AGENCY NAME:	Winthrop University		
AGENCY CODE:	H470	SECTION:	21

Fiscal Year 2027-28
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS (FORM D)		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Kevin Butler	803-323-2205	butlerk@winthrop.edu
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Jennifer Lewis	803-323-3120	lewisj@winthrop.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-28 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	4/14/26	4/15/26
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Edward A. Serna	Joel T. Hamilton

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Winthrop University
Agency Code:	H470
Section:	21

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Mitigation Proviso 117.178	2,492,722	0	0	0	2,492,722	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	C - Capital	Economic Innovation Hub	13,000,000	0	0	0	13,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	C - Capital	Campus Deferred Maintenance & Capital Renewal	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	C - Capital	Advanced Manufacturing Engineering & Academic Programming	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Winthrop University Internship and Experiential Learning Initiative	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
TOTALS			23,492,722	0	0	0	23,492,722	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

Agency Name:	Winthrop University		
Agency Code:	H470	Section:	21

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Tuition Mitigation Proviso 117.178

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $2,492,722

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $2,492,722

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Tuition Mitigation is directly aligned with the following institutional goals:

2.2.1. Maintain the Graduation Rate of first-time, full-time freshmen cohorts who earned a baccalaureate degree at Winthrop within six years

3.1.1. Maintain student satisfaction with support services.

3.2.1. Increase Retention Rate of the first time, full-time freshmen cohort who were enrolled as of the retention census date in previous fall.

5.2.1. Maintain the expenditures on facilities.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that

strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Analysis of Financial Impact of Holding Tuition Rates Constant

Winthrop University calculated its SC First funding request based on the projected increase in eligible operating expenses for FY28, excluding Auxiliary operations. The methodology recognizes both the inflationary impact reflected in the 3.6% Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) and significant institutional costs expected to increase at rates above HEPI.

The majority of the University's operating (non-personnel) expenses have consistently increased in generally alignment with the HEPI rate. Accordingly, the University applied the 3.6% HEPI rate to $43,417,910 of eligible operating expenses, resulting in a $1,563,045 inflationary cost increase. In addition, the University identified three significant categories of institutional expenses expected to increase above the HEPI rate. Institutional software and contracts of $2,935,503 are projected to increase by 8.0%, resulting in an incremental cost of $234,840. Insurance expenses of $969,604 are projected to increase by 6.0%, resulting in an incremental cost of $58,176. Utilities of $4,006,229 are projected to increase by 5.0%, resulting in an incremental cost of $200,311.

These above-HEPI increases total $493,328. Combined with the $1,563,045 HEPI-based increase, the University's calculated FY28 increase in eligible operating expenses is $2,056,373.

In addition, the University absorbed a portion of the cost of the state-mandated 2% general salary increase that was not fully funded through state appropriations. Excluding Auxiliary operations, the annual cost of the salary increase and associated fringe benefits totaled $1,297,461, while the related state appropriation provided only $889,800, leaving an unfunded institutional cost of $407,661.

Accordingly, Winthrop's SC First funding request is based on $2,464,034 of identified FY28 operating cost increases, consisting of $1,563,045 attributable to general inflationary pressure at the 3.6% HEPI rate, $493,328 attributable to identified cost categories increasing above HEPI, and $407,661 attributable to the unfunded portion of the state-mandated 2% general salary increase and associated fringe benefits. This methodology provides a direct quantitative basis for the University's request while excluding Auxiliary operations from the calculation.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Impact of Tuition Waivers and Abatements

Winthrop has grown enrollment while reducing or maintaining levels of institutional waivers. Tuition waivers and abatements that support access, affordability, and the University's ability to attract and retain a sufficient number of academically viable students. These programs should not be viewed solely as foregone revenue. Institutional waivers and abatements are strategic enrollment investments that allow Winthrop to remain competitive in recruiting students and to build an enrollment base that positions the University to expand academic opportunities, strengthen programs and services, and create greater value for students and the State.

At the same time, Winthrop incurs significant costs associated with state-mandated tuition waivers for eligible students. These waivers, costing $3.2M to Winthrop in FY26, provide an important public benefit by expanding access to higher education for qualifying South Carolina residents, but the associated tuition revenue is not available to support the University's ongoing operating costs. Consequently, these mandatory waivers represent a financial obligation that Winthrop absorbs while continuing to provide the same instructional and support services to the affected students.

Winthrop does not include the value of these waivers or institutional abatements as an additional component of its SC First funding request. Rather, the University's request is based on the incremental operating costs necessary to continue existing services without increasing in-state undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees. The waivers and abatements are presented in this narrative to provide context regarding the University's overall financial capacity to absorb these cost increases and the

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

University's continuing commitment to affordability for South Carolina students.

In combination, Winthrop's institutional affordability initiatives and state-mandated waivers represent a meaningful financial commitment to South Carolina students. These programs enable access and support enrollment while requiring the University to maintain the associated instructional and student-support infrastructure. SC First funding therefore helps preserve the quality and availability of these educational opportunities while allowing Winthrop to continue absorbing costs that are increasing faster than tuition revenue.

Cost Savings

Winthrop University has taken bold steps to reduce the financial burden on South Carolina families. Beginning in the 2024–25 academic year, the University cut undergraduate tuition rates by 8%, a decision that reduced revenue by $1.2 million in FY25. To offset this loss, Winthrop eliminated 23 positions, reducing expenses by $1.5 million.

The University continuously undertakes rigorous efforts to control costs and operate efficiently, including:
• **Comprehensive annual contract reviews** – a resource-intensive process to consolidate vendors, renegotiate pricing, and ensure the University receives maximum value from every agreement.
• **Strategic outsourcing of facilities operations** – a complex and transformational initiative designed to improve service delivery while reducing long-term operating costs.
• **Food services vendor transition** – changed vendors and flipped operating model from a risk-bearing, management fee expense arrangement to a risk-free, commission fee revenue arrangement.
• **Annual zero-based budgeting** – every department rebuilds its budget from the ground up each year, requiring detailed justification of all expenditures to eliminate inefficiencies and redirect funds to highest-priority needs.
• **Targeted reviews of utilities, space utilization, and technology costs** – identifying opportunities for conservation, consolidation, and modernization that yield measurable savings.
• **Shared services pilot** – identified roles across the University that could be centralized and focused towards purchasing, travel, and employment in order to create technical specialization and operational efficiency.

Future cost savings plans include:
• **Guaranteed Energy Savings** – Winthrop plans to evaluate and, subject to procurement requirements and a demonstrated positive financial return, pursue a guaranteed energy cost-savings partnership with an ESCO or EaaS provider. The initiative would identify and implement energy-efficiency and infrastructure improvements, with project costs supported by resulting energy and operating savings where feasible and measurable savings guarantees established through a performance-based arrangement.

Even with these focused operational cost-reduction initiatives, Winthrop has successfully **grown** in-state undergraduate enrollment every year since FY23 and through FY27, supported in part by ramped-up recruitment efforts, sound student success retention programs and strong leadership driving a new strategic plan.

Low Enrollment

The University is **not** expecting to have a decline in in-state undergraduate student enrollment. Since coming out of the pandemic in academic year 22/23, enrollment has grown year over year and student persistence (students that return from Spring to the next Fall) has been 90%.

Since FY19, Winthrop has strategically terminated or consolidated some programs resulting in insignificant impact to enrollment. These programs have included the following:
• BA in Economics
• BS in Biology with concentration in 7-12 Teacher Certification, since most students prefer a different Biology concentration and path
• Concentrations in BS in Business Administration have been consolidated to a concentration in Management to decrease courses with low offerings, increase faculty focus, and simplify the student's path to completion
• BA in History with concentration in 7-12 Teacher Education

Unobligated Fund Balance

The June 30, 2026 fund balance (exclusive of GASB 68, 75, and 101, and restricted for capital) for is $23.4M. Of this total, $500k is permanently restricted endowments for scholarships and $3.6M is restricted by the Board for specific use, leaving $19.3M.

Management considers approximately 25% of operating expenses to be an appropriate unobligated fund balance to provide sufficient liquidity and financial flexibility to maintain staffing and ongoing operations during periods of revenue volatility, while also allowing the University to address minimum capital renewal and other unforeseen operating needs.

At June 30, 2026, the unobligated fund balance represents 12.5% of operating expenses, which were $154M.

Conclusion

Winthrop will continue to observe guidance related to Tuition Mitigation and will incorporate future direction into its planning and requests. We remain grateful for the State's support in balancing affordability for South Carolina students with the financial realities of operating a comprehensive public university.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Winthrop University		
Agency Code:	H470	Section:	21

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Winthrop University Internship and Experiential Learning Initiative

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $1,000,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $1,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

This request builds on the substantial career-development infrastructure already provided by Winthrop University to help students transition successfully from college to the workforce. Through the Center for Career Development and Internships, students have access to individualized career coaching; resume, cover letter, LinkedIn, and application support; mock interviews; internship and job-search coaching; Handshake, which connects students with thousands of employers and opportunities; career fairs; employer information sessions and networking events; career treks; professional development programming; and the Career Closet, which provides free professional attire. Winthrop also works directly with employers to bring them to campus for recruiting, networking, interviews, and other opportunities to connect students with South Carolina, regional, and national employers.

This is particularly important given Winthrop's location in York County and its proximity to the Charlotte metropolitan area. Students have access to a significant South Carolina business community—including employers in finance, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, technology, energy, logistics, and other growing industries—but they also face a highly competitive Charlotte job market immediately across the state line. The proposed funding can serve as an incentive for students to **choose a South Carolina employer for their internship rather than defaulting to opportunities in**

the Charlotte market, while giving South Carolina employers an opportunity to develop relationships with talented students before graduation.

