



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1094

1. Project Title Herzing University - Surgical Technology and Nursing Simulation Center Initiative

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 11/10/2025

4. Project/Program Description

This project seeks funding for the construction and equipping of two state-of-the-art surgical technology laboratories and a comprehensive nursing simulation center. These facilities will serve as critical infrastructure to expand healthcare workforce training capacity in Florida, addressing the growing demand for skilled surgical technologists and registered nurses.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	300,000
Total State Funds Requested	650,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	650,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	650,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,300,000	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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1094

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

12/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

08/31/2026

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

Herzing University will provide funding for on-going 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.

Herzing University (Orlando) is owned by Herzing University and will receive funds for the surgical technology lab. Healthcare Systems of America is the landlord of the facility to be occupied by Herzing University - where the additional nursing simulation center will be located.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$100,000 in equipment for each surgical technology lab = 200,000 \$150,000 in equipment for the nursing simulation center	350,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	\$100,000 in construction cost for each surgical technology program labs = \$200,000 \$100,000 in construction cost for the nursing simulation center	300,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		650,000

13. Program Performance

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

The goal of the funds are to address the needs of two High Demand, High Skill, High Wage occupations identified by CareerSource Central Florida, CareerSource Tampa Bay, CareerSource South Florida. The project will fund the construction and equipping of two state-of-the-art surgical technology laboratories and a comprehensive nursing simulation center. These facilities will serve as critical infrastructure to expand healthcare workforce training capacity in Florida.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1094

A surgical technology program will be added to the Tampa and Orlando (Winter Park) locations of Herzing University. Additionally, an additional nursing simulation lab will be located outside of Central Florida to support training for hybrid nursing options currently available at the university.

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

Students in both the surgical technology programs and nursing program will have direct patient interaction when completing clinical rotations required in their program of study.

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

Jobless persons, University / College Students, General public that utilize healthcare services in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Hillsborough and Miami-Dade Counties.

Students served should be 100 - 150 / year; General Public served will be > 1000.

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

The project is expected to help address the workforce demand for surgical technology and registered nurses which is currently projected. Each surgical technology program is expected to produce 10 - 15 graduate per year three years after the first cohort starts the program and the nursing simulation lab will support the graduation of an additional 30 nursing students per year 4 years after enrollment of the first cohort utilizing the space. Graduation rate will be determine by number of students who successfully complete the program in a given year.

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 Herzing University does not execute the plan as proposed, the state of Florida may recall funds associated with this request.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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
- ☐ 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:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1094

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
- ☐ 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1094

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.