

2026 #14

May 4, 2026

Please Note: The ABC Newsletter will not be published on May 11th. Our next issue will be Monday, May 18th. Thank you for your continued interest.

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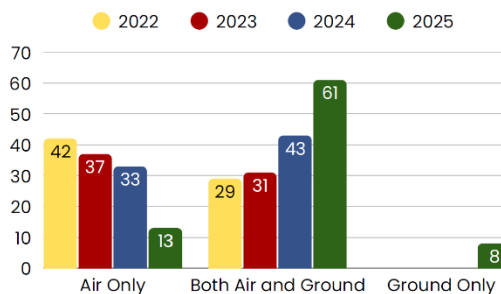
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ABC Releases Updated Prehospital Blood Report

America’s Blood Centers (ABC) has published the latest [prehospital blood report](#) titled “A Vital Resource: Community Blood Centers & The Growth of Prehospital Blood Programs.” The report serves as a comprehensive resource providing new insights into the expanding role of community blood centers in supporting prehospital blood transfusion programs across the U.S. It reveals that the number of community blood centers providing blood products for prehospital use has nearly doubled between 2022 and 2025, underscoring the rapid growth and increasing importance of these lifesaving programs.

In 2025, community blood centers distributed 33,000 blood products for prehospital use.

Percent of Blood Centers Providing Prehospital Blood Products, 2022–2025



The report shows a significant upward trend in community blood center participation in prehospital programs. In 2022, 18 centers provided blood products for prehospital use, with seven servicing both air and ground ambulance programs. By 2025, this number had nearly doubled, with 61 percent of blood centers supporting both air and ground services. The study also highlights that blood centers continue to diversify the use of specific blood products for prehospital use, recognizing the needs of patients in a variety of settings.

“Community blood centers are playing a pivotal role in the rapid expansion of prehospital blood programs across the nation, supplying ground and air ambulances with more than 30,000 lifesaving blood products in 2025,” said ABC Chief Executive Officer Kate Fry, MBA, CAE. “As these programs continue to expand, America’s Blood Centers will keep working with our members, partners, and allies to address the significant barriers that currently prevent many patients from quickly receiving the blood products they need.”

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ABC Releases Updated Prehospital Blood Report (continued from page 1)

As part of our [Advocacy Agenda](#), ABC continues to [prioritize improving patient access](#) to blood transfusions in the prehospital setting. The prehospital blood report notes that less than 2 percent of all emergency management systems carry blood and blood products today, indicating significant potential for future growth if current roadblocks are addressed. Both ABC and its member blood centers continue to urge Congress to transform our nation’s approach to prehospital blood transfusions by updating federal insurance program payment polices to provide sufficient reimbursement for prehospital blood transfusions including updating TRICARE payment policy to remove financial barriers and allow for broader adoption of prehospital blood transfusions which supports TRICARE’s mission to improve the health of the military and their families and, in turn, helps support the security of the U.S.

We will continue to provide updates on our advocacy efforts as they become available. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

(Source: [Prehospital Blood Report](#), 5/4/26) 💧

Jed Gorlin Retires as ABC CMO

Jed Gorlin, MD, MBA has announced his retirement as chief medical officer (CMO) of America’s Blood Centers (ABC). Dr. Gorlin assumed the role in 2023 and throughout his tenure has led ABC’s scientific and medical activities. ABC is very grateful to Dr. Gorlin for his leadership, guidance, and representation of the association and its members on the national level. We wish him well and thank him for all his work and accomplishments to help shape the blood community and transfusion medicine throughout his distinguished career.

Dr. Gorlin previously served as vice president of medical and quality affairs at New York Blood Center Enterprises (NYBCe), and medical director for Memorial Blood Centers, Nebraska Community Blood Bank, and Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City and retired from those roles in July 2025. Moving forward, ABC Board of Directors members’ Daniela Hermelin, MD (ImpactLife) and David Oh, MD (Hoxworth Blood Center) will serve as medical advisors for ABC. 💧



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 ABC advocates for and advances policies that promote the role of independent blood centers in providing life-saving blood products and recognizes the continuous need for a safe and robust blood supply. ABC exists to advocate for laws and regulations recognizing the essential role that independent blood centers play in the health care system; promote partnerships, policies, and programs that increase awareness about the need for blood donation; and serve as a thought leader in the advancement of evidence-based medical and scientific solutions related to health and safety.

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Katherine Szarama Named Acting CBER Director

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) has updated its website to [reflect](#) that Katherine Szarama, PhD has been named acting director. Dr. Szarama has served as deputy director of CBER for the past five months and has previously worked, “as a social science research analyst and presidential management fellow at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and more recently as a program manager at the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health,” according to a [report](#) from *BioSpace*. She succeeds Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH who announced in March 2026 that he was leaving the agency at the end of April 2026. Dr. Prasad joined FDA in May 2025 and resigned from the agency in July 2025 before returning in August 2025.

(Source: CBER [Announcement](#), 5/4/26) 💧

WORD IN WASHINGTON

President Trump has [announced](#) that he is nominating Nicole B. Saphier, MD to be surgeon general. Dr. Saphier is a radiologist and director of Breast Imaging at MSK Monmouth, a part of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. President Trump referred to Dr. Saphier as a, “star physician who has spent her career guiding women facing breast cancer through their diagnosis and treatment while tirelessly advocating to increase early cancer detection and prevention, while at the same time working with men and women on all other forms of cancer diagnoses and treatments. She is also an incredible communicator, who makes complicated health issues more easily understood.” The announcement comes in the wake of President Trump withdrawing the nomination of Casey Means, MD.

(Source: President Trump [Announcement](#), 4/30/26)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has [issued](#) a news release highlighting, “two major steps as part of an initiative to advance the implementation of real-time clinical trials (RTCT).” In the announcement, the agency explained that is, “unveil[ing] the successful initiation of two proof-of-concept clinical trials that will report endpoints and data signals to the agency in real time [and FDA is releasing] a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) regarding a proposed pilot program for RTCT that will launch this summer.” The agency also noted that, “[e]arly-phase clinical trials are a bottleneck in drug development, often characterized by high uncertainty, limited patient populations, and inefficient decision-making processes. Data is typically reported from sites to sponsors, who analyze and subsequently submit data to the FDA. With improvements in artificial intelligence and data science, sponsors and trial sites have the opportunity to conduct real-time trials in a way that enhances safety monitoring and radically increases efficiency.”

(Source: FDA [News Release](#), 4/28/26)

The FDA has, “[reminded](#) more than 2,200 medical product companies and researchers of the [requirements](#) to submit certain clinical trial results information to [www.ClinicalTrials.gov](#),” according to an agency news release. The communication noted that, “[c]ompanies and researchers often fail to disclose negative trial results, resulting in significant gaps in the public record and a publication bias that obscures the true landscape of drug development outcomes — overrepresenting successes and underrepresenting failures. This gap can also create a distorted perception of the safety and efficacy of medical products. According to an internal analysis, 29.6 percent of studies that are highly likely to fall under mandatory reporting requirements have no results information submitted to [www.ClinicalTrials.gov](#). Studies subject to the mandatory reporting requirements include interventional studies with a U.S. nexus and an FDA-regulated product that are past the deadline to report; it excludes phase I and device feasibility studies.”

(Source: FDA [News Release](#), 4/13/26) 💧



INSIDE ABC

The programs and services described in the Inside ABC section are available to ABC member blood centers and their staffs only, unless otherwise specified.

Deadline Extension: ABC Economic Outlook Survey

The [ABC Economic Outlook Survey](#) is open until May 15th. This resource provides a comprehensive look at blood center finances, including 19 of the most frequently used ratios for benchmarking the financial health of an organization as well as median service fees for 30 different blood products and blood center procedures. New this year, a completely upgraded benchmarking experience that's both more visual and accessible, while still powered by automated reporting tools. The survey has been fully redesigned with a modern user interface, delivering clearer, more actionable insights that are easier to understand, interpret, and put into practice. The aggregate data of this survey is important to both members and ABC as we advocate for fair and accurate reimbursement policies. Survey results are anonymized and aggregated and all reporting complies with antitrust requirements. The ability to download final trend reports and create customized reports based on selected filters will be available to participants via ABC's benchmarking portal. Please [contact us](#) with questions.