The proposed state investment adds an important component to this existing career-development model: **the financial ability for students to say yes to an internship**. For many students, particularly first-generation students, the barrier is not a lack of career preparation or access to employers, but the practical cost of participating in an opportunity that may require transportation, professional attire, meals, or other expenses. Providing a competitive internship award allows Winthrop to pair its extensive career services and employer connections with direct financial support, making high-quality South Carolina internships more accessible to students who otherwise may have to decline them.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The investment therefore extends beyond the individual student. Winthrop would use its existing career-services infrastructure to identify and prepare students, connect them with employers, facilitate successful internships, verify completion, and track outcomes. The state funding would provide the additional financial incentive that helps convert those connections into actual South Carolina work experiences. In this way, the initiative strengthens the talent pipeline between Winthrop and South Carolina businesses, helps students gain meaningful professional experience in their home state, and gives South Carolina employers an opportunity to attract and develop future employees.

Program performance will be evaluated through measures including:

- Number of students participating annually;
- Number and percentage of participating students successfully completing their internships or experiences;
- Number of South Carolina employers providing opportunities;
- Number of internship and experiential-learning opportunities developed;
- Participation of first-generation, Pell-eligible, and other students with demonstrated financial barriers;
- Student academic and career outcomes following participation;
- Internship-to-employment or continued-education outcomes.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funds will be administered by Winthrop University and allocated primarily to **individual student beneficiaries participating in approved internships and experiential-learning opportunities**, with a portion dedicated to the personnel and operating costs necessary to administer the program.

Student awards will be provided according to predetermined eligibility criteria established by the University. Eligible experiences may include internships and other structured, career-connected learning opportunities that provide students with substantive professional experience and exposure to South Carolina employers and workforce opportunities.

Approximately **90% of the annual appropriation ($900,000)** will be dedicated to

direct student support. Based on an anticipated average award of approximately **$2,500 per student**, this funding will support approximately **360 students annually**, with the ability to serve approximately 300–400 students depending upon individual award amounts and available opportunities.

Approximately **10% ($100,000)** will support program administration, including personnel and operating costs necessary to recruit and support students, develop employer partnerships, coordinate opportunities, verify completion, administer awards, and evaluate program outcomes.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Winthrop University requests **$1,000,000 in recurring state funding** to establish and sustain an Internship and Experiential Learning Initiative providing approximately 300–400 South Carolina students each year with financial support and access to high-quality career-connected learning opportunities.

Internships provide students with an opportunity to apply classroom learning in professional settings, develop workplace skills, build relationships with employers, and better understand career opportunities available in South Carolina. For many students, however, the financial costs associated with completing an internship can create a barrier to participation. Students may need transportation to an employer, appropriate professional attire, meals, technology, or other expenses that are not covered by the employer.

These barriers can be particularly significant for Winthrop's first-generation student population. Financial support can allow students to accept opportunities that otherwise may be inaccessible and can help students enter professional environments with the resources and confidence necessary to succeed.

The proposed initiative will also strengthen Winthrop's role as a talent pipeline for South Carolina employers. Winthrop is located in York County and is positioned to connect students with employers throughout the Charlotte-region economy as well as communities across South Carolina. Opportunities can be developed in areas including **advanced manufacturing, healthcare management, business, financial services, technology, education, public service, and other high-demand fields.**

The program will intentionally emphasize partnerships with South Carolina employers and opportunities that allow students to develop relationships with employers before graduation. This creates a mutually beneficial model: students gain professional experience and access to career networks, while South Carolina employers gain access to a highly educated student talent pool.

The requested funding will also provide the administrative infrastructure necessary to operate the program effectively. A program serving 300–400 students annually requires coordinated employer outreach, student advising and placement, eligibility verification, internship monitoring, completion verification, financial-aid coordination, award processing, and outcome reporting. Dedicated program capacity will allow these functions to be performed consistently and will reduce the administrative burden on existing Career Center and Financial Aid staff.

The University will coordinate the program across the Career Center and Financial Aid. The Career Center will manage employer relationships, student participation, internship verification, and successful-completion certification. Financial Aid will review awards for compliance with applicable financial-aid requirements and incorporate eligible awards into students' financial-aid packages. This division of responsibility will provide appropriate controls while allowing the student-facing process to remain straightforward.

Method of Calculation

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The requested **$1,000,000 recurring appropriation** is proposed as follows:

Use of Funds	Annual Amount
Direct student internship/ experiential-learning awards	**$900,000.00**
Program administration and personnel	**$100,000.00**
Total	**$1,000,000.00**

The $900,000 student-support allocation is expected to provide approximately **360 awards at an average award of $2,500**, with the program designed to serve approximately 300–400 students annually depending upon individual award amounts and program participation.

The $100,000 administrative allocation will support a dedicated program coordinator and associated operating costs necessary to administer the initiative, including employer engagement, student outreach, program coordination, completion verification, award administration, data management, and outcome reporting.

The University will seek to leverage the state investment by developing **employer partnerships, philanthropic support, and other external resources** that can supplement state-funded student awards and expand the number of students served over time.

