



Cancer Center of Excellence Award

Annual Report

December 15, 2016

Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary of Health

Cancer Center of Excellence Award Program Overview

The designation of a hospital, treatment center, or other organization as a Cancer Center of Excellence 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 Cancer Center of Excellence program (Section 381.925, Florida Statutes) 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. Before each application cycle, the department contacts treatment facilities across the state via email to provide information about the award and the requirements.

By December 15 of each year, the Department reports the following information to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as required by Florida Statute:

- The number of applications received
- The number of award recipients by application cycle
- A list of award recipients
- Recommendations to strengthen the program

The Joint Committee, which is a committee with members from the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Board and the Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council, is required to meet every three years. The Joint Committee met in the Fall of 2016 to develop the following program recommendations:

- A rationale statement was added to the Introduction that emphasizes that one purpose of the Cancer Center of Excellence Program is to support the efforts of Florida organizations in obtaining and sustaining the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Center designation.
- Several sections were modified to improve clarity and update links to resources.
- A substantive change was recommended related to the requirement for research participation. Centers will now be required to (a) have evidence of active involvement in clinical research, (b) evidence of national impact in one of six designated research

areas, and (c) evidence of research in at least one other designated research area. This change was proposed to address concerns of non-academic community centers related to the type and scope of research involvement required.

Application Cycles

2016

The Department conducted two application cycles in 2016, the first cycle from February 1, 2016 to March 25, 2016 and the second cycle from July 1, 2016 to August 26, 2016. There were no applications submitted for either of these cycles. This is the second consecutive year in which no applications were submitted for either award cycle.

2015

The Department conducted two application cycles in 2015, the first cycle from February 9, 2015 to March 27, 2015 and the second cycle from July 1, 2015 to August 21, 2015. There were no applications submitted for either of these cycles, and therefore no award recipients.

2014

The Department conducted two application cycles in 2014, the first cycle from February 3, 2014 to March 21, 2014 and the second cycle from July 1, 2014 to August 22, 2014. This application process identified a number of eligible institutions. Teams of evaluators then performed a series of site visits to finalize a list of award recipients, including:

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
- Mayo Clinic Florida
- University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- University of Florida Health Cancer Center, which includes Shands Hospital and Proton Therapy Institute, and Orlando Health's Orlando Regional Medical Center

Application and Review Process

Organizations seeking designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence submit an application and then undergo a review process approved by the Joint Committee. The application and review process involves the following steps:

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- Organizations submit applications during one of the two application cycles offered each year.
- Staff review applications to confirm information is sufficient for evaluators. These evaluators determine whether the organization meets performance measures.
- Organizations may be asked to submit revised applications with additional information.
- A team of five independent evaluators review written materials. Evaluators are vetted and determined to be free from conflicts of interest.
- If a site visit is recommended during the review process, two evaluators will participate in the site visit.
- Applicants are provided a draft evaluation report, including observations made during the site visit if applicable, and are allowed to respond with corrections and improvement plans, if needed.
- Each member of the evaluation team reviews the draft evaluation report, the organization's response if applicable, and reports to the State Surgeon General those applicants that achieved or exceeded performance measures and met all requirements of the rating system approved by the Joint Committee.
- The State Surgeon General notifies the Governor regarding providers that are eligible to receive designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence.