

Date: December 5, 2025

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(10)
January 21, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Report on the Environmental Education Grant Award Program – Directive No. 222124

This report is the second and final report in response to Resolution No. R-995-22 (Resolution), adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on October 18, 2022, and sponsored by former Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. The Resolution authorized the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to negotiate and enter into a grant agreement with The Miami Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) for the administration, management, and disbursement of funding used for its Environmental Education Grant Award Program for a term ending no later than August 31, 2025. Furthermore, the Resolution directed the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to provide a written report on an annual basis detailing the status of the grant agreement.

Executive Summary

This report details year two of the program, which is the final year of the program, and the funding provided to the 501(c)(3) organizations selected to provide environmental education services to Miami-Dade County (County) residents.

Over the two-year period, the Foundation administered \$1.26 million in County funding and contributed an additional \$338,000, resulting in a total program investment of \$1.52 million. The funding supported 18 nonprofit organizations serving multiple County districts through education, outreach, and environmental restoration projects.

This program was rooted in resilience and focused on increasing overall resident health and human safety. Various grants used education to decrease the need for fines and other enforcement and weatherization improvements to protect homes from oncoming storms - both lowering costs for residents across Miami-Dade.

The program successfully met its objectives by broadening the County's environmental education reach, strengthening nonprofit capacity, and generating measurable community impact, including thousands of residents and students engaged in environmental programming.

Report

The Foundation, under the Resolution, was awarded \$1,260,000 in County funding on October 18, 2022, to support the Foundation's environmental education grant award program (Program). This partnership was created to streamline and strengthen the County's environmental grantmaking by broadening its reach.

Through this award the County provided a grant to the Foundation to complement its existing community grants process, whereby the Foundation provides community-based programming and initiatives for the provision of environmental education programming through local nonprofit grant recipients, providing awards to cover a two-year funding period (2023 – 2025).

The Foundation received a total of \$1,260,000 in County funding, which included \$630,000 from FY 2021-22 funds and \$630,000 of FY 2022-23 funds as noted in the table below.

	RER-DERM	WASD	DSWM
FY 2021-22	\$430,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
FY 2022-23	\$430,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

Of the \$1,260,000 provided, \$1,182,000 went directly to the awarded agencies, \$63,000 was provided to the Foundation for administrative support for the Program throughout the effective term, and \$15,000 was allocated for the Program design and launch. The Foundation contributed \$338,000 to this partnership, which allowed for a total of \$1,520,000 for the Program.

Below is a detailed breakdown of the funded organizations and their respective award amounts.

Organization’s Legal Name	Districts Served	Total Award (2 Year Award Total)	Award Each Year
1,000 Friends of Florida	7,8,9,11,12	\$80,000	\$40,000
Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper	3,5,7	\$100,000	\$50,000
Catalyst Miami, Inc.	Countywide	\$100,000	\$50,000
Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc.	1,2,3,8,13	\$80,000	\$40,000
Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.	5	\$90,000	\$45,000
Dream in Green, Inc.	1,2,3,5,12	\$80,000	\$40,000
Everglades Law Center	Countywide	\$80,000	\$40,000
Florida Rising Together	Countywide	\$80,000	\$40,000
Friends of the Underline	5	\$90,000	\$45,000
Health in the Hood Inc.	3	\$50,000	\$25,000
Love The Everglades Movement, Inc.	8,9,11,12	\$80,000	\$40,000
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.	7	\$80,000	\$40,000
Miami-Dade Coastal Cleanup, Inc	3,4,5,7	\$80,000	\$40,000
Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida, Inc.	7,8	\$90,000	\$45,000
Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, Inc.	3	\$90,000	\$45,000
The CLEO Institute	3	\$100,000	\$50,000
Tropical Audubon Society, Incorporated	7,8	\$80,000	\$40,000
WeCount!, Inc.	3,8,9	\$90,000	\$45,000

Final results:

- 83% of the grantees secured additional funding through their grant award. The initial \$1,260,000 investment in these organizations helped unlock over \$3,258,743 in additional funding.
- Organizations used their funding to unlock additional awards, sponsorships and donor support. 14 grantees were able to secure additional grants.
- 13 organizations invested in endowment funds or other long-term financial tools.
- In total, grantees held 1,939 events focused on environmental education. 74,849 children were served through environmental education programs reaching hundreds of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- Seven organizations built or repaired 43 community gardens and three organizations repurposed 4,240 lbs. of compost.
- Six organizations hosted 428 beach cleanups, and seven organizations planted 3,270 trees.
- Three grantees supported homeowners with weatherization, reaching 675 homeowners.
- One grantee participated in the septic conversion plan.

Per Ordinance No. 22-134, this report shall be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

Should you require additional information, please contact David Clodfelter, Director, Office of Management and Budget at 305-375-5143.

Attachment

- c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
- Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
- Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
- Office of Mayor Senior Staff
- Aneisha Daniels, Director, Solid Waste Management
- Jay Fink, Director, Water and Sewer Department
- Lourdes Gomez, Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
- David Clodfelter, Director, Office of Management and Budget
- Dan Wall, Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
- Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
- Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator



COMMUNITY
GRANTS 

FINAL REPORT SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023-2025 ■ SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

MDC004



Photo Credit: The Cleo Institute

TRUST AT WORK

For The Miami Foundation's Community Grants Program, trust-based philanthropy is how we invest. Multi-year, unrestricted support, streamlined processes, and deep listening to community expertise allowing organizations to put dollars where they are needed most. Thank you to Miami-Dade County for partnering with us in this approach and co-funding our Sustainable Environment category. Together, we backed the people and coalitions safeguarding clean water, advancing climate resilience, and expanding access to nature for all Miamians.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE:

ONE-PHASE PROCESS

We understand nonprofit staff are already stretched thin. By offering a single-phase application, we reduce the administrative burden and free organizations to focus on what they do best- serving Miami-Dade's communities.

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

For the 2023-2025 cycle, we elevated our Community Advisor involvement in every stage of the program to deepen the selection process and ensure that Community Grants investments remain community driven.

MISSION-BUILDING GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

Because nonprofits have varied needs, we grant flexible operating support so awardees can invest in areas they deem most vital. These general operating dollars offer flexible resources that help organizations bolster capacity, stay resilient, and deepen their impact.

TWO-YEAR GRANT CYCLE

We provide multi-year funding to promote stability and enable partners to focus on long-term outcomes rather than year-to-year survival.

EMPOWERING GROWTH AND IMPACT



Photo Credit: WeCount!

With Miami-Dade County as a partner, the Sustainable Environment grantees turned trust-based funding into momentum residents could feel. Over the two-year cycle, we invested \$1.52M across 18 organizations and have seen incredible growth and transformation.

\$1,520,000

Awarded to 18 Grantees Over 2 Years

The reach and impact of our grantees has been extraordinary. Serving over two hundred thousand individuals, these organizations continue to meet the diverse needs of Miami-Dade County's population from shoreline stewards and student scientists to workers organizing for heat protections.

279,819

Individuals Served

Because support was unrestricted and multi-year, leaders put dollars where they mattered most. While organizations spent the funds in a variety of ways across two years, they identified some of the primary ways they invested the dollars.

Two-thirds of grantees primarily invested in staff salaries and benefits.

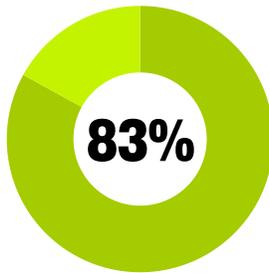
Staff salaries & benefits	12
Direct service costs	4
Partnerships/ collaborations	1
Consulting	1

Trust opened doors for our organizations. All 18 grantees formed new partnerships. In fact, they secured nearly 2,000 new partnerships across programmatic, funding, advocacy, referral, and resource partners, building a durable network for environmental progress.

