



**FLORIDA
CANCER
CONNECT**

Fall 2026 Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council General Membership Meeting

Cancer Connect Collaborative Update

September 24, 2026



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Grant Overview

The Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program was established to:

- Enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer care in this state
- Further a statewide biomedical research strategy directly responsive to the health needs of Florida's citizens
- Capitalize on the potential educational opportunities available to students
- Promote the provision of high-quality, innovative health care for persons undergoing cancer treatment in this state



Florida Cancer Plan Goals

Goal 3

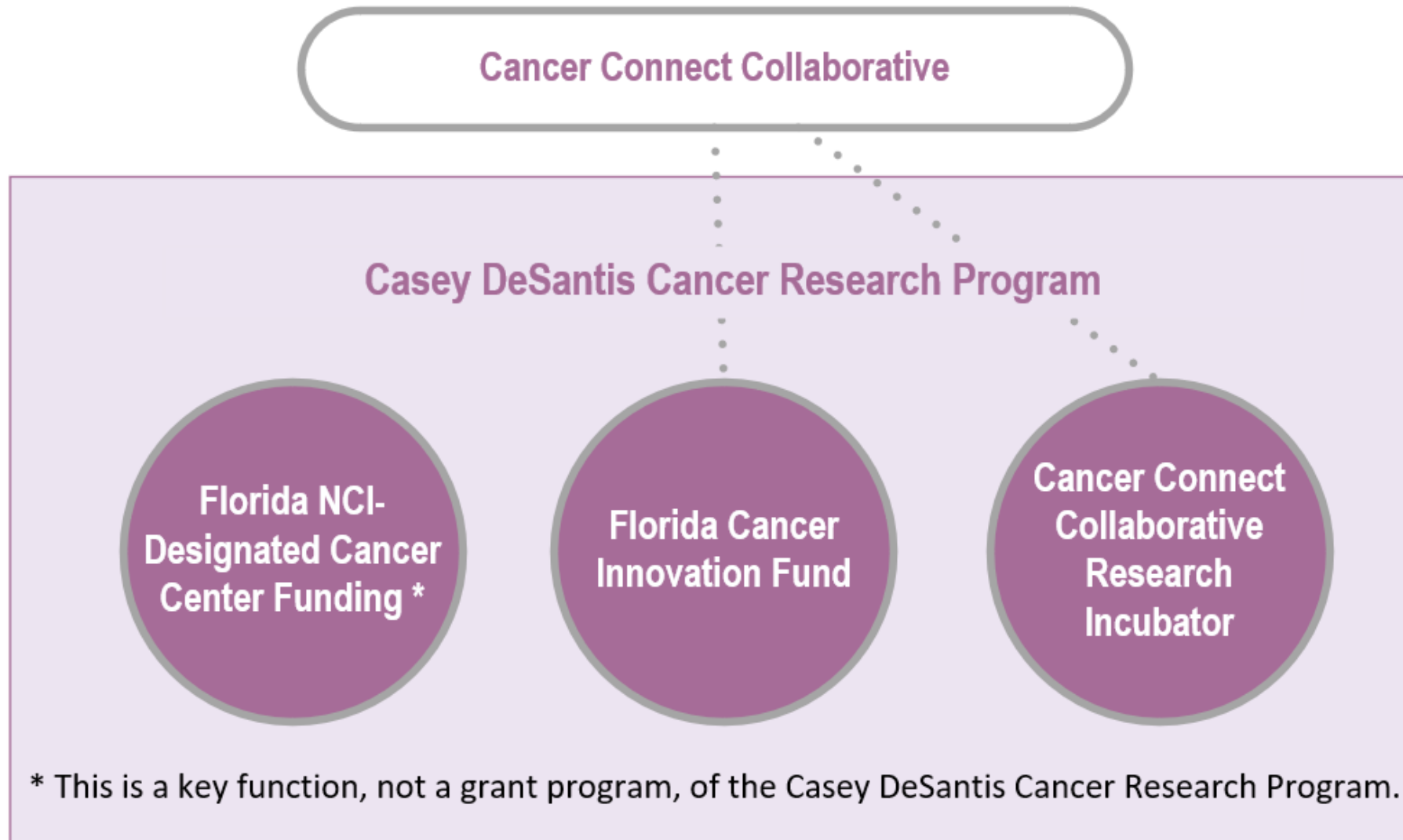
Expand Florida's reputation as a nationally renowned state for innovative and impactful pediatric cancer research.

Goal 4

Expand Florida's national reputation for innovative and impactful cancer research.



