AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina Union		
AGENCY CODE:	H400	SECTION:	20H

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	X	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):	
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:	Kelly Epting	803-777-8411	eptingk@mailbox.sc.edu
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Kevin Russell	803-777-0781	russelkr@mailbox.sc.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-27 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Michael Amiridis 9/14/25	Thad H. Westbrook 9/26/25
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Michael Amiridis	Thad H. Westbrook

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

Agency Name:	USC - Union Campus
Agency Code:	H400
Section:	20H

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Mitigation	413,000	0	0	0	413,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Support for Improved and Expanding Facilities due to Increased Cost of Services, Supplies, and Utilities	350,000	0	0	0	350,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	FTE Faculty	275,000	0	0	0	275,000	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Instructional and Institutional Support & Equipment	750,000	0	0	0	750,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	C - Capital	Life Cycle Maintenance: Critical Care & Repair	6,980,000	0	0	0	6,980,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	C - Capital	Civic Center/Gymnasium	11,000,000	0	0	0	11,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	C - Capital	Maintenance Building	1,500,000	0	0	0	1,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B1 - Recurring	Other Funds Authorization	0	0	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			21,268,000	0	1,000,000	0	22,268,000	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00

Agency Name:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Tuition Mitigation**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $413,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $413,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	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

This proposed request is consistent the Statewide Enterprise Strategic

Objective.

Objective 1: Education, Training and Human Development - Improve educational infrastructure to elevate the levels of educational preparedness of every South Carolinian to lead a healthy and productive life, including success in a job or career and in the community.

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?

Students, Faculty, and Staff of USC Union.

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	

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?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Requests would help mitigate future tuition increases by covering anticipated operating increases for inflationary costs and mandated increases such as pension, health insurance, and cost of living adjustments.

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**2**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Support for Improved and Expanding Facilities due to Increased Cost of Services, Supplies, and Utilities**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $350,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $350,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	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
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	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

This proposed request is consistent the Statewide Enterprise Strategic

Objective.

Objective 1: Education, Training and Human Development - Improve educational infrastructure to elevate the levels of educational preparedness of every South Carolinian to lead a healthy and productive life, including success in a job or career and in the community.

Objective 3: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security - Protect the safety, integrity and security of statewide public resources, data, infrastructure and citizens including timely response to emergencies, disasters and emerging threats.

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	Students, Faculty, and Staff of USC Union.

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?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Recurring funding would be used to support and maintain expanding facilities and offset ever increasing costs of services, supplies, and utilities. Over the past years, the campus has been fortunate to be the recipient of generous capital improvement funds that have expanded and enhanced the USC Union facilities. In an effort to maintain and service the facilities at their new refurbished levels, the campus needs additional operational funds for utilities, custodial support and supplies, as well as daily and routine maintenance supplies.

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**3**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**FTE Faculty**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $275,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $275,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**3.00**

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
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	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
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	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

This proposed request is consistent the Statewide Enterprise Strategic

Objective.

Objective 1: Education, Training and Human Development - Improve educational infrastructure to elevate the levels of educational preparedness of every South Carolinian to lead a healthy and productive life, including success in a job or career and in the community.

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?

Students, Faculty, and Staff of USC Union.

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	

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?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Recurring funding would be used to hire 3 FTE faculty or staff to meet the growing instructional and student service needs of the student body. This would allow the campus to provide instruction by more full-time faculty and rely less on part-time adjunct faculty.

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**8**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Other Funds Authorization**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $0** **Federal: $0** **Other: $1,000,000** **Total: $1,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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
X	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
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	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

This request is to increase spending authorization for Education and General Other Earmarked Funds, which are generated by the University and provide support for Education, Training, and Human Development as well as Public Infrastructure and Economic Development.

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

Use of these funds benefits the USC Union student body and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them.

FUNDS	

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?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Union's Federal Funds are comprised primarily of Student Financial Aid (mostly Pell Grants, but also work study, SEOG and Teach grants). Preliminary figures for Fall 2025 indicate undergrad enrollment will be a record high in which should lead to Student Financial Aid expenditures and corresponding authorizations. Other $1M • Increased enrollment • Increased Pell grants • Rising mandatory costs such as: • State mandate and/or market salary increases • Employee fringe benefits including retirement and health insurance • Property and liability insurance • Cost of materials, travel and facilities maintenance costs • Utility costs

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Instructional and Institutional Support & Equipment

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$750,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	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
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	Consulted DTO during development
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a 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

This proposed request is consistent with several Statewide Enterprise Strategic

Objectives.

Objective 1: Education, Training and Human Development - Improve educational infrastructure to elevate the levels of educational preparedness of every South Carolinian to lead a healthy and productive life, including success in a job or career and in the community.

Objective 3: Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security - Protect the safety, integrity and security of statewide public resources, data, infrastructure and citizens including timely response to emergencies, disasters and emerging threats.

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

All students, faculty, and staff at USC Union.

FUNDS	

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?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Instructional materials, supplies, and equipment, for support of Nursing program, Student Academic Success Center, and mental health & disability services. ($200,000) IT equipment and services to maintain and enhance IT infrastructure. ($200,000) Equipment and supplies to support marketing and public relations to enhance recruitment and retention efforts ($100,000.00) Equipment and supplies to support physical plant operations due to increased enrollment and expanding campus footprint ($250,000.00)

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Life Cycle Maintenance: Critical Care & Repair

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$6,980,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This request is made to fund the life cycle maintenance items in order to provide a safe and productive learning environment on campus. Non-funding jeopardizes the campus' ability to meet the needs of the students, faculty and staff as well as the further degradation of plant and facilities. Life cycle maintenance needs have not been included in the CPIP.

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	Approvals through the system have been deemed appropriate for the level of expenditures.

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.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The life cycle maintenance items listed on this form have not been funded or included on the CPIP to date. However, they will continue to be presented for consideration and/or written into upcoming CPIP as priorities dictate. Improvements listed herein will have tremendous impact on the campus' ability to deliver its mission and have a useful life of up to 20+ years. Once renovations are complete, the campus will maintain the buildings with existing maintenance and operations funding.

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 funding would allow the campus to address critical care and repairs to keep the current facilities operational and safe. Providing a safe and well-maintained learning environment is critical for the institution to deliver its mission and aid in the recruitment and retention of students. Funding would support critical care and maintenance for all campus buildings to support Instruction, Academic Support, Student Services, Institutional Support, Physical Plant and Athletics. Projects would include but are not limited to the list below. Revisions to this list may need to be made to meet the most critical and urgent maintenance needs of the campus at the time of funding. Signage: Interior & exterior on campuses - $300,000

SUMMARY	Exterior Repairs and Painting: Across campus exterior painting on all buildings to include soffit and facia boards repairs - $150,000 Jonesville Door Upgrades: Replace all exterior doors that are original to the 1960's building, to become compliant with ADA and egress code standards to include front door sidelights - $100,000 Auditorium Upgrades: Lighting, sound, seating, curtains, stage - $250,000 Furniture Upgrades: Across campus remove old desk and chairs add gathering areas for student success and private study areas - $200,000 Parking Lots: Across campus to resurface and restripe - $700,000 Soccer Field: Field grading, irrigation, mower shed, and ancillary building - regrading field to regulation size- $2,000,000 Rippy Building (Science & Nursing): Complete redo, complete exterior removal, structural upgrades, lighting improvements, new windows & doors, HVAC, carpet, painting, lighting, build a unisex ADA restroom on first floor, build out office spaces - $2,000,000 Baseball Building / Field House: Phase 3 of the Baseball stadium to include ancillary projects associated with the project. Phase 1 is in progress for a restroom facility--$800,000 IT and Security Camera Upgrade: Upgrades for all campus locations-$150,000 AC Martin: Phase 1 bring building to code compliance MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) and safety needs-$330,000

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Civic Center/Gymnasium

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$11,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	The Civic Center/Gymnasium was included in FY26 CPIP form. In the event that sufficient funding is not secured, the Civic Center/Gymnasium project will be placed on hold.

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	Approvals through the system have been deemed appropriate for the level of expenditures.

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.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	At present, no funds have been invested in the Civic Center/Gymnasium project. Additional capital project funding will be requested in 2-5 years for a weight room, locker room, additional offices, and additional parking, etc. The additional parking will benefit the revitalization efforts for USC Union by adding additional parking for Main Street. Additional operating funds will be requested for 2 FTE positions for Welcome Center administrative assistant and daily maintenance support. Additional costs include $15,500 for utilities, $2,500 for professional cleaning services, $5,000 annually for general upkeep and repairs. The center should generate sufficient revenue to support itself through rental income. The anticipated expected useful life of this capital project is 50 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?

	A compliant gymnasium / convocation building will support the campus in bringing back men's and women's basketball and provide a proper seating capacity for our current volleyball team and student activities. At present, Union county has no civic center to support events like graduations, sporting events or concerts / musical performances. This event space can also be offered to the community for large gatherings with seating up to 1,500 people. Youth programs could also use this space for camps and activities, which would aid in future recruiting efforts. This building would also be the front door or Welcome Center for USCU to engage prospective new students / student athletes and their parents. This facility will serve as a central location for the athletic program housing coaches offices, a wellness center and locker rooms. This center will also serve as an emergency shelter for city, county, students and community during state of emergency situations. This will be a 2 or 3 phase project with the gym building as a start and phase into locker rooms and offices.

SUMMARY	

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Maintenance Building

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$1,500,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	The Maintenance Building was included in FY26 CPIP form. In the event that sufficient funding is not secured, the Maintenance project will be placed on hold.

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	Approvals through the system have been deemed appropriate for the level of expenditures.

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.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	At present, no funds have been allocated to the Maintenance Facility project.. The only anticipated ongoing operating costs are related to utilities. The proposed facility will be built with durable materials and energy-efficient systems, reducing long-term maintenance and utility expenses. The expected life of the facility is 50 years, ensuring long-term functionality and value.

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?

	The campus does not have a maintenance and storage building. This project will construct a building to house maintenance staff, with offices and restrooms on an adjacent owned by the campus. With the expanding campus footprint and population growth on campus, there is a critical need to get all equipment, supplies and deliveries in one central location. As of now, deliveries are in every building, and equipment is spread throughout campus in a multitude of campus buildings. This building would also provide storage for desks, chairs, janitorial, and event supplies, which are also currently stored in multiple locations. Campus vehicles, utility vehicles and machinery, and landscape equipment will also be housed in a fenced and secured shed at this building.

SUMMARY	

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:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$206,771 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	0 *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Instruction, Academic Support, Student Services, Institutional Support, and Operation of Maintenance and Plant would be impacted. To accomplish a 3% reduction in general funds, USC Union would need to reduce part-time temporary personnel and fringe. In many instances, these positions are held by student employees that are relying on the income to assist with college expenses. In addition, these students are learning valuable workplace skills as well as providing a much need service to the institution. The Union campus relies heavily on adjunct faculty to teach courses. Each campus would evaluate where they could reduce the use of adjunct faculty and may need to utilize course overloads for FTE faculty. A reduction would decrease available manpower for maintenance needs and general physical plant upkeep. Part-time temporary staff in other areas would also be impacted. These include the Business Office, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Academic Student Success Center. A reduction in these areas would lessen the number of services provided to our students and increase the workload on existing FTE staff. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	USC Union's primary mission of providing instructional services to students would be impacted. Both Academic and Service units are funded from the Campus' general fund which is comprised almost exclusively from State general fund, student tuition and fee revenue. The calculation is based on 3% of FY26 General Appropriations of $6,890,352.

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	As a matter of practice, USC Union and the other Palmetto College campuses have reorganized personnel and reduced salary and fringe costs when positions become open to improve business processes, cut costs and become more efficient. USC Union continues to evaluate opportunities in order to eliminate duplication. Proposed and realized savings will be repurposed into the overall mission of the campus with the goal of improving accessibility, affordability and the academic opportunities for students, student success while enhancing student activities.

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?

Agency Name:	USC - Union Campus		
Agency Code:	H400	Section:	20H

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Reducing Cost and Burden to Businesses and Citizens –University of South Carolina Palmetto College.

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	The University has implemented programs and taken steps over the last several years designed to assist students in obtaining a degree in a timely manner and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education. Providing a quality workforce to the businesses within the State is a vital aspect of continuous economic development. The savings to citizens and business of the state are incalculable. The economic impact of the University on the State of South Carolina is significant, and highlights are provided further below.

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.
		Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
		Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Highlights of a recent study found that USC: • Has a total economic impact (all 8 campuses statewide) of approximately $5.5 billion when measured in terms of annual state output. • Supports over 60,000 job statewide. • Returns $219 million annually to the state in tax revenue. Other findings and the complete study can be found at: http://southcarolina.edu/docum...

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

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	The only published State of South Carolina regulations USC has, are those contained in Chapter 119 dealing with motor vehicle registration, parking, obeying traffic signs and adhering to posted speed limits while on campus. These regulations were promulgated under the authority of Section 59-117-40 of the S.C. Code of Laws. All tuition, fees and fines are reviewed annually before being presented to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. These tuition and fees are contained in the annual budget and are related to providing instructional services to enrolled students. There are a few fines contained in that schedule which all relate to parking.

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	The University's regulations do not pertain to business operations. Nor do they pertain to the citizens of the State in general. The University has taken steps over the last several years to assist students in obtaining a degree in a timely manner and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education. See summarized highlights below.

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

	The University of South Carolina – UNION is one of the 4 Regional Palmetto College campuses and participates in the Palmetto College Online programs. Palmetto College

Online was designed to make Bachelor's completion degrees more accessible and affordable for in-state place bound residents. The number of programs available through Palmetto College continues to grow each year thereby reducing the need for residents to choose the more expensive "for-profit" online college. Centralizing distance learning efforts for the USC System helps contain costs associated with program startup, marketing and admissions. Over 1,200 students have graduated from Palmetto College Online and nearly 1,400 are currently enrolled.

Palmetto College applied for and received nearly $1 million from the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Utilities Services grants to update and enhance its distance learning network. The funding has allowed Palmetto College to modernize, enhance, and improve its distance learning network to deliver Palmetto College distance education courses with better quality and more reliability. By improving the technology through the use of federal grant funds, Palmetto College can reach more students while lessening the financial burden on the citizens of South Carolina.

SUMMARY

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

AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina-UNION		
AGENCY CODE:	H400	SECTION:	

FORM H – TUITION MITIGATION (PROVISO 117.178)

TITLE	**Tuition Mitigation Proviso 117.178**

AMOUNT	**$413,000**

What is the amount needed for Tuition Mitigation for FY27? This amount should correspond to the priority 1 recurring budget request. Tuition Mitigation should ONLY include the state funding necessary to continue existing operations on July 1, 2026 with no in-state undergraduate tuition or mandatory fee increases. Tuition Mitigation should not include any new programs or expansion of existing academic programs that may be contemplated for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

EXPLANATION OF METHODOLOGY

The top budget priority for the University of South Carolina Union, which is to continue partnering with the state to invest in funding that mitigates annual resident tuition increases, reflects the growing need to make higher education more affordable and accessible. By working with the state to invest in this area, the goal is to minimize the burden on students and families while still maintaining the quality of education and services.

The Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) is indeed a valuable tool for measuring inflation specific to the costs that higher education institutions face. When applied to both state appropriations and tuition revenues, USC Union's continued experience of lost purchasing power suggests that even with adjustments for inflation, the institution is unable to keep up with rising costs. Factors such as faculty salaries, utilities, supplies, and other operational costs are rising faster than the revenues adjusted by HEPI. As a result, despite efforts to increase funding or mitigate tuition increases, the institution's purchasing power continues to erode, which can put a strain on maintaining or expanding services and programs.

Tuition mitigation is a stabilizing funding source in the current economic climate, particularly as the campus tries to balance the desire to maintain affordable tuition for the residents of SC while effectively managing operational expenses.

Projected FY26 Exp $11.16M x HEPI 3.7% = $413K

FY26 Resident required tuition and fees $3,779 per semester.

Fall 2025 preliminary percentage of in-state, undergraduate students are 90%

4% Fee Waiver Information: USC Union

Total		Resident		NonResident	
# Students	Amount	# Students	Amount	# Students	Amount
66	62,747.25	60	59,247.25	6	3,500.00

Abatements for FY25 totaled $500,403.

AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina-UNION		
AGENCY CODE:	H400	SECTION:	

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Enrollment

In-state:	1,576*
Out-of-state:	121
Total:	1,697

*Based on the latest available data, not official until freeze date in October.

Please provide a detailed explanation of the methods used to estimate the FY27 tuition mitigation needs. What standard inflation factor is being used (HEPI, CPI, etc.)? What base budget items is the inflation factor applied to? What is the impact of tuition waivers and abatements, including the amount of foregone revenue, and its impact on the need for additional state funding.

COST SAVINGS

The University of South Carolina Union remains steadfast in its commitment to prudent fiscal management and operational efficiency to ensure the sustained delivery of high-quality education amidst ongoing financial challenges. This approach reflects USC Union's unwavering dedication to preserving academic excellence and ensuring institutional sustainability in the context of rising inflation and economic pressures.

USC Union has implemented cost-saving measures by consolidating roles to optimize resources effectively. In 2022, the Dean's Assistant position was merged with the Human Resources Manager role, resulting in an average annual savings of $29,000. Similarly, in 2024, the Academic Success Center position was combined with the Student Activities Coordinator position, generating an additional yearly savings of approximately $27,000. These strategic consolidations demonstrate the institution's commitment to maximizing efficiency while maintaining robust support services for students. Additionally, USC Union continues to fill only those vacant positions deemed essential to operational needs.

AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina-UNION		
AGENCY CODE:	H400	SECTION:	

Each year, USC Union partners with Union County and Laurens County Future Scholarships to provide financial support to students. For students who are recipients of the LIFE Scholarship and recent graduates from Union County, the county covers the remaining balance of tuition and fees, resulting in average annual savings of approximately $40,000 for students. Similarly, Laurens County offers comparable assistance; if a student graduates from a local high school and qualifies for the LIFE Scholarship or the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, Laurens County Future Scholarships will cover their tuition, yielding an average annual savings of about $10,000 for students.

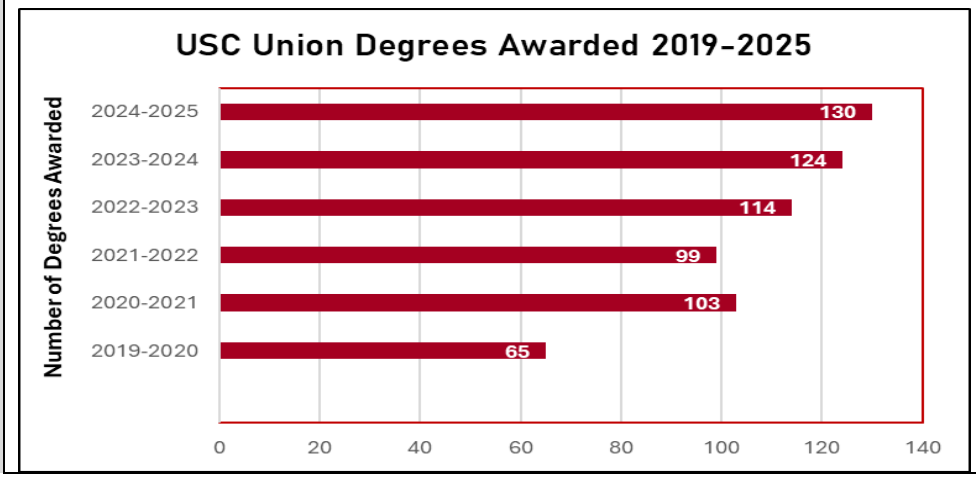
The Union/Laurens Commission for Higher Education plays a vital role in sustaining and enhancing our campus operations—providing essential support for facility maintenance, enriching student experiences through study abroad, and ensuring the continuity of key programs that keep our institution running smoothly.

These funds were used to mitigate the impact of rising costs in various areas, including labor, goods, utilities, and services. Labor costs have increased due to competitive wages and market demand for skilled employees. Additionally, the cost of goods, including supplies and materials, has risen due to inflation and supply chain issues. The cost of utilities—such as electricity, water, and gas—has been steadily increasing. The funds were used to absorb these growing expenses.

Provide a detailed analysis of any cost savings measures taken since FY19 to offset undergraduate tuition and fee increases and attach quantifiable documentation. Please include documentation of actions taken by the board of trustees or board of visitors or by administration. Attach any cost savings studies that have been undertaken and provide an explanation of actions taken to implement these studies. Provide future quantifiable cost savings plans and expectations for implementation.

LOW ENROLLMENT

Since 2019, USC Union has experienced an increase in the number of associate degrees awarded, signaling a positive trend in academic achievement. USC Union has introduced various initiatives and services aimed at expanding access, affordability, and student support. These efforts continue to evolve and are aligned with the objectives outlined in the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act of 2023. As a result of these initiatives, USC Union's Student Success Rate rose from 57.5% to 71.9%, and the Graduation Rate increased from 27.4% to 37.5% in 2020.



AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina-UNION		
AGENCY CODE:	H400	SECTION:	

In Spring 2024, USC Union, in collaboration with USC Upstate and the Union County School District (UCSD), launched the **Union County Fast-Track to Teaching initiative**. This initiative provides a direct educational pathway for UCSD students to earn a bachelor's degree in early childhood, elementary, or middle-level education, addressing local workforce needs in education.

The USC Union Nursing Program operates in partnership with USC Aiken and is approved by the South Carolina State Board of Nursing. Additionally, it holds full accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring that the curriculum and training meet the highest educational standards. In Summer 2023, USC Union graduated 6 nursing students, all of whom achieved a 100% passing rate on the NCLEX exam. In Summer 2024, this success continued, with 9 graduates also achieving a 100% NCLEX passing rate. These achievements reflect the strength and quality of USC Union's Nursing Program.

Over the past five years, USC Union has experienced consistent growth in its high school dual enrollment population, which now comprises more than 75% of total enrollment. While this trend reflects strong community engagement and academic opportunity, it also presents a retention challenge: many dual enrollment students complete enough college credits to transfer to a four-year institution as sophomores or juniors. This is especially true for students from USC Union's two largest dual enrollment partners—Clover High School and Gray Collegiate Academy—where students often graduate high school having completed, or nearly completed, an associate degree. In response, USC Union has refined its recruitment strategy to better convert dual enrollment students into full-time freshmen. This includes a thorough review and enhancement of outreach practices, marketing materials, communication efforts, data analytics, CRM tools, and strategic partnerships. Simultaneously, the campus is expanding its recruitment focus to attract more non-dual enrollment students. Despite the complexity of these trends, USC Union remains well positioned to maintain a strong base of traditional, degree-seeking students while supporting continued growth in its dual enrollment programs.

At present, USC Union has not identified any academic programs as unhealthy, indicating overall program stability and success. USC Union will continue to monitor all programs.

Provide a list of any undergraduate programs, academic or other, that have been reduced or eliminated since FY19. Please document the reasons for the reduction or elimination. If the institution has, or is expected to have, a decline in in-state undergraduate student enrollment, provide analysis on how the institution will ensure the corresponding reduction in tuition will not lead to requests for additional state funding.

UNOBLIGATED FUND BALANCE

State--$0.00; Federal-$0.00; Other- $1,032,632
Institutional Breakdown:
Academic & Operational- $1,032,632;
Auxiliary-$47,370

Operating reserves represent about 10% of the annual operating budget, with a future goal of 25%. To maintain a sound fiscal position the campus believes it is imperative to carry a balance that is sufficient to cover emergencies, catastrophic losses, or critical need expenses; as well as provide funding for one-time initiatives to enhance instructional programs and aid in student recruitment and retention. In recent years the campus has benefited from state appropriated deferred maintenance funds which have

greatly improved the structural integrity and appearance of the physical plant. Operating reserves provide additional means for maintaining these renovated facilities at an improved level.

Provide the institution's unobligated fund balance for the most recently completed fiscal year. Attach documentation showing this balance disaggregated to identify amounts that are restricted in their use by external authorities (General Assembly, Federal Government, donors, etc.) and those that are not subject to such restrictions. Provide an explanation of the amount the institution considers to be an appropriate unrestricted fund balance as a percentage of its operating budget and the percentage of the institution's operating budget that the fund balance represents.