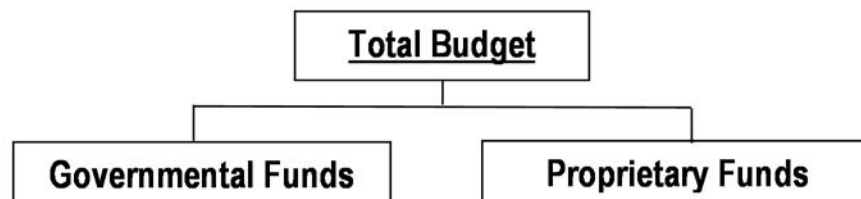


OUR FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

The Miami-Dade County Budget is comprised of appropriations in various funds. A fund is a set of self-balancing accounts that are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives, as required by special regulations, restrictions, or limitations. Miami-Dade County's funds can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds. Only governmental funds and proprietary funds are appropriated as part of the annual budget. Governmental funds account for most of the County's basic services. Taxes, intergovernmental revenues, charges for services, and proceeds from bond sales principally support the activities reported in these funds. There are nine enterprise funds reported in the County's annual financial report that are considered proprietary funds. The budget ordinance that is presented to the BCC in September for the two public budget hearings follows this fund structure.



GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

The General Fund is the County's primary operating fund. All financial activity not included within a proprietary (or enterprise) fund is included in the General Fund. Within the General Fund, the operating budget separates Countywide expenditures (for regional services) from UMSA expenditures (for municipal services). That separation ensures that residents pay only for the services they receive. Some services are easy to differentiate: health care, mass transit, correctional facilities operations and support, and elections, for example are all countywide services. Many departments, including Miami-Dade Police, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Transportation and Public Works, and Regulatory and Economic Resources, however, provide both regional and municipal services and their general fund subsidies are allocated between the Countywide revenues and UMSA revenues as appropriate. Each department's allocation is reviewed annually.

Police services provided in the unincorporated area are similar to police services provided by municipal police departments. These services include uniform police patrols, general investigative services, school crossing guard program services, and community-based crime prevention programs. Criminal and other specialized investigative activities primarily serve the unincorporated area, but also provide support to municipalities on an as needed basis. Those costs are allocated between the Countywide and UMSA budgets based on relative workloads during the previous fiscal year. Countywide police functions are generally the sheriff's functions and include the crime laboratory, court services, civil process, warrants, public corruption investigations, and portions of the communications and records bureaus. The expenditures of overall support functions such as the director's office, the legal and professional compliance bureaus, and information technology services are allocated in accordance with the overall department-wide allocation between Countywide and UMSA budgets. Non-reimbursed costs of police presence supporting municipal police departments at events of countywide significance are also considered countywide functions. The allocation of the police subsidy is 32 percent to the Countywide budget and 68 percent to the UMSA budget for FY 2016-17.

FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

The Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department expenditures are divided similarly. Community and neighborhood parks and community pools providing local services to the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and roadside maintenance and landscaping are supported by the UMSA budget. Countywide park facilities and programs serve all county residents and include regional parks such as Amelia Earhart, Ives Estates, Tamiami, and Tropical parks, metropolitan parks, Zoo Miami, cultural facilities, natural areas, cooperative extension, and beaches. Administrative support and construction (planning, design, development, and maintenance) costs are allocated between the Countywide and UMSA budgets on the basis of the relative costs of direct services. Some countywide park facilities such as marinas and tennis centers generate revenues to support their operations and require little if any property tax support. Causeways and special taxing districts are self-supporting and require no property tax support. As a result of this year's review of the cost allocation method and service enhancements, countywide support (including all funding sources) in this fiscal year is 42 percent of the PROS subsidy.

General Fund support to planning and administration functions within the Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) Department is allocated based on proportions of workload that relate to the unincorporated area as compared to the overall county. Because most planning activities such as charrettes, development reviews, preparation of special planning studies, and support of community councils are local in nature, the costs are allocated to the unincorporated area budget. Costs associated with the review of Developments of Regional Impact, areawide economic forecasting and census related activities, however, are included in the countywide budget because of their countywide significance. In FY 2016-17, UMSA General Fund support of the planning function in the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department is 23 percent of the subsidy.

The Department of Transportation and Public Works' (DTPW) unincorporated area budget provides funding for local right-of-way maintenance activities which include minor debris removal, pothole patching, paving, resurfacing, and sidewalk repair, as well as other work done in the UMSA area. Countywide transportation and public works responsibilities such as mass transit, traffic signalization and signage, traffic engineering design, arterial road maintenance in municipalities, and bridge operations throughout the county are funded by Countywide funds. Several direct services are both Countywide and UMSA funded. These include right-of-way surveying, land acquisition, and highway engineering. Administrative costs are allocated on the basis of the relative costs of direct services. Of the total recommended General Fund support, countywide support in FY 2016-17 is 95 percent and UMSA support funds five percent of activities.

The cost of the County's central administration, which supports operating departments, is apportioned based on the ratio of countywide versus UMSA operating costs across the entire General Fund. This allocation for FY 2016-17 is 74 percent to the Countywide budget and 26 percent to the UMSA budget. In some cases, specific functions within a particular central administrative department are funded from either the countywide or unincorporated area budget depending on the population served while other functions may be funded differently. For example, the Information Technology Department (ITD) has administrative functions funded by Countywide and UMSA general fund however other services provided are funded through internal service charges such as telephone and radio services. Finally, the central administration is partially funded through an administrative reimbursement charged to proprietary funds. For the FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget, that percentage is 2.77 percent of proprietary budgets, a 10.93 percent reduction from the prior year's calculation of 3.11 percent.

Revenue allocation is more clearly defined and usually based on statutory guidelines. Counties are authorized to collect certain revenues, as are municipalities. In accordance with state law and the Home Rule Charter, the unincorporated area realizes revenues comparable to those received by municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

There are three other governmental funds included in the budget:

- **Special Revenue Funds:** Special revenue funds are used to account for revenues from specific sources that are restricted by law or policy to finance specific activities.
- **Debt Service Funds:** Debt service funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of principal and interest on long-term obligations.
- **Capital Project Funds:** Capital project funds are used to account for financial resources used for the acquisition and/or construction of major capital facilities and infrastructure.

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

Proprietary funds are those funds where the County charges a user fee in order to recover costs. The County's proprietary funds include enterprise funds and internal service funds.

Enterprise funds are used to finance and account for the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of facilities and services that are intended to be entirely or predominantly self-supporting through the collection of charges from external customers. The following major enterprise funds are included in the County's financial statements:

- **Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW):** Operates the County's mass transit rail system, bus system, metro-mover system, and paratransit services
- **Solid Waste Management (DSWM):** Provides solid waste collection and recycling services to the unincorporated area of Miami-Dade County and some municipalities. Also, provides solid waste disposal services to 15 municipalities and operates a variety of facilities, including landfills, transfer stations, and neighborhood trash and recycling centers.
- **Seaport:** Operates the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade County.
- **Aviation:** Operates and develops the activities of the Miami International Airport, three other general aviation airports, and one training airport.
- **Water and Sewer Department (WASD):** Maintains and operates the County's water distribution system and wastewater collection and treatment system.
- **Public Health Trust/Jackson Health System (PHT):** The PHT was created by a County ordinance in 1973 to provide for an independent governing body responsible for the operation, governance, and maintenance of certain designated health facilities. These facilities include Jackson Memorial Hospital, a teaching hospital operating in association with the University of Miami School of Medicine, Jackson North Medical Center, Jackson South Community Hospital, and several primary care centers and clinics throughout Miami-Dade County.

There are four additional enterprise funds: the *Rickenbacker Causeway* fund (PROS), the *Venetian Causeway* fund (PROS), the *Section 8 Allocation* fund (within Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)) and *Mixed Income Properties* fund (PHCD).

Internal service funds are used to report any activity that provides goods and services to other funds, departments, or agencies of the County, on a fee for cost and overhead or a reimbursement basis. The County has one internal service fund, the Self-Insurance Fund, which accounts for the County's insurance programs covering property, automobile, general liability and workers' compensation. It is also used for medical, dental, life, and disability insurance accounts for County employees. A large portion of the group medical insurance program is self-insured.

FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others. The County currently has funds held in an agency capacity by the Clerk of the Circuit and County Court and the Tax Collector, as well as other funds placed in escrow pending distributions. These funds cannot be used to support the County's own programs, and therefore, are not required to be appropriated as part of the annual budget.

- *Clerk of Circuit and County Courts Agency Fund:* Accounts for funds received, maintained and distributed by the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts in his capacity as custodian to the State and County judicial systems.
- *Tax Collector Agency Fund:* Accounts for the collection and distribution of ad valorem taxes and personal property taxes to the appropriate taxing districts. Also accounts for the collection of motor vehicle registration fees and sales of other State of Florida licenses, the proceeds of which are remitted to the State.
- *Pension Trust Fund:* Accounts for assets held by Northern Trust Bank for the benefit of employees of the Public Health Trust who participate in the Public Health Trust Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.
- *Other Agency Funds:* Accounts for various funds placed in escrow pending timed distributions.