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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
Florida College System Presidents
Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida Presidents
Commission for Independent Education Presidents

FROM: Kathryn S. Hebda

DATE: August 26, 2024

SUBJECT: **Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund**

Established in 2022, section (s.) 1009.8962, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was created to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners to combat the nursing shortage in the state. This competitive grant program, titled the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund, provides matching funds, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, to participating agencies that partner with health care providers as defined in s. 768.38(2), F.S.

The 2024 General Appropriations Act provided \$29 million for the LINE Fund for the following institutions:

- Florida College System institutions under s. 1000.21(3), F.S.
- School district postsecondary technical career centers under s. 1001.44, F.S.
- Charter technical career centers under s. 1002.34, F.S.
- Independent nonprofit colleges or universities located and chartered in this state and accredited by an agency or association that is recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education to grant baccalaureate degrees.
- Independent schools, colleges, or universities with an accredited program as defined in s. 464.003, F.S., which is located in this state and licensed by the Commission for Independent Education pursuant to s. 1005.31, F.S.

All eligible applicants must also meet performance metrics set forth in s. 1009.8962, F.S., including:

- For a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program, data supporting a completion rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year.
- For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in nursing and bachelor of science in nursing program, data supporting a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination of at least 75 percent for the prior year, based on a minimum of 10 testing participants.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

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Funds may be used to award scholarships to students who meet the residency for tuition purposes requirements, recruit additional faculty, purchase equipment and support simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings.

The Florida Department of Education has posted the Request for Proposal for the disbursement of these funds and associated documents at <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/linefund/>. All interested institutions should review the RFP soon, as the first deadline in the process is the submission of the **Notice of Intent**, which is due **September 10, 2024**.

A funding opportunities webinar is scheduled for the following date and time to provide information on the appropriation, how to complete and submit the proposal and an overview of the review process.

Date	Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Time	3:00 p.m. ET
Registration Link	https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P5_ufFcFQmahmLcP-oEsw

Please review the proposal requirements attached and plan to participate in the webinar to ask additional questions. Should you have questions, please contact Clifford Humphrey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges at LINE_Fund@fldoe.org.

KH/ch

Attachment

cc: Kimberly Richey, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education
Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations
Robert J. Boyd, Esq., Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
Tiffany Hurst, Executive Director, Commission for Independent Education
District Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Directors
District Technical College Directors
Florida College System Workforce Administrators