



CENTERS OF ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE REVIEW BOARD

[See Title No 2, Chapter 75; Act No 356, 2002; Act No 187, 2004; Act No 355, 2008.]

I. Statutory Responsibilities of the Board:

1. Prepare annual report to S.C. Commission on Higher Education including a schedule for receiving grant proposals and awarding grants (Sec. 2-75-10).
2. Oversight and operation of the Centers of Economic Excellence Matching Endowment (Sec. 2-75-10 and Sec. 2-75-30).
3. Provide Private Audit and Annual Report to the S.C. Budget and Control Board and S.C. General Assembly (Sec. 2-75-10).
4. Determine that grant application requirements have been met (Sec. 2-75-30, Sec. 2-75-50 and Sec. 2-75-60).
5. Select minimum of five outside expert individual to perform scientific, technical reviews of each grant proposal (Sec. 2-75-30).
6. Appoint a panel of experts from outside the State of S.C. to conduct site visits at the research institutions in order to evaluate and recommend grant proposals (Sec. 2-75-30 and Sec. 2-75-60).
7. Determine grant awards and amounts (Sec. 2-75-60).
8. Submit all appropriate expense forms to the S.C. Commission on Higher Education for approval and payment (Sec. 2-75-70).
9. Determine a percentage or portion of non-state matching funds, which must apply equally to all grant awards, to be used for initial operating expenses (Sec. 2-75-100).
10. Establish a cost share accounting policy whereby cash equivalent or in-kind donations may be accepted as non-state matches (Sec. 2-75-110).

II. Implied Responsibilities of the Board:

1. Encourage grant proposal collaboration among the three senior research institutions and other South Carolina public institutions of higher education (Sec. 2-75-5, Sec. 2-75-40 and Sec. 2-75-50).
2. Adopt a procedure and schedule for the filing and processing of applications including the information required thereon (Sec. 2-75-10).
3. Establish a working relationship with the Commission on Higher Education for the use of staff and support (Sec. 2-75-10).

4. Engage a private CPA to prepare and certify the Annual Audit to the S.C. Budget and Control Board and the S.C. General Assembly (Sec. 2-75-10).
5. Collect center annual reports from the senior research universities in order to prepare a comprehensive Annual Report to the S.C. Budget & Control Board and the S.C. General Assembly (Sec. 2-75-10).
6. Establish bylaws, which provide for (a) a procedure for calling meetings and their location, (b) the creation of officers with listed responsibilities and duties; and (c) the establishment of committees, including an executive committee (Sec. 2-75-10).
7. Establish program guidelines (Sec. 2-75-10).
8. Prepare budget for the operations of the Board, including appropriate per diem, subsistence and mileage expenses and for the cost and expenses of the panels of experts (Sec. 2-75-70).

III. Statutory Requirements for the Application Process (See Sec. 2-75-50):

The Grant Application Shall:

1. Document the non-state matching funds, on hand, in an amount equal to the grant amount requested.
2. Demonstrate the no S.C. tax dollars are claimed as non-state matching funds and that all non-state matching funds claimed have been committed and raised after January 1, 2002.
3. Be for an amount not less than \$2,000,000 nor more than \$5,000,000.
4. Document that the proposal has significant potential to provide for enhanced economic development for the State in a specified knowledge based industry or field of commerce.
5. Document collaboration with other institutions, businesses or communities.

IV. Related other provisions of the Act:

1. Members of the review board may not receive payment for their service; however, members of the review board may be reimbursed for per diem, subsistence and mileage expenses as provided by State law (Sec. 2-75-10 and Sec. 2-75-70).
2. The amount of \$30,000,000 is annually appropriated from the Education Lottery Account to provide for Endowed Chairs as provided in S.C. 2-75-30(a).
3. The Centers of Economic Excellence Matching Endowment must be managed by the State Treasurer (Sec. 2-75-30).
4. Interest earnings on the Endowment must remain as part of the Fund and may be used to fund additional grant proposals (Sec. 2-75-30).
5. Operational expenses of the board shall come from the Fund and must be approved by the Commission on Higher Education (Sec. 2-75-30 and Sec. 2-75-70).

6. If a center is dissolved, withdrawn, or terminated, all drawn state funds for that grant application must be returned to the Centers of Excellence Matching Endowment and may be used by the board to fund additional grant proposals (Sec. 2-75-30 and Sec. 2-75-100).
7. An individual grant proposal is considered awarded once the three-tier review process has been completed and the board has voted affirmatively on the grant proposal (Sec. 2-75-30(b)).
8. Staff and support for the Board must be provided by the Commission on Higher Education (Sec.2-75-70).
9. The full amount of every state award must be placed into and remain in endowment Sec. 2-75-100(b)).