



ICUF

Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida

FLORIDA'S INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BRIDGE THE GAP IN FLORIDA'S NURSING WORKFORCE

Innovative microsimulation provides policymakers with a clear picture of how independent, nonprofit higher education institutions fill critical labor shortages, especially in nursing.

Florida's healthcare sector faces a compounding crisis:

- Population growth
- Aging patient base
- Accelerating nurse retirements

Demand is growing faster than Florida's higher education system can supply.

Each year, there are more than 18,500 vacant nursing positions, ranging from registered nurses and nurse practitioners to anesthetists and more.

Graduates from Florida's nonprofit, independent higher education institutions fill nearly 3,000, or 15% of those vacancies.

18,500+

**ANNUAL NURSE
OPENINGS PROJECTED**

2,837

**NURSE POSITIONS FILLED BY
ICUF GRADUATES EACH YEAR**

15%

**GAP IN NURSE POSITIONS
FILLED BY ICUF GRADUATES**

Florida's independent colleges and universities have the capacity and the flexibility to offer more degrees and help close Florida's projected workforce gap.

The Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant helps Florida residents pay for college tuition, with \$3,500 in assistance each year to attend independent, nonprofit colleges and universities. This program helps students access higher education and incentivizes Floridians to pursue higher education in Florida, increasing the likelihood they will join Florida's workforce.

Florida's ICUF Labor Market Gap Analysis was developed by REC Group using a first-of-its-kind methodology that quantifies how ICUF graduates fill critical workforce shortages in Florida.

\$3,500

**ANNUAL STUDENT VOUCHER
FOR FLORIDA RESIDENTS**

43,000

**FLORIDA RESIDENTS GAIN ACCESS
TO HIGHER EDUCATION EACH YEAR**

EVERY **\$1** INVESTED IN
EASE RETURNS
\$3.83
TO THE STATE

PRIVATE COLLEGES, PUBLIC GOOD.

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