



## **Cancer Center of Excellence Award**

**Annual Report**

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**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

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# Table of Contents

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview ..... 3

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Applications (New and Re-Designation) ..... 4

Recommendations to Strengthen the Program..... 4

## Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview

The designation of a hospital, treatment center, or other organization as a Cancer Center of Excellence (CCE) is intended to recognize organizations that demonstrate excellence in patient-centered, coordinated care for persons undergoing cancer treatment and therapy in Florida.

The goals of the CCE Award Program are to encourage excellence in cancer care in Florida, attract and retain the best cancer care professionals to the state, and help Florida organizations be recognized nationally as a preferred destination for quality cancer care.

Prior to each application cycle, the Florida Department of Health (Department) provides information about the award and the requirements on the Department's [Florida Cancer Center of Excellence Designation](#) webpage.

As part of the CCE Award Program, section 381.925, F.S., provides for the creation of a 13-member joint committee to develop a system that distinguishes cancer centers based on excellence in providing quality, comprehensive, and patient-centered care. The CCE Joint Committee comprises six members from the Biomedical Research Advisory Council and seven members from the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council.

The joint committee's CCE Award responsibilities include developing and regularly reviewing:

- Performance measures
- The rating system
- The rating standard

Florida law requires the joint committee to review these components every three years to identify if revisions are needed. In addition, section 381.925, F.S., requires providers to meet certain minimum criteria, including:

- Maintaining a license in good standing in Florida which authorizes health care services to be provided
- Being accredited by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons
- Actively participating in at least one regional cancer control collaborative that is operating pursuant to the Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
- Demonstrating excellence in and dissemination of scientifically rigorous cancer research
- Integrating training and education of biomedical researchers and health care professionals
- Meeting enhanced cancer care coordination standards that are outlined in Florida Statutes

## Fiscal Year 2024-25 Applications (New and Re-Designation)

During FY 2024-25, the CCE program carried out its statutory functions under section 381.925, F.S., including accepting applications for designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence. The joint committee also conducted its required review of the program's performance measures, rating system, and rating standard and approved all components without substantive modification.

### **Since its inception, six institutions have received CCE designation:**

1. H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.
2. University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
3. UF Health Shands Institute
4. Mayo Clinic Florida
5. Memorial Cancer Institute at Florida Atlantic University
6. Cleveland Clinic Maroon Cancer Institute

### **During FY 2024-25, five institutions applied for initial or re-designation:**

1. Mayo Clinic Florida (re-designation)
2. Memorial Cancer Institute at Florida Atlantic University (re-designation)
3. Mount Sinai Medical Center (initial)
4. Orlando Health Cancer Institute (initial)
5. Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute/University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine (initial)

These applications are currently proceeding through the established review process, which is ongoing in accordance with the requirements of section 381.925, Florida Statutes.

### **The following currently designated institutions were not required to apply for re-designation during FY 2024-25:**

1. H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc.
2. University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
3. UF Health Shands Institute
4. Cleveland Clinic Maroon Cancer Institute

## Recommendations to Strengthen the Program

The Florida Legislature's recent expansion of cancer research funding, i.e., the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund (\$60 million in FY 2025-26) and Cancer Connect Collaborative Research Incubator (\$30 million in FY 2025-26), could provide an opportunity to enhance awareness of the CCE designation. Increasing awareness among cancer treatment centers and other facilities regarding the benefits of a CCE designation could benefit the program by:

- Improving the quality of treatment for cancer patients throughout the state
- Improving health outcomes for Floridians with cancer
- Improving the quality and quantity of cancer centers throughout the state
- Attracting and retaining the best cancer care professionals to the state

- Helping Florida organizations be recognized nationally as a preferred destination for quality cancer care
- Increasing the number of applicants for the designation
- Increasing the number of overall designated facilities

To increase awareness in the coming year, the Department will contact new organizations receiving state-funded cancer-related biomedical research grants (i.e., first time awardees of the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund) and provide information regarding the merits of becoming a CCE.