

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(1)

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

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would direct the Agency for Healthcare Administration to establish the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative to be initially piloted by Miami-Dade County and to take all necessary actions to obtain approval from the federal government to fund the Healthy Homes For Children Initiative through a Children's Health Insurance Program Health Services Initiative, and to appropriate funding in the amount of the entire required match for the federal funds to support this three year pilot

Resolution No. R-47-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: January 22, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Memorandum



Date: January 22, 2025

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

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would direct the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration to establish the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative to be piloted by Miami-Dade County.

Executive Summary

This item, if approved, would urge the Florida Legislature to support a new, three-year pilot program designed to improve health outcomes among low-income children by addressing environmental triggers that exacerbate pediatric respiratory illnesses. More specifically, the *Healthy Homes for Children Initiative* is designed to provide targeted home modifications to low-income families with children who have documented clinical conditions and verified household health hazards.

My Administration aims to secure federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds to support the program, specifically through the CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI) authority. To leverage this federal funding, the Office of Resilience (OOR) and the Community Action & Human Services Department (CAHSD) would partner with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), which in turn must receive approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to receive federal funds for the program. Additionally, the state must provide 30% of the program cost (or \$1,080,000 of a total program cost of \$3,600,000) to access \$2,520,000 of federal funds. As such, the Administration requests that the Board of County Commissioners urge the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would direct the Agency for Healthcare Administration to establish the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative to be initially piloted by Miami-Dade County and to take all necessary actions to obtain approval from the federal government to fund the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative through a Children's Health Insurance Program Health Services Initiative, and to appropriate funding in the amount of the entire required match for the federal funds to support this 3 year pilot.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the resolution to urge the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would direct the Agency for Healthcare Administration to establish the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative to be initially piloted by Miami-Dade County and to take all necessary actions to obtain approval from the federal government to fund the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative through a Children's Health Insurance Program Health Services Initiative, and to appropriate funding in the amount of the entire required match for the federal funds to support this 3 year pilot.

Scope

The scope of the Healthy Homes for Children pilot is countywide, with eligibility targeted to Medicaid and CHIP enrolled children with qualifying conditions and housing.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

The proposed pilot does not include a cost contribution from the County. It is projected to require \$3,600,00 over three years. The state would be responsible for \$1,080,000 over three years. The federal share would cover the remaining \$2,520,000.

Track Record/Monitor

The proposed Healthy Homes for Children Initiative will be managed by the OOR (Jane Gilbert) in partnership with AHCA and CAHSD.

Background

My Administration has developed the *Healthy Homes for Children Initiative* (HHCI), a three-year pilot program designed to improve health outcomes for vulnerable Miami-Dade children by addressing poor indoor air quality and extreme heat through cost-effective housing modifications. Evidence indicates that the negative health impacts of living in substandard housing can be far-reaching. Many low-income families in Miami-Dade County live in housing that is susceptible to water infiltration, mold and other indoor allergens. Additionally, these same homes may have inadequate and inefficient cooling systems. These environmental factors have been linked to respiratory infections, exacerbation of asthma, and subsequently increased emergency department and urgent care utilization.

The proposed *Healthy Homes for Children Initiative* aims to address these issues by delivering home modification services to Medicaid and CHIP enrolled children in Miami-Dade County who: (a) have been diagnosed with a chronic respiratory condition (e.g., asthma) and (b) live in a household determined to have unhealthy levels of mold or inadequate cooling. My Administration plans to partner with up to two local hospital systems to identify and refer eligible children to the program.

The CAHSD will assess the households for risk factors and, if appropriate, provide the home modification services. Proposed services include:

- Removal and/or replacement of certain household items impacted by mold and water damage, including carpet removal and floor replacement
- Minor repairs to prevent water and pest prevention (e.g., air sealing and insulation measures)
- Ventilation installations and repairs (e.g., fixing or replacing windows, installation of ceiling fans and exhaust fans, etc.)
- HVAC installation or repair, inclusive of electric panel upgrade or modification if necessary. Minisplit units will be utilized where feasible. If HVAC system is not reparable or replaceable, installation of a dehumidifier and air purifier.
- Weatherstripping
- Passive cooling strategies (e.g., shades)
- HEPA vacuum, allergen-friendly pillows and/or covers for mattresses
- Coaching/education on mold/allergen prevention, ventilation, passive cooling and energy conservation strategies

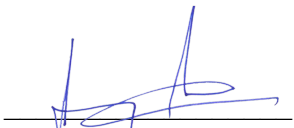
- Updates to the building envelope that are necessary to protect against water infiltration (e.g., roof repair, roof/attic insulation, or cool roof surface, windows/doors replacement and/or repair, wall insulation) (service only available for homeowners)

The pilot will serve 100 households over three years, including both homeowners and renters. Property owners that rent to an eligible family would need to consent to the services and contribute a portion of the service costs. The CAHSD and OOR will partner with an external entity to evaluate the impact of the program, including capturing qualitative and quantitative data to assess intended outcomes. These impacts include improving the health and well-being of eligible children and reducing unnecessary emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to the child's respiratory condition or heat exposure.

