



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

The Gold Seal Program was established in 2002 and recognizes Florida nursing homes that have exceptional high standards and display excellence in the quality of care delivered to their residents. Nursing homes that wish to be considered for the Gold Seal Award must submit an application to the Agency for Health Care Administration, 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 10 percent in their region or top 15 percent in the state, and be a 5-star facility 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; and,
- Provide targeted in-service training to meet training needs identified.