



Cancer Center of Excellence Award

Annual Report

December 15, 2021

**Ron DeSantis
Governor**

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

**2021 Cancer Center of Excellence Annual Report
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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 Award (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 Florida Department of Health (Department) contacts research and treatment facilities across the state via email to provide information about the award and the requirements.

In 2019, the Joint Committee was convened to revise the performance measures and application for both new applications and re-designation applications. The Joint Committee comprises members from the Biomedical Research Advisory Council and the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council.

By December 15th 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.

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 involve the following steps:

- Organizations submit applications during one of the two application cycles offered each year.
- Staff review applications to confirm information is sufficient for evaluators. Then, evaluators determine whether the organization meets performance measures.
- A team of five independent evaluators review written materials. Evaluators are vetted and determined to be free from conflicts of interest.
- Organizations may be asked to submit revised applications with additional information.
- 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 and respond with corrections and improvement plans.
- 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.

Application Cycles

Fall

At the time of the 2020 Annual Report, a new applicant for Cancer Center of Excellence designation was being considered. The State Surgeon General approved the designation of Memorial Cancer Institute and Florida Atlantic University (MCIFAU) joint application.

MCIFAU partnered to bring together basic, translational, and clinical oncology experience to achieve designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence. The designation was awarded on February 1, 2021, and is the first new Cancer Center of Excellence since 2015. The designation is for three years followed by a re-designation review and determination process.

The Memorial Cancer Institute is the fifth largest cancer center in Florida. Florida Atlantic University is the most diverse public university in Florida and has established four university-wide research institutes. MCIFAU partnerships also include the Scripps Research Florida Institute, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center at Memorial Health Care Institute, and the Gift of Life Marrow Registry. This strong partnership delivers enhanced patient care, development of novel therapeutics, and training of the next generation of physicians and researchers in the most advanced cancer treatment strategies.

2021

The Department conducted an application cycle in the spring of 2021 with no applications submitted. A fall application cycle is available from September 20 through November 19, 2021.

The current Cancer Centers of Excellence are:

- 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
- Memorial Cancer Institute and Florida Atlantic University