The OOR and CAHSD would also partner with AHCA, which would request authorization from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a CHIP state plan amendment to exercise the HSI option.

HSIs are federally authorized CHIP-funded programs (financed by a combination of nonfederal and federal funds) that aim to improve the health of low-income children. States are granted significant flexibility in designing what services to cover and the eligible population, so long as it is targeted to low-income children. States may use a portion of their total CHIP allotment to finance HSIs—more specifically, a state's HSI costs plus their CHIP administrative expenditures cannot exceed 10% of the state's total spending on CHIP services.¹ In Florida, the federal government will cover 70 percent of an HSI's costs, in accordance with Florida's enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP), while 30 percent must be derived from nonfederal sources.² Florida currently has one approved CHIP HSI that supports the provision of school-based healthcare services. According to 2023 CHIP spending data, Florida had approximately \$50 million (or, approximately \$35 million of federal funds and \$15 million of nonfederal funds) that could still be expended without exceeding its 10% cap, well more than what would be needed to support the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative.³

The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration expressed strong support for the program during an April 2024 meeting with staff, including its role in seeking federal funds through a CHIP HSI.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operating Officer

¹ Social Security Act § 2105(a)(1)(D)(ii); 42 CFR 457.10; Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [Frequently Asked Questions: Health Services Initiative](#) (January 2017)

² The Enhanced FMAP is the matching rate used for Title XXI funded CHIP. State-by-state FMAP information may be found [here](#).

³ MACPAC CHIP Spending by State. [Exhibit 33](#). FY 2023.

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(1)
1-22-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-47-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD DIRECT THE AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH THE HEALTHY HOMES FOR CHILDREN INITIATIVE TO BE INITIALLY PILOTED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND THE HEALTHY HOMES FOR CHILDREN INITIATIVE THROUGH A CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVE, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF THE ENTIRE REQUIRED MATCH FOR THE FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT THIS THREE YEAR PILOT

WHEREAS, South Florida is one of the regions in the United States that is most impacted by extreme heat, sea level rise, and increased flood and storm risks, including more intense hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, many low-income families in Miami-Dade County live in housing that is susceptible to water infiltration, mold, other indoor allergens, and extreme heat; and

WHEREAS, studies have suggested that inadequate cooling, poor indoor air quality, and other environmental triggers, such as the presence of damp or mold, pests, and other allergens, is linked to respiratory infections and the exacerbation of asthma, particularly in children—leading to asthma-related urgent care and emergency department visits; and

WHEREAS, low-income families are more likely to live in housing with high levels of mold or extreme indoor temperatures, less likely to be able to afford the modifications necessary to improve household conditions, and more likely to experience challenges affording the energy necessary to adequately cool their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience has developed the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative, a proposed three-year pilot program designed to improve health outcomes for vulnerable Miami-Dade children by addressing poor indoor air quality and extreme heat through cost-effective housing modifications; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative would provide a range of home modification services that reduce and prevent the presence of mold and improve each home's ability to efficiently maintain indoor temperatures for approximately 100 households with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrolled children who have been: (a) diagnosed with a chronic respiratory condition (e.g., asthma) or have been hospitalized due to a heat related illness, and (b) live in a household determined to have unhealthy levels of mold or inadequate or inefficient cooling; and

WHEREAS, CHIP was established pursuant to Title 42 United States Code §§1397aa–1397mm, and the CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI) option was established pursuant to § 2105(a)(1)(D)(ii) of the Social Security Act; and

WHEREAS, under CHIP, states may use a portion of their total CHIP allotment to fund an HSI designed to improve the health of low-income children; and

WHEREAS, no more than 10 percent of a state's total CHIP expenditures may be expended on HSIs and administrative expenses; and

WHEREAS, under CHIP, states must provide matching funds to access federal funding at a rate in accordance with its enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage is 70 percent (i.e., the state share is 30 percent of costs and the federal government's share is 70 percent of costs); and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience desires to partner with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the state agency responsible for seeking federal approval for and administering HSIs, to support implementation of this pilot program; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish and operate the County's pilot program, AHCA must submit and receive federal approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a CHIP state plan amendment; and

WHEREAS, this Board seeks to urge the Florida Legislature to support improved health outcomes for vulnerable children in Southeast Florida through implementation of the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative funded by a CHIP Health Service Initiative,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would direct the Agency for Healthcare Administration to establish the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative to be initially piloted by Miami-Dade County and to take all necessary actions to obtain approval from the federal government to fund the Healthy Homes for Children Initiative through a Children's Health Insurance Program Health Services Initiative, and to appropriate funding in the amount of the entire required match for the federal funds to support this three year pilot.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** ,
 who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee**
 and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye	Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye
Keon Hardemon	absent	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of January, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 BY ITS BOARD OF
 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
 Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
 to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CJF", written over a horizontal line.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes