

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H060</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>012</b>

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## Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Accountability Report

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### SUBMISSION FORM

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

- Reorganization and Compliance
- Strategic Plan Results
- Strategic Plan Development
- Legal
- Services
- Partnerships
- Report or Review

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.

<b>AGENCY DIRECTOR</b> <b>(SIGN AND DATE):</b>	Signature on file.
<b>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</b>	Katie Harrison

<b>BOARD/CMSN CHAIR</b> <b>(SIGN AND DATE):</b>	Signature on file.
<b>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</b>	Darrell Parker

**Reorganization and Compliance Responses:**

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the

**HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

**Primary Contact:**

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Phone	Email Address
Katie	Harrison	Executive Director	803-896-1120	katie@sctuitiongrants.org

**Secondary Contact**

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Phone	Email Address
Zachary	Christian	Deputy Director	803-896-1120	zachary@sctuitiongrants.org

**Agency Mission**

The mission of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is to administer a state-funded, need-based tuition grants program for the State of South Carolina designed to:

- Gain maximum usage of the available independent college facilities located in every region of our state by assisting eligible South Carolina residents to afford the cost of the independent colleges and thereby helping to educate our state citizenry;
- 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;
- Preserve the dual system of public and independent college higher education in South Carolina which provides healthy competition between the two sectors;
- Save the state tax dollars that would be appropriated via the automatic per student state subsidy that would go, regardless of financial need or progress towards graduation, to all South Carolina independent college students if they migrated into the South Carolina public college system;
- Give eligible South Carolina residents the opportunity to choose the in-state college that best meets their individual academic needs and preferences.

**Adopted in:**

**Agency Vision**

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.

**Adopted in:**

**Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change.**

No

**Please list significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY 2020-2021.**

Month Started	Month Ended	Description of Event	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the

HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION

Does the agency intend to make any other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in FY 2021-22?

**Note: It is not recommended that agencies plan major reorganization projects every year. This section should remain blank unless there is a need for reorganization.**

No

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

If not, please explain why.

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

Please list the 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. § 1-22-120(J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?

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## **Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Accountability Report**

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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 \$53,655,838 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 educate over 14% of our state’s full-time students 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 \$5,583 in fiscal year 2020-2021 while the average tuition grant was \$3,258. Because of that differential, the State saved \$28,369,650 last year. Since its inception in 1970, it is estimated that the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has saved the State in excess of \$922 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 51 years to build classrooms and dormitories and to hire additional faculty 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 21 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 32,800 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;

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- 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 eligible;
- 6) Disbursing tuition grant funds to each student at his/her college once full-time enrollment status and academic eligibility are confirmed;
- 7) Securely issuing various reports to the participating independent colleges regarding grant eligibility of their South Carolina students;
- 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 will not show up with quantitative results, include:

- A) In the 2020-2021 academic year, 12,202 financially and academically eligible students received South Carolina Tuition Grants. Since the creation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 1970, over 476,000 Tuition Grants have been made assisting South Carolina students to attain their academic and career goals enabling them to contribute economically and educationally to the State of South Carolina.
  
- B) In an effort to streamline and modernize student-related application processes, the Commission 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 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.
  
- C) For many years, the Commission has provided 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. For many years, this listing was provided on 3.5” floppy disks which were mailed to each legislator. Over time, the Commission switched to providing the listings via Compact Disks (CD). As technology has shifted and CD-ROM Drives are becoming less common on newer computers, the Commission created a direct and electronic method of providing the recipients listings. Commission staff created a new, secure section on the Commission’s website which would be used to house the files for each House and Senate District. Although the files only contain directory information and no sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is shared, in accordance with the Commission’s information security procedures, each file is encrypted with a password specific to each legislative district. The passwords, to both the section of the website and to the file itself, are provided in the letter mailed to each legislator. By providing the listings online, the Commission has streamlined this process and eliminated the need to purchase packages of CDs to mail to the

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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.

D) Of the total state dollars appropriated for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 2020-2021, 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 citizenry 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 attend college to become educated.

### **Restructuring Recommendations**

N/A

### **Program Needs**

The Tuition Grants Commission is very appreciative of the overwhelming support of the Governor and the General Assembly in allocating new Lottery funds in the amount of \$10,000,000 for the Tuition Grants Program in the FY22 State Budget. This monumental investment has allowed the maximum value of the Tuition Grant, for the first time ever, to be set at the maximum amount allowed by Statute as found in SC Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 113, Section 30, Subsection C: “The maximum amount may not exceed 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.” This subsidy amount, calculated annually by the Commission on Higher Education, was \$4,390 for the FY20 academic year. The increase in funding of \$790 per

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eligible student for the current academic year also represents the largest annual increase in the Program’s 51-year history.

To maintain the momentum for increases in need-based financial assistance for college students, the Commission will request that the FY22 increase of \$10,000,000 in appropriations be moved from Lottery to Recurring Appropriations as part of its FY23 State Budget Request. This amount would allow the Commission to provide a program-wide grant of up to \$5,580 for eligible students, which is the Statutory maximum for the 2022-2023 Award Year. If approved, this request would enable the Maximum Grant to be increased by up to \$1,190 from the current FY22 Maximum Grant of \$4,390 and would provide the Commission the opportunity to match the Statutory maximum amount for the second year in a row.

Approximately 6% 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 utilizes a dated, homegrown Access database that is currently functional but is rapidly approaching the end of its useful life. We are currently 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.

It is important to note that the Tuition Grants Commission is the one state agency authorized by the Federal Department of Education to electronically receive, store, and maintain the financial aid applicant records of EVERY SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENT who completes the FAFSA annually. That means for the current academic year, not only are agency records comprised of data concerning the nearly 13,000 college students receiving the Tuition Grant, they are also made up of nearly 300,000 additional citizens who filed a FAFSA but did not enroll at a participating Tuition Grant institution. That means that each South Carolina resident who has applied for financial aid at any institution of higher education in the state has data that is housed by our agency’s database. The agency also receives FAFSA records from those South Carolina residents who choose to go out of state to attend college. In order to accurately process grant applications for eligible students, the Commission houses ten years’ worth of applicant data. At this time, it is estimated that the agency’s server holds raw data for nearly 1.9 million individual applicant records. Agency staff, over the past two years, have worked with the Division of Technology Operations and the Enterprise Privacy Office to discuss available options, and it has been agreed that a third-party vendor software will be the most comprehensive and economically viable solution in this instance.

Thanks to the approved increase in administrative funds for FY 2021-2022, we are able to take action and move forward with an integrated solution, replacing the agency’s current database which in its current structure is only estimated to be functional for another 2-3 years, as continuing to add to our current database can lead to corruption and data loss, in addition to slower and inefficient processing.

A new software platform will also better protect sensitive student data currently housed by the agency. We do protect all applicant and recipient data to the best of our ability and follow all state Information Security requirements. However, there is always room for improvement when it comes to the protection of such sensitive data.

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**Concerns**

1. Disparity of State Funding of Need-based aid versus Merit-based aid for ALL students at both State public and independent colleges:

For all 2020-2021 Tuition Grants Recipients:

Palmetto Fellows: 9.1% receive both SCTG and Palmetto Fellows.

LIFE: 46.3% receive both SCTG and LIFE.

HOPE: 8.9% receive both SCTG and HOPE.

TOTAL: 64.3% receive both Merit and Need-based funds.

35.7% of Tuition Grants recipients receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO Merit-based Aid.

For Tuition Grants Recipients attending the 5 HBCUs where students may receive Tuition Grants:

51.4% (well below the overall 64.3%) receive both Merit and Need-based funds.

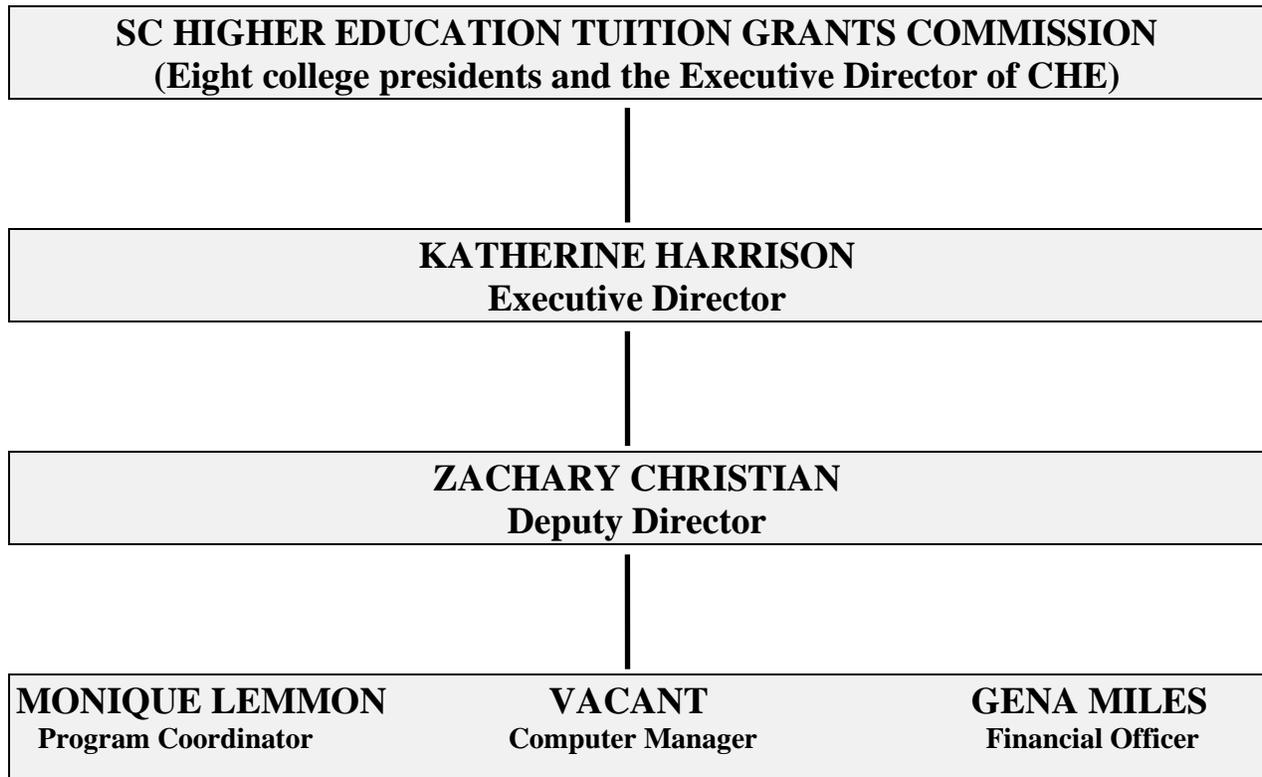
48.6% of HBCU students receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO merit-based aid.



Katherine H. Harrison  
 Executive Director

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



**AGENCY STAFF DIRECTORY**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Email Address</u></b>	<b><u>Direct Phone</u></b>
Katherine Harrison	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:katie@sctuitiongrants.org">katie@sctuitiongrants.org</a>	(803) 896-1121
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FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
**FY2021-22 Strategic Plan:**

These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
**HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

**Goal** 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.

**Strategy 1.1** Statewide Enterprise Objective

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 education of our state citizenry. Education, Training, and Human Development

Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
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	32814	30000		Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Total applications received from federal processor	Agency Data Base, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	South Carolina residents indicating possible enrollment at an eligible independent institution of higher education located in South Carolina	Determination of eligibility for need-based financial assistance to attend college	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	12202	11600		Count	Maintain	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	Total eligible applications processed by Commission	Agency Data Base, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	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	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	





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**Goal** 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.