Potential Offsets and Matching Support

Winthrop will pursue employer contributions and other external resources to supplement state funding. Employer partnerships may include direct financial support, paid internship opportunities, experiential-learning projects, mentoring, and other forms of in-kind support.

The University will also pursue philanthropic and corporate support to expand the program's reach and reduce the amount of state funding required per student where external resources are available.

Impact if Funds Are Not Received

Without recurring state funding, Winthrop will have limited capacity to provide broad-based financial support for internships and other career-connected learning opportunities. Existing institutional resources are insufficient to provide meaningful financial assistance to several hundred students annually while also supporting the employer-development, student-support, completion-verification, and reporting infrastructure required to operate the program.

The absence of dedicated funding would limit the University's ability to expand access to internships for students who face financial barriers and would reduce opportunities to systematically connect Winthrop students with South Carolina employers.

State investment will allow Winthrop to establish a sustainable, measurable program that connects students to professional experience while strengthening the pipeline of college-educated talent available to South Carolina employers.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Winthrop University		
Agency Code:	H470	Section:	21

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Economic Innovation Hub

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$13,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

The following project is included in Winthrop University's CPIP:

Plan Year	Rank	State Funding	Title & First CPIP Year
2027	4	$10,000,000.00	Crawford Renovation (2027)
2025	1	$4,009,996.00	Dinkins Hall Renovatino (2023)

The proposed Economic Innovation Hub in Dinkins Hall represents a significant opportunity to create a permanent regional economic-development asset serving York, Chester, Lancaster, and the broader 297 region. By bringing entrepreneurs, businesses, students, researchers, investors, and economic-development partners together in one highly visible location, the Innovation Hub can strengthen the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem, support technology commercialization and workforce development, help grow new businesses, and create jobs and investment opportunities for South Carolina.

This concept, developed in part by South Carolina Research Authority in discussion with the City of Rock Hill's Economic Development Corporation, Winthrop University, including its Small Business Development Center, and others, increases the original project scope programed under the Dinkins Hall renovation as provided in the 1st ranked project in the 2025 CPIP, this work is in design and construction should start January 2026.

To accomplish the goals of the planned Economic Innovation Hub, the departments currently residing in Dinkin Hall must be relocated. The Crawford Hall renovation requested in the 2027 CPIP is the best candidate to house these units. The majority of the units to be relocated are student facing, such as the Office of Student Success and Student Advising. Crawford's proximity to Scholars Walk, The Career Center and the student union space provides easy access to students.

The $13 million request should be viewed not simply as a building renovation, but as the enabling investment required to establish a regional economic-development center that can connect South Carolina businesses, entrepreneurs, students, investors, and economic-development organizations and contribute to the State's long-term economic growth.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

Additional approvals needed: Institutional Board of Trustees, Office of State Engineer (OSE), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), JBRC, SFAA

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

Prior Investment and Future Funding

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The State has already demonstrated its commitment to the Economic Innovation Hub through investments totaling $6.16 million, including $1.16 million from the Capital Reserve Fund in FY25, $2.85 million in FY26 capital appropriations, and $2.15 million in FY23 capital appropriations. We are grateful for this support and are seeking the remaining funding necessary to move the project forward. Completing this investment will allow Winthrop to launch an initiative that will generate lasting benefits for South Carolina's economy, workforce, citizens, and industries while serving as a catalyst for regional innovation and economic growth.

Winthrop is pursuing a diversified funding strategy to support the development and programming of the Economic Innovation Hub, with a primary focus on leveraging **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)** opportunities, including Build to Scale and Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance, and **South Carolina Department of Commerce (SC DOC)** innovation and economic-development programs. Winthrop will also engage **regional and local partners**, including York County, the City of Rock Hill, RHEDC, York County Economic Development, the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, York Technical College, and SC Works Catawba, to build a coordinated regional economic-development and workforce ecosystem and identify opportunities for matching and shared investment. **Corporate partnerships** will be pursued with companies driving growth in the region, including Octapharma, Comporium, Duke Energy, Truist, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, major manufacturers, health systems, and logistics companies, with opportunities for direct investment, sponsored programs, internships, equipment, industry expertise, and workforce-development initiatives.

Annual Costs and Savings

The project is not expected to create a significant new annual operating burden. Renovating Crawford and repurposing Dinkins will allow more efficient use of existing facilities and resources, while modernized systems should reduce energy and maintenance costs. Any incremental operating costs will be managed within existing University operating resources, primarily Educational and General funds and other applicable institutional funds, with savings accruing to the fund responsible for the facility. In addition, portions of the repurposed space may generate lease or partnership revenue that can help offset facility-related operating costs. The University's collaborating partners also have access to external grant funding opportunities that may support renovation, programmatic, equipment, and ongoing operating expenses associated with activities housed within the facility, further reducing the need for institutional resources.

