

**Florida**  
**HEALTH**

 **Health Care**  
**Innovation**

# Florida Health Care Innovation Annual Report

---

December 1, 2025



Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD  
State Surgeon General

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary	01
Council Members	02
Mission Statement, Purpose, and Goals	03
2025 Council Activities and Achievements	04
Revolving Loan Program	09
Preparing for 2026 Health Care Innovation Activities	10
Conclusion	12



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Health Care Innovation (HCI) Council, established in 2024 under section 381.4015, Florida Statutes, has completed its first full year of operation. Guided by the HCI Strategic Framework, adopted in 2025, the council achieved critical milestones that position Florida to become a national leader in health care innovation.

This annual report submitted pursuant to section 381.4015(4)(g), F.S., provides an update on the status of health care delivery in Florida, documents the council's 2025 accomplishments, and establishes a roadmap for transformative change in 2026.

## Key 2025 Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2024-25, the council:

1. Adopted the HCI Strategic Framework establishing a patient-centered mission and six strategic goals aligned with statutory requirements
2. Developed a comprehensive loan evaluation scoring framework using a 100-point scale to assess applications for the \$50 million annual revolving loan program
3. Adopted emergency rules (Rules 64WER25-3 and 64WER25-4, Florida Administrative Code), pursuant to statutory authorization, to implement the revolving loan program
4. Launched the Innovation Hub website ([Innovation.FloridaHealth.gov](https://Innovation.FloridaHealth.gov)) to serve as a central resource for stakeholders statewide
5. Deployed the loan application portal to support low-interest financing for innovative health care solutions
6. Opened the first application period (October 3 through November 17, 2025) to accept proposals from eligible Florida health care facilities
7. Created a catalog of alternative funding sources to assist Florida health care entities in identifying additional resources
8. Established operational infrastructure including a tiered review process and evaluation criteria for scaling innovation across the state

## Vision for 2026

With foundational elements now in place, the council is positioned to shift from planning to implementation in 2026. The Health Care Innovation Revolving Loan Program will begin funding innovative projects across Florida's health care landscape, while enhanced stakeholder engagement will drive evidence-based best practices and measurable improvements in patient outcomes, access, and cost efficiency.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS

## Ex Officio Nonvoting Members

### Jay Collins

Lieutenant Governor  
State of Florida

### Dr. Joseph A. Ladapo

State Surgeon General  
Florida Department of Health

### Michelle Branham

Secretary  
Department of Elder Affairs

### Shevaun Harris

Secretary  
Agency for Health Care Administration

### Taylor Hatch

Secretary  
Department of Children and Families

### Robert Asztalos

Director  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities

## Voting Members

### Dr. Deborah German

Dean, College of Medicine  
University of Central Florida

### John D. Couris

President and CEO  
Tampa General Hospital

### Richard Caplin

Founder and Chairman  
Caplin Ventures

### Dr. Roberto Diaz

Senior Medical Director  
Moffitt Cancer Center

### Dr. Amit Rastogi

President and CEO  
Jupiter Medical Center

### Dr. Rylan Douthett

Clinical Assistant Professor  
Florida State University

### Thomas Sabatino

Former EVP and General Counsel  
Rite Aid

### Geoffrey Fraser

Founding Partner  
Clear Choice Health Care

# MISSION STATEMENT, PURPOSE, AND GOALS

The Health Care Innovation Council adopted the HCI Strategic Framework in 2025 to guide transformative improvements in Florida's health care system.

## Mission Statement

Informed by Floridians in need through proactive engagement and seamless care coordination, the mission of the Health Care Innovation Council is to transform Florida's health care system through patient-centered service delivery models, innovative technologies, and health care workforce pathways, with the overarching goal to improve care quality, efficiency, and accessibility, putting patients first, while reducing costs for the state.

