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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Kathryn S. Hebda 

DATE: January 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Round II: 2025-2026 Linking Industry to Nursing Education 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 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 2025 General Appropriations Act provided \$24 million coupled with remaining funds from the 2024-25 LINE funds for a total of \$29,502,086 available for the second round of the LINE Funds 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., that are 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.fl DOE.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 February 13, 2026.

The application(s) must be submitted between Friday, March 6, 2026, through Friday, March 20, 2026. Eligible Applicant(s) must upload all proposal documents via the Florida Department of Education ShareFile, no later than 11:59 p.m. (ET).

Please note, the application process for this second round of LINE funding will be the same process as the first round of funding. If you are already participating in round 1, you are still welcome to apply for round 2. If you have not received funds in round 1, you may still apply for this new round of funding.

A funding opportunities overview, which provides information on the appropriation, how to complete and submit the proposal and an overview of the review process is available for viewing at https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/a-dYq-RA_GAJ0nXEhmZGbWfQzhKlzEnYSmAjLHbu4eXWuvcGNH1rJlhanimAdM.ePIaMpeHRuJLe6tB?startTime=1724870008000

Please contact Jose Arevalo, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges at LINE_Fund@fldoe.org if you have any questions.

KH/ja

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