



COLLEGE TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Fiscal Year 2022-23 Summary Report

College Transition Program (CTP) Background

Some higher education institutions provide comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities. Eligible students may receive financial aid to participate in these programs if the higher education institution also participates in the federal student aid program. As of April 1, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education has approved 165 programs throughout the nation. There historically have been five institutions approved in South Carolina: Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, the College of Charleston, the University of South Carolina Columbia, and Winthrop University. Beginning in the Fall 2023 term, the University of South Carolina – Aiken will enroll students in their newly approved PacerLIFE College Transition Program.

Initially, the College Transition Connection (CTC) directed efforts to assist intellectually disabled students. During FY 2013-14, CTC worked with select colleges and universities in South Carolina to design, create, and fund transition and post-secondary opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities. These are known now as College Transition Programs (CTP). The CTP serves students with intellectual disabilities who demonstrate financial need. These programs allow for students to attend a South Carolina institution and engage in academics, independent living environments, employment/career opportunities, and socialization. The programs are non-degree seeking and successful completion allows for students to receive a certificate of postsecondary education. Since FY 2013-14, the South Carolina General Assembly has directed a portion of need-based grant funds to students enrolled in CTP at South Carolina institutions. For FY 2022-23, per Proviso 11.12, the CHE may allocate up to \$700,000 of need-based grant funds for CTP.

South Carolina CTP Programs

ClemsonLIFE

Cost of program

On-campus is \$44,008/year and off-campus costs start at \$30,404/year (cost varies for meal options). Out-of-state is \$46,008 (program costs decrease to \$35,008 and \$37,008 for years 3 and 4).



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400
Columbia, SC 29201

www.che.sc.gov



Total Number of Participants during the 2022-23 academic year	44 participants.
Total Number of Participants that were SC residents during the 2022-23 academic year	14 South Carolina residents.

The ClemsonLIFE Program offers a two-year Basic Program that incorporates functional academics, independent living, employment, social/leisure skills, and health/wellness skills in a public university setting with the goal of producing self-sufficient young adults. Additionally, the ClemsonLIFE Program offers a two-year Advanced Program for students who have demonstrated the ability to safely live independently, sustain employment, and socially integrate during the Basic Program. According to Clemson, the Advanced Program emphasizes on workplace experience, community integration, and independent living with reduction in supports as the students progress. Students who successfully complete the Basic or Advanced Program will receive a corresponding certificate of postsecondary education.

Coastal Carolina University LIFE Program

Cost of program	On-campus begins at \$28,245. Off-campus is \$17,490. Program costs depend on housing and meal plan choice.
Total Number of Participants during the 2022-23 academic year	34 participants.
Total Number of Participants that were SC residents during the 2022-23 academic year	19 South Carolina residents.

The Coastal Carolina University LIFE program is a four-year, inclusive, comprehensive, postsecondary education and transition program for young adults with mild to moderate intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. According to Coastal Carolina, the program is a cohort-structured program enrolling eight to ten students each academic year. The LIFE program prepares students with the life skills needed to complete their postsecondary education, gain, and maintain meaningful employment, and live independent and productive adult lives. Alumni can utilize the LIFE Alumni Career Service program for employment workshops, assistance with job searches and resumes as well as utilizing the support of job coaches.

College of Charleston REACH Program

Cost of program	In-state: On-campus and off-campus starts at \$34,050. Out-of-state: on-campus and off-campus starts at \$54,056. Program cost depends on housing choice.
Total Number of Participants during the 2022-23 academic year	33 participants.
Total Number of Participants that were SC residents during the 2022-23 academic year	8 South Carolina residents.

The REACH Program at the College of Charleston is a four-year, fully inclusive certificate program for students with mild intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. According to the College of Charleston, the REACH Program promotes the advancement of knowledge and skill in areas of academics, socialization, independent living, and career development, and has been nationally recognized for its commitment to full-inclusion and self-

determination. Students in the REACH Program may participate in all activities offered by the College of Charleston, with individualized support for success. These include attending traditional classes (with modifications and support); living in traditional on-campus housing and residence halls; completing internships; participation in campus clubs, activities, and organizations; and peer-mentoring.

