



## FY 2025-26 Florida Cancer Innovation Fund Questions and Answers

### Programmatic Questions

- 1) If you previously received the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund last year (fiscal year 2024-25) can you still apply for this cycle?**

Applicants who have previously received funding from the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund are eligible to apply for the FY 2025-26 cycle if they meet the eligibility criteria laid out in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and in section 381.915, Florida Statutes. However, projects that were previously awarded funding may not be resubmitted. Preference will be given to new applicants.

- 2) Do we need to apply only in one of the three cycles, or can we apply to multiple cycles like cycle 1 and cycle 3? What about the application in cycle 3? They will get only one chance for review, but those who submit in cycle 1 will get three chances for review.**

Applicants are required to submit only one application. All applications received during Application Period 1 will be evaluated alongside those submitted in Periods 2 and 3. Additionally, applications from Periods 1 and 2 that are not funded will be reconsidered during Period 3, alongside new submissions.

- 3) The application is currently requiring regulatory approvals to be uploaded at the proposal stage. Is this something that will be fixed in the application system before the first deadline? Or are all regulatory approvals required at proposal submission?**

Applicants must have regulatory approvals in place before project commencement and contract execution.

- 4) Is it allowable for an investigator to be a PI in one (or more) proposal(s)? Could this person be PI on one proposal and participate on other ones as Co-PI or Co-I?**

Yes, an investigator may participate in multiple applications, provided each application pertains to a distinct and different project.

- 5) Are there rules for whom can be listed as a coinvestigator on the grant? Faculty would count, but what about a Research Associate as a Co-I?**

No, there are no rules on who can be listed as a coinvestigator on the grant.



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**6) Is the budget justification format similar to the NIH format?**

The budget template and budget justification templates are located within the grant application portal and must be used to complete the application. Please do not use any other templates; they will not be accepted.

**7) Can we include subawards with collaborating institutions?**

Yes, subawards with collaborating institutions are allowable, but the awarded institution must obtain prior written approval from the Department to execute a subaward.

It is important to note, subcontracts must be pre-approved in the Public Health Research Program Budget Template. The Budget Narrative must justify the purpose of the subcontract, whether this is the only vendor that can perform the services, regardless of if they are in-state or out-of-state.

**8) Can you use a contract lab outside of Florida to run some studies such as in vivo animal work? If so, are there limits on the budget that can leave FL?**

Collaborations are acceptable and encouraged. However, all grant-funded activities must take place in Florida. All work (effort) must occur, and funds must be spent in Florida at the applicant organization and any collaborating entities. The Department may make exceptions if the service is essential and only provided outside Florida, and if the amount is less than 10 percent of the requested amount.

**9) Are there explicit page limits for the specific aims and research strategy? Do they differ by the grant categories (e.g., translation grant vs pilot grant)?**

No, but there are file size limits which are stipulated within the grant application portal.

**10) What is the start date? The application currently lists the start date as 7/1/2025.**

July 1, 2025, is the start of the fiscal year of which these funds are appropriated, not the start date of the project. Applicants will be notified following Cancer Connect Collaborative review; review and notification dates are subject to change.



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- 11) Can you confirm the November deadline? In different places in the FOA it says Nov. 25 and 27.**

November 25, 2025.

- 12) To clarify, is this a limited submission opportunity by organization? Or can there be multiple applicants from the same org? (but only 1 application per PI)**

An organization may submit multiple applications from different applicants. However, each applicant/PI may submit only one application per funding cycle. An application may not be submitted in more than one grant category. Each project must be distinct.

- 13) Priority seems to be given to therapies / treatments. If so, would a novel, multi-cancer diagnostic platform be well received?**

All funded projects must demonstrate potential for immediate, transformative impact on cancer care in Florida.

- 14) Can I submit more than one project on very different cancers for consideration in the same cycle?**

Each applicant/PI may submit only one application per grant category during this funding cycle. An application may not be submitted in more than one grant category.

- 15) If PI and entity are in Florida, can an entity from another state like NY be a collaborator and allocate funds as a sub-award? Can the entity in NY have a Co-PI (PI will be in FL)?**

Collaborations are acceptable and encouraged. However, all grant-funded activities must take place in Florida. All work (effort) must occur, and funds must be spent in Florida at the applicant organization and any collaborating entities. The Department may make exceptions if the service is essential and only provided outside Florida, and if the amount is less than 10 percent of the requested amount.



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**16) Is there guidance somewhere for length/format of attachments such as research strategy, and text box character limits for fillable fields?**

Generally, the file size for uploads is no more than 20MB, each text box has a character limit as indicated in the grant application portal.

**17) Can same PI submit more than one application?**

Each applicant/PI may submit only one application per funding cycle. An application may not be submitted in more than one grant category.

**18) Are there page limits for each of the sections?**

No. But there are file size limits. Please see grant application portal for details; generally, file sizes cannot exceed 20 MB.

