



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Home Rule and Preemption:** *SUPPORT* preservation of local home rule; *OPPOSE* any effort to preempt local authority.
- **Federal Funding, Cost Shifts and Unfunded Mandates:** *SUPPORT* preservation of existing federal funding for County programs; *SUPPORT* direct Federal funding to Counties and cities; and *OPPOSE* any additional cost shifts or unfunded mandates from the federal government to the County, and any reductions in County revenue or formula funding from the federal government. *OPPOSE* any measure that would adversely affect County revenues.
- **Protect Previous Federal Funding:** *SUPPORT* efforts to secure the same level of federal funding for County programs as last year.
- **Promote Partnerships:** *SUPPORT* partnerships with other counties, municipalities, national associations, and any other entity that would help to create favorable outcomes for the County.



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2023 FEDERAL CRITICAL PRIORITIES

- **Protection and Enhancement of Biscayne Bay:** Urging the United States Congress and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to provide funding for the protection and enhancement of Biscayne Bay and for septic-to-sewer conversion projects (R-1118-22).
- **Visa Applications from Argentina:** Urging the United States Congress and the Secretary of the United States Department of State to jointly and expeditiously resolve the backlog of immigrant visa applications and visa renewal requests received from citizens of Argentina.
- **Funding for Septic to Sewer Conversion – SUPPORT** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants and loans to facilitate septic to sewer projects where it is shown that septic systems are contributing to public health risks or environmental degradation of significant resources such as Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. Funding is needed for the public infrastructure as well as for the cost of connection for private property owners.
- **SMART Plan Funding - SUPPORT** funding and financing for all corridors in the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.
  - **ADVOCATE** for accelerated review of East-West Bus Rapid Transit Project and Northeast Commuter Rail Corridors currently in the FTA evaluations process.
- **Infrastructure Finance and Programs – SUPPORT** the implementation of Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA), adequate funding of State Revolving Loan Funds, and federal policy on affordability, climate change, Clean Water Act mandates, and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, which are all significant factors for WASD capital and operating requirements. The Department has been selected in each of the first four funding cycles for WIFIA projects, in addition to maximizing utilization of the State Revolving Loan Fund program, demonstrating the importance of these federal initiatives to produce results on the ground. A reliable utility system meeting all state and federal requirements is essential for the operation of other departments as well as the continued economic well-being of the County. Miami-Dade County has an \$8+ billion water and sewer capital needs program resulting from aging infrastructure, federal and state regulatory mandates, and changing conditions associated with documented sea

level rise including sewer and water extensions needed to convert impacted septic tank systems and contaminated drinking water wells. This represents the largest capital burden of any comparably sized utility in the nation.

- **Biscayne Bay Restoration - *ADVOCATE*** to restore Biscayne Bay water quality and habitats, including the development of a Reasonable Assurance Plan; ***SUPPORT*** efforts to secure recurring funds to accomplish Biscayne Bay restoration; ***SUPPORT*** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants to facilitate restoration-related projects to restore water quality and habitats and prevent fish kills and algal blooms. (Environmental Resources Management & Resilience)
- **Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHARP) - *ADVOCATE*** for federal funding to further expand the SHARP program to assist larger numbers of elderly homeowners with needed home repairs and rehabilitation services, which include electrical upgrades, HVAC upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, bathroom and kitchen upgrades, improved accessibility, roof repairs or replacement and flooring upgrades.
- **Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - *MONITOR*** agency activities surrounding the roll out of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA including the Notices of (FY 2023) funding opportunities (NOFOs) for the major programs of interest to ports: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (Mega); the Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program (PIDG), RAISE and INFRA. ***ADVOCATE*** for continuing (FY 2024) appropriations for IIJA programs and Mega Grant prioritization language by the (2024) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bills.
- **Everglades Restoration in Miami-Dade - *SUPPORT*** the State of Florida's request for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) funding at \$725 million for FY22 to continue the progress made for Everglades restoration that includes funds for planning efforts for the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration project (BBSEER). The BBSEER project is essential to Miami-Dade County. BBSEER will restore parts of the south Florida ecosystem in freshwater wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Lands, the coastal wetlands, and subtidal areas, including mangrove and seagrass areas, of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park.
- **Strengthen Federal Passenger and Cargo Screening Staffing – *ADVOCATE*** for sufficient staffing to both address lengthy passenger wait times and delays in cargo processing. Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is a top priority for Miami International Airport (MIA). MIA continually works with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to protect passengers while providing an efficient passenger and cargo screening process. But staffing shortfalls from these government agencies have proven to be an on-going challenge.

- **Transit Build Back Better Framework – *SUPPORT*** the passage of the Build Back Better Framework for Transit and alternative fuel investments. The House Committee on Rules posted revised legislative text that reflects most of the Framework. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the bill provides:
  - \$10 billion for a new, innovative program providing competitive grants for public transit access to affordable housing and to enhance mobility for low-income riders and residents of disadvantaged communities;
  - \$10 billion for the planning and development of public high-speed rail projects; and
  - Additional investments in climate incentive grants and neighborhood access and equity grants.
  - It also creates a manufacturer’s tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost of electric or hydrogen fuel-cell transit buses; extends the alternative fuel tax credit; and extends and substantially increases the alternative fuel vehicle property tax credit.
  
- **Biscayne-Everglades Greenway – *ADVOCATE*** for funding and/or authorize programs to assist in the Design and Construction of the 43-mile world class Biscayne-Everglades Greenway that will traverse and serve both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Miami-Dade County connecting Biscayne National Park to Everglades National Park providing a safe and scenic route to the parks without concern for vehicular traffic. The greenway will connect to a variety of other trails in the South Dade Greenways Network and will incorporate South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and County owned rights-of-ways. The project will provide for both recreation and alternative transportation. The funding will be used to complete trail extensions to the west of NE 12 Av. with connections to the existing South Dade Trail / East Coast Greenway along the Busway and downtown Homestead along SW 320 St. (E. Mowry Dr. and W. Mowry Dr.)
  
- **Agriculture Relief - *ADVOCATE*** for funding, programs, legislation, and assistance to increase viability of our local agricultural industry and mitigate any effects of invasive pests, diseases, freezes, flooding, windstorm and other potential damages to our said industry. (Economic Development)
  
- **Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program (Acquisition and Management) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** Federal grant programs that provide Miami-Dade County’s EEL Program funding to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands that help the County to adapt to impacts of sea level rise (such as increased erosion, higher storm surges, salt water intrusion, impacts to Biscayne Bay) to absorb floodwaters, to cool nearby “heat islands”, and to absorb and store carbon pollution that drive climate change. (Environmental Resources Management)

- **Older Americans Act (OAA) - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding through the OAA to meet the demand for services for the growing senior adult population such as in-home support, adult day care, and respite for caregivers, and meals, thereby helping seniors avoid or delay institutionalization, while remaining in their homes and in the community.
- **Funding for Homeless Programs – *SUPPORT*** expanding HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs, including the competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula grant program which are the cornerstones of our community’s homeless system. In Miami-Dade, ESG grants fund outreach, shelter, prevention and rapid rehousing. The CoC program funds permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing (short- to medium-term rental assistance), transitional housing for youth, and coordinated entry (outreach). The Homeless Trust receives more than \$40 million in direct funding under the Federal CoC program competition, and coordinates with jurisdictions including Miami-Dade, Miami and Hialeah, and the State of Florida to house and serve additional homeless and at-risk households using ESG funding.

The biggest cost item in the homelessness programs is rental subsidies. Increasing rents will consume much of the FY 2022 HAG increase. HAG funding in the amount of \$3.6 billion is requested for Fiscal Year 2023.

- **Public Housing & Section 8 Housing - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding from HUD for public housing and Section 8 programs. Funding for these programs will ensure the preservation of existing housing stock and improvement of federally funded programs that provide crucial affordable housing and rental subsidies to low-income families.
- **HUD Assisted Housing for Specific Disabilities and Elderly - *SUPPORT*** allowing for the designation of HUD assisted housing for specific disabilities and for the elderly, especially given Miami-Dade County’s large population of elderly.
- **Beach Erosion Control Sand Sources - *SUPPORT*** efforts to exempt Southeast Florida, specifically Miami-Dade County, from federal prohibition of cost-sharing non-domestic sources of beach sand for beach erosion control/sea level rise mitigation. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Funding and Support for New Arrivals – *ADVOCATE*** for funding to support basic services for new immigrants in Miami-Dade County.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

**MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS**

*As of February 21, 2023, and in chronological order by passage*

R-957-22: RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO RECONSIDER ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH-CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPLEX PROJECT FOR MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

R-1118-22: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF BISCAYNE BAY AND FOR SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION PROJECTS; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF BISCAYNE BAY AND FOR SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION PROJECTS AND TO MODIFY THE STATE WASTEWATER GRANT PROGRAM TO ENABLE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO OBTAIN WASTEWATER GRANT FUNDING; IDENTIFYING THESE ISSUES AS FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

R-36-23: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2023 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

### DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS BY POLICY AREA

#### Policy Area: Transportation and Ports

##### Miami-Dade Aviation Department

- **Strengthen Federal Passenger and Cargo Screening Staffing – *ADVOCATE*** for sufficient staffing to both address lengthy passenger wait times and delays in cargo processing. Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is a top priority for Miami International Airport (MIA). MIA continually works with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to protect passengers while providing an efficient passenger and cargo screening process. But staffing shortfalls from these government agencies have proven to be an on-going challenge.
- **Airport Improvement Program (AIP) - *SUPPORT*** authorizing the Airport Improvement Program at no less than \$3.35 billion for the traditional AIP account in FY23 — the same amount provided in the current fiscal year, as well as up to \$517 million in supplemental AIP funding which includes \$116 million for Community Project Funding, and not less than \$188 million dedicated funding for the Contract Tower and Contract Tower Cost Share Programs.
- **Counter UAS Operations - *SUPPORT*** a robust legislative framework to counter threats posed by the illicit and careless use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by enacting legislation that responsibly expands detection and mitigation authorities balanced by appropriate safeguards. MDAD recognizes that UAS provide significant economic and social benefits to the United States, and it is imperative for America to lead globally in this innovative technology. In 2021, TSA selected MIA for its initial test of technologies that will detect, track, and identify (DTI) drones entering restricted airspace. MIA welcomes continuing partnerships with TSA to provide guidance on appropriate rules and technologies to secure and protect national airspace.

- **FAA Reauthorization Act of 2023 - *SUPPORT*** the timely passage of an FAA Reauthorization bill in 2023 which will provide airports with the needed certainty to tackle important safety and security projects funded through the essential Airport Improvement Program. In 2018, Congress passed, and the President signed the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The five-year Act authorized funding for FAA programs and services from FY 2019 through FY 2023. To maintain our leadership position, we must make needed infrastructure upgrades and security enhancements to provide for a safe and efficient travel experience for a growing number of passengers.

## **PortMiami**

- **Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - *MONITOR*** agency activities surrounding the roll out of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA including the Notices of (FY 2023) funding opportunities (NOFOs) for the major programs of interest to ports: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (Mega); the Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program (PIDG), RAISE and INFRA. ***ADVOCATE*** for continuing (FY 2024) appropriations for IIJA programs and Mega Grant prioritization language by the (2024) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bills.
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) / New \$3 billion Grant Program for Zero Emissions Port Equipment and Technology - *ADVOCATE*** to EPA and in response to the agency's outreach to stakeholders, to seek grant eligibility for essential components of "Net Zero" by this new grant program. This program can be critical to the successful implementation of "Net Zero" and Congress has afforded broad authority to the EPA in preparing the implementation guidelines/eligibility criteria.
- **Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program (PIDG) – *SUPPORT*** the House proposed funding level of \$300 million for FY 2023 and the accompanying report language which encourages MARAD to prioritize PIDP applications that demonstrate efficacy in reducing port air emissions through investments in clean electricity and demonstrate consultation with nearby communities traditionally affected by port air emissions.
- **The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Fiscal Year 2023 - *SUPPORT*** language in the House-passed bill which extends MARAD's authority to award grants for shore power connections at cruise berths, pursuant to the PIDG.
- **GSA/CBP Land Ports of Entry Modernization and Construction Program in IIJA - *SUPPORT*** the inclusion of waterway ports of entry in following scope: Modernize and improve Land Port of Entry at our nation's Northern and Southwest Border. Allows the construction and modernization at all ports on CBP's 5-year plan and those identified as a priority for upgrades. Port modernization improves border security and efficient flow of travel and trade across our land border.



