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## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Kathryn S. Hebda 

**DATE:** November 15, 2023

**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 2023 General Appropriations Act provided \$19 million for the LINE Fund for the following institutions:

- Florida College System institutions under s. 1000.21(5), 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.

Additionally, all eligible applicants must also meet performance metrics set forth in s. 1009.896, F.S., including:

- Data supporting a completion rate of at least 70 percent for the prior year for a certified nursing assistant program.
- Data supporting a first-time passage rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination 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 (BSN) program.

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 will soon release the Request for Proposal for the disbursement of these funds. Once available, the application and associated documents can be accessed on the following funding opportunities site: <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/linefund/>.

The State Board of Education adopted Rule 6A-10.0352, Florida Administrative Code, for this program. Information on this rule is available in the following location: <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-10.0352>.

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.

<b>Date</b>	November 17, 2023
<b>Time</b>	10:30 a.m. EDT
<b>Registration Link</b>	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YIgSGF2vRHmskH19ssouVw">https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YIgSGF2vRHmskH19ssouVw</a>

Once available, please review the proposal requirements and plan to participate in the webinar to ask additional questions. Should you have questions, please contact Katie Grissom, Director of Workforce and Academic Alignment, Division of Florida Colleges at [Katie.Grissom@fldoe.org](mailto:Katie.Grissom@fldoe.org) or [LINE\\_Fund@fldoe.org](mailto:LINE_Fund@fldoe.org).

KH/kg

Cc: Kimberly Richey, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education  
Adam Miller, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education  
Kevin O'Farrell, Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education  
Suzanne Pridgeon, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations  
Clifford Humphrey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges  
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