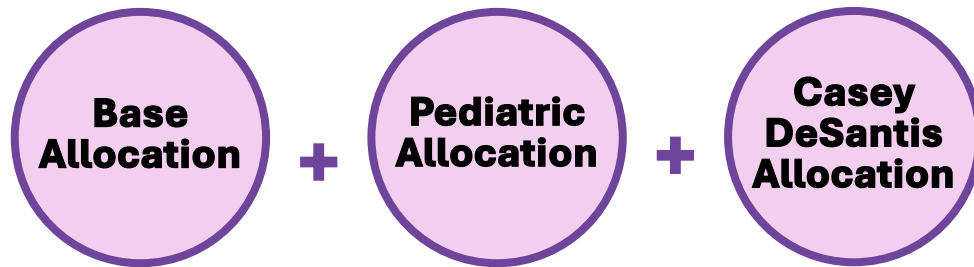
Case DeSantis Cancer Research Program Components





NCI FY 2026-27 Allocations

- The final NCI allocation for the four NCIs in FL comprised of three allocations:



- The final allocation for FY 2026-27 was \$127.5 million.
 - Includes a base allocation of \$87.5 million.
- Some of the institutions that receive NCI funding also receive funding through the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund (FCIF).

NCI FY 2026-27 Allocations by Center

Cancer Center	Final Allocation
UF Health	\$33,426,331.90
UM Sylvester	\$29,802,540.57
H. Lee Moffitt	\$40,956,841.81
Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville	\$23,314,285.71



Florida Cancer Innovation Fund

\$70
MILLION

During FY 2026-27, there is \$70 million available for all research grants funded through FCIF.

- Focus on one-year projects that deliver **immediate, measurable impact** on cancer research, treatment, or patient care

Funding for this FOA is subject to the annual appropriation of funds by the Florida Legislature and granted spending authority to the Department.



Grant Overview

- This year's FOA represents a continued commitment to comprehensive cancer prevention and treatment innovation, including:
 - Dedicated support for clinical trials
 - Nutrition-based prevention research
 - Generic drug repurposing initiatives

This funding aims to provide opportunities **to break down longstanding silos** between researchers, cancer facilities, and medical providers to **improve cancer research and treatment** through **rapid innovative approaches to cancer research.**



FY 2026-27 Grant Program



Funding: \$70 million available for grant awards this FY



Focus: one-year projects that deliver immediate, measurable impact on cancer research, treatment, or patient care



Timing: Three application periods

- **Period 1:** August 14, 2026 – September 25, 2026
 - **Period 2:** September 26, 2026 – November 6, 2026
 - **Period 3:** November 7, 2026 – December 18, 2026
-



FCIF Award Recap





FY 2023-24 Award Recap

Total Awarded: \$20.0 million

30



Research
Projects

8



Publications

15



Institutions

- The top three awarded institutions included:
 - University of Florida – 5 awards
 - Moffitt Cancer Center – 4 awards
 - University of South Florida – 3 awards
- Reported outcomes include:



8 presentations



5 patents



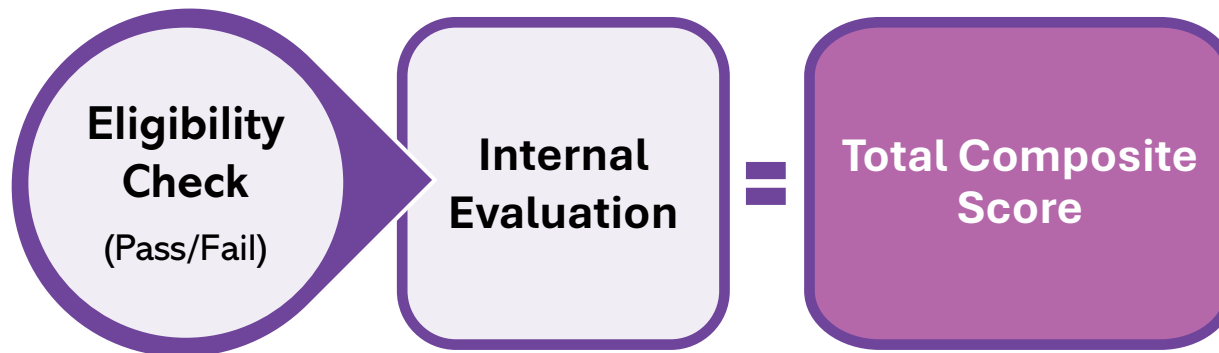
13 collaborations



2 follow on funding

Adjustments after FY 2023-24

- Developed an eligibility check
- Performed evaluation for scientific merit using Department staff





