

Suncoast Prosper Initiative

The Suncoast Prosper Initiative is an SCF–county collaborative designed to remove financial barriers to postsecondary education and workforce training. More than 50% of students who stop out cite financial hardship as the primary reason. Similar programs currently support students at five Florida state colleges and one public university.

SCF Quick Facts

- Founded in 1957 with over 65,000 graduates, many who are living and working locally.
- Highest-performing state college serving over 10,000 credit-seeking students annually across 30+ academic and workforce programs, including Business, Education, Technology and Health Sciences.
- Tuition has not increased in 15 years; current in-state AA/AS tuition is \$102.48 per credit hour.
- ~70% of our students are first time in college (FTIC).
- FTIC: 77% retention rate | 27% transfer-out rate | 40% graduation rate.

Community References

- Student representation as of Fall 2025: 51% Manatee County and 38.5% Sarasota County.
- ~50% of adults in Manatee County do not have a credential beyond their high school diploma, limiting access to higher wages and constraining regional workforce growth.
- ~50% of students who stop out cite financial hardship as the primary reason.

Demonstrated Results

- In other counties, the program has resulted in increased enrollment, retention and graduation rates. Now in its fourth year, the program has enrolled more than 10,550 participants since its start. Osceola Prosper for Valencia has produced: 1,143 associate degree graduates, 815 technical certificate completers, and 906 trades program completers.

Return on Investment

- Increases degree completion, driving regional economic growth.
- Expands skilled workforce in high-need sectors (nursing, education, business, technology).
- Long-term community benefits: reduced poverty, improved health outcomes, greater economic stability.
- Aligns with regional economic development strategies, SCF generates \$507.2 million annually in regional economic impact.

Consideration Request

A minimum three-year recurring investment to support a cohort of newly enrolling and continuing SCF-eligible students seeking their AA or AS degree. Funding would provide last-dollar assistance at \$102.48 per credit hour for full-time students who have exhausted Pell Grants, scholarships, and other traditional financial aid.

A multi-year commitment is essential to ensure students are supported through degree completion, maximize return on investment, and deliver measurable outcomes in retention, graduation, and workforce entry.



Suncoast Prosper



What is Suncoast Prosper?

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- ▶ Now in its fourth year, the program has enrolled more than 10,550 participants since its start. To date, Osceola Prosper for Valencia has produced:
 - ▶ 1,143 Associate Degree graduates
 - ▶ 815 Technical Certificate completers
 - ▶ 906 Trades Program completers
- ▶ Since the launch of Osceola Prosper, the county's college-going rate is now among the highest in the state.

Return on Investment

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Request

| # of Manatee County Students | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 475 | \$1,498,150 | | |
| 950 | | \$2,996,300 | \$2,996,300 |

A minimum three-year recurring investment to support a cohort of newly enrolling and continuing SCF-eligible students seeking their AA or AS degree or certificate.

The cost estimate is based on 30 credit hours per academic year at \$3,154 per student, which includes SCF in-state lower division tuition and the \$80 required access fee for full-time students who have exhausted Pell Grants, scholarships, and other traditional financial aid.

Thank you!