



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1648

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Webber International University seeks funding to address the critical need for healthcare professionals in Southeast Polk County by expanding its Nursing and Health Science Certificate Programs. The funds will support program growth through enhanced infrastructure, additional faculty, essential equipment, and tuition assistance for underserved students pursuing health science certificates. This initiative aims to increase accessibility, enrollment, and workforce readiness in the region.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	855,922
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	855,922

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	855,922	98%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	20,000	2%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	875,922	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Support student enrollment growth and their needs for increased instructional faculty and staff. Additional employees include; four faculty members (\$100,000 salary including benefits), a Clinical Coordinator (\$100,000 salary including benefits), an administrative assistant (\$50,000 salary including benefits), academic operations coordinator (\$55,000 salary including benefits).	605,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding to secure ownership of nursing lab and classroom spaces, essential equipment (e.g., simulation tools, hospital beds, gurneys), and disposable supplies for nursing education, with an annual operational cost of \$150,922. Additionally, \$100,000 is requested for tuition assistance to support students pursuing health science certificates, increasing accessibility and workforce readiness.	250,922
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		855,922

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The funded activities and services will support Webber's health science programs, addressing the local need for qualified registered nurses and medical assistants. By equipping nursing labs, providing educational tools, and offering tuition assistance to underserved students, the program increases access to healthcare education for Southeast Polk County residents facing limited opportunities.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The funding will provide citizens access to quality health science education, including nursing and health science certificates. With approval to admit 36 nursing students per cohort, Webber will produce 72 graduates annually, addressing local healthcare workforce shortages and offering underserved individuals opportunities through enhanced resources and tuition assistance.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target population for this project is college and university students, specifically aiming to serve between 101 and 200 individuals. This group includes students seeking opportunities for educational advancement, professional development, or other forms of support offered through the project. The initiative is tailored to meet their academic, career, and personal growth needs effectively.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

This project aims to create a high-quality instructional and learning environment to prepare students for industry exams and enhance their employment prospects, particularly in the healthcare sector. By increasing faculty and staff and offering robust post-secondary education, it addresses the critical demand for healthcare professionals in Southeast Polk County and surrounding areas. The nursing program is designed to graduate 72 workforce-ready individuals annually, equipping them with the skills and certifications needed to enter the healthcare industry. This initiative not only supports economic self-sufficiency for graduates but also helps mitigate the nursing shortage in Florida, aligning with the region's healthcare industry growth and the establishment of new facilities. The success of the project will be measured through three key indicators; graduation and program completion rates, licensure and certification exam pass rates, and employment rate of graduates.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

If programmatic nursing and health science outcomes are not met funds will be returned.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied



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- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College



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Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.