

MIAMI-DADE RESCUE PLAN

During the development of the FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan, several budgetary shortfalls were identified that required various adjustments to the County's current level of service, in order to produce a balanced budget proposal without increasing ad-valorem taxes to the residents of Miami-Dade County.

As the County approached the final phase of the FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan development process, the American Rescue Plan Act (Act) (ARP) (H.R. 1319) was approved by Congress and signed into law by the President on March 11, 2021. The Act, which included fiscal recovery funds for local governments, provided the nation with \$1.9 trillion in financial relief in response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are six municipalities within Miami-Dade County that received direct funding assistance from the federal government and included the cities of Hialeah, Homestead, Miami, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens and North Miami. All other municipal funding was provided by the State of Florida for a total of approximately \$510 million in relief assistance. In addition, Miami-Dade County was allocated \$527 million from the Department of Treasury's American Rescue Plan, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) for general governmental services.

CSLFRF funds were allocated based on population using 2019 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Urban Counties, such as Miami-Dade, could not receive less from CSLFRF than they would have received if the funding had been distributed according to section 106(b) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (the Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG, formula). Urban Counties received an upward adjustment to their allocation as a result of this provision. Miami-Dade County received a partial payment of \$263.8 million from the Treasury on May 19, 2021, and the balance of the funds will be released within twelve months of the first disbursement. On May 10, 2021, the Treasury released the Interim Final Rule providing general guidelines on the allowable uses of CSLFRF funds which required CSLFRF funds to be fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026. As was anticipated, the guidelines emphasized that these funds were intended to address negative impacts of the pandemic on disproportionately affected communities and populations as well as to respond to the negative economic impacts created or exacerbated as a result of the pandemic.

After much deliberation, the administration in consultation with the Board of County Commissioners (Board) developed and adopted the Miami-Dade Rescue Plan – Resolution No. R-777-21, adopted by the Board on July 20, 2021 – to allocate ARPA funds toward the following priorities:

- Funding to continue providing critical County services without interruption, utilizing the revenue replacement grant category (\$321.7 million)
- Key infrastructure projects that support thousands of good-paying jobs while simultaneously investing in our community's long-term health and prosperity
- District-specific priority projects, allocating \$2 million to each of our 13 County Commission districts for each Commissioner to determine how those funds are spent to support our communities and
- Funding to support the families disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including funds for business grants, workforce training, the preservation and development of workforce housing, violence prevention, behavioral health programs and more

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During the County's FY 2021-22 September budget hearings, Resolution No. R-777-21 was modified to include revenue replacement reimbursements of \$479.9 million, which gave the County flexibility to generate general revenue that allowed for the establishment of the Miami-Dade Rescue Plan while satisfying the provisions of the grant as stated in the interim rule. This plan adheres to the same categories that prioritize provisions to continue the same level of County services (\$321.7 million), develop key infrastructure projects (\$121 million), provide for commission district priority projects (\$26 million) and fund support to families that were disproportionately affected by the pandemic with the establishment of economic and social impact projects (\$59 million).

Infrastructure Projects (\$121 million)

The FY 2021-22 budget included \$121 million for infrastructure projects. As noted in Appendix Z \$13.1 million was allocated to specific projects, the remaining funding (\$107.9 million) was set aside for septic to sewer, infrastructure and resiliency projects. During FY 2021-22, several earmarks and federal and state grants have been identified where the unallocated infrastructure funding can be used as the local match, while also being utilized, in the majority, for its intended purpose as approved by the Board. These grants require a local match of approximately \$57.3 million, however any items regarding the award of these grants will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Economic and Social Impact Projects (\$59 million)

The FY 2021-22 budget included \$59 million for economic and social impact projects. A majority of this funding was allocated through the budget process and is under contract. The remaining funding that was not allocated included \$2.955 million for Future Affordable Housing Projects.

District Designated Projects (\$26 million)

The FY 2021-22 budget included \$26 million for commission district specific projects.

Continuation of County Services (\$321.7 million)

As part of the County's plan for the ARPA funding, \$321.734 million was set aside for the continuation of general governmental services. In FY 2020-21, \$47.825 million was budgeted to cover shortfalls, as a result of additional revenues generated through increased general revenue and tourist taxes, only \$19.329 million was expended. The FY 2021-22 approved budget included \$273.875 million for general governmental services, which included \$103 million to cover operating expenses in public safety. It is anticipated that \$123.775 million will be required, leaving a remaining balance of \$178.630 million for general governmental services.

The FY 2022-23 Proposed Budget includes \$178.630 million in one-time programs/expenditures comprised of the following:

- Solid Waste Management – \$40 million in general revenue for the Department of Solid Waste Management collections fund; this infusion will stabilize the fund which would otherwise require a much larger increase to maintain collection services
- Affordable Housing – \$40 million in general revenue for use in affordable housing programs that may include the Building Block program and other programs to be presented to the Board for consideration

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- Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL) - \$24 million for the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) EEL Program, this additional funding will allow the program to continue maintenance of the current inventory and provide for additional purchases
- Economic Development - \$15 million to provide support and programming to small businesses in the County and spur economic development
- Board of County Commissioners District Designated Projects - \$13 million to be distributed equally among commission districts to be used for projects in the district
- Constituent Services - \$6.65 million to provide constituent services in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Courts and or Legal Services to develop a program to assist low-income individuals navigate difficult issues arising from legal actions to include but not limited to eviction protection and diversion
- Small Business Relief Program Funding - \$5 million
- Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) - \$3.318 million for programs that include \$1.810 million for a Water Quality Control Plan, \$500,000 for a public awareness campaign, \$500,000 for technical expertise for the Wetlands Mitigation Bank permit application, \$333,000 for a public outreach campaign for environmental initiatives and \$175,000 for a Plastic Free media campaign
- Tree Canopy - \$2.5 million to augment the County's efforts to plant trees in rights-of-way and County owned properties
- Resiliency Grants - \$2.5 million to fund resiliency educational grants
- Reimbursement to the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP) - \$2.4 million to reimburse the PTP Fund for the purchase of the lightspeed building which was originally housing the Department of Transportation and Public Works traffic signal and signs division
- Strive 305 Program - \$1.5 million to accelerate the growth of small business and entrepreneurship through access to capital, business incubator services and in person educational events
- Children's Savings Accounts - \$1 million to fund children's savings accounts to allow students access to postsecondary education
- Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) - \$375,000 for grants to small minority business owners
- Axis Helps Urban Impact Lab - \$350,000
- Florida International University Apprenticeship Program (FIU) - \$350,000 to fund a partnership with FIU to continue the Experiential Learning in Technology ("ELT") program to provide FIU students with critical skills to fill information technology workforce vacancies
- LGTBQ Assessment - \$175,000 to provide for a study of services available to this community
- Spark Academy - \$160,000 to provide training for performance improvement techniques for County staff and departments
- Laurel Wilt - \$150,000 for the Laurel Wilt Program (Florida Avocado Administrative Committee)
- Future Budget Shortfall Reserve - \$20.202 million to create a reserve to fund future budget shortfalls