



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

University:	University of South Florida
Healthcare Partner:	Tampa General Hospital
Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:	January 19, 2024
Amount Requested:	\$500,000
University Contact (name, title, phone, & email):	Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSBM Dean and Senior Associate Vice President, 813-974-9091, Umenon@usf.edu
Please check the boxes below as appropriate:	<i>All boxes must be checked in order to be eligible to participate.</i>
Healthcare partner making contribution is located in and licensed to operate in Florida?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Healthcare partner making contribution is a healthcare provider as defined in Section 768.38(2), Florida Statutes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Nursing programs met or exceeded a first-time NCLEX passage rate of 70% for the prior year based on the 2023 Accountability Plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
The funds will be used for an eligible purpose per section 1009.8962, Florida Statutes?	<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](#).

Proposal Details

I. Use of Funds -

The USF College of Nursing (USFCON) provides multiple pathways for students to prepare for initial licensure as baccalaureate-prepared Registered Nurse (RN) or for currently licensed RNs to advance their career by completing programs leading to certification eligibility as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). The USFCON is actively expanding enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate programs to continue its efforts to ensure a highly-skilled, well-educated, practice-ready workforce in the Tampa Bay region. The USFCON currently enrolls over 700 pre-licensure nursing students and over 300 post-licensure RNs seeking advanced degrees as APRNs. Within the pre-licensure program, 30% of students are considered first-generation, and one in three will require some form of financial aid.

The university, college, faculty, students, and alumni take great pride in the USFCON first-time NCLEX-RN licensure pass rate and APRN certification pass rates that consistently exceed state and national levels. Moreover, our graduate programs are among the most highly sought-after and nationally ranked programs nationwide. However, the success of our graduates on these key quality indicators comes because of extensive focus on student success measures such as our Academic Success Program to enhance the retention, graduation rate, and NCLEX-RN pass rate of undergraduate students and comprehensive certification success programming for APRN students. Additionally, with the increase in undergraduate enrollment projected over the next 5 years, we anticipate more students who need supplemental support to the standard academic programming.

Funds will be used to provide undergraduate and graduate nursing students with best-in-class support for preparing to meet their penultimate goal of successful licensure and certification. Student support will be enhanced by offering scholarships to meet unmet financial needs, removing barriers to early licensure and certification testing due to costs associated with testing applications, and providing financial support to offset student fees related to academic support programming. Additionally, with the increase in student enrollment and the continuing lack of adequate clinical placement opportunities in the community, we need larger simulation space with room for contemporary simulation equipment and education such as integrating virtual reality. To that end, a portion of these funds will be used to fund the design of the new Simulation Center and equipment needed to update our simulation education. Tampa General Hospital has pledged funds over multiple years to help build the new state-of-the-art Simulation Center.

Florida continues to face a critical nurse shortage in the coming years. Fostering relationships early between our students and area healthcare partners such as Tampa General Hospital (TGH) will help develop strong bonds between the USF students benefiting from academic support and scholarship dollars and TGH. The proposed partnership removes financial barriers, provides state-of-the-art academic support programming, ensures that graduates continue to exceed expectations in licensure and certification pass rates, and prepares a world-class nursing workforce that benefits TGH and its communities.

Program Cost:

Total cost of the initiative = \$1,000,000

LINE contribution (dollar-for-dollar match) = \$500,000

Healthcare partner contribution = \$500,000

How USF plans to use the funds:

- Provide Academic Success Support for over 700 undergraduate and 360 graduate students.
- Provide funds to cover the cost of student participation in the USFCON Writer's Block program.
- Provide students with 50% of the funds required to complete the NCLEX-RN application process, thereby reducing the time between program completion and testing, resulting in a significantly higher likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN on the first attempt.
- Provide tuition support for 5 Tampa General Hospital Scholars during the current funding period.
- Design and update the Simulation Center.

How the healthcare funds will contribute:

- Provide state-of-the-art Academic Success Support for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Provide funds to alleviate the financial burden experienced by students.
- Assist with updating Simulation education.

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

TGH will support the Academic Success Programming for all USF College of Nursing undergraduate and APRN graduate students with these funds and provide need-based tuition support for five undergraduate students during the current funding period. The academic success activities' support from TGH will touch over 1000 students, many of whom also engage in the world-class clinical opportunities provided by TGH. The multiple points of contact between nursing students and the TGH organization provide the chance to begin acclimating them to TGH while still in the role of student to reduce the length of role socialization upon graduation, leading to more strategic hiring decisions and improved retention.

III. Program Expansion -

This year's historic investment in nursing education from Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature will allow the USF College of Nursing to graduate 500 additional undergraduate nurses by May 2027 and maintain one of the state's largest graduate student programs. The investment supports the infrastructure and staffing needed to educate these students, including using PIPELINE funds. This LINE initiative allows the College of Nursing to help specific students with additional needs and retain them to successful completion. Similarly, scholarships remove a key barrier to education, such as external employment, by funding nursing school so students can focus on completing the nursing program.

The partnership between TGH and the USFCON allows students to achieve their goal of becoming an RN or APRN. Through this partnership, we will provide opportunities for well-qualified applicants who, with the support of this funding, will help the state of Florida address the nursing shortage in general and the shortage of primary care APRNs.