**19) Is a new Florida C-Corp eligible under the category of engaged in cancer research?**

Please refer to Section 8 of the FOA to determine if your licensed or certified health care provider, facility, or entity is eligible for grant funding.

**20) The Authorized Official is the Research Official Contact or Office of Sponsored Research office? Does that office need to have access to this account?**

This decision will be at the discretion of the institution and the applicant.

**21) If a PI decides to submit two applications, can they submit them to the same category, or will they need to submit to two categories?**

Each applicant/PI may submit only one application per funding cycle. An application may not be submitted in more than one grant category.

**22) Can an administrative person be given access to a PI application in the portal to assist with data entry and entering in the budget? Can an Administrative person create the application for the PI? Ad Indirect Costs? 15% as usual?**

Yes.



## **FY 2025-26 Florida Cancer Innovation Fund Questions and Answers**

**23) May we have collaborators outside of Florida?**

Collaborations are acceptable and encouraged. However, all grant-funded activities must take place in Florida. All work (effort) must occur, and funds must be spent in Florida at the applicant organization and any collaborating entities. The Department may make exceptions if the service is essential and only provided outside Florida, and if the amount is less than 10 percent of the requested amount.

**24) Does the 2M limit include the 15% indirect cost**

Yes, indirect costs are included.

**25) Can Research Associate be listed as PI?**

Yes.

**26) Can you focus on a particular racial group?**

Projects should aim to generate insights or interventions that are applicable to a wide range of communities, thereby maximizing public health impact.

**27) Can we initiate the application on behalf of our PI? Can we get a printout of completed application before we submit? Can you have a Co-PI on this grant?**

Yes, you can initiate the application on behalf of the PI. Yes, full completed applications can be reviewed before submission. Yes, you can have a Co-PI on the grant.

**28) If a PI is already funded through FCIF from a previous cycle (it is still ongoing), can they apply again this cycle?**

Applicants who have previously received funding from the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund are eligible to apply for the FY 2025–2026 cycle if they meet the eligibility criteria laid out in the FOA and per 381.915 Florida Statutes. However, projects that were previously awarded funding may not be resubmitted. Preference will be given to new applicants.

**29) Cancer prevention is difficult to prove in one year. What are the expectations when it comes to nutrition-based studies?**

Each project should have clear end points with specific, measurable outcomes achievable within 12 months.



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**30) Can someone submit the different application components for the PI?**

Yes.

**31) Clarification on one applicant per research topic?**

Each applicant/PI may submit only one application per funding cycle. An application may not be submitted in more than one grant category.

**32) If a proposal would involve DOH resources such as a database and execution may require labor/effort from DOH staff, can the budget account for that? If not, would such proposals be infeasible?**

See page 13 of the FOA disallowed costs, Florida Department of Health staff salary shall not be paid for with grant funds.

**33) How long is the review period? And is there a review score for each grant application reviewed?**

Applicants will be notified following Cancer Connect Collaborative review; review and notification dates are subject to change.

**34) Can a PI already funded through FCIF last year submit a new application this cycle?**

Applicants who have previously received funding from the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund are eligible to apply for the FY 2025–2026 cycle as long as they meet the eligibility criteria laid out in the FOA and per 381.915 Florida Statutes. However, projects that were previously awarded funding may not be resubmitted. Preference will be given to new applicants.

**35) I wanted to receive some clarification on the Single Application Rule outlined in the 2025-26 FOA. Does this single application rule apply to the entity or to the Corresponding PI?**

This has been amended in the FOA to read “Each applicant/PI may submit only one application per funding cycle. An application may not be submitted in more than one grant category.”



## **FY 2025-26 Florida Cancer Innovation Fund Questions and Answers**

- 36) The FOA states that the Principal Investigator must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. I am currently in the process of obtaining U.S. permanent residency (application pending). Could you please confirm whether I would be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator while my permanent residency application is under review, or if eligibility requires that permanent residency status already be approved at the time of application? If not eligible to serve as PI, would I be permitted to serve as a Co-Principal Investigator or Collaborator, with a U.S. citizen or permanent resident serving as PI of record?**

The PI must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; unauthorized aliens shall not be employed pursuant to §274A(e) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a), section 101 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and Florida Executive Order 11-02. Non-U.S. citizens can serve as Collaborators or members of a research team.

- 37) Am I eligible to apply if I am a computer scientist who has 15 years' experience in developing and testing evidence-based HITs, in particular on Internet-based virtual health agents (e.g. I have published my work in JMIR, among other venues)?**

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

- 38) Can you share what the typical grant amounts are through this grant mechanism? Are any recommendations you have for applicants to strengthen their submissions?**

Grant funding amounts vary depending on grant type and research priority. Make sure your applications adhere to the core principals outlined in the FOA. Priority will be given rapid-cycle innovation that delivers immediate, measurable improvements to cancer care in Florida.