Registration is Open for the 2026 ABC Advocacy Summit

[Register now](#) for the 2026 [America's Blood Centers \(ABC\) Advocacy Summit](#) taking place in Washington, D.C. at The Dupont Circle (part of The Doyle Collection Hotels) June 8th-9th. [Book your room now](#) to take advantage of the discounted rate and ensure availability. View the [preliminary schedule](#) and don't miss the chance to let your voice be heard as this event connects the blood community with national leaders in public policy and advocacy including meetings with members of Congress and their staff. The 2026 ABC Advocacy Summit includes advocacy training and group preparations for meetings with congressional offices on June 8th before heading to Capitol Hill on June 9th for group meetings with members of Congress and their staff, advancing ABC's advocacy priorities. We will coordinate the scheduling of meetings on behalf of all attendees and conclude the day with a reception. Please [contact us](#) with questions.

Congressional Champion Nominations Are Open

ABC is excited to launch [nominations](#) for Congressional Champions as part of the *Act for Blood* program! Awarded in Washington, D.C. as part of the [2026 ABC Advocacy Summit](#), a Congressional Champion is a member of Congress that has shown support for the U.S. blood supply and community blood centers through actions such as helping with an earmark request, assisting blood center outreach efforts to an administrative agency, introducing legislation, or even touring and donating at ABC member blood centers. While ABC is actively meeting with members of Congress to support the [ABC Advocacy Agenda](#), the work blood centers do as an ABC member (and a constituent of a congressional district) to build relationships with lawmakers is essential. This is a unique opportunity to [recognize](#) the work that a member of Congress has done, while continuing to build stronger relationships. Please submit your nominations by the May 7th deadline. [Contact us](#) with any questions and thank you for your ongoing support and participation in our advocacy efforts!

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INSIDE ABC (continued from page 4)

Time is Running Out to Register for the ADRP Annual Conference

View the [schedule](#) and [register](#) now for the [2026 ADRP Annual Conference](#) in Minneapolis, Minn., May 12th-14th, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. [Hear](#) conference Keynote Speaker [Courtney Clark](#) deliver “The Short Cut: How Strategic Adaptability Outperforms Grit” as she shares insights from her National Goal Resilience Study. Ms. Clark will explore strategies to help individuals and teams avoid burnout, adapt to change, and focus on what truly drives progress. Attendees will learn how to:

- recognize when persistence helps — and when it holds you back;
- increase flexibility during change and uncertainty;
- distinguish between goals and plans, and focus on what matters most; and
- use a simple framework to prioritize competing demands.

Additionally, this conference offers a chance to learn about industry trends, share ideas, and connect with other donor recruitment, donor services, collections, marketing, and communications professionals. Join more than 300 of your peers by participating in pre-conference workshops, attending compelling educational sessions, engaging in roundtable discussions, and exploring an expansive exhibit hall filled with innovative solutions. Seize this extraordinary opportunity to learn, share, and grow within the blood community. Please [contact us](#) with any questions as we look forward to seeing you! 💧

STATE ADVOCACY BRIEFS

The Massachusetts House has [introduced](#) bill H.5382 “An Act Relative To Toxic-free Medical Additives Reforming Your Health.” In the proposed legislation, Section 245 would be created which states that, “[b]eginning January 1st, 2030, a person or entity shall not manufacture, sell, or contribute into commerce in the Commonwealth intravenous solution containers made with intentionally added di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP). The bill does include an exemption for: “human blood collection and storage bags; apheresis and cell therapy blood kits and bags, including integral tubing.” It also noted that, “[a] person or entity, due to pending United States Food and Drug Administration approval for the DEHP-free intravenous solution container or due to the manufacturer not having adequate equipment to manufacture the DEHP-free intravenous solution container, shall meet the [January 2030] requirement by January 1st, 2032, if all of the following conditions are met: “[t]he person or entity notified its Massachusetts customers, no later than Oct 1st, 2026, that it has commenced development of the DEHP-free intravenous solution container to meet the requirements; [t]he person or entity provides notice to its customers and posts to its official internet website, no later than January 1st, 2028, that it will not meet the deadline imposed.” ABC has worked with member blood centers and partners to get such exemptions included in legislation at the state level and will continue to provide updates on our advocacy efforts as they become available. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

(Source: Massachusetts [House Bill 5382](#), 4/28/26) 💧

BRIEFLY NOTED

The U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Australian Signals Directorate’s Australian Cyber Security Centre (ASD’s ACSC), and other international and U.S. partners have [issued](#), “guidance for organizations on adopting agentic artificial intelligence (AI) systems. The document describes, “key security challenges and risks associated with agentic AI, and provides actionable

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steps for designing, deploying, and operating these systems safely. It helps organizations align AI risk management with existing cybersecurity frameworks and strengthen oversight as agentic AI adoption grows.”

(Source: CISA & ACSC [Guidance](#), 5/1/26)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Langley Research Center is [partnering](#) with the Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), “explor[ing] faster, more reliable ways to transport donor organs using advanced aviation technologies.” According to the announcement, “NASA will apply its aeronautics expertise and flight research capabilities to evaluate whether drones can help reduce [delays,] improve delivery timelines, potentially improving medical outcomes. [The first test] will be conducted using NASA Langley’s City Environment Range Testing for Autonomous Integrated Navigation (CERTAIN), which provides a unique capability to safely fly drones in real-world conditions beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) without the need for ground-based spotters. This capability enables researchers to explore longer-distance and more complex delivery scenarios that better reflect the time-sensitive nature of organ transport. After the initial flight evaluations, a research organ will be assessed to determine whether it remains viable for transplant, including assessing factors such as temperature stability and potential tissue damage caused by a lack of blood flow.”

(Source: NASA [Announcement](#), 4/21/26) 💧

MEMBER NEWS

San Diego Blood Bank has “[officially](#)” become a subsidiary of **Vitalant**. A post on LinkedIn recognizing the closing of the transaction explained that, “[o]ur new logo for San Diego Blood Bank represents more than a new look. It reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the future of transfusion medicine and expanding what’s possible for the communities we serve together. By combining our organizations, we are creating a stronger and more connected network that helps:

- [s]trengthen the resiliency of the blood supply;
- [e]xpand access to specialized laboratory services and transfusion therapies;
- [a]dvance innovation through stronger connections within Southern California’s biotech community; [and]
- [e]nhance donor engagement, manufacturing, distribution capabilities, and precision medicine through shared expertise.

Most importantly, this partnership is rooted in people. The donors who give generously. The teams who work tirelessly behind the scenes. The patients and families counting on access to lifesaving care every day. We’re grateful to San Diego Blood Bank for their partnership and proud of what we will build together. The organizations previously announced in January 2026 that they had “entered into an [agreement to merge](#).”

(Source: Vitalant [Announcement](#), 5/1/26) 💧



ADVANCED THERAPIES NEWS

New York Blood Center Enterprises' (NYBCe) Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute (LFKRI) is [collaborating](#) with Biohub to, “develop optimized methodologies for deriving induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from defined immune cell populations isolated from cord blood units (CBUs),” according to an April 30th news release. The announcement noted that, “[t]ogether, the teams are establishing standardized, reproducible workflows to isolate specific immune cell populations and evaluate their efficiency in generating iPSCs. By incorporating NYBCe’s homozygous HLA cord blood units, the effort aims to create broadly compatible iPSC lines with strong translational potential in regenerative medicine, disease modeling, and cell therapy. The resulting cell lines will serve as shared research resources, enabling systematic study of cell-of-origin effects and establishing a scalable, foundational platform for cord blood-derived regenerative technologies. This research collaboration leverages a multi-phased effort to create standardization and definitive protocols in immune cell population reprogramming into iPSCs.”