FY 2024-25 Award Recap

Total Awarded: \$59.9 million

65



Research
Projects

9



Publications

33



Institutions

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

- The top three awarded institutions included:

- University of South Florida – 5 awards
- University of Florida – 5 awards
- University of Central Florida – 5 awards

- Reported outcomes include:



6 presentations



1 patent



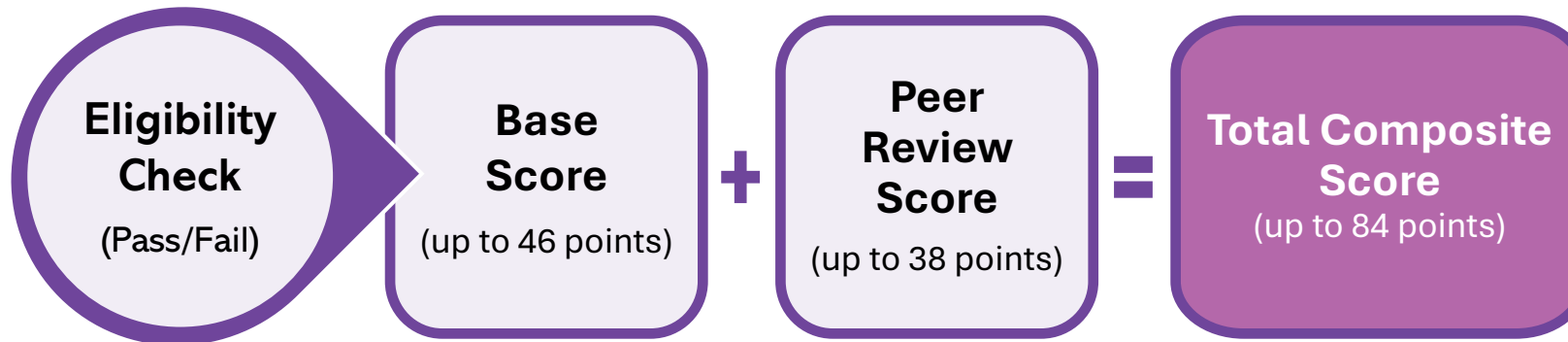
9 publications



4 follow on funding

Adjustments after FY 2024-25

- Added base score component
- Added external peer review component
- Revised grant categories





FY 2025-26 Award Recap

Total Awarded: \$59.3 million

53



Research
Projects

17



Cancer
Types

23



Institutions

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

- 53 of 330 eligible applications awarded
- The top three awarded institutions included:
 - Moffitt Cancer Center – 8 awards
 - Mayo Clinic Florida – 6 awards
 - University of Miami – 6 awards
- Reported outcomes thus far include:



2 presentations



2 patents



6 collaborations



1 follow on funding



FCIF Award Summary to Date



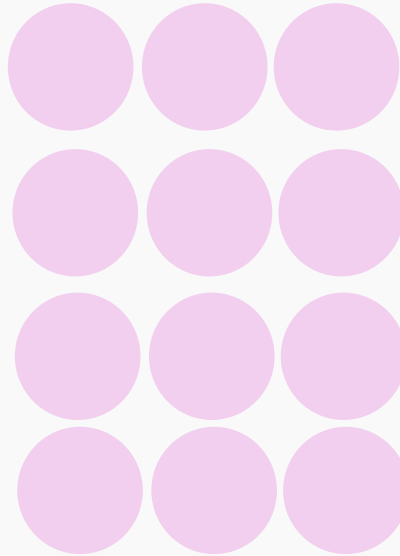
**\$149.2
million**



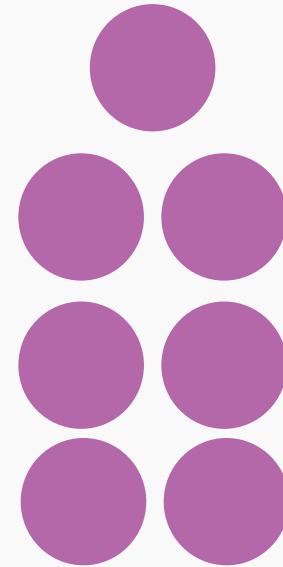
Projects



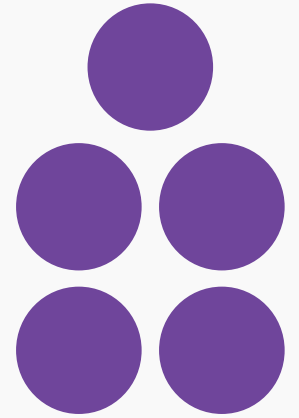
Institutions



12
Universities



14
Hospitals

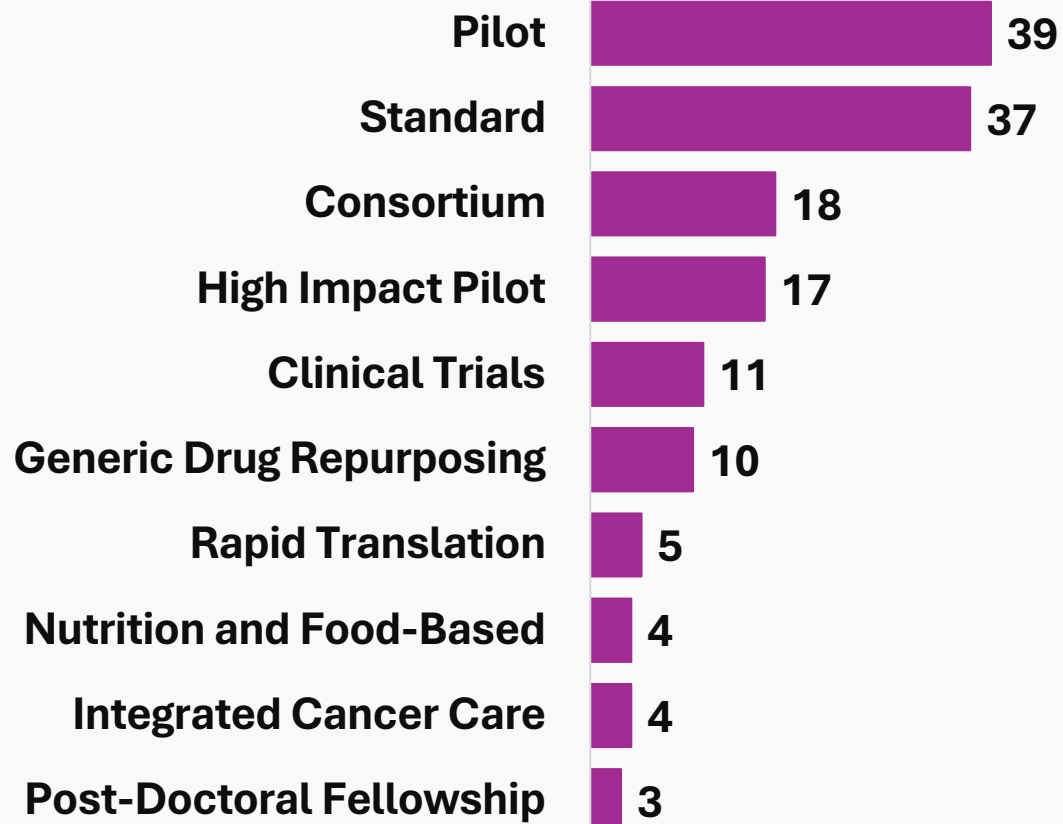


14
Independent
Companies



FCIF Award Summary to Date

Grant Categories



18

Types of Cancer

Bladder	Colorectal	Lung
Blood	Esophageal	Pancreatic
Bone	Gynecologic	Prostate
Brain/CNS	Head and Neck	Skin/Melanoma
Breast	Kidney	Stomach
Colon	Liver	Thyroid



Cancer Connect Collaborative Research Incubator

- **Provides increased resources** for targeted areas of cancer research
- **Promotes research opportunities** for these areas to aide Florida to become a leader in these areas
- **Focus on fostering collaborations** among institutions, researchers, and community practitioners to support the advancement of cures through basic or applied research, including clinical trials involving cancer patients and related networks.
- **Pediatric focus** for the first five fiscal years (2025-2030)
 - Limited to Florida-based specialty hospital as defined in s. [395.002](#)(28)(a) which provides cancer treatment for patients from birth to 18 years of age.



Cancer Connect Collaborative Research Incubator Funding

- Four pediatric hospitals meeting the legislative criteria were funded.
 - Hospitals received \$ 7.5M each for year one (\$30M total over five years)

Hospital	Principal Investigator
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital	Dr. Cassandra Josephson
Wolfson Children's Hospital	Dr. Anderson Collier
Nicklaus Children's Hospital	Dr. Marcos Mestre
Nemours Children's Health	Dr. David Dickenson

- Institutions are actively engaging in the following collaborative work groups in addition to the research activates outlined in their applications:

**Legal/
Contracting**

Biorepository

**Clinical Trial
Network**

**Data
Harmonization &
Standardization**

**Workforce
Development**



Thank you!

Cancer Innovation