- **Electric Ferry Pilot Program in IJA - *SUPPORT*** the inclusion electric tugs in the grant program for the purchase of electric or low-emitting (methanol, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, hydrogen, coal-derived liquid fuels) ferries. Requires that at least one grant be awarded to the State with the largest Marine Highway System and a bi-ferry service with an aging fleet.
- **Miami Harbor Navigation Improvements & Miami Harbor Feasibility Study - *ADVOCATE*** for final passage and enactment of H.R. 7776, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2022) which urges the Corps to prioritize and expedite the completion of the Miami Harbor Feasibility Study (Committee Report 117-347). *ADVOCATE* for additional O&M appropriations by the 2024 Energy and Water Development appropriations bills to assure adequate funding for the USACE to pursue the corrective work to the completed (50-52 foot) project.
- **Maritime CBP and USDA Staffing – *ADVOCATE*** for additional resources by the FY 2024 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing is essential to the effective and efficient administration of the nation’s port security policy. For America’s international gateways to function more effectively and safely, CBP must be adequately funded to assure there are adequate agents assigned to seaports. PortMiami will work in conjunction with the American Association of Port Authorities to seek maximum funding levels for FY 2024.
- **Donor and Energy Transfer Ports (D&ET) PROGRAM - *ADVOCATE*** for maximum of \$56 million and implementation of WRDA 2020 program changes by the 2024 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. *SUPPORT* \$56 million for the D&ET program in 2023, pending final approval by the House/Senate 2023 conference.
- **Miami Harbor Operations and Maintenance - *SUPPORT*** the \$50,000 for Miami Harbor 2023 maintenance needs pending final House/Senate conference approval, Energy and Water Development appropriations, FY 2023.
- **CBP (Customs and Border Patrol) Facility Upgrades - *SUPPORT*** industry initiatives to manage the escalating costs of facility upgrades.
- **Seaport Climate Change and Resiliency – *ADVOCATE*** for climate change/resiliency initiatives which support seaports adaptation efforts, including any follow up to the report released by the House Select Committee on Climate Change in 2020 - “Build a Cleaner and More Resilient Maritime and Shipping Sector”, which recommends investments in climate resiliency projects for U.S. ports in future water resources (WRDA) legislation.
- **Cold Treatment Production on Port – *ADVOCATE*** for stakeholders at the USDA, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Florida seaports to to develop an agreement/plan to safely finish cold treatment at Florida ports. Prior to 2019, cold treatment perishables could not enter U.S. ports south of the 39th latitude unless perishables completed fifteen (15) days of cold treatment at 33 degrees F.

outside of the U.S. requiring Florida-bound fruits grown in Latin America to be shipped to ports like Port of Philadelphia and Port of Wilmington, DE, contributing to highway congestion, increased emissions, and loss of shelf life. Recent updates by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA) now permit all U.S. ports to request authorization to bring in completed cold treatment produce as well as to continue cold treatment at Florida ports.

- **Western Hemisphere Nearshoring Act - *SUPPORT*** H.R. 7579 or similar bill, sponsored by Congressman Mark Green (R-TX), cosponsored by Representatives Gimenez (R-FL) and Salazar (R-FL), which incentivizes producers to relocate to Latin America and the Caribbean, with the intent of reducing the U.S. supply chain dependence on China. Seek reintroduction and additional Florida cosponsors in the new Congress.
- **Fiscal Year 2023 Vehicle Technologies Office Program Wide FOA – *SUPPORT*** The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) funding opportunity announcement (FOA). The research design development demonstration (RDD&D) activities to be funded under this anticipated FOA will support the government-wide approach to the climate crisis by driving the innovation that can lead to the deployment of clean energy technologies, critical to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.
- **Research and Planning opportunities through USDOE EERE - *MONITOR*** the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy research and planning projects, including energy-efficient commercial off-road vehicle technologies; medium/heavy duty vehicle corridor charging and advanced engine and fuel technologies to improve fuel economy and reduce GHG emissions.

## Department of Transportation and Public Works

- **Transit Build Back Better Framework – *SUPPORT*** the passage of the Build Back Better Framework for Transit and alternative fuel investments. The House Committee on Rules posted revised legislative text that reflects most of the Framework. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the bill provides:
  - \$10 billion for a new, innovative program providing competitive grants for public transit access to affordable housing and to enhance mobility for low-income riders and residents of disadvantaged communities;
  - \$10 billion for the planning and development of public high-speed rail projects; and
  - Additional investments in climate incentive grants and neighborhood access and equity grants.
  - It also creates a manufacturer's tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost of electric or hydrogen fuel-cell transit buses; extends the alternative fuel tax

credit; and extends and substantially increases the alternative fuel vehicle property tax credit.

- **SMART Plan Funding - *SUPPORT*** funding and financing for all corridors in the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.
  - ***ADVOCATE*** for accelerated review of East-West Bus Rapid Transit Project and Northeast Commuter Rail Corridors currently in the FTA evaluations process.
- **Discretionary Transit Grants – *SUPPORT*** of US Department of Transportation grant funds that would provide funds to Miami-Dade County.
- **Letter of No Prejudice for P3 Projects - *URGE*** the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to remove requirements such as completion of project risk assessment, capital and operating financial plan, and readiness reviews, for the approval of Letter of No Prejudice requests for Public-Private Partnership (P3) projects.
- **Fully Fund Federal Formula Program and State of Good Repair (SGR) grants at least to the levels provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - *SUPPORT*** funding for DTPW for several critical, but not fully funded improvements projects, which could qualify for State of Good Repair (SGR) grants including continuing support for SGR grants that can fund projects for improvement or modernization of Metrorail and Metromover guideways, replacement of escalators and overhaul of elevators at Metromover stations, the acquisition of battery electric buses and retrofitting of garages to service CNG and electric buses.
- **Autonomous vehicles - *SUPPORT*** funding for the acquisition of autonomous vehicles, and the participation in demonstration programs. Also, support the removal of potential roadblocks to the integration of this innovative, transformational automotive technology that can significantly improve safety, mobility, and sustainability.
- **National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices' (NCUTCD) recommendations - *ADVOCATE*** for legislation to reform speed limit setting standards and guidance in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and other Federal documents. The Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") and USDOT should take prompt action to expedite the MUTCD update. The prevailing speed limit setting method in the US instructs traffic engineers to set speeds based on the 85th percentile speed of free flowing traffic. This approach was originally recommended in the 1940s based on the engineering assumption that drivers choose their travel speeds according to roadway and weather conditions, and that they always drive at reasonable speeds. Additionally, these supporting studies relied on self-reported crash data and were conducted on two-lane rural highways, devoid of any multimodal activity. FHWA should replace guidance that makes use of the 85th percentile methodology with consideration of factors such as context of the

surrounding area, crash history and pedestrian and bicyclist safety when setting speed limits.

