

2024 Annual Accountability Report

Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Agency Code: H060

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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is a sound and intelligent investment for the State of South Carolina. The South Carolina independent colleges attended by students receiving Tuition Grants have total operating budgets of over \$750 million and combined capital assets (physical plants and endowments) of over one billion dollars. Thus, the state's current investment 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 some South Carolina students into the 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 \$7,529 in fiscal year 2023-2024 while the average tuition grant was \$4,391. Because of that differential, the State recognized a cost-avoidance savings of over \$39 million last year. Since its inception in 1970, it is estimated that the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has saved the State in excess of \$960 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 54 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.

Over the past year, the day-to-day operation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has included:

- 1) Processing over 31,900 applications that are submitted each year for South Carolina Tuition Grant assistance;
- 2) Analyzing all applications for financial need using the federal methodology approved by Congress;
- 3) Analyzing all applications to determine if they meet Program eligibility requirements as required by statute and policy;
- 4) Notifying the students and their colleges of their eligibility or ineligibility for grant funds;
- 5) Processing appeals of eligibility from students who are not initially eligible;
- 6) Disbursing tuition grant funds to each student at his/her college once full-time enrollment status and other eligibility requirements are confirmed;
- 7) Securely issuing various reports to the participating independent colleges regarding grant eligibility of their South Carolina students;

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

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

- A) In March 2024, the Tuition Grants Commission voted to extend the annual application deadline from June 30th to August 1st, allowing students an additional month to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which serves as the application for the SC Tuition Grant. This decision was made partly due to the significant delays in FAFSA processing by the US Department of Education.
- B) In June 2024, the Tuition Grants Commission voted to extend the annual eligibility deadline from November 15th each Fall semester to January 15th each Spring semester. This change allows college financial aid administrators additional time to work with individual students who may be missing requirements or may be having difficulties completing documents required by the institutions prior to certifying their eligibility for the SC Tuition Grant.
- C) In June 2024, the Tuition Grants Commission voted to allow students who begin their program of study or transfer into their institution in the spring term to be considered for a grant; previously, students must have been enrolled in an eligible institution and receiving the grant in the Fall term in order to continue receiving it in the Spring. This change will accommodate students who may not be able to begin their studies at a participating institution until the middle of the academic year.
- D) In the 2023-2024 academic year, 12,473 financially <u>and</u> academically eligible students received South Carolina Tuition Grants. Since the creation of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 1970, over 511,000 Tuition Grants have been made assisting South Carolina students to attain their educational and career goals, enabling them to contribute economically and educationally to the State of South Carolina.
- E) Effective with the implementation of the Commission's new student information system, the Commission has further streamlined the process to allow students to transfer their Tuition Grant between eligible colleges and universities through a new secure myTG Student Portal Account. Through this process, once a student submits a grant transfer request, their eligibility is automatically recalculated based on their new chosen college, which the student can view instantly. All other forms continue to be available online in digital format, ensuring students can easily complete and submit necessary information to our agency.
- F) 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

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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.

G) Of the total state dollars appropriated for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in 2023-2024, just 1.7% of the agency budget, including salaries, benefits and required information security expenses, goes into program Administration, with the remaining 98.3% 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. The agency recently revised the verbiage surrounding some of these measurements to more accurately predict and describe the numbers being reported. Major disasters (i.e. hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding) and public health emergencies like COVID-19 can also have a significant impact on the number of students who are able to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities. Revising the descriptive verbiage of the agency's measurements allows the agency to continue reporting important information while not necessarily being held to the idea of increasing our base numbers, which could be prohibited by external factors.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

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

Restructuring Recommendations

N/A

Program Needs

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

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To maintain the momentum for increases in need-based financial assistance for college students, the Commission will request that this increase of \$10,000,000 in appropriations be moved from Lottery to Recurring Appropriations as part of its FY26 State Budget Request. This amount would allow the Commission to continue growing its investment in eligible students pursuing a postsecondary degree by increasing the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant for another consecutive year, allowing more students to graduate with less debt and supporting the State's goal of having 60% of its adult population with a quality postsecondary credential or degree by the year 2030.

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

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

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

As a result of the approved increase in administrative funds for FY22, Agency staff were able to work through the State Procurement process to procure an integrated Student Information System to replace the outdated, homegrown Access database previously used for over 13 years to administer the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program. On April 1, 2023, the Agency entered into a contract with the selected vendor and successfully implemented the new Student Information System named "myTG" on September 6, 2023, ahead of fall tuition grants disbursements.

myTG provides more effective and user-friendly administration of program funds, while also allowing the agency to better protect highly sensitive student data housed by the agency. In addition, the use of myTG has further modernize the agency's communications efforts while allowing greater efficiencies when students wish to transfer their grant between eligible institutions, which occur in real-time.

Concerns

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

For all 2023-2024 Tuition Grants Recipients:

Palmetto Fellows: 8.8% receive both SCTG and Palmetto Fellows.

LIFE: 41.7% receive both SCTG and LIFE. HOPE: 9.8% receive both SCTG and HOPE.

TOTAL: 60% receive both Merit and Need-based funds.

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40% of all Tuition Grants recipients receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO Merit-based Aid.

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

38.6% receive both Merit <u>and</u> Need-based funds – this is well below the overall 60% for all grant recipients.

61.4% of HBCU students receive ONLY Need-based aid and NO merit-based aid.

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

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

Palmetto Fellows

LIFE

HOPE

Grants Administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education/SC Technical College System

SC Need-Based Grant

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

Grant Administered by the SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

SC Tuition Grant

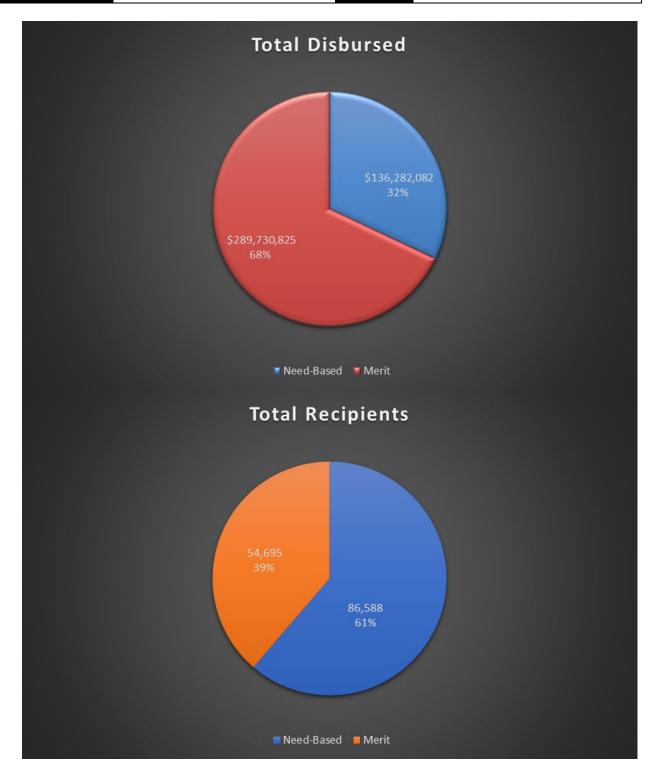
These six programs disbursed \$426 million during the 2022-2023 academic year to a total of 141,283 eligible recipients. Students who were eligible for the merit-based scholarships received a total of \$289.7 million, or 68% of the overall available funding, but comprised only 39% of total recipients.

By contrast, financially needy students who were eligible for need-based programs received a total of \$136.3 million, or 32% of the overall available funding, and comprised 61% of total recipients. These figures are displayed as graphs on the following page.

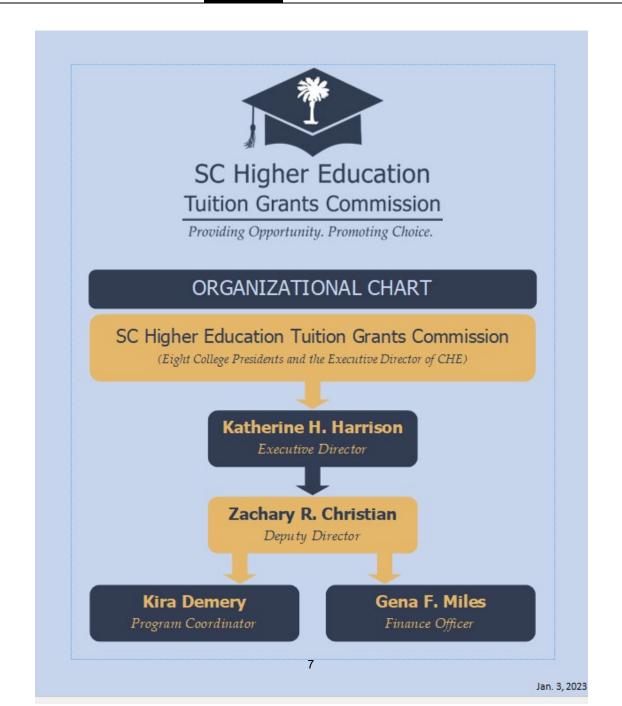
2022-2023 Academic Year State Aid Program Merit/Need Breakdown

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Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

Primary Contact

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone							
Katie	Harrison	Executive Director	katie@sctuitiongrants.org	803-896-1121							
Secondary Contact											
The state of the s		Role/Title	Email Address	Phone							
The state of the s	Last Name	Role/Title Deputy Director	Email Address zachary@sctuitiongrants.org	Phone 803-896-1122							

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

Agency Vision Adopted in: 2023

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

Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

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

None

Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2024

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
In March 2024, the Tuition Grants Commission voted to extend the annual application deadline from June 30th to August 1st, allowing students an additional month to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which serves as the application for the SC Tuition Grant.	March	June	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students	
In June 2024, the Tuition Grants Commission voted to extend the annual eligibility deadline from November 15th each Fall semester to January 15th each Spring semester. This change allows college financial aid administrators additional time to work with individual students who may be missing requirements or may be having difficulties completing documents required by the institutions prior to certifying their eligibility for the SC Tuition Grant.	June	June	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students	

In June 2024, the Tuition Grants Commission voted to allow students who begin their program of study or transfer into their institution in the spring term to be considered for a grant; previously, students must have been enrolled in an eligible institution and receiving the grant in the Fall term in order to continue receiving it in the Spring. This change will accommodate students who may not be able to begin their studies at a participating institution until the middle of the academic year.	June	June	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students							
Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Coreports to the Legislative Services Agence Code Ann. § 60-2-20).				Yes						
Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)										
Is the agency in compliance with various to the Department of Archives and Histo through 30-1-180) and the South Carolin 10 through 26-10-210).	ory? See the Pub	olic Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10	Yes						
Does the law allow the agency to promul	gate regulations	?		Yes						
Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:	59-113-10									
Has the agency promulgated any regulat	tions?			No						
	Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a Yes Yes									
	(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)									

Strategic Plan Results

FY2024

as submitted for the Accountability Report

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Goal 1 Provide increased state economic benefits and a more educated citizenry by enabling more South Carolinian 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 justice and centre colleges.

Goal 2 Provide protection of agency information and data.

Goal 3 Support statewide efforts to provide information and guidance concerning higher education funding options to college-going populations.

Perf.														
Measure						Desired					0.1111 2 10.051	B. 0.1111	State Funded Program Number Responsible	
Number 1.1	Description Gain maximum usage of the available i	Base ndependent college f	Target acilities located in Sout		Value Type C			Calculation Method	Data Source		Stakeholder Need Satisfied Education, Training, and I		Responsible	Notes
	in the educating of our state citizenry.				gg			g,p			g,			
1.1.1	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students	31,586	31,000	31,981		equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total applications received from federal processor	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Determination of eligibility for need-based financial assistance to attend college	South Carolina residents indicating possible enrollment at an eligible independent institution of higher education located in South Carolina	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
1.1.2	Provide funding to a number of Tuition Grant recipients based on enrollment data, not to fall 5% below prior year number of recipients	12,036	12,000	12,473		Maintain ange	State Fiscal Year	Total eligible applications processed by Commission	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
1.2	Help offset the higher education costs of attending South Carolina public colleg		arolina independent co	lleges for South Caroli	ina students just	as the state of	offsets the higher ed	ucation costs of state residents		State Objective	Education, Training, and I	Iuman Development		
1.2.1	Increase the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant Award Increase the value of the average Tuition Grant Award	S 4,500			Amount g	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year State Fiscal Year	Dollar amount of Maximum Tuition Grant Award. Calculated based on prior year awards, projected next year awards, and projected appropriations Total dollars disbursed by total recipients	Commission Meeting Decision in March Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records; Most recently approved Commission Meeting Minutes also available on Tuition Grants Commission website Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tutition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice 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 Tution Grant South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tution Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000 0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount Exceeds target amount
1.3.1	Preserve the dual system of public and Maintain a proportional percentage, within 5% of prior year totals, of SC	independent college	higher education in So	uth Carolina which pr	Percent M	Maintain	State Fiscal Year	Total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina	CHEMIS reports through CHE	State Objective Commission on Higher Education	Education, Training, and I Provides evidence supporting the need for the	Iuman Development South Carolina residents attending eligible independent	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
	within 5% of prof year totals, of 3C resident FTE attending eligible independent colleges				i r	ange		erroised south Caronian resident students attending eligible independent colleges by total number of full-time enroiled South Carolina resident students attending all institutions of higher education in the state	urougn CriE	Higher Education Server/Internal Records	state to continue providing need-based financial	institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria	2802.010000.000	

Perf.														
Measure Number	Description	Base		Actual		Desired Dutcome Time		Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Balancan Stabababban	State Funded Program Number	Notes
1.3.2	Description Maintain an appropriate percentage of SC FTEs, based on predicted student carrollment targets, attending eligible independent colleges receiving a Tution Grant	71%	Target 65%	73.60%	Percent M	Maintain State	e Applicable e Fiscal Year	Calculation Method Total number of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients by total number of full-time undergraduate students attending eligible independent colleges	Data Source Combined CHE and Tuition Grants Commission Data, Updated Annually	Data Location Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records and Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Statesioner veed Satisfied Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	Primary Stakeholder 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	Responsible 0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	Notes Exceeds target amount
1.4	Attract SC residents into the SC indep students if they migrated into the SC p	endent college sector	to save State tax dollar	s that would have to be	e appropriated at	t a higher dollar v	value via the au	tomatic subsidy to those		State Objective:	Education, Training, and I	Iuman Development		
1.4.1	By effective administration of the Tution Grants Program, continue to save the State tax dollars that would otherwise subsidize the public college sector by providing need-based financial assistance, at a lower amount than the average public college subsidy, to eligible students attending independent institutions of higher education.	\$ 20,328,804	S 10,000,000	\$ 39,140,274		Aaintain State ange	e 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	0510.00000.000; 9802.010000.000	Exceeds target amount
2.1	Ensure compliance with State and Fed	eral PII and data secu	urity requirements by t	ıtilizing all available se	curity and encry	yption mechanisms	s and by ensur	ing all software applications		State Objective:	Maintaining Safety, Integr	ity and Security		
2.1.1	maintain current software updates and Number of security incidents resulting in	d security patches.		0			e Fiscal Year	Count of SOC notifications that	Notification Emails to	Security Operations	Prevention of identity theft	Students attending universities	0100 010000 000	Meets target amount
2.1.1	Number of security meadents resulting in compromised data	0	0			Auntam State	e Fiscal Year	Count of SQL 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 adentity their and compromised personal data	Students attending universites located in South Carolina, and all South Carolina residents who completed a Free Application for Federal Student Axid (FAFSA) through the US Department of Education, regardless of college location or enrollment status	0100.010000.000	Meets target amount
2.2	Provide information security training t	for agency personnel :	and track completion r	ates to ensure all staff	members receive	training.				State Objective:	Maintaining Safety, Integr	ity and Security		
2.2.1	Percentage of agency personnel completing information security training	100%	100%	100%	ra	ange	e 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, 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	0100.010000.000	Meets target amount
3.1	Increase awareness of Tuition Grants	Program and financia	al aid application proce	ess by participating in :	a variety of outre	each opportunities	s.			State Objective:	Government and Citizens			
3.1.1	Maintain the target number of outreach events and activities (minimum of 10) attended by staff; including high school counselor workshops, financial aid nights, and other events in which information concerning the Tuition Grants Program and the application process can be provided.	II	10	14		qual to or State reater than	e Fiscal Year	Count of events	Agency Tracking Records	Tuision Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Provides critical information concerning the Tution 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/Sehool Counselors; College Admissions and Financial Aid Personnel	0100.010000.000	Exceeds target amount

Strategic Plan Development

FY2025

as submitted for the Accountability Report b

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Goal 1 Provide increased state economic benefits and a more educated citizenry by enabling more South Carolinians to obtain a college education by providing financial assistance in the form of need-based state tuition grants to qualified South Carolina residents electing to attend on a full-time basis certain eligible accredited South Carolina independent junior and senior colleges.

Goal 2 Provide protection of agency information and data.

Goal 3 Support statewide efforts to provide information and guidance concerning higher education funding options to college-going populations.

Perf.					Desired							State Funded Program Number	
Measure Number	Description Gain maximum usage of the available it	Base	Target	Value Type			Calculation Method	Data Source		Stakeholder Need Satisfied Education, Training, and H		Responsible	Notes
1.1	colleges and thereby help in the educati			tii Caroiiia by	assisting engil	ne students arrord t	ne cost of the macpendent		State Objective.	Education, Framing, and Fr	uman Development		
1.1.1	Maintain the processing of an appropriate number of grant applications, based on predicted student enrollment targets, to provide aid assistance to eligible college students	31,981	30,000	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Total applications received from federal processor	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Determination of eligibility for need-based financial assistance to attend college	South Carolina residents indicating possible enrollment at an eligible independent institution of higher education located in South Carolina	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	
1.1.2	Provide funding to a number of Tuition Grant recipients based on enrollment data, not to fall 5% below prior year number of recipients	12,473	11,500		Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total eligible applications processed by Commission	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	Financial assistance applied to tuition and fee charges, enabling the eligible South Carolina resident to attend the college or university of their choice	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	
1.2	Help offset the higher education costs o			lleges for Sout	h Carolina stud	ents just as the state	e offsets the higher education		State Objective:	Education, Training, and H	uman Development		
1.2.1	costs of state residents attending South Increase the value of the Maximum Tuition Grant Award Increase the value of the average Tuition Grant Award	S 4,800	S 4,800	Dollar Amount Dollar Amount	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year State Fiscal Year	Dollar amount of Maximum Tuition Grant Award. Calculated based on prior year awards, projected next year awards, and projected appropriations Total dollars disbursed by total recipients	Agency Student Information System, Updated Daily	Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records; Most recently approved Commission Meeting Minutes also available on Tuition Grants Commission website 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 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 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 0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	
1.3	Preserve the dual system of public and	independent college	higher education in So	outh Carolina	which provides	healthy competition	between the two sectors.		State Objective:	Education, Training, and H	uman Development		
1,3,1	Maintain a proportional percentage, within 5% of prior year totals, of SC resident FTEs attending eligible independent colleges	16%	14%	Percent	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina resident students attending eligible independent colleges by total number of full-time enrolled South Carolina resident students attending all institutions of higher education in the state	CHEMIS reports through CHE	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records	Provides evidence supporting the need for the state to continue providing need-based financial assistance to college students choosing to attend an eligible independent college or university	South Carolina residents attending eligible independent institutions of higher education in South Carolina who meet all eligibility and enrollment criteria to receive the Tuition Grant	0510.000000.000; 9802.010000.000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.3.2	Maintain an appropriate percentage of SC FTEs, based on predicted student enrollment targets, attending eligible independent colleges receiving a Tuition Grant	74%		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	0510.00000.000; 9802.010000.000	AMES
1.4	Attract SC residents into the SC indep-	endent college sector	to save State tax dolla	rs that would h	ave to be appro	opriated at a higher	dollar value via the automatic		State Objective:	Education, Training, and F	luman Development		
1.4.1	subsidy to those students if they migrat By effective administration of the	s 39,140,274		D-II	Maintain	State Fiscal Year	Average subsidy per public	Combined CHE and	Commission on	Promote sound fiscal	South Carolina taxpayers	0510.000000.000;	
1.4.1	By effective administration of time Tuttion 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.	3 39,140,274	5 15,000,000	Amount	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Average sussisty per punic college minus average TG per recipient times number of TG recipients	Commission Data, Updated Annually	Commission on Higher Education Server/Internal Records and Tuition Grants Commission Server/Internal Records	rromote sound iscal stewardship of state funds that would otherwise be allocated at a higher rate to South Carolina residents attending public institutions of higher education	South Caronna taxpayers	9802.010000.000	
2.1	Ensure compliance with State and Fede software applications maintain current			utilizing all av	ailable security	and encryption me	chanisms and by ensuring all		State Objective:	Maintaining Safety, Integri	ty and Security		
2.1.1	software applications maintain current Number of security incidents resulting in compromised data Provide information security training f	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 Adi (FAFSA) through the US Department of Education, regardless of college location or enrollment status	0100.010000.000	
2.2.1	Percentage of agency personnel completing information security training	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	0100.010000.000	
3.1	Increase awareness of Tuition Grants F	rogram and financia	l aid application proce	ss by participa	iting in a variet	y of outreach oppor	rtunities.		State Objective:	Government and Citizens			
3.1.1	Maintain the target number of outreach events and activities (minimum of 10) attended by staff, including high school counselor workshops, financial aid nights, and other events in which information concerning the Tuition Grants Program and the application process can be provided.	14	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	

Budget Data

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) General		(Projected) Other		ojected) ederal		(Projected) Total
0100.010000.000	Administration	Director Salary, Classified Personnel Salary, Admin Operating Expenses, Lottery Admin Allowance	s	749,442.26	S	74,371.58	\$	-	\$ 823,813.84	\$ 579,659.68	\$	70,000.00	S	-	\$	649,526.00
0510.000000.000	Tuition Grants	Recurring State Appropriations for Tution Grants, Interest Earnings, and Childrens Education Endowment Funds, all used specifically to fund Tuition Grants for students	\$	27,993,218.00		27,172,292.00	S	-	\$ 55,165,510.00			27,932,770.60	\$	-	Ť	55,491,394.60
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	Agency's portion of employer benefits expenses	S	126,251.08	S		\$	-	\$ 126,251.08	\$ 128,580.48	S	-	S	-	\$	128,580.48
9802.010000.000	Tuition Grants	Annual Lottery Allocation received by the Tuition Grants Commission to disburse to eligible students as Tuition Grants	S	-	S	15,523,454.00	S	-	\$ 14,912,595.00	-	\$	19,000,000.00	S	-	\$	19,000,000.00
9832.02000X000	Capital Reserve	Capital Reserve Funds allocated to the agency to support the purchase of a new Student Information System; These funds were spent for that purpose in FY24 and will not be renewed		200,000.00	\$	-	S	-	\$ 200,000.00	-	\$	-	S	-	\$	-

Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Law number	Jurisdiction	Туре	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
59-112-10			State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)		The state of the s	No Change
59-112-100	State		State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change
59-112-20	State		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		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		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		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

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
59-112-80	State	Statute	State Residency Statute followed to determine residency eligibility as required by 59-113-20(a)			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.	Report our agency may/must provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2024
59-143-30	State	Statute	Directs that a portion of funds be directed to the Tuition Grants Program	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
P117.98 (H. 4300, 2023-2024 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.98)	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Proviso governing data breach notification	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso (H. 5150, 2022-2023 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.99)	Amended Proviso Number Only
P117.104 (H. 4300, 2023-2024 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.104)	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Proviso governing data agency Information Technology and Information Security plan submission	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso (H. 5150, 2022-2023 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.105)	Amended Proviso Number Only
P117.97 (H. 4300, 2023-2024 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.97)	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Proviso governing information security	Requires a manner of delivery	Previous Proviso (H. 5150, 2022-2023 General Appropriations Bill; Proviso 117.98)	Amended Proviso Number Only
H. 4300, 2023-2024; Section 3 - H660	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Proviso governing Lottery funds use.	Report our agency must/may provide	Previous Proviso (H. 5150, 2022-2023; Section 3 - H660)	Amended Proviso Number Only
Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1001g; 34 CFR Part 600)	Federal	Statute	Federal statute authorizing the FAFSA as a common application for need analysis and determination of eligibility for aid programs	Requires a manner of delivery		No Change

Services Data
as submitted for the Accountability Report by:
H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.		Changes made to services during FY2024	Summary of changes to services
The Tuttion Grant is a state-funded grant based on financial need for eligible college students who choose to attend an independent college in South Carolina		Tuition Grant Recipients	General Public	Tuition Grants	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	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	No Change	

Partnerships Data as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

H060 - Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
Higher Education Institute	22 Eligible SC Independent Colleges	Assists with determination of student eligiblity 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
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 assesments 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	SC Department of Education (K-12)	Provides data to assist with future FAFSA Completion Matching Portal to provide an opportunity for public high school counselors to access FAFSA filing status information for their senior class	Add

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
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	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

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 departments' 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 2023	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	February 2024	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on agency's website	https://setuitiongrants.org/about-us/	No Change	
Annual Survey Report on State- Sponsored Student Financial Aid		State Aid Awarded	February 2024	Annually	Other	Available on another website	https://www.nassgapsurvey.com/s urvey_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 2024	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 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	https://eg.se.gov/financial- reports/annual-comprehensive- financial-reports-acfrs	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
Debt Collection Report	Proviso 117.33	Confirmation that agency has no outstanding debt due to the agency		Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request		No Change	Monnted
Deficit Monitoring	Proviso 117.77	Monitoring of General and Other Funds expenditures and revenues to avoid an overall agency deficit	June 2024	Monthly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Hard copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	
Division of Human Resources	Act; §9-1-1140 and 9-11-		August 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
Lottery Expenditures by County		Number of Tuition Grant recipients residing in each county, and the amount of lottery funding each recipient received as a portion of their overall Tuition Grant	October 2023	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	October 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	No Change	
Small & Minority Business Contracting and Certification MBE Quarterly Progress Report	§11-35-5010	Measures agency's progress toward Small & Minority Business Utilization Plan Goals	March 2024	Quarterly	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Zachary Christian	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	January 2024	Twice a year	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Electronic copy available upon request	Agency Contact: Katie Harrison	No Change	

AGENCY NAME:	Higher Education Tuition Grants Commi	ssion	
AGENCY CODE:	H060	SECTION:	12

2024 Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

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

- Data Template
 - o Reorganization and Compliance
 - o FY2024 Strategic Plan Results
 - o FY2025 Strategic Plan Development
 - o Legal
 - o Services
 - Partnerships
 - o Report or Review
 - o 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 (SIGN AND DATE):	SIGNATURE ON FILE	Signature Received: 09/06/2024
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Katherine Harrison	
BOARD/CMSN CHAIR		Signature Received:
(SIGN AND DATE):	SIGNATURE ON FILE	09/09/2024
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Boone J. Hopkins	