**Strategy** 1.4 **Statewide Enterprise Objective**

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. Education, Training, and Human Development

Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Primary Stakeholder	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	State Funded Budget Program Number Responsible	Notes
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.	\$28,369,650.00	\$13,000,000.00		Dollar Amount	equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30).	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	South Carolina taxpayers	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	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	







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**Budget Responses:**

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			FY 2020-21 Expenditures (Actual)				FY 2021-22 Expenditures (Projected)			
State Funded Program Number	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	General	Other	Federal	TOTAL	General	Other	Federal	TOTAL
0100.010000.000	Administration	Director Salary, Classified Personnel Salary, Admin Operating Expenses, Lottery Admin Allowance	\$242,847.00	\$69,768.00		<b>\$312,615.00</b>	\$521,996.00			<b>\$521,996.00</b>
0510.000000.000	Tuition Grants	Grants, Interest Earnings, and Childrens Education Endowment Funds, all used specifically to fund Tuition Grants for students	\$27,249,897.00	\$5,351,917.00		<b>\$32,601,814.00</b>	\$27,558,624.00	\$6,250,000.00		<b>\$33,808,624.00</b>
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	Agency's portion of employer benefits expenses	\$93,474.00			<b>\$93,474.00</b>	\$101,642.00			<b>\$101,642.00</b>
9802.010000.000	Tuition Grants	Tuition Grants Commission to disburse to eligible students as Tuition Grants		\$7,140,957.00		<b>\$7,140,957.00</b>				

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report

Legal Responses:

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HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION

Description	Purpose	Law Number	Jurisdiction	Type	Notes
State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	59-112-90	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	59-113-10	State	Statute	
Establishes qualifications of applicants for grants.	Report our agency must/may provide	59-113-20	State	Statute	
Establishes students covered by the chapter and the amount of grants.	Report our agency must/may provide	59-113-30	State	Statute	
Indicates purpose of grants.	Report our agency must/may provide	59-113-40	State	Statute	
Disbursement requirements for grants and authority to earn interest for grants from State Appropriations.	Report our agency must/may provide	59-113-45	State	Statute	
Mid-year budget reduction exemption.	Funding agency deliverable(s)	59-113-47	State	Statute	
Defines eligible institutions of higher learning for use of the grant.	Requires a manner of delivery	59-113-50	State	Statute	

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Description	Purpose	Law Number	Jurisdiction	Type	Notes
Directs that a portion of funds be directed to the Tuition Grants Program	Report our agency must/may provide	59-142-20	State	Statute	
Defines eligible students who may receive Tuition Grant funding	Report our agency must/may provide	59-142-70	State	Statute	
Proviso governing data breach notification	Requires a manner of delivery	H. 4000, 2019-2020 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.103	State	Proviso	
Proviso governing data agency Information Technology and Information Security plan submission	Requires a manner of delivery	H. 4000, 2019-2020 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.110	State	Proviso	
Proviso governing information security	Requires a manner of delivery	H. 4000, 2019-2020 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 93.16	State	Proviso	
Proviso governing Lottery funds use.	Report our agency must/may provide	H. 4000, 2019-2020; Section 3 - H660	State	Proviso	
Federal statute authorizing the FAFSA as a common application for need analysis and determination of eligibility for aid programs	Requires a manner of delivery	Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1001g; 34 CFR Part 600)	Federal	Statute	

FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
**Services Responses:**

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Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted By the Service	Agency unit providing the service	Description of agency unit	Primary negative impact if service not provided
Need-based tuition grant	General Public/Tuition Grant Recipients: Avg. Age=21.7; Male=37.02%, Female=62.98%, Gender Unspecified=0%; Dependent=89.19%, Independent=10.81%; Traditional=94.4%, Non-Traditional=5.6%; Freshman=27.4%, Sophomores=28.8%, Juniors=23.2%, Seniors=20.6%	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.

