



**State University System  
2023-2024 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund  
Proposal Form**

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| <b>University:</b>   | <b>Florida International University</b>  |
| <b>Healthcare Partner:</b>   | <b>Nicklaus Children’s Hospital</b>  |
| <b>Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:</b>   | <b>x/xx/xxxx</b>   |
| <b>Amount Requested:</b>   | <b>\$100,000</b>   |
| <b>University Contact (name, title, phone, &amp; email):</b>   | <b>Dr. Jorge Valdes, Acting Dean,<br/>Nicole Wertheim College of<br/>Nursing and Health Sciences; (305)<br/>348-7729; jvalde@fiu.edu</b> |
| <b>Please check the boxes below as appropriate:</b>  | <i>All boxes must be checked in order to be eligible to participate.</i>   |
| <b>Healthcare partner making contribution is located in and licensed to operate in Florida?</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>   |
| <b>Healthcare partner making contribution is a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?</b>                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>   |
| <b>Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 70% for the prior year based on the 2023 Accountability Plan?</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>   |
| <b>The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>   |

**Proposal Details**

*Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.*

- I. **Use of Funds.** Nicklaus Children’s Hospital (NCH) will commit an additional \$100,000 to financially support 10 generic BSN students who will be placed at NCH for their clinical placements in pediatrics and their clinical practicum. The \$100,000 in funds provided will be

valued at \$10,000 per student award. LINE matching funds would double the NCH financial investment to \$200,000, which would increase the number of students to 20. These student awards are intended to increase students' commitment to work for NCH facilities for two years. This financial support will facilitate identifying qualified nursing students who are interested in working within the NCH system and would facilitate retention of these students participating in Nicklaus Children's Nurse Scholars Program. NCH would commit to investing time and resources into onboarding and orienting new graduates and providing professional development to these new RNs.

**II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates.** NCH has implemented the Nicklaus Scholars Program and these ten (10) nursing students will participate.

**Nurse Scholars Program:** Through its Nurse Scholars program, Nicklaus Children's collaborates with local academic affiliates to support the recruitment of nursing students to combat the growing nursing shortage in healthcare. Students accepted into the Nicklaus Children's Nurse Scholars Program are provided an award toward their program tuition in return for a work commitment at the hospital. Nicklaus Children's goal is to be able to immerse the nursing students in the hospital's organizational culture by having them complete several of their clinical rotations within Nicklaus Children's Hospital which may include the pediatric clinical, psychiatry clinical, community clinical, and the senior practicum experience.

As a part of the Nurse Scholars Program, each student will be required to work at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in a per-diem capacity as a Student Nurse Intern, which will involve a work commitment of one 12-hour shift every two weeks. In addition, students will complete their senior practicum at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. After completion of the school program, eligible graduates may be offered employment in Nicklaus Children's Horizon Nurse Residency program, which is an ANCC accredited, evidence-based nurse residency program designed to guide new graduate nurses by bridging the divide between nursing education and nursing practice. Participation in the Horizon Residency Program will include a 2-year work commitment at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Funds provided by NCH will ensure increases in the nursing workforce and improvements in patient care in the community.

**III. Program Expansion.** Beginning in fall 2022, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences (NWCNHS) at FIU increased

admissions to the Generic BSN program by 38 additional students with an increase of 32% from 120 to 158 students in the Generic BSN Program. Starting fall of 2023, the Generic BSN program is projecting to onboard 180 new nursing students resulting in an overall increase of 60 students or 50% over fall of 2021's 120-target enrollment. To fulfill the NWCNHS admissions target, a secondary admissions cycle starting spring of 2024 will go into effect. For fall of 2023, the Accelerated Option BSN program will increase by 10% from 60 students to 66 nursing students. Increasing the nursing pipeline will benefit from student financial assistance which will be provided by NCH. Student financial support from NCH, coupled with the nurse intern program, and Horizon Residency Program will provide opportunities for both committed clinical rotation spots and future employment, which will enhance recruitment and retention of diverse undergraduate nursing students in the NWCNHS Generic BSN program. The NCH Nurse Scholars Program will provide additional clinical experience and expertise that will enhance quality health care and support their nursing expertise, which will benefit them if they decide to seek graduate education in nursing. The State of Florida will benefit from the increased enrollment in the nursing programs, since this will lead to an increase in new licensed registered nurses entering the workforce. The State of Florida LINE matching funds will reduce financial barriers for nursing students coupled with the NCH support.