



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEACHING HOSPITALS

In Florida | 2026

HOW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEACHING HOSPITALS CAME TO BE

A Florida-Led Response to a Critical Workforce Shortage

The Florida Legislature recognized a critical shortage of behavioral health professionals and the urgent need to expand the existing workforce, prepare for an aging one, incentivize entry into behavioral health professions, and train a modernized workforce in innovative, integrated care. In response, the Legislature established the Behavioral Health Teaching Hospital (BHTH) designation through the Live Healthy initiative in 2024.

“The Legislature intends to identify and designate multiple behavioral health teaching hospitals that work to provide the necessary research, education, and services to not only enhance this state’s behavioral health workforce, but to make that workforce and system of care the national standard.” — Florida SB 330 (2024)

WHAT THEY ARE

What Are Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals?

Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals (BHTH) are Florida hospitals specially designated to train the next generation of behavioral health professionals. These hospitals combine high-quality patient care with education, research, and workforce development so more providers are available to meet Florida’s behavioral health needs.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Care from a Team Built Around You

At a BHTH, you may receive care from a team that includes:

- Licensed behavioral health professionals
- Medical residents specializing in psychiatry
- Post-doctoral psychology fellows
- Students who provide care under close supervision

These hospitals also partner with Florida universities to apply the latest practices in behavioral health treatment and expand access to care across the state.

WHY IT MATTERS



The Impact of BHTHs

- Increase the number of trained behavioral health providers
- Improve access to services statewide
- Support high-quality, research-based treatment
- Strengthen Florida’s overall behavioral health system

DESIGNATED HOSPITALS



BHTHs in Florida

- + Jackson Memorial Hospital + Larkin Community Hospital
- + St. Joseph’s Hospital + Tampa General Hospital
- + UF Health Jacksonville + UF Health Shands Hospital