1,911

New Partnerships Secured

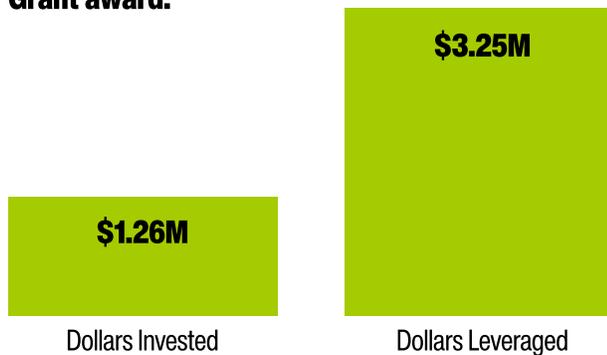
MOVING AT THE SPEED OF TRUST



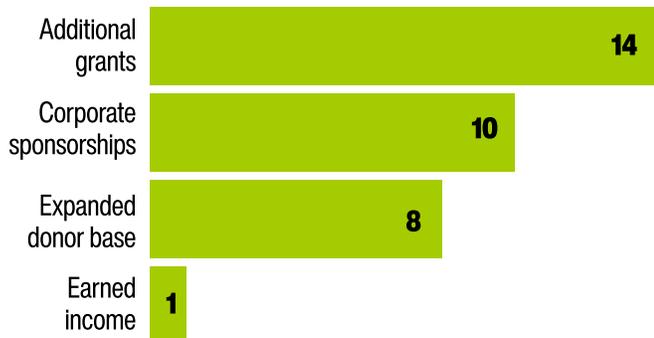
of grantees secured additional funding because of their Community Grant award.

A key outcome from this Community Grants cycle is our grantees' ability to secure additional funding. 15 of the 18 organizations reported that their Community Grant helped them secure new dollars. The initial \$1.26M investment in these 15 organizations helped unlock over \$3,258,743 in additional funding.

15 grantees turned our initial \$1.26M into \$3.26M in new funding, multiplying our investment by more than 2.5X because of their Community Grant award.



Organizations used their Community Grant to unlock additional awards, sponsorships and donor support. 14 grantees were able to secure additional grants.



Grantees also used this window to shore up long-term stability. 13 organizations invested in endowment funds or other long-term financial tools.



Photo Credit: The Cleo Institute

FROM POLICY WINS TO HANDS-ON CHANGE

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

CLEAN WATER & STORMWATER: Advanced the Miami-Dade Impervious Surface Ordinance and strengthened municipal separate storm sewer system standards to keep trash out of Biscayne Bay.

PLASTICS: Built support to limit single-use plastics in County contracts and helped defeat statewide plastics preemption.

LAND USE & RESILIENCE: Opposed urban development boundary expansions; advanced environmentally endangered land funding; supported pine-rockland and tree protections; championed nature-based solutions.

RECYCLING & WASTE: Protected residential recycling services and mobilized public awareness.

WORKER HEAT PROTECTIONS: Led local heat standards efforts and elevated a national push for federal protections.

MOBILITY & ACCESS TO NATURE: Enabled more flexible funding toward transportation to include maintenance and operation of trails, ensuring the safety of pedestrians & bicyclists is a top consideration.

COMMUNITY REACH & STEWARDSHIP



In total, grantees held **1,939** events focused on environmental education. **74,849** children were served through environmental education programs reaching hundreds of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Seven organizations built or repaired **43** community gardens and three organizations repurposed **4,240** lbs. of compost.



Six organizations hosted **428** beach cleanups and seven organizations planted **3,270** trees.



Three grantees supported homeowners with weatherization, reaching **675** homeowners



One grantee participated in the septic conversion plan.

WHAT GRANTEES WISH MIAMI KNEW....

“Sea level rise isn’t a distant threat. It’s already disrupting life in Miami. Flooded streets, failing septic tanks, and overwhelmed stormwater systems are no longer rare [...] We urgently need to adapt and modernize our infrastructure to protect clean water, safeguard the Bay, and preserve the Miami way of life and the community’s role in understanding, supporting, advocating for, and demanding these changes is essential. We’re at a turning point.”

-Miami Waterkeeper

“We wish more people in Miami knew the incredible workers who are leading the fight for heat protections in Florida and nationally [...] In many circles in Miami, there’s still a mistaken belief about the expertise and capacities of every-day people. We wish and hope for a Miami where, one day, all of these workers are rightfully seen as some of the best leaders and experts among us.”

WeCount!