



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

College Transition Programs

September 18, 2013

Proviso 11.16:

Commission on Higher Education

- ***College Transition Connection Need-Based Grants:*** Funds appropriated for the College Transition Connection shall be transferred to the Commission on Higher Education Need-Based Grant program. **These funds shall be used to provide need-based grants to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established college transition program** that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with College Transition Connection, shall develop guidelines for awarding these need-based grants and shall allocate the available funds to eligible institutions on the basis of student need and enrollment in the established college transition programs. **All other grants and gift aid for which these students are eligible must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the need-based grant funding. If the cost of attendance for an eligible student is met with all other grants and gift aid, the need-based grant shall not be used.** The participating institutions, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education and College Transition Connection, shall track the number of grant recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these grants in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs. **No more than the amount transferred in Fiscal Year 2013-14 for College Transition Connection may be expended from currently appropriated Commission on Higher Education Need-Based Grant funding for grants for students in college transition programs.**

General Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident
- South Carolina resident
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - FAFSA is completed each year
 - Ensures methodology is consistent at each school for each student
- Enrolled in a College Transition Program
 - Director of the program at each school will provide certification of student enrollment

Continued Eligibility

Participants in these programs must demonstrate continued eligibility at the end of each academic year in order to receive funds the following academic year

- Methods to determine continued eligibility:
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - Good Standing

Verification Process

The Financial Aid Office at each institution is responsible for awarding funds to students in the College Transition Programs. Once it has been determined that a student is eligible to receive funds, it is the responsibility of the Financial Aid Office to request funds from the SC Commission on Higher Education on behalf of the student.

- Each College Transition Program will need to develop a process that allows for the Financial Aid Office to verify and confirm that the student can be awarded funds
 - Director provides verification paperwork to Financial Aid Office
 - Similar to the paperwork submitted for Foster Care Youth