## **Policy Area: Environment and Resilience**

### **Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces**

- **Biscayne-Everglades Greenway – *ADVOCATE*** for funding and/or authorize programs to assist in the Design and Construction of the 43-mile world class Biscayne-Everglades Greenway that will traverse and serve both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Miami-Dade County connecting Biscayne National Park to Everglades National Park providing a safe and scenic route to the parks without concern for vehicular traffic. The greenway will connect to a variety of other trails in the South Dade Greenways Network and will incorporate South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and County owned rights-of-ways. The project will provide for both recreation and alternative transportation. The funding will be used to complete trail extensions to the west of NE 12 Av. with connections to the existing South Dade Trail / East Coast Greenway along the Busway and downtown Homestead along SW 320 St. (E. Mowry Dr. and W. Mowry Dr.)

### **Regulatory and Economic Resources**

- **Laurel Wilt Disease - *ADVOCATE*** for continued funding for the mitigation and eradication, prevention and treatment of Laurel Wilt Disease. Include Laurel Wilt Disease as a covered cause of loss under the tree insurance policy and the Tree Assistance Program. (Economic Development)
- **Agriculture Relief - *ADVOCATE*** for funding, programs, legislation, and assistance to increase viability of our local agricultural industry and mitigate any effects of invasive pests, diseases, freezes, flooding, windstorm and other potential damages to our said industry. (Economic Development)
- **Beach Erosion Control Sand Sources - *SUPPORT*** efforts to exempt Southeast Florida, specifically Miami-Dade County, from federal prohibition of cost-sharing non-domestic sources of beach sand for beach erosion control/sea level rise mitigation. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Biscayne Bay Restoration - *ADVOCATE*** to restore Biscayne Bay water quality and habitats, including the development of a Reasonable Assurance Plan; **SUPPORT** efforts to secure recurring funds to accomplish Biscayne Bay restoration; **SUPPORT** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants to facilitate restoration-related projects to restore water quality and habitats and prevent fish kills and algal blooms. (Environmental Resources Management & Resilience)

- **Restoring Resilient Reefs Act - *SUPPORT*** the passage of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act or similar legislation, the authorization of the US Coral Reef Task Force, establishment of a Coral Reef Conservation Fund, and inclusion of NOAA in emergency assistance Consistent with Resolution Nos. R-523-17 and R-977-19. 117th Congress (2021-2022)– House Bill H.R.160 and Senate Bill S.46. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Coral Disease - *ADVOCATE*** for continued federal support and funding for research, intervention treatment, and mitigation rescue efforts for coral disease. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Coral Reef Restoration - *ADVOCATE*** for continued federal support and funding for research and implementation of coral reef ecosystem restoration projects including the establishments of land-based nurseries and infrastructure. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Environmentally Endangered Lands (Wildfire and Prescribed Burning) - *ADVOCATE*** to provide Miami-Dade County’s EEL Program funding from the \$4.6 billion appropriated for wildfire risk reduction in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to allow for the following: planning and conducting of prescribed fires in natural areas; installing firebreaks and other control measures; and for hiring crews to remove flammable vegetation. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program (Acquisition and Management) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** Federal grant programs that provide Miami-Dade County’s EEL Program funding to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands that help the County to adapt to impacts of sea level rise (such as increased erosion, higher storm surges, salt water intrusion, impacts to Biscayne Bay) to absorb floodwaters, to cool nearby “heat islands”, and to absorb and store carbon pollution that drive climate change. (Environmental Resources Management)
- **Trees and Heat Islands - *ADVOCATE*** for funding to expand tree cover and deploy cool pavements and porous pavement to improve air quality, mitigate urban heat islands, and reduce runoff and heat impacts. (Environmental Resources Management & Resilience)
- **Central and South Florida Flood Control Project - *SUPPORT*** Action by the US Army Corps of Engineers to reassess the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project given changing climate conditions, especially sea level rise. (Resilience)
- **Flood Risk Mitigation - *SUPPORT*** the protection of and increase of funding for Flood Risk Mitigation, particularly through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation grants and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and the Department of Housing and Urban Developments’ Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation funds. Additionally, ensure federally funded projects are built resiliently. (Resilience)

- **National Flood Insurance Program - *SUPPORT*** efforts to reauthorize, improve, and strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program with provisions that limit premium rate increases and protect affordability, encourage greater program participation, expand the Increased Cost of Compliance Program, emphasize, and increase funding for mitigation, and develop accurate flood maps. (Resilience)
- **Environmental and Climate Equity and Justice - *SUPPORT*** efforts such as the Justice40 Initiative to deliver at least 40 percent of overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities. Also support other efforts that require federal agencies to include considerations of climate equity - the disproportionate environmental and human health impacts of rulemaking on communities of color and frontline communities. (Resilience)
- **Environmentally Based Solutions – *SUPPORT*** the White House Road Map for including Nature Based Solutions and other efforts to ensure that Nature Based Solutions be a part of the evaluation criteria for prioritizing capital projects (Support: BRIC program they have begun to award points for nature-based solutions and provision for future conditions) (Resilience)
- **National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy – *SUPPORT*** efforts similar to the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act, or NCARS bill S.3531 / H.R.6461, (co-sponsored by Rep Salazar (FL)) which would have established a chief resilience officer position in the White House, created a national climate adaptation strategy, and established several cross-sector working groups and a partners council. (Resilience)
- **Resilience Retrofit Funding for Multifamily Low Income Housing and Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) preservation - *SUPPORT*** additional funding for affordable housing retrofits through CDBG Hazard Mitigation, Inflation Reduction Act and other climate equity efforts). (Resilience)
- **Minimum Cooling Standards - *SUPPORT*** efforts to establish minimum cooling requirements for residential properties. The International Building Code and US Housing and Urban Development have minimum heating requirements for buildings to protect people from the cold but do not currently have the same to protect residents from extreme heat. The International Code Council has formed an Extreme Heat and Codes Working Group to determine how to address extreme heat in future codes and standards. (Resilience)
- **Worker Protections from Extreme Heat - *ADVOCATE*** for the establishment of national standards for protecting workers from extreme heat exposure by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). In September 2021, the Biden Administration directed OSHA to develop regulations related to protecting workers from heat exposure. Heat-related stress in the workplace has high financial and emotional costs for both businesses and employees. (Resilience)

- **Resilient Building Retrofits - *SUPPORT*** Building envelope and foundation Weatherization programs that would help to fund retrofitting existing buildings. Flooding adaptation plans for underground parking garages, seawall fortification, and cool roof technologies. (Building)
- **Electric Vehicle infrastructure - *SUPPORT*** funding for Electric Vehicle charging station infrastructure, both private and public. (Building)
- **Preemption of local permitting of Broadband electrical systems *OPPOSE*** preemption of permitting in private property or right of way. (Building)>>
- **Everglades Restoration in Miami-Dade - *SUPPORT*** the State of Florida’s request for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) funding at \$725 million for FY22 to continue the progress made for Everglades restoration that includes funds for planning efforts for the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration project (BBSEER). The BBSEER project is essential to Miami-Dade County. BBSEER will restore parts of the south Florida ecosystem in freshwater wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Lands, the coastal wetlands, and subtidal areas, including mangrove and seagrass areas, of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park.
- **Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems - *SUPPORT*** legislation that: (1) prohibits the weakening of net metering and associated rates; (2) supports feed-in-tariff policies with the following key provisions (a) guaranteed access to the grid; (b) stable, long-term purchase agreements; and (c) payment levels based on the costs of Renewable Energy generation that allow for off-site or “virtual” net metering; (3) creates a federal Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; (4) supports tax deductions for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects for property owners.
- **Whole Building Data - *SUPPORT*** federal requirement for all utilities to collect aggregated whole-building data from a local government jurisdiction’s largest building (20,000 square feet and above for government-owned buildings and private sector buildings) and provide this data to building owners or managers and local government representatives for benchmarking and to help identify opportunities to reduce water and energy usage.
- **Microgrids and Smart Grids - *URGE*** the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to develop mandatory standards for establishing microgrids and smart grids, including critical buildings and the geographic areas for prioritizing microgrids. Microgrids are self-contained electric grids that operate both in grid-connected or in island mode offer opportunities to increase resilience, reduce greenhouse emissions, save money, and achieve other policy goals.
- **Cleaner Cars and Trucks – *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** strengthening federal vehicle fuel-economy standards and funding and policies that accelerate adoption of

light and heavy-duty electric vehicles and installation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE).<<<sup>1</sup>

## Department of Solid Waste Management

- **Waste Diversion and Zero Waste programs – SUPPORT** funding for infrastructure and projects to support zero waste strategies to convert waste to recovered resource and divert materials from disposal such as composting, recycling, organic digestion, and renewable hydrogen development.
- **Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) / Net Metering - SUPPORT** expansion of the rebuttable presumption of a mandatory purchase obligation under PURPA, minimum term duration standards for power purchase agreements, including Waste-To-Energy (WTE) micro-grids where government owned WTE facilities will be able to provide power to other local government infrastructure (i.e. airports, wastewater treatment plants, etc.) as an offset to electric energy provided by the electric utility during an applicable billing period. Remove regulatory and market barriers preventing local governments from providing self-generated electricity, either directly or via net metering, to other non-contiguous government owned facilities.
- **Electric Vehicles - ADVOCATE** for and **SUPPORT** dedicated funding be provided to large Counties (more than 100,000 residents) for electric garbage trucks. A fully electric garbage truck will have 100% ZERO emissions, reduced fuel, and maintenance costs. An electric garbage truck is very quiet and will cut down on the noise pollution as well. In keeping with the County's sustainability goals, the County's WTE facility can be used to power electric vehicles.
- **Flow Control/Interstate Waste Transport - OPPOSE** any efforts seeking to amend legislation in response to the April, 2007 Supreme Court decision *United Haulers Assn. v. Oreida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority* (No. 05-1345) which held that flow control to publicly owned facilities is a legislative use of flow control authority. Flow control improves the DSWM's financial position and creates a more stable environment.
- **Market Incentives for Electricity Produced from Renewable Resources - SUPPORT** market incentives to encourage development and operation of alternative, renewable energy production. Engage with the Departments of Treasury, Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act implementation of programs providing direct pay and other support for new and expanded clean energy generation. Specific issues include direct pay for expanded or new WTE development, Carbon Capture and Storage and renewable hydrogen, and the net lifecycle analysis greenhouse gas impacts in these

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<sup>1</sup> The differences between the substitute and the original item are indicated as follows: Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< are added.



programs to ensure proper recognition of WTE as net negative. Support efforts to implement the Renewable Fuel Standard program in a manner that includes WTE and renewable hydrogen eligibility.

- **Mosquito Control Technologies** - **ADVOCATE** and **SUPPORT** dedicated funding be provided to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or to state or local governments for new and emerging technologies that reduce the risk of mosquito-transmitted diseases. Miami-Dade County is the gateway to the Americas. Miami International Airport (MIA) is among the busiest airports in the world. Many flights carrying passengers from Latin and Central America and the Caribbean deplane at MIA on a daily basis. These passengers are coming from areas where there are reported cases of Yellow Fever, Denge, Zika, and Chickungunya -- all viruses carried by mosquitoes. Miami-Dade County Mosquito Control continues to receive daily referrals from the local Department of Health for all of these viruses. The county wants to be at the forefront of all innovative technologies for mosquito control.

## **Water and Sewer Department**

- **Infrastructure Finance and Programs** – **SUPPORT** the implementation of Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA), adequate funding of State Revolving Loan Funds, and federal policy on affordability, climate change, Clean Water Act mandates, and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, which are all significant factors for WASD capital and operating requirements. The Department has been selected in each of the first four funding cycles for WIFIA projects, in addition to maximizing utilization of the State Revolving Loan Fund program, demonstrating the importance of these federal initiatives to produce results on the ground. A reliable utility system meeting all state and federal requirements is essential for the operation of other departments as well as the continued economic well-being of the County. Miami-Dade County has an \$8+ billion water and sewer capital needs program resulting from aging infrastructure, federal and state regulatory mandates, and changing conditions associated with documented sea level rise including sewer and water extensions needed to convert impacted septic tank systems and contaminated drinking water wells. This represents the largest capital burden of any comparably sized utility in the nation.
- **Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing** – **OPPOSE** altering tax-exempt municipal bond financing on public drinking water & wastewater systems, reviews options being discussed at the federal level to cap or eliminate the 100-year-old tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, a move that would cost the sector billions of dollars in infrastructure projects. For more than a century, tax-exempt municipal bonds have been the most important funding source for water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the United States. Congress should retain the current federal tax exemption for municipal bonds. **FAVOR** the amendment of federal tax laws to permit once again the refinancing of existing tax-exempt bonds with new tax-exempt bonds at more favorable rates. Substantial savings to utility customers can be achieved by lowering

the cost of borrowing needed to finance facilities required to provide a reliable and compliant water and sewer system.

- **Sound Science for Public Health and Environmental Protection – *SUPPORT*** the research, funding, and policy by which the Environmental Protection Agency and other pertinent federal agencies can assess risks and develop cost-effective technologies and management strategies to mitigate those risks for the protection of public health and the environment through the setting of standards, the provision of technical assistance to utilities, and the integration of programs to optimize results and avoid counterproductive conflicts.
- **PFAS Legislation Protecting Water and Sewer Utilities from Liability – *SUPPORT*** legislation that provides liability protection to utilities for which contamination of water supplies and wastewater has occurred as a result of per and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). The cost of controlling these substances in both drinking water and wastewater is likely to be very high, and determining that these compounds are hazardous wastes under the Superfund Act (CERCLA) would constitute an extreme hardship on utilities in the absence of some liability relief. Funding to address the cleanup of these compounds will be necessary. Research to establish scientifically based standards for treatment and cleanup targets is essential, along with finding cost-effective treatment technologies.
- **Needs-Tested Funding for Utility Customers – *SUPPORT*** legislation that provides needs-tested funding to utility customers for whom utility costs are becoming unaffordable. Water and sewer services are daily necessities of life regardless of income, and utilities are legally constrained in using customer revenues to subsidize financially challenged customers.
- **Funding for Septic to Sewer Conversion – *SUPPORT*** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants and loans to facilitate septic to sewer projects where it is shown that septic systems are contributing to public health risks or environmental degradation of significant resources such as Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. Funding is needed for the public infrastructure as well as for the cost of connection for private property owners.
- **Watershed Collaborations Among Local Government – *SUPPORT*** legislation that provides funding for technical support, data collection and sharing, and joint planning and infrastructure projects that address risks associated with watershed issues to promote the collaboration of local governments in the area. Recognize cost-sharing and provide prioritized funding for regional and watershed approaches through existing and emerging programs.
- **Federal Funding Inclusion of State Programming Criteria – *OPPOSE*** the addition of state programming criteria in federal funding programs distributed to local communities. This will ensure that the intent of the federal legislative programs is maintained while allowing for the efficient use of federal funding resources and maximizing benefits to the intended recipients.

## Policy Area: Community Services

### Community Action and Human Services Department

- **Community Services Block Grant Act (CSBG) - *ADVOCATE*** for legislative action that will support the reauthorization and amendment of the CSBG Act to adopt performance requirements and performance benchmarks to be included as part of the performance measurement system under this Act.
- **Older Americans Act (OAA) - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding through the OAA to meet the demand for services for the growing senior adult population such as in-home support, adult day care, and respite for caregivers, and meals, thereby helping seniors avoid or delay institutionalization, while remaining in their homes and in the community.
- **Systemic Treatment and Recovery for Opioid-Naloxone Grant - *ADVOCATE*** for a dedicated and increased funding to expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) treatment for high-risk individuals with opioid use disorders and linkages to appropriate care to prevent likelihood of fatal overdoses.
- **Community Violence and Trauma Interventions - *ADVOCATE*** for funding to develop and implement strategies from a public health approach to reduce community violence and trauma.
- **Head Start and Early Head Start Funding Maintenance or Expansion - *SUPPORT*** for funding the Head Start and Early Head Start Grant, Early Start Child Care Partnership Grant, and Early Head Start Expansion and Child Care Partnership Grant at or above the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 levels.
- **Match Funding Incentivization from the State of Florida - *ADVOCATE*** for legislative action that would incentivize the State of Florida to begin matching the funding provided by the HHS to Miami-Dade County, which is twenty percent (20%) of the total grant awards from the federal government, to match the funding being provided by community stakeholders through the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department.
- **H.R. 2817 – Child Care for Working Families Act, and H.R. 6509 – Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act - *SUPPORT*** the passage of H.R. 2817, Child Care for Working Families Act and H.R. 6509 – Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act, or similar legislation.
- **Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHARP) - *ADVOCATE*** for federal funding to

further expand the SHARP program to assist larger numbers of elderly homeowners with needed home repairs and rehabilitation services, which include electrical upgrades, HVAC upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, bathroom and kitchen upgrades, improved accessibility, roof repairs or replacement and flooring upgrades.

- **Funding and Support for New Arrivals – *ADVOCATE*** for funding to support basic services for new immigrants in Miami-Dade County.

## **Cultural Affairs Department**

- **Federal Funding for the Arts - *SUPPORT*** continued increases in federal funding for the arts, specifically for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities, Assistance for Arts Education, Creative Arts Therapies in Veterans Healthcare Networks and Institute for Museum and Library Services. For FY 2023 (pending conference consideration), urge the U.S. Senate to support the U.S. House increase in NEA and NEH funding to \$207 million (from the currently authorized 2022 levels of \$180 million for each). In addition, support increased funding for the arts education programs, including:
  - The U.S. Department of Education’s Assistance to Arts Education program;
  - The Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants under Title IV, Part A, to support Well-Rounded Education;
  - The Nita Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC) after-school program; and
  - The Institute of Education Science to implement a Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) study in the arts and appropriately fund the arts in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

## **Homeless Trust**

- **Funding for Homeless Programs – *SUPPORT*** expanding HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs, including the competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula grant program which are the cornerstones of our community’s homeless system. In Miami-Dade, ESG grants fund outreach, shelter, prevention and rapid rehousing. The CoC program funds permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing (short- to medium-term rental assistance), transitional housing for youth, and coordinated entry (outreach). The Homeless Trust receives more than \$40 million in direct funding under the Federal CoC program competition, and coordinates with jurisdictions including Miami-Dade, Miami and Hialeah, and the State of Florida to house and serve additional homeless and at-risk households using ESG funding.

The biggest cost item in the homelessness programs is rental subsidies. Increasing rents will consume much of the FY 2022 HAG increase. HAG funding in the amount of \$3.6 billion is requested for Fiscal Year 2023.

- **Funding for Federal Housing Vouchers** –*SUPPORT* increased Federal funding through HUD for Housing Choice Vouchers also known as Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program to at least \$32.1 billion to assist vulnerable populations, including persons experiencing homelessness. Funding is needed to continue to support existing households, and further support the growing number of renter households with very low incomes. Subsidies must keep pace with rental costs in order for vouchers to be effective in making rental housing affordable.

The Trust currently partners with all four Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in Miami-Dade (Miami-Dade, Miami, Hialeah and Homestead), as well as the City of Miami and Carrfour Supportive Housing, on voucher preferences and set-asides for homeless and formerly homeless households. The Homeless Trust also partners with the Department of Veteran Affairs on the issuance of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers.

- **Enhanced and Targeted Voucher Utilization** – *ADVOCATE* and *DIRECT* Public Housing Authorities (PHA) to partner directly with local Continuums of Care (CoC) to quickly house vulnerable populations. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) funded through the American Rescue Plan Act ensured CoC's and victim service providers were included in the decision-making on how best use and target households for EHV vouchers. The Homeless Trust worked with PHA's in Miami-Dade, Hialeah, Miami Beach and Homestead to prioritize households who were sheltered, unsheltered and at imminent risk of homelessness, and assisted PHA's in ensuring timely referrals and lease-up to realize full voucher utilization. With future voucher allocations, PHA's should continue to be directed to accept referrals directly from the CoC's Coordinated Entry System.
- **Increase Compensation for Frontline Workforce** – *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT* a cost-of-living increase to recruit and retain frontline staff who help house people experiencing homelessness. CoC Program funding currently takes into account the increasing cost of rent, but not the increasing cost of providing supportive services. Supportive services line items within HUD-funded projects should increase by the cost-of-living adjustment for the Social Security program. Many homeless services organizations are losing staff to other industries because most frontline homelessness workers are paid barely enough to afford their own rental units. Currently only 22 percent of the overall funding through the CoC programs is tied to supportive services costs.
- **Two-Year Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** -- *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT* HUD's award of CoC program funds every other year, instead of every year. The annual CoC Program Competition process is exhaustive. Local homelessness system would continue to be lean and efficient, making the most of resources, if the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is issued biennially.

Conducting the competition process every two years would free up substantial administrative resources at HUD and in the field.>>

- **Home Investments Partnership Program (HOME) MAINTAIN or INCREASE the HOME Program. HOME funds provide funding for affordable housing. HOME ARP funds are supporting the acquisition and rehabilitation of Mia Casa for conversion to Permanent Housing. Mia Casa is currently a quarantine and isolation site for seniors over the age of 65. Seniors are the fastest growing homeless subpopulation, with 1 in 4 persons experiencing homelessness over the age of 60.**
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) MAINTAIN or INCREASE Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). CDBG can be used for housing stability/homelessness prevention, affordable housing development and many other human services.<<**

## Juvenile Services

**Justice Assistance Grants Funding - SUPPORT** funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“Byrne JAG”) program by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. This federal law enforcement program is beneficial to the County and funding is vital for its success.

## Public Housing and Community Development

- **Flexibility for Public Housing Capital fund and other funds – SUPPORT** that any additional funding to the HUD public housing capital fund be made flexible in terms of use with other programs such as the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program that promote redevelopment or repositioning. Flexibility in the use of funds allows a change in the traditional method of funding public housing to one that combines private sector resources with reliable project based “section 8” contracts with the government.
- **Rental Assistance Demonstration program - SUPPORT** removing 455,000 cap on number of public housing units that can qualify for RAD. **SUPPORT** HUD using the Rental Assistance Demonstration program (RAD) to be utilized by Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) that have Capital Fund Financial program debt (CFFP).
- **Public Housing & Section 8 Housing - ADVOCATE** for increased federal funding from HUD for public housing and Section 8 programs. Funding for these programs will ensure the preservation of existing housing stock and improvement of federally funded programs that provide crucial affordable housing and rental subsidies to low-income families.
- **Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) - SUPPORT** allowing HUD to permit Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) rated “standard” to qualify for Moving to Work (MTW) status with justification to HUD. **SUPPORT** Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to

appeal their operating subsidy per unit month (PUM) if there is a wide variance between the existing per unit month (PUM) and Contract Rents under (RAD).

- **Prevent Refederalizing of Central Office Cost Center (COCC) Fees and Funds - *OPPOSE*** HUD re-federalizing of the Central Office Cost Center (COCC). HUD regulations permit COCC funds to be defederalized, permitting flexibility in use of these funds for affordable housing. Lacking County funds, PHCD is dependent on COCC funds to address shortfalls in many operational areas, and limits PHCD's ability to leverage funds with the private sector.
- **House THUD Appropriations / Manufactured Housing Improvement and Financing Program - *ADVOCATE*** for the preservation of the House THUD appropriations bill, and **SUPPORT** at a minimum the \$50 million set-aside for responsible mobile home park redevelopment when 4 new affordable housing units will be built for every manufactured home that will be replaced, within the \$500 million allocation in funding for a new Manufactured Housing Improvement and Financing Program which is being established to support critical infrastructure, resiliency, and financing activities to preserve and revitalize manufactured housing across the country.
- **HUD Assisted Housing for Specific Disabilities and Elderly - *SUPPORT*** allowing for the designation of HUD assisted housing for specific disabilities and for the elderly, especially given Miami-Dade County's large population of elderly.
- **Annual Contributions Contract – *OPPOSE*** HUD transforming the Annual Contributions Contract from a "contract" to a one-sided grant agreement. Support position of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) and Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA).
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - *SUPPORT*** for increased federal funding for the HUD CDBG program.
- **HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program - *SUPPORT*** continued funding for the HUD HOME program.
- **Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Program - *ADVOCATE*** for increased funding for the grant program beyond the \$10 million appropriated by Congress. The current amount is significantly inadequate to accommodate all potential emergency and security needs for public housing authorities across the country.

## Library Department

- **Institute of Museum and Library Science and Department of Education Federal Library Funding - *SUPPORT*** increased appropriations to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to the Department of Education, both of which

provide significant funding for programs such as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy Programs. The current FY 2023 IMLS budget is \$276.8M, which includes \$201M for LSTA grants and projects nationwide. Over the past five years, Miami-Dade Public Library System has received IMS funds through the Library Services and Technology Act in the amount of \$1.1M for projects that include expanding the Homework Help and Tutoring Program, establishing an Adult Learning Academy designed to promote basic adult education (English/Spanish language, high school completion, technology education), and augmenting the teen-focused maker space YOUmedia Miami and Digital Music Studio to new locations within Miami-Dade County. Additionally, IMLS funding supports the State of Florida, Division of Library and Information Services that also provides direct support to libraries throughout Florida.

