

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Date: 04/14/2025

Dear Colleagues,

HIV testing is a crucial prevention strategy for expanding awareness of HIV status and facilitating engagement in care. For all Hillsborough community partners and Florida Department of Health (FDOH) staff involved in HIV services, a strong foundational understanding is essential. Currently, the HIV/AIDS program office is updating its certification process for HIV 500/501 courses.

Why is this training required?

Florida Statute 381.004 requires that individuals providing post-test counseling to patients with a positive HIV test result must receive specialized training. The HIV 500/501 training covers the special needs of persons with positive results and other topics at no cost.

Course Information:

- HIV 500/501 Counselor Training: A 24-hour training providing in-depth knowledge of HIV/AIDS, testing protocols, domestic violence, and enhanced client-centered risk reduction counseling skills to prepare participants to become HIV pre and post-test counselors.
 - FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY: (MD, PA, ARNP, RN, LPN, RPh, PharmD)
 - Please complete the online training in TRAIN and send your certificate to CHD29Area6TRAIN@flhealth.gov to be enrolled in the 3rd day only class.
- HIV 501 Annual Update: A required yearly two-hour annual class covering updates to forms, processes, legislation, programs, and statistics for all certified HIV pre and post-test counselors.

New Streamlined Process for Registration:

- Search for the website 'Hillsborough.FloridaHealth.gov' and go to Program and Services where you will then find Infectious Disease Services section. Then navigate to the HIV/AIDS Program Office tab and select the sub tab HIV testing and counseling section. Scroll towards the bottom of the page and there you will find the links to registration forms; please fill the form completely. For newly onboarded staff or to update certificates in the future, please use the following direct link- [HIV Testing and Counseling | Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough](#).

For any questions regarding HIV 500/501 courses and annual update, please contact via the new group email at CHD29Area6TRAIN@flhealth.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candace Lewis".

Candace Lewis
Area 6 HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator HAPC
HIV Program Manager – FDOH Hillsborough

