

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

**2022
Accountability Report**

SUBMISSION FORM

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

- Data Template
 - Reorganization and Compliance
 - FY2022 Strategic Plan Results
 - FY2023 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> <i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 9/7/2022 13:42

N/A BOARD/CMSN CHAIR <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i> <i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 9/7/2022 13:42

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
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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 \$5,032 in fiscal year 2021-2022 while the average tuition grant was \$3,952. Because of that differential, the State recognized a cost-avoidance savings of \$12,162,960 last year. Since its inception in 1970, it is estimated that the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has saved the State in excess of \$935 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 52 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 30,600 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 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;

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	012

- 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 March 2022, the Commission voted to implement significant policy changes effective with the 2022-2023 academic year that will expand eligibility to a greater number of students and increase the value of the Tuition Grant for adult learners and other non-traditional students. These changes include:
 - Aligning the Program’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy to mirror the same SAP requirements already in place at each institution to determine a student’s continuing eligibility for federal aid programs; this change eliminated an additional Tuition Grant-specific formula that previously created additional barriers to student persistence and success; and,
 - Allowing students an opportunity to receive a Tuition Grant for up to two additional semesters beyond the eight-semester limit, upon documentation from their institution that the student is on track to successfully complete all graduation requirements within the extended timeframe; and,
 - Increasing the value of the Tuition Grant for students enrolled in approved non-traditional curriculum models, by removing an existing pro-ration requirement and allowing these students to receive the same maximum grant amount, if eligible, as their counterparts enrolled in traditional day programs.

- B) In June 2021, the Commission approved Clinton College in Rock Hill as the 22nd eligible independent institution to allow its eligible students to receive funding from the Tuition Grants Program. This approval allowed students planning to attend Clinton College to apply for the Tuition Grant beginning October 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 academic year. During the FY22 year, the agency processed over 180 applications for Clinton College Students. To assist the institution in administering the Tuition Grants Program for the first time, agency staff have met and provided training on numerous occasions with Clinton College staff and administrative personnel to ensure a successful implementation.

- C) In the 2021-2022 academic year, 11,262 financially and academically eligible students received South Carolina Tuition Grants. Since the creation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 1970, over 487,000 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.

- 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.

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	012

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 2021-2022, 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

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	012

Program Needs

The Tuition Grants Commission is very appreciative of the overwhelming support of the Governor and the General Assembly in maintaining recently-approved Lottery funds in the amount of \$10,000,000 for the Tuition Grants Program in the FY23 State Budget. This monumental investment has allowed the maximum value of the Tuition Grant to increase to a historical maximum of \$4,500 for the 2022-2023 academic year.

To maintain the momentum for increases in need-based financial assistance for college students, the Commission will request that the FY23 increase of \$10,000,000 in appropriations be moved from Lottery to Recurring Appropriations as part of its FY24 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 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. 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 anticipates having a new system in place before the end of FY23, streamlining the administration of the Tuition Grants Program.

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.

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	012

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 2021-2022 Tuition Grants Recipients:

Palmetto Fellows: 10.2% receive both SCTG and Palmetto Fellows.

LIFE: 47.3% receive both SCTG and LIFE.

HOPE: 9.5% receive both SCTG and HOPE.

TOTAL: 67% receive both Merit and Need-based funds.

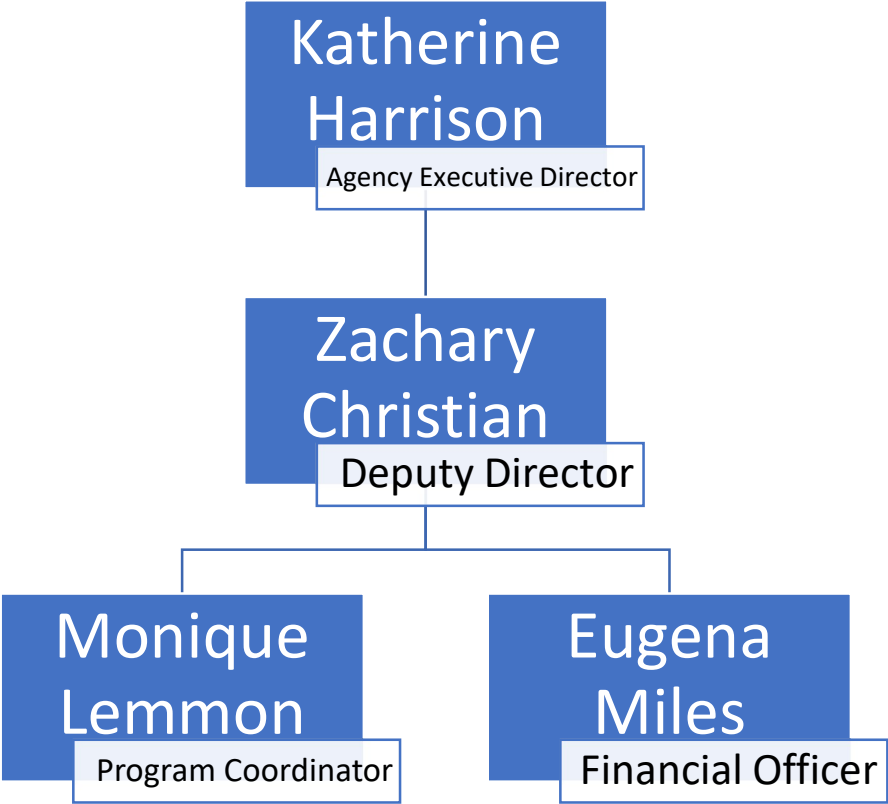
33% of all Tuition Grants recipients receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO Merit-based Aid.

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

44.54% (well below the overall 67%) receive both Merit and Need-based funds.

55.5% of HBCU students receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO merit-based aid.

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	012



Agency Organizational Chart

FY2022

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	803-896-1120

Secondary Contact

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

Agency Mission

Adopted in:

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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.

Agency Vision

Adopted in:

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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.

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 FY2022

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
Commission voted to allow students enrolled in non-traditional programs to receive up to a full maximum Tuition Grant amount instead of a reduced amount determined by a proportional percentage of their tuition charges to those of students in traditional programs.	March	June	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 sub	Average Tuition Grant (1.2.2) will increase as a result of this change

<p>Commission voted to align the Program's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy with the SAP requirements already in place at each institution to determine a student's continuing eligibility for financial aid; this change eliminated an additional Tuition Grant-specific formula that previously created additional barriers to student persistence and success. More students will now meet the Satisfactory Academic Requirement to receive the Tuition Grant.</p>	<p>March</p>	<p>June</p>	<p>Provide funding to a number of Tuition Grant recipients based on enrollment data, not to fall 5% below prior year number of recipients</p>	<p>Number of Tuition Grant Recipients (1.1.2) will increase as a result of this change</p>
<p>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).</p>				<p>Yes</p>
<p>Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)</p>				
<p>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).</p>				<p>Yes</p>
<p>Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?</p>				<p>Yes</p>
<p>Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:</p>	<p>59-113-10</p>			
<p>Has the agency promulgated any regulations?</p>				<p>No</p>
<p>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?</p>				<p>Yes</p>
<p>(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)</p>				

FY2022

Strategic Plan Results

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 protection of agency information and data.
- 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														
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	32814	30000	30686	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	Exceeded target goal
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	11262	Count	Maintain	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	Missed target goal by 338 eligible Tuition Grant recipients, due to an overall decline in full-time postsecondary enrollment across all sectors; the Tuition Grants Commission has taken proactive steps to expand eligibility to a larger population of students and continues to participate in outreach and communications activities to inform potential recipients of program application information
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														
State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development														
1.2.1	Increase the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant Award	3600	4390	4390	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	Met target goal
1.2.2	Increase the value of the average Tuition Grant Award	3177	3900	3952	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	Exceeded target goal
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	13.2%	13%	16.81%	Percent	Maintain	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	Exceeded target goal.

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	59.5%	65%	65.6%	Percent	Maintain	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	Exceeded target goal
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 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.	28369650	13000000	12162960	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	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	Average public college subsidy fell over \$500 from FY21 to FY22, causing a lower differential dollar amount to compare to the average Tuition Grant award; Program, however, continues to save millions of dollars in funds by allocating aid dollars at a lower rate to residents who choose to attend a private institution over a public institution
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 State Objective: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security													
2.1.1	Number of security incidents resulting in compromised data	0	0	0	Count	Maintain	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	Met target goal
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	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	Met target goal
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 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.	9	9	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	Exceeded target goal

Strategic Plan Development for Succeeding Fiscal Year

- 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.

FY2023

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION

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
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												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	30686	30800		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
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	11262	11600		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
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												State Objective: Education, Training, and Human Development	
1.2.1	Increase the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant Award	4390	4500		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	3952	4400		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	16.81%	13%		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	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible
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%		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											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.	12162960	6000000		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											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 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		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

FY2022

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	\$ 245,512.82	\$ 68,536.98	\$ -	\$ 314,049.80	\$ 536,996.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ 606,996.00
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	\$ 28,369,368.00	\$ 6,093,604.00	\$ -	\$ 34,462,872.00	\$ 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	\$ 99,375.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,375.23	\$ 111,724.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,724.00
9802.010000.000	Tuition Grants	Annual Lottery Allocation received by the Tuition Grants Commission to disburse to eligible students as Tuition Grants	\$ -	\$ 10,024,348.00	\$ -	\$ 10,024,348.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000.00

FY2022

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 FY2022
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)	katie@sctuitiongrants.org		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
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
H. 4100, 2021-2022 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.100	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing data breach notification	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso: H. 4000, 2019-2020 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.103	Amended Proviso Number Only
H. 4100, 2021-2022 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.107	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing data agency Information Technology and Information Security plan submission	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso: H. 4000, 2019-2020 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.110	Amended Proviso Number Only
H. 4100, 2021-2022 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.99	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing information security	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso: H. 4000, 2019-2020 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 93.16	Amended Proviso Number Only
H. 4100, 2021-2022; Section 3 - H660	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso governing Lottery funds use.	Report our agency must/may provide	Previous Proviso: H. 4000, 2019-2020; Section 3 - H660	Amended
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

FY2022

Services Data

as submitted for the 2022 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 FY 2022	Summary of changes to services
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.	No Change	

FY2022

Partnerships Data

as submitted for the 2022 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	21 Eligible SC Independent Colleges	Assists with determination of student eligibility including enrollment and academic eligibility and disburses Tuition Grant funds to recipients	No Change
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
K-12 Education Institute	Cherokee County School District	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	Remove
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
K-12 Education Institute	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)	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

FY2022

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 of 2021	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 of 2022	katie@sectuitiongrants.org	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on agency's website	https://sectuitiongrants.org/about-us/	No Change	
Annual Survey Report on State-Sponsored Student Financial Aid		State Aid Awarded	February of 2022	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 of 2022	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 of 2021	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	February of 2022	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	
Deficit Monitoring	§2-79	Monitoring of General and Other Funds expenditures and revenues to avoid an overall agency deficit	June of 2022	Monthly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Hard copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	
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 of 2021	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	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
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 of 2021	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 of 2021	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	July of 2021	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	May of 2022	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	https://osa.sc.gov/reports	No Change	
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	March of 2022	Twice a year	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	