## Council Purpose

The purpose of the council is to support better patient outcomes, reduce costs, promote health and wellness through seamless care coordination, and establish Florida as a leader in emerging health care technology and system efficiencies. The council will work to address workforce shortages, enhance delivery models, and ensure the cybersecurity and interoperability of health care systems. By fulfilling its mission, the council aims to achieve systematic improvements across the state's health care infrastructure.

## Council Goals

- 1. Improve Patient Outcomes and Expand Access to Care:** Leverage innovative technologies and new care delivery models to improve patient outcomes, promote health and wellness through proactive interventions, seamless care coordination, and enhanced patient engagement, and expand access to care, particularly in underserved communities.
- 2. Reduce Health Care Costs:** Work to reduce health care costs while maintaining or improving the quality of care delivered to patients.
- 3. Enhance Efficiency in Health Care Delivery:** Reduce administrative burdens and streamline processes to improve the overall efficiency of health care services through enhanced interoperability and seamless care coordination.
- 4. Foster Health Care Innovation:** Encourage collaboration among entrepreneurs, health care professionals, and policymakers to drive health care innovation that is scalable across the state to maximize impact.
- 5. Strengthen Florida's Health Care Workforce:** Address workforce shortages and improve workplace efficiency through innovative workforce pathways.
- 6. Promote Cybersecurity and Interoperability:** Foster a secure and interoperable health care environment that facilitates the seamless exchange of information across systems.

# 2025 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The council's inaugural year was marked by significant accomplishments despite substantial operational challenges due to a temporary vacancy in the chair position that somewhat delayed the council's work.

## Strategic Framework Development and Adoption

In June 2025, the council formally adopted the HCI Strategic Framework following extensive deliberation and member input. This framework establishes the foundation for all council activities and aligns with statutory mandates under section 381.4015, F.S.

The framework emphasizes patient-centered care through its distinctive mission statement lead-in: Informed by Floridians in need through proactive engagement and seamless care coordination. This language reflects the council's commitment to putting patients first while addressing systemic challenges including workforce shortages, delivery inefficiencies, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

The strategic framework's six goals directly support the legislative intent to harness the innovation and creativity of entrepreneurs and businesses and, together with the state's health care system and stakeholders, transform health care delivery across Florida.



# 2025 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Loan Evaluation Scoring Framework

Criteria	Points	Key Considerations
Strategic Impact	30	Evaluates alignment with council priorities, including patient outcomes, access to care in underserved areas, care coordination, and scalability potential. This criterion prioritizes projects that address Florida's most pressing health care challenges.
Return on Investment	25	Assesses measurable objectives such as reducing disease burden, lowering health care costs, or improving operational efficiency. Projects must demonstrate clear metrics for success and sustainable financial models.
Strength of Implementation	20	Examines the applicant's capacity to execute the proposed project, including organizational experience, timeline feasibility, and resource availability. This criterion ensures funded projects have realistic implementation plans.
Patient Outcomes and Population Benefits	15	Measures anticipated improvements in patient health, quality of life, and wellness. Emphasis is placed on preventive interventions including nutrition, mental health, and chronic disease management.
Geographic Priority	5	Awards additional points to applicants located in rural or medically underserved areas as designated by the Florida Department of Health, consistent with statutory priority requirements.
Nonprofit - Medicaid patients	5	Provides preference for nonprofit entities that accept Medicaid patients, ensuring the program serves Florida's most vulnerable populations.

# 2025 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A major achievement of the June 2025 council meeting was the development and approval of a comprehensive loan evaluation scoring framework. This 100-point assessment framework ensures objective, merit-based evaluation of applications for the revolving loan program and includes:

## Tiered Loan Review Process

To enhance operational efficiency while maintaining rigorous oversight, the council established a tiered review process:

### **Loans Under \$500,000**

Reviewed and approved by a council subcommittee of at least five members representing diverse focus areas. This streamlined approach enables faster decisions for smaller-scale innovations.

### **Loans Between \$500,000 and \$2 Million**

Recommended by the subcommittee with final approval by the full council, balancing efficiency with comprehensive review for mid-range investments.

