

# Memorandum



**Date:** June 11, 2021

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(5)  
July 8, 2021

**To:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Daniella Levine Cava  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Subject:** Report Analyzing the Feasibility of Utilizing Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, Inc., to Assist in Repairing the Roofs of Economically Disadvantaged Homeowners in Miami-Dade County- Directive 193036

The following report is in response to Resolution No. R-1254-18, sponsored by Commissioner Moss and Commissioner Levine Cava, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on December 4, 2018, which directed the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to prepare a written report analyzing the feasibility of utilizing Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, Inc. (RTMD) to assist in repairing the roofs of economically disadvantaged homeowners in Miami-Dade County.

As part of my operation to catch up on the backlog items, we are bringing you reports that were pending from the previous administration.

In response to Resolution No. R-1254-18, the Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) met with the Executive Director of RTMD. Both organizations have identified benefits of a partnership that would maximize available funding, measure impact, and eliminate duplication of services by working collaboratively to make strategic decisions on addressing individual homeowner needs and waitlisted residents. Additionally, as funding opportunities become available, reviewing joint applications instead of independent applications will be considered to maximize capacity and impact. Lastly, while both entities have previously received funding from the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD), their funding sources vary. In the rare occasion when funding is available and restricted to a geographical area without the requirement of a waitlist, the organizations will serve as a referral source. An effort is currently underway for funding available in Florida City.

For over 25 years, RTMD has provided health and safety related repairs to eligible homeowners free of charge. Both organizations RTMD is a nonprofit organization formerly known as Christmas in April, which was established in 1992 to help homeowners rebuild after Hurricane Andrew. Services include roof replacement, plumbing, electrical repairs, and modifications for persons with disabilities such as wheelchair ramps, installation of wider doorways, lowering countertops in kitchens and bathrooms, roll-in shower installations, and bathroom fixtures that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. To qualify for assistance through RTMD, homeowners are required to meet income guidelines limits as published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (USHUD). Residents whose income does not exceed 80% of total median family household income are eligible to participate. Additionally, the property must be a single-family residence occupied by the homeowner, and the owner must have resided in the home for a minimum of two years prior to applying for assistance. RTMD is funded through various sources and has been previously funded by PHCD. The organization has a current waitlist of approximately 200 residents.

The aforementioned eligibility criteria are similar to those of the single-family home rehabilitation program administered by CAHSD. The CAHSD program provides low- to moderate-income homeowners with a one-time grant (one per household) of up to \$40,000 to repair their single-family homes when funding is available. While the programs are similar in nature, there are a few contrasts between them. CAHSD addresses only single-family homes and the total home value cannot exceed \$205,000. Services performed by CAHSD's program on average total \$36,000 per home, with the maximum allowed cost of \$40,000. The program simultaneously addresses a broad range of renovation scopes such as HVAC, roof, windows, electrical, and plumbing. In comparison, in addition to single-family homes, the RTMD program assists families who own condos or townhomes. RTMD projects have similar renovation scopes and may include, but are not limited to, painting a home or replacing an air conditioning unit, roof, windows, or doors. The average RTMD project ranges from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

PHCD recently released a Request for Applications (RFA) for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, in which Homeowner Rehabilitation has an estimated \$2,316,914.25 allocation for FY 2021. CAHSD and RTMD are both pursuing this funding opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Annika S. Holder, Interim Director, Community Action and Human Services Department, at 786-469-4644.

Per Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

- c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
- Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
- Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
- Office of the Mayor, Senior Staff
- Annika S. Holder, Interim Director, Community Action and Human Services Department
- Michael Liu, Director, Public Housing and Community Development
- Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
- Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
- Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator, Office of the Agenda Coordination