

Board of Governors

2016 Strategic Plan for Health Initiatives

Overview

The future of health care is changing. This is especially the case in Florida where “baby boomer” in-migration contributes to an increasing number of people with health care needs in the nation’s third largest state -- with over 19 million people in an area that covers more than 800 miles, spanning huge urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas. Florida’s population is expected to continue growing to 24 million by the year 2030. Though Florida is currently the state with the highest proportion of residents over the age of 65, the increasing demand for health care is coming primarily from new residents between the ages of 25 and 64 and people under the age of 25.

The health care industry has a significant impact on the state’s economy. Health care’s share of Florida’s gross domestic product (GDP) is approximately 18.3%, including commodities and insurance. In 2015, Florida’s health care industry accounted for nearly one million jobs across ambulatory health care services, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities with wages totaling \$50 billion. Projections show that 6 of the top 10 highest demand jobs through 2023 will be in the health care sector. Health care jobs are expected to account for 23% of the state’s growth over the next eight years, with an estimated 200,000 new jobs.

To better align higher education’s health programs with Florida’s changing demographic and economic factors, the Board of Governors Health Initiatives Committee was established in August 2013 to provide leadership for the development of system-level policy regarding health initiatives. During 2014 and 2015 the Committee conducted an environmental scan to assess the status of health care in Florida and to proactively prepare the state’s 12 public universities to better meet the future needs of Floridians relative to health care. The environmental scan utilized state and national data to evaluate the current and future state of health care education, research and delivery in Florida.

This strategic plan for health outlines strategies for addressing two goals that emerged from the Committee’s environmental scan. The first is to meet the health workforce needs of Florida by providing more physicians and nurses to serve Florida’s growing population. The second goal is to increase the competitiveness of the system’s health-related research. The State University System (SUS) receives approximately \$600m annually from federal agencies in support of health-related research, approximately half of all federal awards to SUS. In order to lead advancements in critical health-related research areas and to be more competitive for federal funding, the state must expand current research capacity and increase collaboration.

This plan includes strategies designed to impact the above goals in the short-term. The strategies were developed in collaboration with the Council for Florida Medical School Deans, the State University System Nursing School Deans and Directors, the State University System Vice Presidents for Research, and the Board's Health Advisory Group.

The importance of health care in Florida cannot be overstated. Florida is a dynamic, growing state. Its health care delivery infrastructure will be challenged in the years to come. Health care is vital to improving the quality of life for Florida's residents and meeting specific workforce needs for healthcare providers is critical to achieving gubernatorial and legislative priorities. Implementation of the following strategies is critical to meeting the needs of Florida's residents and employers and vital to strengthening the state's economy.

Goals, Priorities & Strategies

GOAL 1: MEET THE HEALTH WORKFORCE NEEDS OF FLORIDA.

PRIORITY 1.1: EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIAN RESIDENCY SLOTS TO ADDRESS PHYSICIAN PIPELINE AND SHORTAGE ISSUES.

Strategy: Establish a competitive grant program to support the expansion of existing Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs or the creation of new GME programs.

PRIORITY 1.2: CREATE OR EXPAND PROGRAMS TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR PRE-LICENSURE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN) GRADUATES, NURSE PRACTITIONERS, CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS, AND PHD GRADUATES.

Strategy: Establish a competitive grant program to provide one-time funding for the recruitment and retention of nursing faculty in order to expand program capacity in the short term.

Strategy: Develop a long-term plan to address ongoing nurse faculty needs in light of projected workforce demand. The plan should address in detail the number and type of faculty needed and cost estimates associated with the implementation of the plan.

GOAL 2: INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM'S HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH.

PRIORITY 2.1: DEVELOP A SHARED DATA INFRASTRUCTURE TO FACILITATE ANALYSIS OF 'BIG DATA' IN SUPPORT OF CLINICAL RESEARCH, COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE.

Strategy: Build a shared computing system that allows researchers to easily store and share enormous quantities of data securely.

PRIORITY 2.2: SEEK ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH FACILITIES THAT ENHANCE SYSTEM-WIDE COLLABORATION IN CRITICAL HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH AREAS.

Strategy: Develop a long-term plan for expanding research facilities across the SUS system. The plan should address in detail the number, type, and cost of facilities needed.

PRIORITY 2.3: CREATE INCENTIVES FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION, RESEARCH COMMERCIALIZATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

Strategy: Establish a matching grant program for university and business research partnerships by building upon the Federal SBIR/STTR model.