### **Loans Over \$2 Million**

Require full council review and approval, ensuring maximum scrutiny for the program's largest investments. The subcommittee may request applicant presentations to clarify project details and address questions.

This tiered review structure allows the council to efficiently process loans of varying sizes while maintaining appropriate oversight based on investment scale and risk.

## Florida Department of Health Digital Infrastructure Development

The Florida Department of Health, in fulfillment of its statutory support role under section 381.4015(6), F.S., achieved the following key milestones:

- Emergency rule adoption
- Innovation hub website
- Loan application portal
- Alternative funding sources catalogue development



# Florida Department of Health Digital Infrastructure Development

## Emergency Rules Adoption

The Department adopted emergency rules pursuant to section 120.54(4), F.S., and as authorized by section 2, Chapter 2024-16, Laws of Florida, to implement the revolving loan program. Emergency Rules 64WER25-3 and 64WER25-4, F.A.C., were published in the Florida Administrative Register on October 3, 2025, establishing:

- Application procedures and requirements
- Loan evaluation criteria and processes
- Eligibility determinations and priority categories
- Award amounts and loan terms
- Repayment schedules and fund management
- Performance monitoring and reporting requirements

These emergency rules provide the regulatory framework necessary for program operations while permanent rules undergo the full rulemaking process.

## Innovation Hub Website Launch

The Department launched the council's dedicated website at [www.innovation.floridahealth.gov](http://www.innovation.floridahealth.gov). The website serves as a central resource for stakeholders – providing information about the council's mission, upcoming meetings, funding opportunities, and best practices – and enhances transparency and public access to council activities.

## Loan Application Portal Deployment

The Department developed and launched a comprehensive loan application portal at [Florida Health Care Innovation Loan Application](#), enabling eligible Florida health care facilities to submit proposals for innovative projects. The portal streamlines the application process and ensures consistent data collection for evaluation purposes.

## Additional Investment Resources

Research was conducted and a comprehensive database was developed and includes additional federal, state, and private funding opportunities available for health care innovation implementation funding. This database lives on the innovation hub website and will be periodically updated to include new funding opportunities. This resource helps Florida health care entities identify complementary funding sources beyond the revolving loan program, maximizing the state's ability to drive innovation through multiple channels.

# 2025 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Council Meetings and Public Engagement

The council, despite leadership transitions, maintained its commitment to public engagement and transparency as it carried out the following activities:

- Convened a virtual organizational meeting in September 2024 as required by statute.
- Held an in-person inaugural meeting on November 19, 2025, at Florida State University, College of Global Entrepreneurship where the council identified the four key priority areas for innovation.
- Held a hybrid meeting on June 26, 2025, with strong member participation and over 40 public attendees and stakeholders, demonstrating significant interest from Florida's health care innovation community.
- Maintained compliance with Florida's Sunshine Law and public records requirements throughout all proceedings.

The council's commitment to geographic diversity in meeting locations will increase public access and engagement in 2026.

## Operational Preparations

Additional groundwork completed in 2025 includes:

- Contract negotiations and procurement of a third-party administrator for loan servicing
- Development of application review protocols and timelines
- Establishment of conflict-of-interest procedures and financial disclosure requirements for council members
- Coordination between the council and Department of Health staff to ensure seamless program operation

## Stakeholder Implementation of Best Practices

Section 381.4015(4)(g), F.S., requires the annual report to include information on implementation of best practices by health care industry stakeholders in this state.

In 2025, the council's activities focused primarily on establishing the Health Care Innovation Revolving Loan Program operational framework, evaluation criteria, and digital infrastructure required to effectively support and monitor innovation across Florida's health care sector.

However, with these foundational elements now in place, the council is well-positioned to document stakeholder best practice activities beginning in 2026.

# REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

The Health Care Innovation Revolving Loan Program, administered by the Florida Department of Health under section 381.4015(7), F.S., represents the council's primary mechanism for funding innovative health care solutions across the state. The program made substantial operational progress in 2025, establishing the infrastructure necessary for launch.