The University of South Carolina – Aiken PacerLIFE

Cost of program	On-campus is \$38,680. Out-of-state is \$40,422 per year. Non-residential programming is not offered.
Total Number of Participants during the 2022-23 academic year	0 – Not enrolling participants until Fall 2023.
Total Number of Participants that were SC residents during the 2022-23 academic year	0.

PacerLIFE offers a two-year individualized, non-degree program for students with intellectual disabilities. The program supports the development of independent living and employment skills by providing experiences living on campus and participating in internships. A curriculum of functional coursework will meet the needs of the individual learners.

The University of South Carolina – Columbia CarolinaLIFE

Cost of program	On-campus is \$31,694. Off-campus is \$19,032. All students receive in-state tuition rates.
Total Number of Participants during the 2022-23 academic year	25 participants.
Total Number of Participants that were SC residents during the 2022-23 academic year	15 South Carolina residents.

CarolinaLIFE is a four-year, non-degree program for students with documented, diverse learning needs (e.g., intellectual disability). Students are provided support in working towards and achieving their academic, social, personal, career, and independent living goals. Upon graduation, students are awarded a CarolinaLIFE certificate of completion and have access to and support in pursuing industry-based credentials specific to their desired career path.

Winthrop THINK College Program

Cost of program	On-campus ranges from \$27,774-\$29,812. Off-campus is \$15,000. Program costs depend on housing and meal plan choice.
Total Number of Participants during the 2022-23 academic year	13 participants.
Total Number of Participants that were SC residents during the 2022-23 academic year	6 South Carolina residents.

Winthrop University’s THINK College (WTC) Program is a fully inclusive postsecondary certificate education program for students with intellectual disabilities, seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction to prepare for gainful employment. For the 2023-24 academic year, Winthrop is

expanding its program to invite qualified students to remain for up to two additional years (Year 3 and 4) to continue to gain additional academic knowledge, independent living instruction, and further career skills for more specialized/advanced career paths/gainful employment. Participants in the advanced program will take coursework through York Technical College to gain skills in one of the specializations/learning skills available by YTC.

Overview of the South Carolina CTP Programs and Disbursements

Table 1 illustrates an overall steady growth in CTP students since initiation of the program. Table 2 illustrates the CTP Need-based Grant disbursements at each participating institution. In FY 2013-14 and 2014-15, the maximum award could not exceed \$7,000 per student. As the number of program participants increased, the funding available to each student decreased. Tuition costs and program fees also increased, and participating institutions anticipated growth in the number of program participants. For FY 2016-17, the General Assembly increased CTP funding by \$170,833, resulting in a total of \$350,000 for FY 2016-17. To encourage increased recruitment efforts, the General Assembly limited the individual award amount for FY 2016-17 to \$10,000. For the following five fiscal years, FY 2017-18 through FY 2021-22, the General Assembly decreased the award amount to a maximum of \$7,500 per student. For FY 2022-23, due to the increased funding, the CTP Grant award amount was increased up to \$10,000 per year.

Table 1. Summary of CTP Need-based Grant Recipients from FYs 2013-14 – 2022-23

Institution	Length of Program (All programs offer on & off campus housing)	Certification Awarded	Total CTP Need-based Grant Participants									
			2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Clemson University	2 Years An optional 3 rd year is available for select students	2-Year Program Certificate of Completion	1	2	3	5	8	4	5	5	6	6
Coastal Carolina University	4 Years	University Certificate of Completion	8	9	8	7	7	14	16	17	13	14
College of Charleston	4 Years	Certificate of Completion	3	0	0	0	2	3	4	5	5	3
University of South Carolina	Students have the option to enroll in a 2, 3, or 4-Year program	Certificate of Completion	8	7	7	7	8	7	9	9	11	8
Winthrop University*	2 Years	Letter of Completion	N/A	8	11	11	9	8	9	8	5	4
Total CTP eligible Participants			20	26	29	30	34	36	43	45	40	35

*Note: *Effective Spring 2015, Winthrop University's CTP program received final federal approval required for their program implementation.*



Table 2. Summary of CTP Need-based Grant Disbursement by Institution from FYs 2013-14 – 2022-23

Institution	CTP Need-based Grant Disbursement									
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Clemson University	\$7,000	\$19,913	\$13,952	\$42,533	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$37,446	\$45,000	\$54,926
Coastal Carolina University	\$55,736	\$58,465	\$50,550	\$76,195	\$50,751	\$96,876	\$117,406	\$131,250	\$93,750	\$94,339
College of Charleston	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$22,500	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$30,000
University of South Carolina	\$56,000	\$63,220	\$43,755	\$70,000	\$60,000	\$52,500	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$82,500	\$80,000
Winthrop University**	N/A	\$37,259*	\$68,079	\$85,000	\$67,500	\$52,500	\$63,750	\$62,864	\$37,418	\$30,681
Totals	\$139,736	\$178,857	\$176,336	\$273,728	\$253,251	\$254,376	\$316,156	\$336,560	\$296,168	\$289,946

Note: * Effective Spring 2015, Winthrop University's CTP program received final federal approval required for their program implementation.

College Transition Program Scholarship

During the 2021 state legislative session, the General Assembly established a scholarship program for SC residents enrolled in a CTP. Proviso 3.5 appropriated \$750,000 of lottery funds to the newly created CTP scholarship program. For FY 2022-23, the General Assembly increased funding in the proviso (see below) to \$4,105,597. As allowed by proviso, CHE transferred \$250,000 to the University of South Carolina for the South Carolina Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium (Consortium). The CHE met with the CTP institutions and established temporary guidelines for eligibility consistent with eligibility for other state-funded scholarship and grant programs. The temporary guidelines set up minimal requirements for the scholarship. The eligibility requirements require students to meet the established South Carolina residency requirements and be enrolled in a CTP at a public SC institution to receive a scholarship. With the recent hire of the Consortium Coordinator in June 2023, the CHE plans to work with that individual to publish final guidelines. This collaborative effort aims to establish comprehensive and effective guidelines that will facilitate the fair distribution of scholarships and ensure students receive the financial support they needed to attend a CTP program.

Because the CTP scholarship program was created by a one-year budget proviso, considerations for the program in subsequent years will be subject to any statutory or regulatory changes that may occur during the upcoming Session of the General Assembly or renewal of the budget proviso. The General Appropriations Bill for FY2022-23 increased the CTP scholarship award amount to \$10,000 per year. This was a much-appreciated change for the CTP institutions, as they reported the number one recruitment hurdle for their students is financial limitations.

Excerpt from Proviso 3.5 “CHE–Transition Program Scholarships in the FY 2022–2023 General Appropriations Act”

(12) Commission on Higher Education - College Transition Program Scholarships \$ 4,105,597;

Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for College Transition Scholarships, the commission shall provide scholarships to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established College Transition Program (CTP) that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The commission, in consultation with the CTPs, shall develop guidelines establishing scholarship eligibility, retention, and/or renewal requirements in accordance with this paragraph. Scholarships shall be awarded to each South Carolina resident student enrolled in an established public CTP in an amount of at least \$2,500 per semester, not to exceed \$10,000 per academic year (including summer semester), and no student may receive a scholarship for more than eight semesters in total. In addition, the limitations of Proviso 11.12 notwithstanding, individual CTPs shall have the discretion to allocate a portion of their aggregate funding provided pursuant to this provision for need-based grants to eligible students. This discretion is allowable only to the extent that the funding for need-based grants for eligible CTP students provided pursuant to Proviso 11.12 has first been fully exhausted. The commission, in cooperation with the CTPs, shall collect and report the number of scholarship recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these scholarships in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs. The commission shall provide this report to the Governor, the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee no later than September 30. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose, except that up to \$250,000 may be used by the CTP consortium (known as The South Carolina Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium) to be used collaboratively by the consortium to promote better awareness of CTP programs statewide as an option for youth with intellectual disabilities after high school through dedicated support for activities such as, but not necessarily limited to, student recruitment, development and maintenance of a consortium website and associated materials, and the provision of strategic informational events for prospective students and families across the State.

