



RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH DUDEK  
SECRETARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 9, 2014

**Contact:** AHCA Communications Office

[AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com), 850-412-3623

### **Seven Nursing Homes Recognized for Excellence in Long-Term Care**

**Tallahassee, FL** – The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today acknowledged seven Florida nursing homes for receiving the Governor’s Gold Seal Award, which recognizes Florida nursing homes that provide a high standard of care and display excellence in the quality of care delivered to their residents.

Governor Rick Scott said, “Florida’s elders deserve the best possible nursing care, and it is important to recognize the Gold Seal Award facilities for their excellence. I would like to congratulate the new recipients for their accomplishment and recognize the renewal recipients for their commitment to maintaining their high standards and attaining this distinction again.”

“We commend these facilities for being leaders in their field and for being committed to providing the best health care services to their residents,” said Secretary Liz Dudek. “Nursing homes play an important role in health care in Florida and it is essential that we continue to celebrate superb nursing homes like these in our great state.”

Award recipients include two new recipients and five renewal recipients. They are as follow:

- Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans Nursing Home, Panama City\*
- Florida Presbyterian Homes, Inc., Lakeland
- Quality Health of North Port, North Port\*
- River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged, Jacksonville
- Sunnyside Nursing Home, Sarasota
- Vicar’s Landing Nursing Home, Ponte Vedra Beach
- Village on the Green, Longwood

*\*Denotes the two new nursing homes receiving the award at this time.*

Nursing homes that wish to be considered for the Gold Seal Award must first be recommended for the award, then submit an application with supporting documentation to the Agency, which is reviewed by the Governor’s Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care. The Panel considers the criteria below and makes recommendations to the Governor. Gold Seal recipients must be in operation a minimum of 30 months prior to the date of application and the facility must:

- Meet a quality of care scoring and ranking that places them in the top 15 percent in their region or top 10 percent in the state and be a 5-star facility overall in the Nursing Home Guide
- Have no Class I or II deficiencies within 30 months preceding application
- Provide evidence of financial soundness and stability



- Participate in a consumer satisfaction process involving residents, family members and guardians
- Involve families and members of the community in the facility on a regular basis
- Have a stable workforce
- Have an outstanding record with the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Council within the 30 months preceding application
- Provide targeted in-service training to meet training needs identified.

The Gold Seal Award program was developed and implemented by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care, which is composed of persons appointed by the Governor's Office, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, Department of Elder Affairs, LeadingAge Florida, Florida Health Care Association, Florida Life Care Residents Association and the State Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Of the 682 licensed nursing homes in Florida, 22 nursing homes currently hold the Gold Seal Award. [Click Here](#) for a complete listing of Gold Seal facilities.

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via Facebook (AHCAFlorida), Twitter (@AHCA\_FL) and YouTube (/AHCAFlorida).*

###