



FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

POLICY DOCUMENT

PIPELINE & LINE FUNDING

ISSUE BRIEF

JANUARY 2023

Executive Summary

To combat the nursing shortage we face in Florida, FHA advocated for \$125 million for nursing education programs for the 2022–2023 state fiscal year. These programs were included in the higher education portion of the state budget, known as the General Appropriations Act (HB 5001). HB 5001 was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 2, 2022.

- \$100 million to establish the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) program to financially reward colleges and universities for their nursing education programs based on student success.
- \$25 million to establish the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) fund for institutions to recruit faculty and clinical preceptors for their nursing programs, to work toward combating the shortage of nursing instructors, with funds matched dollar-to-dollar by hospitals and/or health care partners in their communities.

PIPELINE: Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education

Background

Senate Bill 2524 created section 1009.897, Florida Statutes, to establish the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund. District career centers, charter technical career centers, Florida College System, and State University System institutions will be allocated funds based on the performance of nursing education programs.

Performance metrics for programs include the number of nursing education program completers and the first-time National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) passage rate of the institution's nursing education program completers. Additionally, allocations shall reward programs with first-time average NCLEX passage rates above the national average.

The bill requires the Board of Governors to adopt regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the implementing funds.

Of the total \$100-million-dollar appropriation, the Florida Legislature directed \$20 million for school district career centers that offer licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs and \$40 million for Florida College System (FCS) institutions.¹

¹ [2022-23 PIPELINE Allocations by District](#)

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Florida Administrative Code

The purpose of the rule is to administer the PIPELINE fund to reward performance and excellence among public postsecondary nursing education programs. The types of institutions eligible to receive performance-based incentives from the PIPELINE fund include technical career centers and charter technical career centers that offer a licensed practical nurse program (by county). Florida College System institutions and State University System institutions are also eligible to receive performance-based incentives from the fund.

Through this program, the funds awarded to institutions by the state may be used for academic purposes such as student scholarships, faculty recruitment and retention, purchasing or repairing equipment, and creating or updating simulation centers. The funds cannot be utilized for the construction of new facilities.

Measures

The distribution of PIPELINE Funds is subject to appropriation by the Florida Legislature. Each institution will receive an allocation based on the performance of its respective nursing education program or programs according to the following metrics:

- The program completes the number of pre-licensure nursing programs.
- The passage rates for pre-licensure nursing programs.
- Multiplying the number of completers by passage rates.
- Using completions weighted by licensure passage rates, calculating each eligible agency's pro-rata share of the funds for nursing program performance.

Additionally, the rule specifies that allocations will reward excellence among nursing education programs with an average first-time National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) passage rate above the national average.

Disbursements of Funds and Required Reporting

Institutions should expect a Request for Applications (RFA) to apply for funding through the Department of Education and the Board of Governors. The RFA system will also serve as a reporting method on how the institution utilizes the funding. The Board of Governors requires an annual report, by February 1st, for each institution awarded PIPELINE funds regarding the outcomes of nursing students enrolled as reported by the [Florida Talent Development Council](#) pursuant to section 1004.015(6), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Next Steps:

On August 17, 2002, the State Board of Education approved the final [Rule 6A-10.0351](#), Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE). September 8, 2022, DOE hosted a webinar to review the application. September 16, 2022, is the last day to submit questions for the Q & A. September 30, 2022 is the deadline to submit a completed application.

Additional information regarding the program and funding opportunities can be found on DOE's [website](#).

LINE: Linking Industry to Nursing Education

Background

Senate Bill 2524 established the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) fund that includes \$25 million for a competitive grant program that provides matching funds, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, to participating institutions that partner with a hospital and/or healthcare provider to recruit faculty and clinical preceptors, increasing the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs, and increase the number of nursing education program graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce to combat the growing nursing shortage in the state.

The bill requires the Board of Governors to adopt regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the implementing of these funds.

Florida Administrative Code

The purpose of the rule is to set the requirements to administer the LINE fund that is intended to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and health care partners and to meet local, regional, and state workforce demands in a variety of ways, which include:

- Recruit faculty.
- Recruit clinical preceptors.
- Increase the capacity of high-quality nursing education programs.
- Increase the number of nursing education program graduates prepared to enter the workforce.

Of the \$25 million, a total of \$19 million of the funds distributed by the Department of Education is allocated to the Florida College System institutions, school districts' career centers, charter technical careers centers, and independent nonprofit colleges and universities. The remaining \$6 million is allocated to approved State University System institutions distributed by the Board of Governors, which is charged with evaluating and approving proposals.

Subject to available funds, for every dollar contributed to an institution by a healthcare partner, the LINE Fund shall provide a dollar-for-dollar cash match to the eligible participating institutions for approved proposals. The eligible purpose of matching funds is outlined in rule. Funds obtained by the institution may be utilized for student scholarships, recruitment of additional faculty, equipment, and stimulation centers. The funds cannot be utilized for the construction of new facilities.

Institutions awarded LINE funding, and those who choose to use LINE funding for scholarships, may only award scholarships to enrolled nursing students who meet the residency requirements under section [1009.21, Florida Statutes](#).

Notifications of Funding and Required Reporting

For each year that the LINE program is funded by the state legislature, the Department of Education will publish a notice of the availability of grants and Request for Applications at least 15 days prior to the notice of intent submission. For 2022–2023, the notifications for funding opportunities will be posted no later than September 15, 2022.

The notification of funding opportunities will include the date to submit the notice of intent to apply for a grant. The notice of intent will be due 15 days following the publication of the notification of the funding opportunity. Applications will be accepted as early as 30 days following the notice of intent deadline and will continue to be accepted for another 15 days or until appropriated funds are awarded, whichever comes first.

There are quarterly reports due on January 15th, April 15th, and October 15th each year.

There is an annual report due by February 1st of each year.

Next Steps

On August 17, 2002, the State Board of Education approved the final [Rule 6A-10.0352](#). The Notification of Funding was released on August 31, 2022. The deadline to submit completed application to be considered in the first review period is October 17, 2022. The final deadline to submit a completed application to be considered for a LINE Fund grant allocation is November 1, 2022.

Additional information regarding the program and funding opportunities can be found on DOE's [website](#).

On January 5, 2023, Governor DeSantis awarded \$79 million for high-performing nursing education programs in Florida.

The full list of institutions receiving LINE funding include: AdventHealth University, Seminole State College, Daytona State College, Nova Southeastern University, Indian River County School District, Polk State College, Jacksonville University, Valencia College, Santa Fe College, The College of the Florida Keys, Bethesda College of Health Sciences, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Hillsborough Community College, Southeastern University, St. Petersburg College, Broward College, Barry University, Northwest Florida State College, South Florida State College, State College of Florida, Manatee–Sarasota, Indian River State College, Florida Southern College, Tallahassee Community College, Miami Dade College, University of Miami, and College of Central Florida.

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