2022-23 CTP Scholarship Disbursements

For the 2022–23 academic year, institutions reported that 53 percent of their 59 recipients are male, and 47 percent are female. While five of the South Carolina institutions offer a non-residential program, the institutions reported that 86 percent of students participate in their residential programs. The ethnicity breakdown for recipients shows that 62 percent are White/Non-Hispanic, 26 percent are Black/African American, nine percent are Asian/Pacific Islander, and three percent are Unknown. Table 3 below shows Coastal Carolina has awarded more than one-third of the total number of recipients and has the largest award disbursement.

Table 3. CTP Scholarship Disbursements by Institutions from FYs 2021-22 - 2022-23

Institution	CTP Scholarship Disbursements				Total Award Disbursement
	2021-22 Recipients	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Recipients	2022-23 Awards	
Clemson University	12	\$60,000	14	\$140,000	\$200,000
Coastal Carolina University	20	\$97,500	20	\$195,000	\$292,500

College of Charleston	9	\$45,000	9	\$90,000	\$135,000
University of South Carolina	11	\$55,000	10	\$100,000	\$155,000
Winthrop University	8	\$37,500	6	\$50,000	\$87,500
Totals	60	\$295,000	59	\$575,000	\$870,000

Note: Effective for 2022-23, the maximum scholarship award amount increased to \$10,000 per year. For the 2021-22 academic year, the maximum scholarship award amount was \$5,000 per year.

National Data

National Core Indicators – Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The program began in 1997, and the purpose was to support NASDDDS member agencies to gather a standard set of performance and outcome measures that can be used to track their own performance over time, compare results across states, and establish national benchmarks. The NCI-AD program serves as a valuable resource for information about individuals with developmental disabilities receiving services across a large sample of states. Currently, there are 49 states that participate but states submitting data can vary from year to year.

Using the www.nationalcoreindicators.org website, users of the data can generate charts for national benchmarks on employment rate, independent living, as well as the averages for the state of South Carolina.

The most recent NCI-AD data is from the 2021-22 year. Table 4 below highlights three measures from the survey, whether an individual takes an action for employment opportunities, whether an individual has a paid community job, and whether an individual lives independently.

Table 4. Comparison of 2021-22 National Data to South Carolina Data for Individuals with Disabilities

NCI Survey Measures	National Average	South Carolina Average
Individual takes classes, training, or other action to get a job or a better job	17%	50%
Individual has paid community job	16%	25%
Individual has their own home or apartment	15%	12%

For two of the selected measures, South Carolina outcomes outperform the national average. For the third, whether an individual has their own home or apartment, South Carolina trails the national average by three percentage points.

It should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected this population of individuals. NCI-AD created a 2020-2021 COVID-19 Family Supplement survey to collect data on changes experienced due to the pandemic. Twenty-eight percent of respondents reported they experienced disruptions in their lives including losing a job and 15 percent reported having trouble feeding their families.

South Carolina's College Transition Programs' Completion Data

South Carolina's five CTP programs provided the CHE with completion data for the five previous academic years (AY), 2018-19 - 2022-23. Over the past five years, the data shows mixed results. The employment rate increased by 11 percentage points from 80 percent to 91 percent. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted this population of students and that is reflected in both the program completion rate and independent living outcomes data. While the program completion rate data shows that it has now rebounded past pre-COVID levels, the independent living outcomes are still struggling to reach their pre-COVID levels.

Table 5. CTP Completion Data by Institution from AYs 2018-19 – 2022-23

Program Completion Rate	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Carolina LIFE - USC	80%	80%	80%	80%	100%
ClemsonLIFE	100%	92%	96%	96%	100%
College of Charleston REACH	*N/A	*N/A	*N/A	73%	91%
Coastal Carolina LIFE	100%	71%	90%	90%	*N/A
Winthrop Think College	100%	100%	85.71%	88%	*N/A
CTP Average Completion Rate	95%	86%	88%	85%	97%

Notes: *These data points were not provided.