## First Application Period Launched

The revolving loan program achieved a significant milestone with the launch of its first application period from October 3 through November 17, 2025. This 45-day application window represents the program's transition from planning to active operations.

The application period was widely publicized to eligible stakeholders including:

- Health care facilities licensed by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
- Educational and clinical training providers in partnership with eligible facilities
- Rural hospitals and nonprofit entities serving Medicaid patients
- Professional associations and industry groups

Applications submitted during this period are currently under review by the council using the approved 100-point scoring framework and tiered review process. The council anticipates announcing the first loan awards in early 2026, with projects beginning implementation shortly thereafter.



# PREPARING FOR 2026 HEALTH CARE INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

The council's 2025 groundwork positions it to significantly expand innovation exploration and development activities in 2026.

## Public Forum Planning

Consistent with section 381.4015(4)(b), F.S., the council will facilitate public meetings across Florida where innovators, developers, and implementers can present information and lead discussions on concepts addressing health care system challenges. These forums will:

- Ensure geographic diversity by rotating meeting locations across regions
- Provide opportunities for in-person demonstrations of innovative solutions
- Encourage participation from emerging and early-stage innovators through coordination with Small Business Development Center Network, Florida Opportunity Fund, and other business incubators
- Bring together technical experts in system integration, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity to discuss implementation strategies

## Best Practice Development

In 2026, the council will begin fulfilling its statutory duty under section 381.4015(4)(d), F.S., to develop best practice recommendations through:

- Consultation with health care experts, providers, technology experts, and the public
- Analysis of innovations and service delivery models presented at public forums
- Review of loan recipient implementation experiences and outcomes
- Synthesis of evidence-based guidelines distinguished by practice setting

These best practices will address council priority areas and provide actionable guidance on exploring and implementing innovations, selecting technologies, and scaling successful solutions statewide.

# PREPARING FOR 2026 HEALTH CARE INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

## Tracking and Reporting

Once the Revolving Loan Program begins funding projects, the council will implement comprehensive tracking mechanisms to monitor:

- Implementation progress by loan recipients
- Adoption of best practices developed and recommended by the council
- Measurable outcomes including patient health improvements, cost reductions, and access expansion
- Scalability and replication of successful innovations across Florida

## Statewide Innovation Landscape

The council will expand its monitoring beyond loan recipients to document broader trends in health care innovation adoption across Florida, including but not limited to:

- Telehealth expansion and utilization patterns
- Workforce development initiatives and educational partnerships
- Technology integration projects addressing interoperability and cybersecurity
- Alternative care delivery models reducing emergency room utilization

The council's website will serve as a repository for success stories, case studies, and implementation data, ensuring transparency and facilitating knowledge sharing across Florida's health care community.

## Innovation Recognition

The council will establish an annual recognition program under section 381.4015(4)(c), F.S., to distinguish the most impactful innovations helping Floridians live brighter and healthier lives. Recognition criteria will emphasize:

- Positive impact demonstrated in Florida.
- Potential to scale impact through growth or replication.
- Cutting-edge advancements accelerating health care transformation.

The council may develop a distinctive logo for award recipients to advertise their achievements, enhancing visibility for Florida's health care innovators.

# CONCLUSION

The council's inaugural year established the operational foundation necessary to transform Florida's health care system through innovation, technology, and collaboration. The council achieved remarkable momentum in the second half of the year, culminating in the successful launch of the first Health Care Innovation Revolving Loan Program application period from October through November 2025.

Critical accomplishments include adopting a comprehensive strategic framework, developing objective loan evaluation criteria, implementing emergency rules, launching digital infrastructure, and opening applications to eligible Florida health care facilities.

These achievements position Florida to harness the innovation and creativity of entrepreneurs, businesses, and health care stakeholders in addressing systemic challenges including workforce shortages, delivery inefficiencies, and access barriers.