- 39) What is the page/ word/ character limits for each of the application sections?**

There are no page limits. But there are file size limits, see grant application portal for details, generally, file sizes cannot exceed 20MB. Character/word limits may vary by question.

- 40) What amount of indirect (F&A) is allowed for these grants, and is that considered part of the \$2M maximum grant?**

Yes, indirect costs are included.



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**41) Is the funding opportunity looking at technology transfer development awards?**

Yes, Technology Transfer Feasibility (TTF) is a research priority for this funding cycle.

**42) If a proposal would involve DOH resources such as a database and execution may require labor/effort from DOH staff, can the budget account for that? If not, would such proposals be infeasible?**

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**43) Is a Clinical Fellow eligible to apply for funding through the Florida Cancer Innovation grant program.**

Yes, if the PI on the application is an employee of the applicant organization/entity and meet that institution's criteria for serving as a PI in addition to meeting the eligibility requirements listed in this FOA.

**44) The FOA states that generic drug repurposing grants should “have a clear rationale for anti-cancer efficacy” (p.7). Does this mean that the FCIF will not consider generic drug repurposing studies with cancer-related mental health outcomes?**

All funded projects must demonstrate potential for immediate, transformative impact on cancer care in Florida.

**45) Can we submit more than one research project?**

No, a PI/applicant can only submit one research project.

**46) Are ancillary procedures allowed for this grant?**

Yes, if the project demonstrates potential for immediate, transformative impact on cancer care in Florida.





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- 47) What are the potential start dates for the applications approved for funding? Do the start dates vary by cycle?**

Applicants will be notified following Cancer Connect Collaborative review; review and notification dates are subject to change.

- 48) Does the \$2,000,000 budget maximum include indirect costs?**

Yes.

- 49) Would a multi-institutional clinical trial be a consortium grant or a clinical trial grant?**

This decision will be at the discretion of the institution and the applicant.

- 50) Can a current awardee submit another proposal this year?**

Applicants who have previously received funding from the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund are eligible to apply for the FY 2025–2026 cycle as long as they meet the eligibility criteria laid out in the FOA and per 381.915 Florida Statutes. However, projects that were previously awarded funding may not be resubmitted. Preference will be given to new applicants.

- 51) Are out-of-state collaborators allowed? If yes, is there a limit to what % of the budget can go towards out-of-state collaborators?**

Collaborations are acceptable and encouraged. However, all grant-funded activities must take place in Florida. All work (effort) must occur, and funds must be spent in Florida at the applicant organization and any collaborating entities. The Department may make exceptions if the service is essential and only provided outside Florida, and if the amount is less than 10 percent of the requested amount.

- 52) Are indirect costs limited to 15% of total direct costs?**

Yes.



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- 53) Should preliminary data for the Research Strategy be included within the Research Strategy section of the application portal, or uploaded separately under Images/Tables/Graphs?**

Uploaded separately. But there are file size limits, see grant application portal for details, generally, file sizes cannot exceed 20MB. Character/word limits may vary by question.

- 54) What is the page limit for any sections in which we have to submit documents, and for the overall grant?**

None. But there are file size limits, see grant application portal for details, generally, file sizes cannot exceed 20MB. Character/word limits may vary by question.

- 55) Are all answers to Q&A questions going to be shared with all webinar attendees/posted on the website or only sent to those who ask the questions?**

The Department will respond to questions received and post them on its website on October 3, 2025.

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### **Application Portal Technical Questions**

- 57) There are issues with the log in to the portal due to it being Microsoft based. For some users, our institutions utilize this to log into our systems and it appears to create a conflict and errors when trying to log in.**

If your organization uses Microsoft/Entra ID and you're already signed into another Microsoft account in your browser, it can conflict with the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund Portal sign in. To resolve this issue, open an Incognito/InPrivate window and sign in again, or choose "Use another account" at the account selection prompt. If problems continue, sign out of other Microsoft sessions, clear Microsoft sign-in cookies, or use a separate browser profile.

Please email the error code to [flcancerinnovationfundsupport@flhealth.gov](mailto:flcancerinnovationfundsupport@flhealth.gov), Correlation ID, and timestamp if you still can't sign in.



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- 58) Please note that the budget entry section has several issues, such as not being able to edit any of the line items after entry and only being able to enter one person to the personnel line.**

We are researching this issue and will ensure this is fixed before the deadline date to allow for editing budget line items.

- 59) Will an option be added to the application to delegate access to an administrator?  
We often assist our PIs with their proposal submission.**

The application portal has been updated to include a secure delegation feature that allows primary applicants to grant access to others via a unique delegate code. Accessible through the "Manage Access" option on the Application Summary Page, this feature enables applicants to add or view delegated users through a pop-up interface. Delegated users receive an email notification and, once linked, can view and edit the application—streamlining collaboration while maintaining control.