Expected Useful Life

The renovation is expected to extend Crawford's functional life significantly. The investment will preserve an existing University asset while enabling Crawford to support student success and unlocking Dinkins for its long-term role as a regional Economic Innovation Hub.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

This opportunity is strengthened by the involvement of SCRA, which has a long history of advancing innovation-led economic development across South Carolina through support for technology-based companies, research commercialization, entrepreneur development, and regional innovation initiatives. SCRA has already demonstrated a commitment to growing the innovation ecosystem in the Rock Hill region through investments, programming, and partnerships designed to accelerate business formation and industry collaboration. The Economic Innovation Hub would provide the physical platform needed to expand and coordinate these efforts, bringing together entrepreneurs, industry partners, researchers, students, and community organizations in a highly visible and publicly accessible location. By pairing the State's capital investment with SCRA's expertise, networks, and economic-development resources, the project creates a sustainable framework for strengthening workforce development, supporting business growth, and increasing the region's long-term economic competitiveness.

The $13 million State investment is fundamentally an investment in making the Economic Innovation Hub possible. It enables Winthrop to repurpose Dinkins, a building ideally suited for community and industry engagement because of its prominent location along a major corridor, dedicated parking, and convenient public access, while relocating student-

SUMMARY

support functions to Crawford and other facilities in the heart of campus that are more convenient for students. This creates a valuable exchange of space: community-facing activities move to a location designed for public accessibility, while student-facing services are relocated closer to where students learn, dine, and spend their time each day. Rather than crossing a roadway to access academic support, tutoring, Honors, McNair, and other student-success programs, students will be able to utilize these services as they move between classes and campus gathering spaces.

The Crawford renovation provides the home needed for these functions and, in doing so, unlocks Dinkins as the site for a regional economic-development hub. In this sense, Crawford is the enabling project: the State's investment in Crawford directly creates the capacity for Winthrop to transform Dinkins into a facility with a much broader economic-development mission while simultaneously improving access to critical support services for students.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Winthrop University		
Agency Code:	H470	Section:	21

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Campus Deferred Maintenance & Capital Renewal

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$5,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

The following projects are included in Winthrop University's CPIP and represent the University's highest-priority capital needs based on infrastructure condition, deferred maintenance, accessibility, health and safety, and operational reliability.

Plan Year	Rank	State Funding	Title & First CPIP Year
2027	6	6,615,000.00	Boiler Plant
2027	7	5,512,500.00	Culp Chiller Plant
2027	9	3,307,500.00	Building Envelop Repairs
2027	10	3,307,500.00	Coliseum Mechanical Systems
2028	12	8,268,750.00	Thurmond Mechanical
2028	13	8,268,750.00	McLaurin Mechanical
2028	14	3,307,500.00	Campus Electrical Systems
2029	21	8,268,750.00	Bancroft Mechanical
2029	22	11,025,000.00	McBryde Hall Renovation
2029	23	11,025,000.00	Campus Energy/ Utility Updates
2029	24	16,537,500.00	Coliseum Renovation
		87,943,750.00	**Total**

If state funding is not provided at the requested level, Winthrop will prioritize projects based on health and safety, regulatory compliance, infrastructure reliability, and the risk and cost of further deferral. The University will use available institutional capital and other funding sources where feasible and will defer lower-priority projects until additional funding can be secured. Continued deferral would require the University to redirect limited operating resources toward critical repairs and could ultimately require reductions in instructional and student-support expenditures.

Like our legislative leaders, we remain committed to developing the future leaders of South Carolina's economy, and this investment is central to sustaining that shared vision.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

Additional approvals needed: Institutional Board of Trustees, Office of State Engineer (OSE), Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC), State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA)

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

Prior Investment and Future Funding

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Winthrop has relied on State Maintenance, Renovation, and Repair (MRR) funding as an important source of capital support for maintaining and renewing its campus. State MRR allocations over the past six fiscal years have totaled approximately **$28.2 million**:

- **FY2022:** $9.2 million
- **FY2023:** $6.0 million
- **FY2024:** $2.0 million
- **FY2025:** $6.0 million
- **FY2026:** $4.0 million
- **FY2027:** $1.0 million

Winthrop's campus dates to **1886**, and maintaining a campus of this age requires a sustained investment in roofs, building envelopes, mechanical systems, electrical infrastructure, plumbing, life-safety systems, and technology. These systems reach the end of their useful lives on a continuing cycle, making regular capital renewal essential to preserving the safety, functionality, and value of the University's facilities.

Investing in these systems now allows Winthrop to address needs proactively, extend the useful life of existing assets, and avoid the substantially higher costs that can result when aging systems are allowed to fail. Planned renewal also reduces emergency repairs, limits disruption to academic and student activities, and allows the University to make better use of its limited operating resources. Deferring additional investment simply shifts these costs into the future, often when the eventual repair or replacement is more expensive and disruptive.

Maintaining a safe, functional, and attractive campus is also an important investment in Winthrop's ability to attract and retain students, faculty, and staff. The physical campus is a daily part of the student and employee experience and directly contributes to the University's competitiveness in recruiting and retaining the people essential to its mission. Sustained capital investment therefore protects not only the physical assets of the campus, but also the long-term value and vitality of the institution.

Annual Operating Costs and Savings

The capital improvements are expected to generate long-term operating benefits through improved energy efficiency, reduced emergency repairs, fewer service disruptions, and lower maintenance requirements. Any incremental routine operating costs are expected to be manageable within existing operating resources and, in part, offset by reduced repair and maintenance costs. Resulting costs or savings will primarily affect the operating fund responsible for the associated facility.

Expected Useful Life

The expected useful life of the capital improvements varies by system, but the comprehensive renovation is anticipated to extend the functional life of the building by approximately 30–50 years:

- **Building envelope and structural improvements:** 40–50 years

- **Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems:** 25–30 years

- **Elevator and ADA upgrades:** 20–25 years

- **Interior finishes, fixtures, and auditorium renovations:** 15–20 years

- **Technology infrastructure, including IT wiring, Wi-Fi, fire alarms, and AV systems:** 10–15 years

This investment will preserve and extend the useful life of the existing facility while protecting the State's investment in a campus that has served South Carolina for nearly 140 years.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY

$5 million in MRR funding will provide critical support to begin addressing Winthrop's most urgent campus infrastructure needs. Given the significant scope of deferred maintenance across the campus, this investment will not resolve all identified needs; rather, it will allow the University to direct available funding to the projects presenting the greatest immediate risks to safety, reliability, accessibility, and the continuity of campus operations. Winthrop is deeply appreciative of the State's continued investment in the University's facilities and recognizes that sustained state support is essential to preserving the value of the State's investment in the campus over the long term.

Priority needs include:

- Elevator Modernization: Nearly 70% of campus elevators are outdated and require investment to ensure safety, reliability, and accessibility for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

- Fire Protection Systems: Replacement of failing fire alarms in Joynes, Central Energy, and Music buildings, as well as the 1936 water tank that provides critical backup for the campus fire sprinkler system, to maintain current life-safety standards.

- Cooling Systems: Replacement of aging chillers and cooling towers at the Culp Chiller Plant and Coliseum to maintain essential climate control and reduce the risk of system failure.

- Heating Systems: Replacement of obsolete boilers at Central Energy and the Coliseum and transition to district hot water systems to reduce reliance on failing underground steam lines and improve efficiency.

- Roofing & Building Envelopes: Renewal of deteriorating roofs and building exteriors to prevent water intrusion, structural damage, and costly emergency repairs.

- HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing Systems: Modernization of outdated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems to improve safety, energy efficiency, reliability, and building functionality.

- Campus Infrastructure: Critical repairs to underground steam lines and upgrades to aging electrical distribution systems to reduce the risk of service disruptions affecting research, residential life, and classroom instruction.

• IT Infrastructure: Expansion of campus fiber optics and building Wi-Fi to support modern teaching, learning, research, and student services.

These needs represent more than deferred maintenance; they are investments in Winthrop's ability to attract and retain students, faculty, and staff and to remain a competitive and vibrant institution for South Carolina. The condition, reliability, safety, and functionality of the campus directly influence the experience of the students we seek to enroll and retain, as well as the University's ability to recruit and retain the talented employees needed to deliver a high-quality education and student experience.

Continued and predictable state support is therefore essential to Winthrop's long-term financial and operational sustainability. Regular MRR funding allows the University to address critical infrastructure needs proactively rather than diverting limited operating resources to emergency repairs and replacements. With sustained state partnership, Winthrop can protect and extend the useful life of the State's investment in its campus, better plan for future capital needs, and direct more of its institutional resources toward its core mission of educating the future workforce of South Carolina.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

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FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Advanced Manufacturing Engineering & Academic Programming

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$2,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This request is not currently represented by a CPIP given that the CPIP threshold is $2.5M. Winthrop University seeks $2.0 million in strategic state support to advance three high-priority initiatives that align with workforce demands, student success, and regional economic development: (1) establishing a new Advanced Manufacturing Engineering program with dedicated instructional and research facilities; (2) renovating the Dalton Hall Human Nutrition kitchen-classroom into a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen that will serve as a foundational facility for the future College of Health Sciences; and (3) supporting academic improvements across campus through targeted laboratory, classroom, and program enhancements. Together, these investments will expand opportunities in high-demand fields, strengthen hands-on learning experiences, support faculty innovation, and ensure that Winthrop's academic facilities keep pace with the needs of today's students and employers. Recent university initiatives have focused on growing programs in advanced manufacturing, health sciences, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and other workforce-driven disciplines that directly support South Carolina's economic priorities. Without this funding, Winthrop will continue to move these initiatives forward using existing resources; however, progress will occur at a much more limited pace and scope. The university would need to phase projects over multiple years, rely on minimally renovated or repurposed space, defer equipment purchases, and postpone laboratory and classroom upgrades that would otherwise provide immediate benefits to students. As a result, some of the most impactful enhancements to the student learning experience, including modern instructional environments, expanded hands-on training opportunities, and improved academic facilities, would be delayed while available resources are prioritized toward essential operational and academic needs. Like our legislative leaders, we remain committed to developing the future leaders of South Carolina's economy, and this investment is central to sustaining that shared vision.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	**Additional approvals needed:** Institutional Board of Trustees, Office of State Engineer (OSE), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), JBRC, SFAA

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

	Winthrop University has secured $250,000 from the City of Rock Hill in FY 2026 to support the establishment of the new Advanced Manufacturing Engineering program. This investment represents the first external funding committed to the initiative and will be used to help address startup needs associated with launching the program. Additional

funding will be requested to establish the new department, create dedicated laboratory and instructional space for students, and provide research space for faculty. No external funding has been secured for the Dalton Hall Human Nutrition Teaching Kitchen renovation or the broader academic improvement and program enhancement initiative. At this time, the university does not anticipate requesting additional state capital appropriations for these projects beyond the amounts included in this request; however, future equipment replacement, maintenance, and program growth needs will be evaluated through the university's normal budgeting processes.

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The requested investments are expected to have a useful life of 10 to 20 years for facility improvements and renovations, with equipment components having varying useful lives based on their nature and use. Ongoing operating costs associated with these projects are expected to be modest and will primarily relate to routine maintenance, utilities, and equipment upkeep. Those costs will be supported through existing university operating resources and institutional budget planning processes. The anticipated benefits include enhanced student learning environments, expanded capacity in high-demand academic disciplines, strengthened workforce development outcomes, and improved support for faculty instruction and research. Without the requested funding, the university will continue to advance these priorities using existing resources; however, implementation will occur in phases, requiring the deferral of many facility upgrades, laboratory improvements, and student-focused enhancements that would otherwise be completed in the near term.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY

1. Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Program- Request for $1 Million

Winthrop University requests $1 million in state support to establish a new Advanced Manufacturing Engineering program, including the creation of a dedicated academic department, student laboratory facilities, and faculty research space. The university is developing what is expected to be South Carolina's first Bachelor of Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering, responding directly to workforce needs identified by regional employers and economic development leaders. Recent partnerships between the City of Rock Hill, local industry, and Winthrop have highlighted the critical demand for engineering talent to support continued manufacturing growth across the region. Funding will provide the infrastructure necessary to launch the program, expand applied research opportunities, and prepare graduates for high-demand careers that strengthen South Carolina's advanced manufacturing economy.

2. Dalton Hall Human Nutrition Teaching Kitchen Renovation - Request for $500,000

Winthrop University requests $500,000 in supplemental funding to renovate the existing Human Nutrition kitchen-classroom in Dalton Hall into a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen that will serve as a cornerstone facility for the university's planned College of Health Sciences. The Department of Human Nutrition has built a strong reputation for hands-on learning, professional preparation, and community engagement, supported by accredited programs and growing demand for health-related degrees. This renovation will provide students with modern instructional space that mirrors contemporary clinical, community, and food-service environments, enhancing experiential learning opportunities while supporting the university's commitment to preparing the next generation of nutrition and health professionals.

3. Academic Improvement and Program Enhancement - Request for $500,000

Winthrop University requests $500,000 for academic improvement and program enhancement initiatives to strengthen existing academic offerings, support the development of new degree programs, and modernize instructional spaces across campus. As the university expands programs in areas such as health sciences, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and other high-demand fields, investments in laboratories, classrooms, equipment, and learning environments are essential to maintaining academic excellence and workforce relevance. These funds will provide flexible resources to address priority facility upgrades, refresh aging instructional spaces, and ensure students and faculty have access to modern learning environments that support innovation, research, and student success.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$1,255,620 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	Winthrop would avoid further reductions to its permanent FTE. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Winthrop University has had positive enrollment growth over the past 4 years. Specifically, the Fall 2025 entering freshman class was the largest since 2018 and student persistence (students that return from Spring to the next Fall) has been 90% for the past 4 years, which is a consistent, all-time high. Consequently, an additional $1.25 million reduction would critically undermine the progress Winthrop University has worked hard to achieve. The University has already streamlined operations and reduced non-student-facing costs to the bare minimum. We have also embarked on the bold and arduous effort of outsourcing our facilities program to increase efficiency and cost effectiveness and to achieve our high standard for State funding stewardship. Any further cuts would fall directly on instruction and student services — the very core of Winthrop's mission. This would mean fewer course offerings, reduced tutoring and academic support, and cuts to campus life activities that are vital to student engagement and retention. The impact would be immediate and profound: diminished student success, weakened degree completion rates, and a decline in the quality of the collegiate experience. Such reductions would reverse the gains Winthrop has made in its reemergence and place the University — and its students — at a severe disadvantage at a time when higher education is more essential than ever to South Carolina's workforce and economy. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	Winthrop University has taken bold steps to reduce the financial burden on South Carolina families. Beginning in the 2024–25 academic year, the University cut undergraduate tuition rates by 8%, a decision that reduced revenue by $1.2 million in FY25. To offset this loss, Winthrop eliminated 23 positions, reducing expenses by $1.5 million. Most recently, we reduced vacancies by 25% which is estimated to decrease funding by approximately $400,000. This is in addition to $10.2 million in operating cost reductions achieved between FY19 and FY23. Finally, we have also embarked on the bold and arduous effort of outsourcing our facilities program to increase efficiency and effectiveness and to achieve our high standard for State funding stewardship. Even with these substantial cuts, Winthrop has successfully grown in-state undergraduate enrollment from FY23 to FY26, supported in part by ramped-up recruitment efforts, sound student success retention programs and strong leadership driving a new strategic plan. These efforts reflect a track record of fiscal discipline and commitment to student success. However, further funding reductions would stall this positive momentum, compromise the quality of the student experience, and make it more difficult to retain high-caliber faculty.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