**Agency Partnerships Responses:**

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**HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

Name of Partner Entity	Type of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership
21 Eligible SC Independent Colleges	Higher Education Institute	Assists with determination of student eligibility including enrollment and academic eligibility and disburses Tuition Grant funds to recipients
All SC High Schools	K-12 Education Institute	Distribute Program information and assist students with applications
CACRAO	Professional Association	Provides opportunities for Program communication to college admissions personnel and high school guidance counselors
Cherokee County School District	K-12 Education Institute	Cherokee County School District was added as a partner entity for the agency's FAFSA completion project during FY21; Our other partners in this endeavor (Spartanburg Academic Movement, Midlands GEAR UP) remained the same from FY20 to FY21
Commission on Higher Education	State Government	Provides data to assist with program administration; Original recipient of Children's Education Endowment Funds, of which the Tuition Grants program receives a percentage
Department of Technology Operations	State Government	Provides agency-wide desktop computer support and secure server environment for agency data; Provides critical security patches and updates to ensure secure computer operations
Division of Information Security	State Government	Assists agency personnel with security-related procedures and provides cybersecurity training for agency employees
Enterprise Privacy Office	State Government	Assists agency personnel with training and guidance on privacy assessments and protection of sensitive data housed by the agency
General Assembly	State Government	Provides 100% of Program funding
NASSGAP	Professional Association	Provides professional training and advocates for State financial aid programs in Washington, DC and nationwide
SCASFAA	Professional Association	Provides professional training and assistance for employees and provides public information on the Program to high schools and colleges state-wide
SCETV	State Government	Provides annual broadcast about Program to citizens
SCICU	Non-Governmental Organization	Advocates for Independent Higher Education in South Carolina including federal and state financial aid, assists with communications to students
SCISA	Non-Governmental Organization	Advocates for Independent K-12 Education in South Carolina, assists with communications to students
Spartanburg Academic Movement/Spartanburg County School District, Cherokee County School District, and Midlands GEAR-UP, serving Richland 2, Laurens, and Calhoun County School Districts (via relationship with State Department of Education as a designated entity allowed to receive student-level FAFSA completion information)	K-12 Education Institute	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
U. S. Department of Education-Federal Student Aid Office	Federal Government	Provides applications for students and assists with determination of financial need

**FY 2020-2021 Agency Accountability Report  
Reports Responses:**

**These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

Report Name	Law Number (If required)	Summary of Information Requested in the Report	Most Recent Submission Date	Reporting Frequency	Type of Entity	Method to Access the Report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact
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."	9/14/2020	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	
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	2/18/2021	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on agency's website	<a href="http://sctuitiongrants.org/about-us/">http://sctuitiongrants.org/about-us/</a>
Annual Survey Report on State-Sponsored Student Financial Aid		State Aid Awarded	1/22/2021	Annually	Other	Available on another website	<a href="https://www.nassgapsurvey.com/survey_reports.aspx">https://www.nassgapsurvey.com/survey_reports.aspx</a>
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	7/6/2021	Quarterly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic file available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian
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	Ongoing	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://www.cg.sc.gov/financial-reports/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports-cafrs">https://www.cg.sc.gov/financial-reports/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports-cafrs</a>
Debt Collection Report	Proviso 117.33	Confirmation that agency has no outstanding debt due to the agency	2/8/2021	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison
Deficit Monitoring	§2-79	Monitoring of General and Other Funds expenditures and revenues to avoid an overall agency deficit	Ongoing	Monthly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Hard copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison

**These responses were submitted for the FY 2020-2021 Accountability Report by the  
HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

Report Name	Law Number (If required)	Summary of Information Requested in the Report	Most Recent Submission Date	Reporting Frequency	Type of Entity	Method to Access the Report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact
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	8/20/2020	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian
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	11/2/2020	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian
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	10/15/2020	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian
Small & Minority Business Contracting and Certification MBE Quarterly Progress Report	§11-35-5010	Measures agency's progress toward Small & Minority Business Utilization Plan Goals	7/27/2021	Quarterly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian
State Auditor's Office	§11-7-20	Required annual financial audit of all state agencies by the State Auditor	5/27/2020	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="http://www.osa.sc.gov">www.osa.sc.gov</a>
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	7/13/2021	Twice a year	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison