



Health Care Innovation Council Meeting

March 12, 2025

Virtual

**Health
Care**
Innovation
Council

Florida
HEALTH

Call to Order & Welcome

Jay Collins

Lieutenant Governor of Florida
Council Chair

Today's Agenda

- Roll Call and Approval of Minutes
- Agenda Items
 - Application Submission Overview: FY25-26 Cycle 1
 - Brief Application Recap and Review
 - Council Discussion and Recommendations for Funding
- Public Comment
- Closing Remarks

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

Jeffrey Johnson

Acting Division Director, Public Health Statistics and Performance Management
Florida Department of Health

Roll Call

Membership of the Health Care Innovation Councils includes six state officials, and six members of the public appointed by the Governor, and one member each from the Florida Senate, Florida House of Representatives.



When your name is called, please confirm your attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Health Care Innovation Council Meeting

Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chair to Request Motion:

“Motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026, Council meeting as presented.”

Actions Needed:

Council Member to move for approval
of February 5, 2026, minutes

Second by another member

Vote by the Council

Application Submission Overview:

FY 2025-2026 Cycle 1

Jeffrey Johnson

Acting Division Director, Public Health Statistics and Performance
Management

Florida Department of Health

FY 2025-2026 Cycle 1 Applications (November 2025)- Breakdown

Entity Name	Description	Total # of Applications	Total Loan Amount Requested
Eligible and Complete Applications with Sufficient Cash Flow	Applications that meet the eligibility requirements and provided all supporting documentation and information required and upon preliminary financial assessment completed by the Third-Party Administrator have been determined to have cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.	7	\$13,388,500
Eligible and Complete Applications with Insufficient Cash Flow	Applications that meet the eligibility requirements and provided all supporting documentation and information required and upon preliminary financial assessment completed by the Third-Party Administrator have been determined to NOT have cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.	1	\$1,500,000
Ineligible Applications	Applications that did not meet the eligibility requirements for the loan program.	4	\$1,203,745
Disqualified Applications	Applications that meet the eligibility requirements where the applicant failed to provide the required supporting documentation and/or provide response to errors and omissions related to their applications.	4	\$1,319,500
Overall Total		16	\$17,411,745

FY 2025-2026 Cycle 1 Applications (November 2025)- Score Summary

Eligible and Complete Applications: the following applications meet the eligibility requirements and provide all Supporting Documentation and information required:

#	Entity Name	Project Title/Overview	Loan Requested	Review Score
1	Jackson Hospital	Surgical Robotics Program Expansion – da Vinci 5 Acquisition: This includes the acquisition of a da Vinci 5 robotic system to bring minimally invasive surgery to a rural hospital for the first time, improving patient outcomes, reducing complications, and expanding local access to advanced surgical care without added costs.	\$2,538,500	91
2	Calhoun Liberty Hospital	Restoring Full Inpatient Capacity and Health Innovation Project: This project includes a \$7.75M smart-care expansion that restores inpatient capacity lost after Hurricane Michael by adding 16 technology-enabled beds and modern infrastructure to improve rural access, reduce transfers, support telehealth, and strengthen long-term sustainability for patients across four Florida counties.	\$5,000,000	89
3	Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC) (Handwritten Application)	This project aims to purchase an old CVS pharmacy to pass on 340b drug savings to patients and employees and be able to provide other telehealth services.	\$4,000,000	88
4	Special Friends Inc.	Skilled Nursing and Private Duty Nursing Expansion Project: This project will broaden home health services across 15 counties by adding skilled and private duty nursing, implementing EMR-enabled care coordination, and launching workforce training partnerships to improve access, reduce hospitalizations, and strengthen staffing in underserved areas.	\$150,000	84

*Questions were presented by the Council to the applicants in blue

FY 2025-2026 Cycle 1 Applications (November 2025)- Score Summary

Eligible and Complete Applications: the following applications meet the eligibility requirements and provide all Supporting Documentation and information required:

#	Entity Name	Project Title/Overview	Loan Requested	Review Score
5	Open Arms & Heart Services	<p>Integrated Pediatric and Disability Care Hub: The scope of this project will combine PPEC, skilled home health, and medical transportation services into a single technology-enabled model to improve care continuity, reduce hospitalizations, and expand access for medically fragile children and individuals with disabilities in underserved communities.</p>	\$900,000	84
6	Blackstone Medical Services LLC	<p>Mobile App for Expanded Access to Home Sleep Testing: This project will deploy an AI-driven app integrating telehealth, automated workflows, and low-cost sensors to streamline diagnosis, improve completion rates, and reduce healthcare costs for sleep apnea across Florida.</p>	\$600,000	83
7	Old Cutler Retirement Home	<p>Behavioral Assisted Living Expansion and Innovation Initiative: This project focuses on expanding behavioral assisted living capacity by integrating housing, psychiatric care, tele-mental health, mobile outreach, and specialized workforce training into a single preventive care model designed to stabilize high-need individuals, reduce hospital and justice-system cycling, and create a scalable, technology-enabled solution for Florida's underserved psychiatric population.</p>	\$200,000	81
Total Loan Amounts Requested:			\$13,388,500	

*Questions were presented by the Council to the applicants in blue

Application Recap and Review:

FY 2025-2026 Cycle 1

Jeffrey Johnson

Acting Division Director, Public Health Statistics and Performance
Management

Florida Department of Health

1. Jackson Hospital- Summary

Loan Amount: \$2,538,500

Surgical Robotics Program Expansion – da Vinci 5 Acquisition

This includes the acquisition of a da Vinci 5 robotic system to bring minimally invasive surgery to a rural hospital for the first time, improving patient outcomes, reducing complications, and expanding local access to advanced surgical care without added costs.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: **Sufficient** cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 91

Additional Questions: Yes

1. Jackson Hospital- Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions	Summary of Applicant Answer
<p>1. How does Jackson Hospital plan to fund the ongoing, recurring operational costs associated with the Da Vinci Robot after implementation? Please provide a detailed explanation of the specific funding sources and financial strategy.</p>	<p>Jackson Hospital included the additional costs associated with obtaining the DaVinci as part of the FY 2026 budget process.</p>
<p>2. Your application states that the project will generate cost savings by eliminating “high-interest payments.” Can you clarify what this refers to? What high-interest payments are being eliminated, and how does this contribute to the project’s financial viability?</p>	<p>If the hospital was unable to purchase the Da Vinci upfront, the only option provided by Intuitive was a FMV lease which included interest during the term along with a buyout of \$396,006 at the end of the lease which far exceeds the low interest rate offered under this program.</p>
<p>3. What is the current annual volume of surgeries performed at Jackson Hospital? Of those procedures, how many are expected to utilize the Da Vinci Robot once it is implemented? Additionally, how many new or incremental surgeries are projected as a result of acquiring the robot?</p>	<p>In FY 2025, the hospital performed just over 3,100 surgeries and plans for a slight increase in FY 2026, with about a quarter expected to use the DaVinci surgical system. The addition of a third general surgeon, who is trained on the DaVinci and has introduced several new robotic procedures, is expected to support program growth. The DaVinci system is also anticipated to strengthen recruitment efforts in specialties such as urology and OB/GYN.</p>

2. Calhoun Liberty Hospital- Summary

Loan Amount: \$5,000,000

Restoring Full Inpatient Capacity and Health Innovation Project:

This project includes a \$7.75M smart-care expansion that restores inpatient capacity lost after Hurricane Michael by adding 16 technology-enabled beds and modern infrastructure to improve rural access, reduce transfers, support telehealth, and strengthen long-term sustainability for patients across four Florida counties.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: Sufficient cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 89

Additional Questions: No

3. Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC)- Summary

Loan Amount: \$4,000,000 (Updated to Meet Matching Requirements)

This project aims to purchase an old CVS pharmacy to pass on 340b drug savings to patients and employees and be able to provide other telehealth services.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: **Sufficient** cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 88

Additional Questions: Yes

3. Hendry Regional Medical Center-Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions	Summary of Applicant Answer
<p>1. How will you track and ensure transparency regarding the 340B requirements? Please be specific.</p>	<p>The organization follows strict HRSA requirements for auditing and reporting related to the 340B program and has successfully passed an external HRSA audit. Ongoing compliance is supported through monthly self-audits, use of a third-party administrator for drug oversight, and guidance from specialized legal counsel. These practices help ensure consistent adherence to 340B regulations.</p>
<p>2. What specific processes or reporting will verify that 340B savings reaches consumers? Please be specific.</p>	<p>Within OP pharmacy, we maintain IS systems that enable reporting that includes a patient's out of pocket for each 340B drug obtained. This reporting reflects the savings that reaches our patients.</p>
<p>3. Is the repayment of the loan dependent on 340B payments?</p>	<p>340B is only a small portion of the overall service lines that would go into the new real estate space. We will also incorporate all of our Specialty Services in the building which will include all of therapy services, Orthopedics, Cardiology, General Surgery, and Teleservice.</p>
<p>4. What safeguards or alternatives are in place if the 340B payments are reduced or delayed?</p>	<p>If 340B was reduced or delayed, we would have the Teleservices, specialty services and therapy services as safeguards in place to ensure the venture remains profitable. We would not be solely reliant on 340B.</p>

4. Special Friends Inc.- Summary

Loan Amount: \$150,000

Skilled Nursing and Private Duty Nursing Project:

This project will broaden home health services across 15 counties by adding skilled and private duty nursing, implementing EMR-enabled care coordination, and launching workforce training partnerships to improve access, reduce hospitalizations, and strengthen staffing in underserved areas.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: **Sufficient** cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 84

Additional Questions: No

5. Open Arms & Heart Services- Summary

Loan Amount: \$900,000

Integrated Pediatric and Disability Care Hub:

The scope of this project will combine PPEC, skilled home health, and medical transportation services into a single technology-enabled model to improve care continuity, reduce hospitalizations, and expand access for medically fragile children and individuals with disabilities in underserved communities.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: **Sufficient** cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 84

Additional Questions: No

6. Blackstone Medical Services LLC- Summary

Loan Amount: \$600,000

Mobile App for Expanded Access to Home Sleep Testing:

This project will deploy an AI-driven app integrating telehealth, automated workflows, and low-cost sensors to streamline diagnosis, improve completion rates, and reduce healthcare costs for sleep apnea across Florida.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: **Sufficient** cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 83

Additional Questions: Yes

6. Blackstone Medical Services LLC- Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions	Summary of Applicant Answer
<p>1. Given that mobile home sleep testing is already well-established, what unique value or innovation does your proposal bring compared to existing solutions?</p>	<p>The company has developed an advanced home sleep testing model that combines a medical-grade Bluetooth diagnostic device with a proprietary mobile app, achieving over 98% successful study completion. Its fully integrated ecosystem includes digital physician ordering, real-time monitoring, patient support, logistics, billing integration, and a secure HIPAA-compliant cloud platform. This comprehensive approach differentiates the company from competitors that typically offer only hardware or limited diagnostic support.</p>
<p>2. Is the goal of this proposal to offer low-cost care, or is it meant for anyone? Are there plans to specifically support rural or underserved communities?</p>	<p>The organization currently serves over 200 rural counties in the Southeast, aiming to expand access to sleep diagnostics, particularly in underserved areas with limited access to sleep labs. By shipping devices directly to patients' homes and offering virtual support, the model removes barriers such as travel, overnight stays, long wait times, and time away from work. Insurance and self-pay options further improve accessibility, making high-quality sleep testing more attainable for rural populations.</p>

6. Blackstone Medical Services LLC- Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions	Summary of Applicant Answer
<p>3. What measurable impact will this project have on rural, underserved patients, and how will you ensure these benefits are realized?</p>	<p>The organization demonstrates strong impact through high study-completion rates, faster diagnostics, broad rural reach, and high patient satisfaction, supported by proactive outreach, real-time assistance, physician education, and continuous quality monitoring. Operating across eight Southeastern states and hundreds of rural counties with limited traditional sleep-lab access, it delivers fully remote, technology-enabled diagnostics that overcome geographic barriers. This integrated model enables scalable, reliable sleep testing without the need for physical facilities, improving access for millions of rural residents.</p>
<p>4. Please explain how your approach delivers measurable improvements or differentiates itself from current market offerings. Please be specific.</p>	<p>The organization’s strength comes from its integrated model, combining high study-completion rates, extensive patient support, centralized logistics, streamlined insurance processes, and fully remote physician integration. Built on a secure, HIPAA-compliant cloud infrastructure with robust encryption and strict access controls, the platform ensures end-to-end protection of patient data. This comprehensive framework enables efficient, reliable operations while maintaining the highest standards of security and regulatory compliance.</p>

6. Blackstone Medical Services LLC- Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions

5. Given that this technology is already widely available, what makes your solution scalable in a way that delivers distinct advantages over existing implementations.

Summary of Applicant Answer

The organization's ability to scale comes from its established logistics network, large patient-support workforce, HIPAA-compliant digital infrastructure, and standardized onboarding and quality-assurance systems. Because the entire process—from physician order to patient testing to results—is fully remote, growth depends mainly on expanding device inventory and support staff rather than physical facilities. This model enables rapid, secure expansion into rural and underserved communities while maintaining strong clinical quality and data protection.

7. Old Cutler Retirement Home- Summary

Loan Amount: \$200,000

Behavioral Assisted Living Expansion and Innovation Initiative:

This project focuses on expanding behavioral assisted living capacity by integrating housing, psychiatric care, tele-mental health, mobile outreach, and specialized workforce training into a single preventive care model designed to stabilize high-need individuals, reduce hospital and justice-system cycling, and create a scalable, technology-enabled solution for Florida's underserved psychiatric population.

Preliminary Risk Assessment: **Sufficient** cash flow to support both existing and proposed financial obligations.

Overall Score: 81

Additional Questions: Yes

7. Old Cutler Retirement Home- Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions	Summary of Applicant Answer
1. Could you clarify the project timeline, as the start date listed in your application has already passed?	The project remains on track to open the psychiatric assisted living facility by January 1, 2027, despite some shifts in individual task timelines. Work continues on items that do not require immediate funding to maintain steady progress and stay aligned with the overall schedule. Although the original start date has passed, the project is still moving forward with the same completion goal and updated timeline details provided.
2. Is the patient population described in your proposal drawn from the current population you already serve?	The requestor has long-standing experience supporting individuals with severe and persistent mental illness but is proposing a new psychiatric assisted living facility to serve a population not currently reached. The project aims to address the shortage of appropriate, stable housing for adults with SPMI by creating added capacity rather than shifting existing residents. This expansion will provide specialized housing and supportive services to new individuals in the community who need structured, long-term care.

7. Old Cutler Retirement Home- Questions and Answers

Follow-up Questions

Applicant Answer

3. If you are proposing to serve a new patient population, how many additional patients or beds do you expect to reach? Please provide specific estimates.

The proposal aims to serve a new patient population by establishing a psychiatric assisted living facility with 6–12 beds, along with specialized adult day services and supportive tele-psychiatry for standard assisted living facilities. These services are designed to expand access to behavioral-health support across the community. The outreach and consulting components further extend the facility’s impact in a cost-effective, efficient way.

Council Discussion and Recommendations for Loan Funding

Jeffrey Johnson

Acting Division Director, Public Health Statistics and Performance
Management

Florida Department of Health

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3	Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC) (Handwritten Application)	This project aims to purchase an old CVS pharmacy to pass on 340b drug savings to patients and employees and be able to provide other telehealth services.	\$4,000,000	88
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7	Old Cutler Retirement Home	<p>Behavioral Assisted Living Expansion and Innovation Initiative: This project focuses on expanding behavioral assisted living capacity by integrating housing, psychiatric care, tele-mental health, mobile outreach, and specialized workforce training into a single preventive care model designed to stabilize high-need individuals, reduce hospital and justice-system cycling, and create a scalable, technology-enabled solution for Florida's underserved psychiatric population.</p>	\$200,000	81
Total Loan Amounts Requested:			\$13,388,500	

Public Comments

We kindly request that you keep your questions to one minute or less to allow time for everyone.

Thank you!

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Jay Collins

Lieutenant Governor of Florida
Council Chair

Thank you!

Appendix:

Additional Supporting Documents

Statutory Description of Innovation

Legislative Intent (section 381.4015(2), F.S.) describes innovation as including:

- “innovative technologies, workforce pathways, service delivery models, or other solutions that improve the quality of care in measurable and sustainable ways,”
- that “can be replicated,”
- and that “lower costs and allow that value to be passed on to health care consumers.”

1. Jackson Hospital- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- introduces robotic surgery to a rural hospital for the first time, addressing geographic and access barriers; offers a replicable model for other rural hospitals through state-supported loan programs; incorporates da Vinci 5 robotic system with full staff training and workflow integration; includes training for surgeons and operating room staff in robotic procedures.	26
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- reduces hospitalizations and complications through minimally invasive surgery; eliminates high-interest lease payments; improves operational efficiency and patient throughput; no cost passed to patients; care quality increases without added financial burden.	24
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality in rural areas. Replicability- offers a scalable model for rural surgical robotics programs.	18
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- reduced complications, shorter recovery times, and fewer readmissions; improved recruitment of surgical staff and service lines; enhanced local access to advanced surgical care.	13
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- Yes	5
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	Non-Profit Medicaid- Yes	5
Overall Score		91

1. Jackson Hospital- Justification

Originality: While robotic surgery is not new statewide, its introduction in a designated Rural Area of Opportunity is a significant advancement in access and equity.

Technology Integration: The da Vinci 5 system represents state-of-the-art surgical technology, paired with comprehensive staff training and workflow redesign.

Scalability: The project demonstrates how rural hospitals can adopt advanced technology through strategic financing, offering a model for replication.

Impact: Improves patient outcomes, reduces travel burdens, and strengthens the local healthcare workforce and economy.

Conclusion: This project meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015 by bringing advanced surgical technology to a rural hospital, improving access, outcomes, and sustainability.

2. Calhoun Liberty Hospital- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- treats inpatient expansion as a platform for smart rural care; standardized vendor neutral smart room design adaptable statewide; infrastructure supports telehealth, smart beds, and team based-care.	28
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- reduces emergency transport and referral costs; keeps care local reducing travel and out-of-pocket expenses; enables chronic disease management; avoids costly complications.	22
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality Replicability- offers a scalable model for rural hospital modernization.	18
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- 1,500 additional admissions/year; 25% reduction in patient transfers; 20+ new clinical/support jobs.	11
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- Yes	5
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	Non-Profit Medicaid- Yes	5
Overall Score (Max Points 100)		89

2. Calhoun Liberty Hospital- Justification

Originality: The project restores inpatient capacity lost to Hurricane Michael but does so with a forward-looking design that integrates smart-room-ready infrastructure. It treats physical expansion as a platform for a new model of rural care, not just added space.

Technology Integration: The infrastructure supports telehealth, remote monitoring, and in-room displays, enabling virtual specialty care in a rural setting.

Scalability: The design is standardized and vendor-neutral, allowing replication across other rural hospitals in Florida.

Impact: The project addresses access gaps in a four-county rural region, reduces transfers, and improves continuity of care.

Workforce Development: It creates over 20 new clinical and support jobs and supports team-based staffing models.

Conclusion: This project introduces a replicable, technology-enabled model for rural hospital modernization and meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015.

3. Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC)- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- Combines pharmacy, behavioral health, and telehealth in a single rural access point; retail-to-clinic conversion model adaptable statewide; telehealth infrastructure integrated with pharmacy and behavioral health; none specifically, would pass savings also onto employees.	26
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- pass-through of 340B savings to consumers; reduced travel and referral costs; improved chronic disease management and reduced complications.	24
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality. Replicability- offers a potential scalable model for rural hospital modernization.	17
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- lower drug costs for patients and employees; expanded behavioral health access locally; telehealth reduces travel and improves specialty access.	11
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- Yes	5
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	Non-Profit Medicaid- Yes	5
Overall Score		88

3. Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC)- Justification

Originality: It introduces a combined model of outpatient pharmacy (leveraging 340B savings), behavioral health, and telehealth specialty services in a rural HPSA setting, a unique integration for underserved areas.

Technology Integration: Telehealth is central to the design, enabling specialty care access that currently doesn't exist locally.

Scalability: Retail-to-clinic conversion and telehealth workflows are replicable across rural Florida.

Impact: The proposal demonstrates strong conceptual alignment with statutory innovation goals (telehealth, behavioral health, 340B pharmacy integration), but lacks fully documented measurable outcomes, detailed pro forma financials, and a complete implementation plan.

Conclusion: This project introduces a replicable, technology-enabled model for rural hospital modernization and meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015.

4. Special Friends Inc.- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- combines skilled nursing expansion, EMR-enabled care coordination, and workforce development into a unified home health model; designed for statewide replication using standardized training, EMR workflows, and nursing school partnerships; uses MatrixCare/KanTime for real-time documentation, scheduling, and care coordination; upskills HHAs/CNAs and trains new RNs, LPNs, and PDNs structured programs.	27
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- prevents costly hospitalizations and facility-based care; reduces errors and duplication through EMR coordination; lowers recruitment and turnover costs via local workforce development; enables more affordable services for patients and families.	23
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality. Replicability- offers a scalable, integrated model for home-based skilled nursing.	18
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- reduces hospitalizations and ER visits; improves access to in-home care in 15 counties; strengthens workforce capacity and retention.	11
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- Yes	5
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	For-Profit Medicaid- Yes	0
Overall Score		84

4. Special Friends Inc.- Justification

Originality: The project integrates skilled nursing, private duty nursing, EMR technology, and workforce training into a single, scalable care model tailored for underserved communities.

Technology Integration: Real-time EMR documentation and care coordination improve efficiency, reduce errors, and support proactive care.

Scalability: The model is designed for replication across Florida using standardized protocols and nursing school partnerships.

Impact: Expands access to high-quality in-home care, reduces hospitalizations, and builds a sustainable healthcare workforce.

Conclusion: This project meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015 by offering a replicable, technology-supported model that improves care access, quality, and cost-effectiveness in rural and underserved areas.

5. Open Arms & Heart Services- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- combines three distinct services—PPEC, Skilled Home Health, and NEMT—into one integrated, technology-supported care system; designed for replication across Florida using Medicaid reimbursement structures and standardized training protocols; uses electronic health records, telehealth platforms, and transportation routing software for real-time coordination; includes cross-training CNAs and HHAs to LPNs and RNs to address nursing shortages.	27
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- prevents hospitalizations and institutional care; reduces administrative overhead and staff turnover; enables early intervention and lowers costs for families and payers.	22
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality. Replicability- offers a scalable, integrated model for pediatric and disability care.	19
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- estimated 30 percent reduction in emergency visits and hospital readmissions; up to 30 children served in Year 1, 60+ by Year 3; creation of 15–20 healthcare jobs.	11
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- Yes	5
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	For-Profit Medicaid- Yes	0
Overall Score		84

5. Open Arms & Heart Services- Justification

Originality: The project introduces a first-of-its-kind integrated care model in Central Florida that combines clinical, support, and transportation services under one coordinated system.

Technology Integration: Uses telehealth, electronic health records, and transportation routing software to streamline care delivery and improve outcomes.

Scalability: The model is designed for statewide replication using existing Medicaid frameworks and standardized training modules.

Impact: Addresses access gaps for medically fragile children and individuals with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, while reducing system strain and improving workforce capacity.

Conclusion: This project meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015 by offering a replicable, technology-enabled care model that improves access, reduces costs, and strengthens Florida's healthcare infrastructure.

6. Blackstone Medical Services LLC- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- introduces a fully automated, AI-supported mobile platform for home sleep testing, replacing traditional in-lab diagnostics; designed for statewide replication using centralized infrastructure, cloud-based workflows, and smartphone compatibility; includes AI chat support, automated education, telehealth integration, and backend systems for billing, tracking, and scoring; reduces administrative burden and enables clinicians to manage larger caseloads without increasing staff.	29
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- Replaces \$1,000+ in-lab studies with low-cost home testing; reduces excess annual spending of \$19,566 per untreated sleep apnea patient; lowers operational costs through automation and centralized scoring; enables affordable services for uninsured and underinsured populations.	24
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality. Replicability- offers a scalable, AI-driven model for statewide sleep health access.	17
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- 99 percent test completion rate; 30 percent reduction in administrative workload; 15 percent reduction in onboarding-to-completion time; expanded access for rural and underserved populations.	13
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- No	0
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	For-Profit Medicaid- No	0
Overall Score		83

6. Blackstone Medical Services LLC- Justification

Originality: The project transforms sleep diagnostics by replacing traditional in-lab testing with a fully automated, mobile-based model that integrates AI, telehealth, and remote monitoring.

Technology Integration: Uses AI chat support, automated workflows, and smartphone-enabled testing to reduce costs and improve access.

Scalability: Centralized infrastructure and turnkey deployment allow rapid replication across Florida without added staffing or facilities.

Impact: Expands access to underserved populations, improves early diagnosis, and reduces healthcare costs associated with untreated sleep apnea.

Conclusion: This project meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015 by offering a replicable, technology-enabled model that modernizes sleep diagnostics and expands access statewide.

7. Old Cutler Retirement Home- Scoring

Criteria	Application Review Package	Score
(a) Strategic Impact (Max Points 30)	Innovation Scope- integrates housing, mental health care, and daily living support in one setting, offering a preventive and continuous care model for psychiatric populations; designed for replication across Florida using flexible infrastructure and diverse funding sources; includes telepsychiatry, remote monitoring, and digital health tools for early intervention and continuity of care.	28
(b) Return on Investment (Max Points 25)	Cost Savings- prevents psychiatric crises and institutional cycling; reduces emergency room visits, inpatient stays, and law enforcement involvement; enables managed care plans to lower per-member costs and expand coverage.	24
(c) Strength of Implementation (Max Points 20)	Innovation Impact- strong alignment with improving access, reducing costs, and enhancing care quality. Replicability- offers a scalable, integrated model for behavioral health housing and care.	18
(d) Patient Outcomes & Population Benefits (Max Points 15)	Expected Benefits- reduces hospitalizations and emergency visits; improves housing stability for individuals with serious mental illness; strengthens behavioral health workforce.	11
(e) Geographic Priority (Max Points 5)	MUA- No	0
(f) Nonprofit – Medicaid Recipients (Max Points 5)	For-Profit Medicaid- Yes	0
Overall Score		81

7. Old Cutler Retirement Home- Justification

Originality: The project introduces a psychiatric assisted living model that integrates housing, mental health care, and daily living support in one coordinated setting. This fills a gap between hospitalization and independent living, offering a preventive, continuous care model.

Technology Integration: Includes telepsychiatry, remote monitoring, and digital health tools to support early intervention and continuity of care.

Workforce Development: Proposes specialized training in trauma-informed care, de-escalation, suicide prevention, and psychiatric medication management for assisted living staff.

Scalability: The model is designed to be replicated across regions using flexible infrastructure and diverse funding sources such as Medicaid waivers, housing subsidies, and behavioral health budgets.

Impact: Addresses institutional cycling and homelessness among individuals with serious mental illness, reducing emergency visits, hospitalizations, and system strain.

Conclusion: This project meets the innovation threshold defined in section 381.4015 by introducing a scalable, integrated model of psychiatric assisted living that blends technology, workforce development, and coordinated care to address persistent gaps in Florida's behavioral health system.