Table 6. CTP Independent Living Outcome Data by Institution from AYs 2018-19 – 2022-23

Independent Living Outcome	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Carolina LIFE - USC	70%	50%	25%	25%	50%
ClemsonLIFE	43%	43%	55%	55%	62%
College of Charleston REACH	53%	*See notes	78%	78%	64%
Coastal Carolina LIFE	75%	25%	33%	16%	27%
Winthrop Think College	33%	**See notes	41%	41%	16%
CTP Average Independent Living Rate	55%	39%	46%	43%	44%

Notes: * Not recorded due to COVID

** Almost all students returned home

Table 7. CTP Employment Rate Data by Institution from AYs 2018-19 – 2022-23

Employment Rate	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Carolina LIFE	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ClemsonLIFE	90%	90%	100%	100%	100%
College of Charleston REACH	85%	*See notes	91%	91%	91%
Coastal Carolina LIFE	75%	85%	83%	83%	100%
Winthrop Think College	67%	80%	75%	75%	66%
Total SC Programs	80%	89%	90%	90%	91%

Persistence Data

To assess the impact and effectiveness of the CTP scholarship program, the CTP programs have recently started tracking persistence and retention data. This initiative began in the 2021-22 academic year, coinciding with the launch of the scholarship program. By collecting and expanding this data, the CHE aims to analyze the persistence rates and determine if the scholarship program contributes to improved student outcomes.

To provide an initial overview of the program's impact, Table 9 highlights that a total of 297 students have graduated from CTP programs as of the end of the 2022-23 academic year.

Table 9. Summary of CTP Program Graduates

Institution	Certification Awarded	CTP Graduates			
		2013-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
Clemson University	Certificate of Completion	81	14	8	103
Coastal Carolina University	Certificate of Completion	38	4	12	54
College of Charleston	Certificate of Completion	42	11	7	60
University of South Carolina	Certificate of Completion	41	6	5	52
Winthrop University	Certificate of Completion	17*	5	6	28
Total CTP Graduates		219	40	38	297

Note: *Winthrop University reported CTP graduates from 2019-2021.

Recognizing the importance of assessing student retention, the institutions involved in the program focused on tracking the retention rates from Year 1 to Year 2 and then from Year 2 to Year 3. These calculations encompass data starting from the 2020-21 academic year.

Table 10 shows the average retention rates observed during this analysis. It indicates a 98 percent retention rate from Year 1 to Year 2, which demonstrates a strong level of persistence among CTP students. However, the retention rate decreases to 85 percent from Year 2 to Year 3, as reflected in Table 11. These figures provide a preliminary understanding of the program's effectiveness in terms of student retention, and they highlight areas where further improvements may be needed.

Table 10. Summary of CTP Retention Data from Year 1 to Year 2 for 2020-21 – 2021-22

Student Retention Data: Year 1 to Year 2	2020-21	2021-22
Carolina LIFE	100%	90%
ClemsonLIFE	100%	100%
College of Charleston REACH	80%	100%
Coastal Carolina LIFE	64%	100%
Winthrop Think College	84%	100%
Year 1 to Year 2 Retention Rate	86%	98%

Table 11. Summary of CTP Retention Data from Year 2 to Year 3 from 2020-21 – 2021-22

Student Retention Data: Year 2 to Year 3	2020-21	2021-22
Carolina LIFE	83%	100%
ClemsonLIFE	100%	100%
College of Charleston REACH	80%	90%
Coastal Carolina LIFE	100%	50%
Winthrop Think College*	N/A	N/A
Year 2 to Year 3 Retention Rate	86%	85%

*Note: *Winthrop University is planning to start Year 3 programing for the 2023-24 academic year.*

The CHE, in collaboration with the Consortium, plans to continue developing additional performance measures. The CHE is committed to comprehensively evaluate the impact of the scholarship program and ensure its alignment with the desired outcomes. By analyzing the persistence and retention data, as well as implementing new measures, the CHE aims to gain valuable insights into the program's efficacy and make informed decisions to enhance student outcomes in the future.

Per proviso, the report due date is September 30 each year. Because the report due date coincides with the return of school for the Fall term, the CHE does not have data on the AY 2023-24 scholarship recipients. If the report due date in the proviso, were adjusted for future years, it would allow CHE staff to report retention and persistence data on the previous year's scholarship recipients.

