

2021 Florida Legislative Priorities & Session Outcomes



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) works to achieve our advocacy goals by using a focused legislative agenda. ACS CAN develops an agenda that defines the annual priority initiatives, appropriations requests, and other issues that support our overall mission to save lives and diminish suffering caused from cancer. The following is a synopsis of the 2021 Legislative Session's cancer-related policy outcomes and appropriations in Florida.

2021 TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN FLORIDA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE & POSITION	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME	IMPACT
<p>BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING</p> <p>The Mary Brogan Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides lifesaving cancer screenings for medically underserved women between the ages of 50 and 64 with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. During the 2021 Legislative Session, ACS CAN advocated to maintain recurring funding of \$1.83 million for the program.</p>	<p>House and Senate budget negotiators maintained total state funding of \$1.83 million in recurring revenue. Recurring state funds provide a dedicated funding source and help build the long-term viability of the program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintaining recurring dollars to enhance this screening program for medically underserved women means that Florida is ensuring that funding will be included in next year's base budget. ➤ More than 13,200 women were screened through the program during the last budget year.
<p>BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH</p> <p>It is vital that Florida supports measures that will increase the state's capacity for research and treatment, especially those measures that generate a substantial investment in the state's research infrastructure. For FY 2021-22, we requested that the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program be funded at \$50 million total; however, as the House and Senate contemplated large cuts to programs in response to reduced state revenues due to COVID-19, we focused on advocating that the Legislature maintain funding for the programs based on the current year appropriations.</p>	<p>Both the King and Bankhead-Coley programs were funded at \$10 million (\$20 million total), which is equivalent to the FY 2020-21 funding level. Additionally, \$3 million was provided for pediatric cancer research through the statutory Live Like Bella Initiative. Originally, the House proposed a twenty percent cut to all research programs, but ultimately agreed to the Senate proposal of no cuts during the budget conference process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In addition to the \$23 million provided for biomedical research, several other research institutions received substantial legislative appropriations. Specifically, \$62.2 million was allocated for the Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute (NCI) Centers Program, which assists cancer centers in preserving or attaining NCI designation.
<p>TOBACCO PREVENTION & EDUCATION</p> <p>ACS CAN supports the continued, full implementation of Article X, Section 27 of the Florida Constitution. Funding allocated for the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program should be adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index and should be allocated based on the CDC's <i>Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs</i>.</p>	<p>The Legislature approved more than \$73.9 million in funding for the Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. The dollars distributed within the larger program are generally consistent with the CDC's <i>Best Practices</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total program funding will increase by \$937,000 over the current year budget. ➤ Proviso language in the budget directs Tobacco Free Florida to use program funding in the Health Communications Interventions category for strategies targeting Florida's youth, including information about the consequences of tobacco use including the use of e-cigarettes.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE & POSITION	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME	IMPACT
<p>TOBACCO 21</p> <p>ACS CAN supports raising the minimum age of sale to age 21 for all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, with strong retailer compliance and active enforcement that includes retailer licensing as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce youth initiation.</p>	<p>SB 1080 increases the age of sale to 21 in state law, but defines e-cigarettes separately from tobacco products and sets up a separate regulatory framework for e-cigarette retailers and also fails to update current law on retailer compliance and enforcement. Additionally, the bill exempts products containing “incidental nicotine” from regulation and also exempts active military under 21 from the increased sale age. Further, the bill preempts local ordinances addressing the sale and marketing of tobacco products and e-cigarettes.</p> <p>ACS CAN and other public health groups consistently opposed this bill and its companion, HB 987, throughout the legislative process, but unfortunately the Governor signed it into law on May 7.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Once the bill goes into effect, the state (through the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Licenses) will begin requiring e-cigarette retailers to obtain licenses and be subject to state regulation; however, no license fee is required for these retailers. ➤ Numerous local ordinances will likely become unenforceable, although it is unclear how many of the nearly 200 local ordinances addressing tobacco products will be impacted. Local tobacco retail licensing programs will be unenforceable as the bill does not allow local enforcement programs against retailers. This will directly impact two existing county ordinances and will prevent future local governments from adopting similar programs.

APPROPRIATIONS

The \$101.5 billion budget for FY 2021-22 adopted during the 2021 Legislative Session includes approximately \$186.6 million for the fight against cancer. That amount constitutes more than a \$2 million increase in associated funding from the prior budget year.

In total, cancer-related funding from the legislature includes:

Mary Brogan Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program	\$ 1,838,235
Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Education	\$ 73,998,595
Biomedical Research	
James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program	\$ 10,000,000
William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program	\$ 10,000,000
Pediatric Cancer Research	\$ 3,000,000
Statewide Brain Tumor Registry Program - McKnight Brain Institute	\$ 500,000 (earmarked from the Bankhead-Coley program funding)
Endowed Cancer Research Chair	
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center of Jacksonville	\$ 2,000,000
Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers Program	\$ 62,228,743
Live Like Bella Childhood Cancer Foundation	\$ 500,000
Minority Health Initiatives	\$ 9,287,119

La Liga - League Against Cancer	\$ 1,150,000
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center - Firefighters Cancer Research	\$ 2,000,000
Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute – Education	\$ 10,576,930
TOTAL CANCER-RELATED ISSUES AND ACS CAN PRIORITIES	\$ 186,579,622

Please note – The Governor has not yet signed the 2021-22 Budget. All items above are subject to veto.