

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **August 18, 2016**

### **Call for Sapphire Nominations**

Florida Blue Foundation nominations for the 2017 Sapphire Awards are due on or before September 23, 2016. The Sapphie Awards, given annually by the Florida Blue Foundation since 2005, recognize excellence and innovation in nonprofit community health leadership and programming in Florida. Three categories of awards are available: organization, program and individual.

Sapphire Awards honorees must demonstrate leadership, success and high merit while improving health-related outcomes or access to health-related services for Florida's at-risk populations and communities.



**SAPPHIRE**  
AWARDS

A total of approximately \$360,000 will be shared among the honorees (organization, program and individual categories) to continue the recognized initiatives.

Sapphire Awards honorees are an elite group first nominated through a call for applications, and then chosen by an independent panel of national experts in community health, nonprofit health and health care policy. The 2017 Sapphire Awards will be presented during lunch on April 20, 2017, as a part of the two-day Florida Blue Foundation Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards scheduled for April 19-20, 2017, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Kissimmee, Florida. The theme for the 2017 Florida Blue Foundation Community Health Symposium is *Creating a Culture of Health*.

For information, criteria, guidelines and links to nomination applications for the 2017 Sapphire Awards, please [CLICK HERE](#).

A series of application clarification conference calls to answer questions from potential nominators are scheduled for these dates:

- Conference call #1: August 22, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Conference call #2: August 24, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Conference call #3: September 9, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

All calls are Eastern Time.

To participate in the application clarification conference calls, please dial:  
1-800-882-3610 - Passcode 2871940#.

If you have questions, there is contact information in the system; phone 1-800-477-3736, ext. 63215; or send email to [thesapphireaward@floridablue.com](mailto:thesapphireaward@floridablue.com) or [floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com](mailto:floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com).

## Florida Blue and Florida Blue Foundation Respond to Zika Concerns

As Florida's health insurance leader, Florida Blue and the Florida Blue Foundation are stepping in and stepping up to ensure communities are informed and prepared when it comes to the Zika virus. This public health situation is a developing one and being monitored daily by federal, state and local health officials as well as by the public. Currently, the nation's so called "ground zero" is an area in Miami called Wynwood where non-travel-related cases of the Zika virus have been found and where a nationwide travel alert is currently in place. Yet, all of Florida is watching the situation and taking measures to protect against the spread of the virus.

As soon as health officials announced the first mosquito-transmitted cases a few weeks ago, Florida Blue engaged a team to jump into action. The company assessed the potential impact to its employees, members, providers and the community at large. The organization reached out to health officials, cities and counties, local businesses and nonprofit organizations as well as doctors and providers to see how it could take a leadership role in providing critical information to keep people safe.

Among other efforts, there are currently education sessions taking place at Florida Blue Retail Centers and at the CliniSanitas Medical Centers in Miami-Dade. There is also a new partnership established when it comes to providing insect repellent and health education materials. This newly-formed coalition of concerned agencies includes many Florida Blue Foundation grant recipients and other nonprofits supported by the company.

The Zika virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, so the best way to avoid the virus is to avoid mosquito contact. There are a variety of resources provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health. These include information for travelers, pregnant women, doctors and other health providers as well as precautionary and informational guidance for the general public who are all advised to monitor the websites of both the CDC, [www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika) and the Florida Department of Health, [www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus). There are materials in English, Spanish and Creole. The State of Florida also has launched a Zika Virus Information Hotline, 855-622-6735. In addition, Florida Blue has updated information on its website, [www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com).

The protection campaign for pregnant women and the general public is centered on two key efforts - Drain and Cover.

### Drain

- Once a week, drain and cover areas that contain standing water, such as tires,



- buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots or trash containers.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

#### Cover

- When going outside, the CDC and Florida Department of Health (DOH) recommend using an insect repellent containing DEET.
- Cover skin (especially children) with clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Cover cribs and strollers with mosquito netting.
- Use air conditioning when available.
- Use screens on windows and doors and repair any holes.

As long as the Zika virus remains a concern, Florida Blue and Florida Blue Foundation leaders will look for ways to support the community, members, providers and other health agencies. Please share the educational information with your clients and employees so they are prepared.

## New Application System Launched

Florida Blue and Florida Blue Foundation have launched a new, comprehensive grants and volunteer management system that will modernize our end-to-end grant making processes and enhance communications with grantees.

The new online platform, called *SmartSimple*, will streamline the grantee application processes, offer real-time status and add efficiencies to the grant review process and data collection. In the near future, it will also offer new capabilities for nonprofit organizations seeking volunteers.

"Florida Blue values our community partners, and the new system will allow us to better understand their needs and serve as better stewards of our community investments," said Susan Towler, vice president, Florida Blue Foundation.

The new grant application system is now live, effective July 18. You can apply for any open grant or sponsorship opportunities. SmartSimple will ask you to register the first time that you go to the site. Each user has a unique registration, and you will be given the opportunity to review your organization's profile to make sure we have updated information.

This new portal will provide the applications for our Build Healthy, Strong Communities corporate sponsorship and Foundation grants program; our BluePartners agent matching program; our Florida Blue Foundation competitive RFP programs; and our Sapphire Awards nominations.

An instructional guide is available to help you navigate the new system. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the instructional guide.

If you have questions, there is contact information in the system; phone 1-800-477-3736, ext. 63215; or send email to us at [communityrelations@floridablue.com](mailto:communityrelations@floridablue.com), or [floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com](mailto:floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com).

## Funding Opportunities Announced

Florida Blue Foundation and Florida Blue announce that grant applications are being accepted in four programs beginning July 18. For information on funding opportunities and links to applications, please click on the appropriate program listed below:

- [Advance Innovation and Promote Solutions in the Health Care System](#) -- deadline September 2, 2016
- [Build Healthy, Strong Communities](#) -- applications accepted daily
- [Improve Consumer Health](#) -- deadline September 2, 2016
- [Sapphire Awards](#) recognizing excellence and innovation in community health -- deadline September 23, 2016

Please direct questions to: [communityrelations@floridablue.com](mailto:communityrelations@floridablue.com), [floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com](mailto:floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com), or 1-800-477-3746, ext. 63215.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **2017 Florida Blue Foundation Community Health Symposium Scheduled for April 19-20, 2017**

The **2017 Florida Blue Foundation Community Health Symposium and Sapphire Awards** is **April 19-20, 2017**, at the **Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, 6000 West Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee, Florida.**

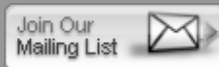
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Sapphire Awards nomination applications are due on or before 5:00 p.m. on September 23, 2016. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the 2017 Sapphire Awards nomination guidelines and criteria.

**FLORIDA BLUE FOUNDATION MISSION:**  
Help people and communities achieve better health.

(800) 477-3736, ext. 63215  
[www.floridabluefoundation.com](http://www.floridabluefoundation.com)  
Email: [floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com](mailto:floridabluefoundation@floridablue.com)

Florida Blue Foundation is a trade name of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation, Inc., an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



STAY CONNECTED



Florida Blue Foundation, 4800 Deerwood Campus Parkway,  
Bldg. 300, 4th Floor, Jacksonville, FL 32246-8273