Winthrop University has implemented several measures to responsibly reduce costs and ensure the most effective use of institutional resources. The University has established a Budget Committee to guide an open and inclusive budget process, identifying opportunities to streamline operations, eliminate duplication, and achieve meaningful cost savings.

The University continuously undertakes rigorous efforts to control costs and operate efficiently, including:

• **Comprehensive annual contract reviews** – a resource-intensive process to consolidate vendors, renegotiate pricing, and ensure the University receives maximum value from every agreement.

• **Strategic outsourcing of facilities operations** – a complex and transformational initiative designed to improve service delivery while reducing long-term operating costs.

• **Food services vendor transition** – changed vendors and flipped operating model from a risk-bearing, management fee expense arrangement to a risk-free, commission fee revenue arrangement.

• **Annual zero-based budgeting** – every department rebuilds its budget from the ground up each year, requiring detailed justification of all expenditures to eliminate inefficiencies and redirect funds to highest-priority needs.

• **Targeted reviews of utilities, space utilization, and technology costs** – identifying opportunities for conservation, consolidation, and modernization that yield measurable savings.

• **Shared services pilot** – identified roles across the University that could be centralized and focused towards purchasing, travel, and employment in order to create technical specialization and operational efficiency.

Future cost savings plans include:

• **Guaranteed Energy Savings** – Winthrop plans to evaluate and, subject to procurement requirements and a demonstrated positive financial return, pursue a guaranteed energy cost-savings partnership with an ESCO or EaaS provider. The initiative would identify and

implement energy-efficiency and infrastructure improvements, with project costs supported by resulting energy and operating savings where feasible and measurable savings guarantees established through a performance-based arrangement.

In addition, Winthrop has strengthened internal budget monitoring and controls, ensuring that expenditures are carefully tracked and aligned with strategic priorities. These controls not only contain costs but also help maximize the impact of every dollar spent.

Oversight is reinforced by the Board of Trustees and its Finance and Audit Committee, which review and approve all major cost-saving measures and determine how realized savings may be strategically reinvested. Savings generated through these initiatives will be repurposed to strengthen student success initiatives, support faculty retention, and advance the University's strategic priorities in service to students and the state.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE

Winthrop University Initiatives to Affordable Education

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

The University expects to save the citizens of South Carolina more than $11.2M annually.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
X	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
X	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION

The reduced and waived tuition and fees were based on actual and projected enrollment for these courses and student populations. The savings to the communities are estimated from a 2023 economic impact study.

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES

Winthrop University has taken significant steps to reduce costs for students, families, and the broader community. Beginning in the 2024–25 academic year, Winthrop reduced undergraduate tuition rates by 8%, resulting in $1.2 million in reduced fee revenue in FY25. The University also provides discounted tuition to local teachers seeking advanced credentials, and it waives tuition entirely for veterans, their dependents, and senior citizens approximating $3 million annually.

Beyond tuition relief, the University also supports the community by offering the use of campus buildings and land at no or significantly reduced cost, conservatively valued at more than $1 million in FY26.

Winthrop's role in reducing costs for citizens extends to its broader economic impact. A 2023 economic impact study found that Winthrop generated over $200 million in new economic activity for York County, supported nearly 2,500 jobs, contributed $33 million in new student-driven spending, brought $14 million in visitor spending to local businesses, and helped generate nearly $5 million in local and state tax revenues. These estimates are conservative, capturing only new economic activity generated by Winthrop's presence. Without the University, much of this local spending and economic growth would not exist.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION

N/A

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

Winthrop University actively reduces costs and creates value for South Carolina citizens and businesses through a wide range of initiatives. The University provides direct financial relief by waiving or discounting tuition for veterans, their dependents, senior citizens, and local teachers, while also expanding institutional aid for in-state students. Beyond tuition, Winthrop partners with the City of Rock Hill to make its athletic fields available for community use, and it offers free or reduced access to campus facilities for cultural, artistic, and civic events.

SUMMARY

Winthrop further supports economic development and workforce readiness through its Small Business Development Center, which provides no-cost assistance to entrepreneurs, and its Center for Career Development and Internships, which serves both current students and more than 70,000 alumni. In addition, Winthrop students, faculty, and staff contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours annually, strengthening the social fabric and community life of the region.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?