



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

<b>University:</b>	University of South Florida
<b>Healthcare Partner:</b>	HCA West Florida Division
<b>Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:</b>	8/22/2023
<b>Amount Requested:</b>	\$50,000
<b>University Contact (name, title, phone, &amp; email):</b>	Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091, <a href="mailto:Umenon@usf.edu">Umenon@usf.edu</a>
<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"/> Yes
<b>Healthcare partner making contribution is a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<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"/> Yes
<b>The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

**Background**

The LINE Fund is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners and to meet local, regional, and state workforce demand by recruiting faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increasing the number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce. Subject to available funds, for every

dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar match to the participating institution for approved proposals.

**Funds may be used for student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings.** To participate, an institution must submit a timely and complete proposal to the Board of Governors for consideration. For more details, see Board of Governors [Regulation 8.008 - Nursing Education](#).

**Proposals must be submitted with a total of no more than three pages of narrative for the following sections.** Proposals with more than three pages of narrative will be rejected.

## **Proposal Details**

*Provide a detailed narrative for each section below.*

**I. Use of Funds** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the institution plans to use the funds, including how the funds will be utilized to increase student enrollment and program completion.*

The funds will be used to pay the tuition for the final two semesters for 15 students.

### **Program Cost:**

Total cost for scholarships for 15 students = \$100,000

LINE contribution (dollar for dollar match) = \$50,000

Healthcare partner contribution = \$50,000

### **How the institution plans to use the funds.**

Goals of the program:

- Support increased access and availability to nursing education.
- Reduce the amount of loans and debt that students take out for nursing education.
- Support resources for nursing students to be successful in the curriculum and in practice.

### **How the healthcare partner benefits.**

- Ability to create a cohort of HCA West Florida Division Scholars that HCA West Florida Division can get to know, educate, and ingratiate into their culture.
- Opportunity to support the new generation of nurses entering the field.
- Increases interest in HCA West Florida Division as an employer and ability to recruit qualified nursing graduates to stay and practice in the local workforce.

**II. Onboarding & Retention of Graduates** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the health care partner will onboard and retain graduates.*

With a scholarship gift to Bull Nurses matched by Florida's LINE fund, the college would be excited to create a cohort of HCA West Florida Division Scholars. As part of a cohort program HCA West Florida Division could host recipients at special events, meet with students around focused topics, and give special tours of HCA West Florida Division facilities. These types of

interactions help foster a collegial, mutually beneficial relationship for students with one another and with HCA West Florida Division. Additionally, HCA West Florida Division would like to award the scholarships to those from underserved communities who would be dedicated to the nursing rotations at one of the Division's hospitals.

These relationships will help develop strong bonds between the USF students benefiting from the scholarship dollars and HCA West Florida Division. This is particularly important now in light of the struggle that the state is having in retaining nurses. USF's College of Nursing has been successful in creating these special types of mentorship relationships between our nursing students and providers within Tampa Bay, greatly increasing the likelihood of retaining our graduates in the local nursing workforce. This new scholarship, made possible with LINE matching funding, will build upon that already demonstrated successful model and will be critical to ensuring that nurses educated in Florida stay and work in Florida.

**III. Program Expansion** - *Describe in detail and with specificity how the funds will expand the institution's nursing education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors and planned efforts to utilize the clinical placement process established in Section 14.36, Florida Statutes.*

The historic investment in nursing education from Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature will allow the USF College of Nursing to graduate 750 undergraduate nurses by 2029, a 200% increase over our current graduation rate. The expansion will allow the college to be a leader in the state's response to the current and projected needs in nursing, but the awarded funding does not include any significant new student scholarship support. These matching LINE funds can help mitigate that gap.

With our plans to grow enrollment in the USF College of Nursing so substantially to respond to the state's workforce shortage, our current scholarship support from the college will now be spread over three times as many students. This underscores the need for additional private philanthropic support from HCA West Florida Division and others and innovative state matching programs like LINE to financially assist and incentivize additional nursing students.

In summary, the LINE funding will provide more qualified nurses in the state by providing financial access. As we provide more opportunities within this program, we will also focus on strengthening our preceptorship, mentorship, and transition to practice skills resulting in high retention at HCA West Florida Division.