## **Policy Area: Public Safety**

### **Miami-Dade Police Department**

- **Justice Assistance Grants Funding - *ADVOCATE*** for an increase in funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“Byrne JAG”) program by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). There are proposed cuts to this vital federal law enforcement program that would be detrimental to Miami-Dade County.
- **Forensic Science Grant Programs at U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, BJA - *ADVOCATE*** for full funding of the Forensic Science Grant Programs by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, BJA. The grant programs, in priority order, include:
  - Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program (Formula and Competitive)
  - DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program
  - Forensic DNA Laboratory Efficiency Improvement and Capacity Enhancement Program
  - National Institute of Justice Research Grants
- **Victims of Crime Funding at the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime - *ADVOCATE*** for an increase in funding that supports programs and services focused on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of a crime, as well as continued support while they rebuild their lives.

### **Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department**

- **Funding from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for Wildfire Risk Reduction - *SUPPORT*** funding from the \$4.6 billion appropriated for wildfire risk



reduction to provide Miami-Dade Fire Rescue with technology and infrastructure updates, assistance for telecommunications systems, establishment of a pilot program to provide local governments funding for slip-on tanker units to quickly convert vehicles to fire engines and other federal and state grants. Miami-Dade County is surrounded by flammable natural areas. Though less obvious, there are multiple areas distributed throughout the County that are protected as environmentally endangered lands. As reported in the Local Mitigation Strategy, there have been 13 major wildfires recorded between 1950 and 2017 in Miami-Dade County, with a 20% chance of a wildfire occurring every year. From 2016 through 2021, MDFR responded to 3,545 reported wildfires in the County. Though historically there has not been a high impact on property, it is estimated that more than 600,000 people, or 25% of the County's population, live within the Wildland/Urban Interface and could be at risk.

Within the County, residents who live outside the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) tend to be closer to or within natural ecosystems. These areas are designated as wildland/urban interface areas, which present additional complexities in preventing and fighting wildfires. Homes in the wildland/urban interface may be at a higher risk of loss in the event of a wildfire. Fires within these ecosystems are mostly due to lightning or human-caused ignition. The County's typical wildfire season runs from January through May, due to a lack of rain and humidity. However, the largest number of wildfires tends to occur during May and June, the County's peak thunderstorm season, which is the most frequent time for lightning-caused fires. Although wildland fire suppression activities are the primary responsibility of Florida's Division of Forestry (FDOF), and the Federal Government has primary responsibility for fire protection within the boundaries of Everglades National Park, MDFR retains jurisdiction over fire protection of structures within these areas. There have been incidents where MDFR served as the first responder to these fires and retained the jurisdiction over the protection of the Wildland/Urban Interface, primarily to protect lives and structures. With the amount of rural acreage, warm dry climate, and regularity of thunderstorms in the Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA), the possibility of wildfires and injuries associated with lightning are a considerable threat.

- **Funding for FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Teams - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** the Federal government to properly fund the 28 USAR Task Force's which comprise the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System under Department Homeland Security (DHS) / Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This 6,000 member ready reserve, maintained by local fire rescue agencies across the country, provides our nation with a search and rescue capability which is unmatched. Funding for these task forces at the required level would ensure that teams are properly equipped and ready to respond when needed. Currently, FL-TF1, sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department has a funding shortfall of approximately \$1 Million annually. In other words, funding provided through a Cooperative Agreement with FEMA for the annual sustainment of each task force, is on average short \$1 to \$1.2 million dollars per task force. It is a very labor-intensive undertaking for each USAR Task Force to remain in a constant state of readiness while simultaneously maintaining individual team member training requirements and fulfilling the rigorous daily tool and apparatus maintenance needs. The USAR

personnel are responsible for more than 70 tons of specialized equipment needed to fulfill the mission of every USAR team throughout the country. Additionally, the vehicles needed to move equipment and personnel, as well as life safety items such as respiratory protection, are more than 10 years old and in desperate need of replacement. There is no funding for any of these capital items in the annual appropriation through FEMA. In the last 10 years, FL-TF1 has deployed to every major disaster this nation has experienced including Hurricane's Katrina, Rita, Harvey, Irma, and Maria as well as the earthquake in Haiti.

- **Reinstate Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team as an active search and rescue task force within the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*.** MDRF's Team was designated as Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1) for OFDA from 1985 to 2004. During this time, the Task Force responded to more than 40 major incidents around the world. Although a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is not currently announced, as soon as it is made available, MDRF will be applying for reinstatement as an international response search and rescue task force within the USAID OFDA. MDRF's 2020 and 2008 applications were denied.
- **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)/ Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1) Warehouse - *SUPPORT*** funding \$5.5 million for Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1) readiness infrastructure. FL-TF1 is one of 28 National Urban Search and Rescue System task forces that rapidly deploys skilled personnel and state-of-the-art equipment to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and building collapses. Established in the late 80s, their primary mission is to locate and safely remove trapped/entombed victims from the collapse of buildings comprised of heavy reinforced concrete and steel. Their ancillary missions include swift-water rescue, wide area flooding, support of national security events, wide area search, and response to weapons of mass destruction events. FL-TF1 has been deployed to earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding/weather disasters, building explosions and collapses. FL-TF1 operational deployment assets are currently housed in two warehouses located in the Homestead Airforce Reserve Base (HARB). The two current warehouses are not only in need of remodeling and critical repairs but are not large enough to meet FL-TF's current deployment needs. The current facilities encompass a total of approximately 20,000 square feet (one building approximately 15,000 sq/ft and the second building approximately 5,000 sq/ft). Miami-Dade Fire Rescue is seeking funding to properly house FL-TF1 operational deployment assets and accommodate personnel when a team is activated for deployment. To properly protect current task force assets, FL-TF1 requires a minimum of 40,000 sq/ft) warehouse space with an internal 24-foot ceiling height. An additional 5,000 sq/ft of space would be required to address future projected needs. The warehouse is one component of a five-acre project, which also accommodates heavy and light fleet as well as the task force trailer.

## **PUBLIC TRUST 2023 FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

- Defend any changes to the Federal 340B drug discount program that would limit hospital and patient eligibility.
- Monitor and oppose and proposed rules that could have a detrimental impact on the organization.
- Advocate for initiatives that help strengthen the health care workforce.