing to provide this funding through Lottery instead of General Fund is that grant disbursements may be delayed as a result of the quarterly disbursement of lottery funds to the agency.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
Agency Code:	H060	Section:	12

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
------------------------	---

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	State Employer Contributions
--------------	------------------------------

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$10,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$10,000
---------------	--

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
----------------------	------

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 These funds are used to directly support the administration of the Tuition Grants program by providing State employee benefits to eligible employees who qualify for benefits for themselves and their dependents.
--------------------------------	---

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	Agency personnel
----------------------	------------------

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

An increase of \$10,000 in state employer contributions is being requested for 2024-2025 to cover the increased cost of providing State employee benefits to eligible employees who qualify for benefits for themselves and their dependents. The agency previously employed personnel who opted out of State benefits or who chose individual coverage and now employs personnel who have opted in to State benefits and who qualify for dependent or family coverage.

METHOD OF CALCULATION: The amount was calculated by comparing the Base Employer Contributions allocation to the actual amount needed to cover these costs for all currently eligible employees based on current benefits coverage. In order to prevent a future shortfall, the difference between these amounts is being requested.

FUTURE IMPACT: The impact of adopting this request would be the need to maintain this amount annually to allow the agency to continue paying the employer portion of employee benefits. The impact of not honoring the request is that benefit payment liabilities will need to be transferred from other potentially available sources, such as Operating Expenses or Tuition Grants. The agency is required to pay the employer portion of employee benefits for all eligible employees.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

Due to the size of our agency, and our most recent annual operating costs continuing to be less than 1% of our overall budget, there is no one measure the agency could take to reduce expenses by \$50,000 or more. However, the agency does regularly review monthly and annual expenditures to determine if reductions can be made in operating expenses. Some examples include:

- * Creating online, electronic versions of certain forms used by students and document used by the agency's other customers, creating more efficiency and eliminating printing costs
- * Continuing to notify applicants of their application and eligibility status electronically saves the agency thousands of dollars annually in postage and printing costs
- * Offering training and meetings with college officials and other agency customers virtually when appropriate, saving on related travel costs

For several years, the agency has invested some of these savings into information technology related training and certifications for agency personnel and has in turn eliminated the need for an IT contractor. This has resulted in an annual savings of \$11,000 - \$15,000.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
Agency Code:	H060	Section:	12

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Tuition Grants
--------------	----------------

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	At this time, the Tuition Grants Commission does not have any recommendations to reduce cost or burden to businesses and citizens
--	---

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal or revision of regulations. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens. <input type="checkbox"/> Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
--	--

METHOD OF CALCULATION	N/A
------------------------------	-----

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	Agency does not assess fees or fines to any customers and does not generate fee revenue
-----------------------------------	---

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	Agency does not intend to amend or delete any regulations
--------------------------------	---

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY	<p>A previous recommendation concerning the requirement for students to complete an affidavit of eligibility annually has proven to be unsustainable without a statutory change.</p> <p>The agency does not assess fees or fines which could be reduced, as there is no fee to apply for the Tuition Grants Program. As long as the agency can maintain its relationship with the Federal Department of Education which allows it to access electronic FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) applications of South Carolina residents, there will be no fee assessed to apply for the Tuition Grant.</p> <p>The agency currently operates on less than 1% of its overall budget and implements cost controls and efficiency in administration as standard practice.</p>
----------------	--



Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

111 Executive Center Dr
Suite 242
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 896-1120
info@sctuitiongrants.org

Katherine H. Harrison
Executive Director

FY 2024-2025 Budget Requests

Recurring Requests:

Tuition Grants (Overall Priority 1) - \$10,000,000 (Not requesting additional new funds)

- This is not a request to increase funds available for the Program over the total appropriated during the FY24 year. Rather, the agency is requesting that the General Assembly considers moving the recently sustained increase of \$10 million for the Tuition Grants Program from Lottery appropriations to recurring General Fund appropriations in FY24 and beyond. The Tuition Grant is funded by a combination of General Fund and Lottery revenues each year. General Fund allocations provide a more stable source of funding available at the beginning of each academic year, and provide the agency with the opportunity to better plan for future disbursements and eligibility under the Program.
- If appropriations are not available to sufficiently move all or part of the \$10 million from Lottery to General funds, the Commission requests the same total amount of funding as it received in FY24 (\$20 million) through Lottery allocations so students can continue receiving the maximum Tuition Grant available to them.

State Employer Contributions (Overall Priority 2) - \$10,000

- The Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is requesting an increase of \$10,000 in State Employer Contributions to cover the increased cost of providing State employee benefits to eligible employees who qualify for benefits for themselves and their dependents. The agency previously employed personnel who opted out of State benefits or who chose individual coverage and now employs a higher number of personnel who have opted in to State benefits and who qualify for dependent or family coverage.

Non-Recurring Requests: None

Capital Requests: None

Proviso Requests: None



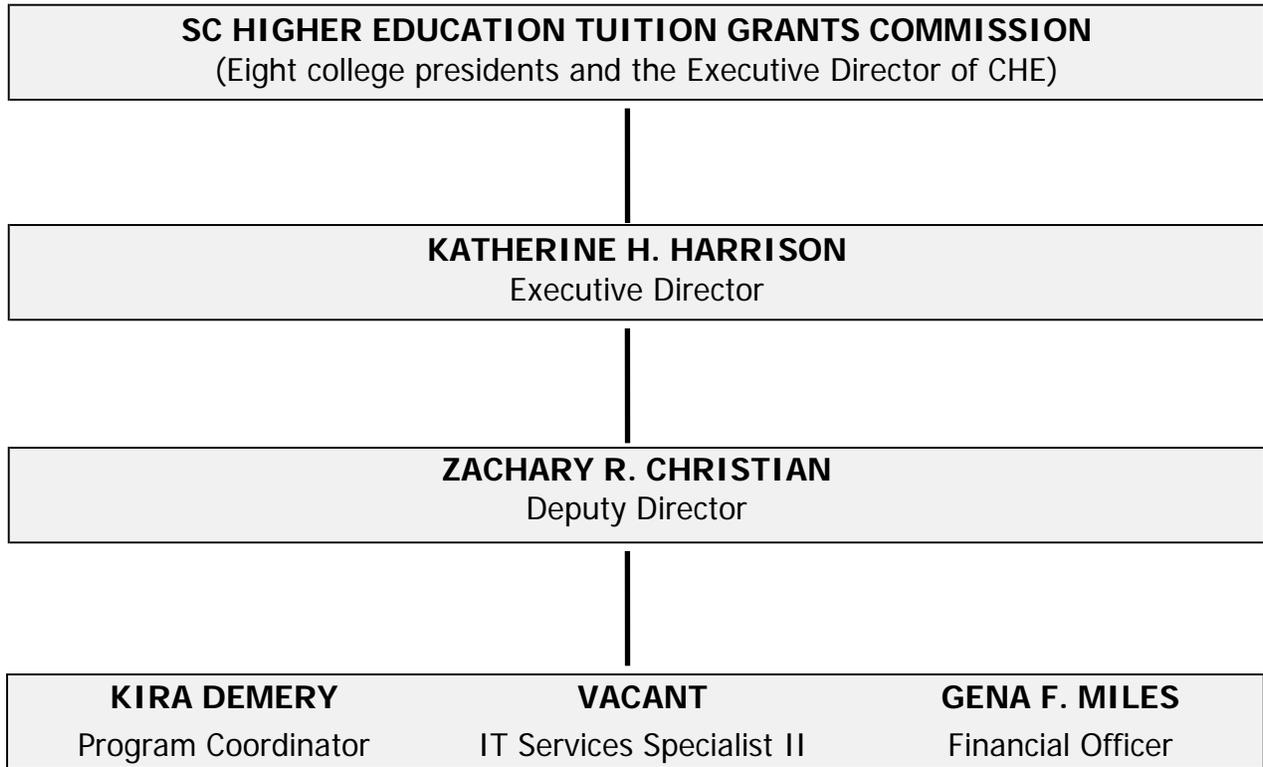
SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

111 Executive Center Dr
Suite 242
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 896-1120
info@sctuitiongrants.org

Katherine H. Harrison
Executive Director

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



AGENCY STAFF DIRECTORY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Direct Phone</u>
Katherine H. Harrison	Executive Director	katie@sctuitiongrants.org	(803) 896-1121
Zachary R. Christian	Deputy Director	zachary@sctuitiongrants.org	(803) 896-1122
Kira Demery	Program Coordinator	kira@sctuitiongrants.org	(803) 896-1120
Gena F. Miles	Financial Officer	gena@sctuitiongrants.org	(803) 896-1124