



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

University:	University of South Florida
Healthcare Partner:	BayCare Health System
Date Proposal Approved by University Board of Trustees:	12/5/2023
Amount Requested:	\$100,000
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** - *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 USF College of Nursing offers two pathways to become a BSN prepared nurse: the Upper Division pathway where students are admitted at the end of their sophomore year, and the Accelerated Pathway for students that already possess a bachelor's degree. In the Spring 2022 semester the pathways enrolled a combined 747 students, 62% of whom receive financial aid.

Scholarship support is vital to the short and long-term success of our students. Funds will be used to provide financial support to twenty (20) pre-licensure nursing students with documented financial need.

Florida continues to face a critical nurse shortage in the coming years. Fostering relationships early between our students and area healthcare partners such as BayCare will help develop strong bonds between the USF students benefiting from the scholarship dollars and BayCare with the goal of retaining these students as professional registered nurses in our area. We have already implemented such scholarship cohorts and this LINE initiative with BayCare will leverage those successes.

Scholarship supporters also receive thank you letters from students that will be shared with the Board of Governors (if needed) and BayCare, which will offer a glimpse of the diverse backgrounds of these students and can be shared with investors and advocates in and out of the legislature and BayCare. Scholarships truly are transformational gifts for each student receiving them.

Program Cost:

Total cost of the initiative = \$200,000

LINE contribution (dollar for dollar match) = \$100,000

Healthcare partner contribution = \$100,000

How USF plans to use the funds:

- Provide full tuition support for 10 Baycare Scholars for one year
- Provide sufficient funds to purchase all required textbooks for the entire program
- Provide funds to purchase uniforms, supplies, and equipment for clinical
- Provide funds to cover the cost of participation in the college's Academic Success Program
- Provide funds required for senior students to apply to take the National Council

Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)

How the healthcare funds will contribute:

- Provide funds to alleviate the financial burden experienced by students with limited financial means
- Reduce the need for students to work in order to cover expenses allowing them to focus on academics
- Provide funds required to register for the NCLEX-RN reducing the time between program completion and testing which results in higher likelihood of passing on the first attempt

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

BayCare will collaborate with the USF College of Nursing to identify twenty Baycare Scholars. Selected students will complete all required clinical hours at a BayCare facility for the year in which they are funded. The prolonged exposure to the BayCare system will provide the opportunity for members of the healthcare team to interact and evaluate Scholars as potential new hires. Because students spend more time within the BayCare system, if selected as new hires, they are more likely to be retained.

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.

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 over 650 additional undergraduate nurses by May 2027. The investment supports the infrastructure and staffing needed to educate these students, including the use of PIPELINE funds. However, PIPELINE funds do not fund student scholarship. Thus, this LINE initiative allows the college of nursing to support students and retain them to successful completion. Similarly, student success programs remove barriers to education such as employment to fund nursing school so students can focus on successfully completing the nursing program.

The partnership between BayCare Health and USF College of Nursing provides the opportunity for students with unmet financial need to achieve their goal of becoming a nurse. Through this partnership, BayCare Health and the USF College of Nursing will provide opportunities for well-qualified applicants who, with the support of this funding, will help the state of Florida address the nursing shortage.