(Source: NYBCe [News Release](#), 4/30/26)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), Office of Therapeutic Products (OTP) has [announced](#) that a virtual town hall will take place on June 4th titled: “Best Practices for Preparing BLA Submissions for Cell and Gene Therapy Products.” According to the agency, the virtual event will feature, “experts from OTP’s Office of Review Management & Regulatory Review (ORMRR) answer[ing] questions regarding Biologic License Application (BLA) readiness, including how to request pre-BLA meetings, best practices for preparing submission packages, and tools to navigate the application process.” The 60-minute town hall will begin at 11 a.m. EDT and be [livestreamed](#) on YouTube. Questions must be [submitted](#) by May 15th. OTP described the town hall series as an opportunity

(Source: FDA [Announcement](#), 4/29/26)

Expression Therapeutics, Inc. recently [announced](#) that the FDA has, “granted Fast Track Designation and Rare Pediatric Disease Designation to its” investigational autologous stem cell therapy to treat hemophilia A. The company is collaborating with a stem cell and gene therapy team from Stanford University for a phase II clinical trial. “As previously reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, multi-year [p]hase I data from treated patients demonstrated sustained Factor VIII expression and complete elimination of prophylaxis, supporting the potential for long-term disease control following a single administration of the therapy. The data are particularly compelling against the backdrop of today's standard of care: patients with severe hemophilia A currently face prophylactic regimens requiring constant infusions and/or injections at an estimated annual treatment cost of \$650,000-\$760,000 — a burden that persists through every year of life. These regimens offer very limited durability of Factor VIII activity, come with their own risks, and do not offer the quality of life that comes from living without hemophilia A.”

(Source: Expression Therapeutics [News Release](#), 4/29/26) 💧

GLOBAL NEWS

The New Zealand Blood Service recently [implemented](#) a shift in its blood donor eligibility criteria to individual donor assessments. A May 4th announcement explained that, “[w]e’ve changed how we ask donors about recent sexual activity. We now ask all donors if they’ve had new or multiple sexual partners in the past three months. If the answer is yes to either of these questions, donors are then asked if they’ve

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GLOBAL NEWS (continued from page 7)

had anal sex with these partners. These changes replace some of our previous questions that focused on men who have sex with men. It's a fairer, more consistent way of assessing potential risk for some infections that affect blood donation, and it brings us in line with many international blood services, including in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. Medsafe approved the new approach, and strong international and local evidence shows it will maintain the safety of New Zealand's blood supply, which is among the safest in the world."

(Source: New Zealand Blood Service [Announcement](#), 5/4/26) 💧

COMPANY NEWS

The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) has extended the deadline to Monday, May 11th for the [2026 Vacancy Survey](#). An announcement from the organization noted that the survey aims to, "determine the extent and distribution of workforce shortages within the nation's medical laboratories. All responses will be confidential, and data will only be reported in aggregate. Individual-level data will not be reported." ASCP asks all laboratory professionals to complete the survey and encourages individuals to forward the survey link to their peers.

(Source: ASCP [Survey](#), 4/10/26) 💧

CALENDAR

***Note to subscribers:** Submissions for a free listing in this calendar (published weekly) are welcome. Send information to newsletter@americasblood.org. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly "Meetings" section of the newsletter, please include program information.)*

2026

May 12. **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) Public Webinar: "FDA Review of Biologics License Applications for Blood and Source Plasma."** [Registration](#) is open. More information is available [here](#).

May 12-14. **ADRP: The Association for Blood Donor Professionals Annual Conference. Minneapolis, Minn.** [Registration](#) is open. More information is available [here](#).

May 19-20. **FDA Regulatory Education for Industry (REDI) Annual Conference 2026: "Innovative Regulatory Strategies to Advance Medical Products"** Silver Spring, Md. (Hybrid). [Registration](#) is open. More information is available [here](#).

May 20-21. **IPFA/Paul-Ehrlich Institut[e] (PEI) 32nd International Workshop on Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens.** Bilbao, Spain. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

June 4 **FDA CBER Office of Therapeutic Products (OTP) Virtual Town Hall: "Best Practices for Preparing BLA Submissions for Cell and Gene Therapy Products."** More information is available [here](#).

June 8-9. **2026 ABC Advocacy Workshop.** Washington, D.C. [Registration](#) is open. More information is available [here](#).

June 19. **Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (ARM) Workshop: "From Platform to Patient: Defining Market readiness for Genetic Medicines.** Paris, France. [Registration](#) is open. More information is available [here](#).

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CALENDAR (continued from page 8)

June 20-24. **International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) 39th International Congress. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

June 25-26. **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) “Research That Heals: Partnering with Patients to Transform SCD Care.”** Rockville, Md. (Hybrid). More information is coming soon.

Sept. 16-17. **ADRP: The Association for Blood Donor Professionals Master Class (Virtual).** More information is coming soon.

Oct. 4-7. **Association for Advancing Tissue and Biologics (AATB) Annual Meeting. San Francisco, Calif.** More information available [here](#).

Oct. 5-7. **ARM Cell & Gene Meeting on the Mesa. Phoenix, Ariz.** More information is available [here](#).

Oct. 17-19. **Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB) Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Ga.** More information is coming soon.

Nov. 17-20. **American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and Canadian Association of Pathologists- Association Canadienne des Pathologistes (CAP-ACP) Joint Annual Meeting. Montreal, QC.** [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

2027

March 8-11. **2027 ABC Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Ga.** More information is coming soon. 💧

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC members. There are charges for non-members: \$139 per placement for ABC Newsletter subscribers and \$279 for non-subscribers. A six (6) percent processing fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, e-mail: newsletter@americasblood.org

POSITIONS

Transfusion Lab Manager Needed! Join Florida’s leading blood center, **OneBlood**, as a Blood Bank Lab Manager in Bay Pines, FL. Bring your leadership, technical expertise, and management experience to support the transfusion testing procedures on patient and/or donor samples. Qualified candidates should possess five (5) or more years’ experience in a related field. A valid and current Florida Clinical Laboratory Supervisor license in Immunohematology required; SBB certification preferred. To apply and view a complete Job Description of this Lab Manager position, visit www.oneblood.org/careers. OneBlood, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Vet/Disability.

Financial Services Manager. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is seeking an experienced and detail-oriented **Financial Services Manager** to join our team, in **Gainesville, FL**. This position oversees core financial operations, manages staff, and ensures compliance with organizational policies and deadlines. It provides leadership across accounts payable/receivable, fixed assets, payroll, and revenue cycle functions, driving accuracy

and efficiency while supporting the organization’s mission to provide a safe blood supply and exceptional service to the community. The Financial Services Manager will work closely with leadership to analyze financial data, identify trends, and support strategic decision-making while maintaining compliance with company policies and regulatory standards. Join our team and help us continue our dedication to making sure the blood is there when you or your family is in need. Visit our careers page to learn more about this position, and [apply here!](#)

Medical Technologist Careers Available! Join OneBlood’s healthcare team as a Medical Technologist in the beautiful sunny state of Florida. In this dynamic role, you will perform basic through advanced testing procedures on patient and/or donor samples and interpret results in accordance with regulatory guidelines and organizational policies and procedures. A valid and current Florida Clinical Laboratory Technologist license, as well as a

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CALENDAR (continued from page 9)

bachelor's degree in a biological science or related scientific field from an accredited college or university, is needed. We offer a comprehensive compensation and benefits package including healthcare, shift differentials, student loan repayment, 403b, and more! To apply and view a complete Job Description of these positions, go to www.oneblood.org and click on the **Careers** tab. One-Blood, Inc. is Employer/Vet/Disability. 💧