

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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

DATE: April 1, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the 2025 federal legislative package, including “urging” resolutions adopted by the Board to date, guiding principles, departmental legislative requests, and priorities of the Public Health Trust

Resolution No. R-371-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Anthony Rodriguez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 1, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

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

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)
4-1-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-371-25

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE, INCLUDING “URGING”
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD TO DATE,
GUIDING PRINCIPLES, DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATIVE
REQUESTS, AND PRIORITIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
TRUST

WHEREAS, the 119th United States Congress began on January 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2012, this Board approved Resolution No. R-59-12, which directed the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, when it presents the proposed federal or state legislative package respectively to the Board, to include all “urging” resolutions and other resolutions related to federal or state legislation passed by the Board of County Commissioners to date for the current Congress or session; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2013, this Board approved Resolution No. R-764-13, which directed that the federal and state legislative packages each be presented to the Board in two separate companion items, one consisting of no more than ten priorities for distribution to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the other to include guiding principles, Board “urging” resolutions enacted to date and departmental items for approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-764-13 provided that, upon the priorities being approved and effective including any amendments by the Board, the Chair of the Board, or a County Commissioner designated by the Chair, shall transmit the priorities to the respective federal or state legislative delegation; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2018, this Board approved Resolution No. R-1267-18, which:

1. Directed the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to timely remit the federal legislative package, after its approval by the Board, to the County's federal contract lobbyists for feedback and to prepare a report detailing the findings of said feedback prior to the Board's consideration of the federal legislative priorities, with such report being placed on the Board agenda as a supplement to the item providing for the Board's consideration of the federal legislative priorities;

2. Directed the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include in the draft federal legislative package the federal legislative requests from the Public Health Trust, if available; and

3. Requested that the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, starting in December 2019 and each year thereafter, present the draft legislative package for the following year to the Board for consideration in December; and

WHEREAS, unless waived, the provision of Resolution No. R-1267-18 directing the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to seek the input of the County's federal contract lobbyists after the Board approves the federal legislative package necessitates the Board approving the federal legislative package at one meeting and then deciding on federal legislative priorities at a subsequent meeting; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2025 federal legislative package, including "urging" resolutions enacted by the Board to date, guiding principles, departmental legislative requests and priorities of the Public Health Trust is attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference,

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

Section 1. Approves the 2025 federal legislative package, including “urging” resolutions adopted by the Board to date, guiding principles, departmental legislative requests, and priorities of the Public Health Trust, as set forth in the attached.

Section 2. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the 2025 federal legislative package.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodriguez. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Roberto J. Gonzalez** 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	aye	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 1st day of April, 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.

Jess M. McCarty
Javier Zapata
Michael J. Mastrucci

A handwritten signature, likely of the County Attorney, is written over a horizontal line.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2025 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. **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 2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS

As of March 18, 2025, and in chronological order by passage

R-557-24: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE AFFIRMATIVE MEASURES TO INCREASE STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER PROGRAM ("SUMMER EBT") AND EXPAND ACCESS TO THE NON-CONGREGATE SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM BY EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY TO URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS; AND URGING GOVERNOR RONALD D. DESANTIS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPT INTO THE SUMMER EBT PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENT EXPANSIVE NON-CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICES TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN REACHED AND MEALS SERVED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS (Bastien)

R-69-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO SUPPORT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' AND SPACE FLORIDA'S SPACE ACADEMY PROGRAM (Garcia)

R-70-25: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2025 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

R-77-25: RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE MADURO REGIME'S ARREST OF VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION LEADER MARÍA CORINA MACHADO AS WELL AS OTHER CITIZENS PEACEFULLY PROTESTING THE RECENT ELECTION FRAUD; AND URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT SANCTIONS ON THE MADURO REGIME FOR ITS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS AND AUTOCRATIC RULE (Bermudez)

R-93-25: RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO MAINTAIN TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS DESIGNATIONS FOR NATIONALS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES (Garcia)

R-142-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE AND EXTEND THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT ("AGOA") FOR A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS; EXPAND THE AGOA TO INCLUDE ALL 55 MEMBER STATES OF THE

AFRICAN UNION; AND SUPPORT THE SPECIAL PURPOSE INVESTMENT FUND FOR AFRICA INITIATIVE (Gilbert)

R-144-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FUND SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) GRANT PROGRAM AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) REQUIREMENTS FOR SAID GRANTS (Higgins)

R-258-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE \$41,330,000.00 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING OR CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY (Higgins)

R-297-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE \$625,000,000.00 IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO COUNTIES WITHIN AND SURROUNDING THE U.S. FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 HOST CITIES TO ADDRESS CRITICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS RELATING TO HOSTING THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP (Higgins)

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS BY POLICY AREA

Policy Area: Transportation and Ports

Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

Fully Fund Public Transit and Passenger Rail - *SUPPORT* the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development and Related Agencies (T-HUD) Appropriations Act, together with advance appropriations of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to maintain current funding levels or increase funding for public transit and passenger rail. This funding is critical to DTPW's efforts to bring public transit to a state of good repair. ***SUPPORT*** the provision of the fully authorized amount for the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, which provides substantial funding to DTPW for critical infrastructure projects along the corridors of the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Program, such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), commuter rail, and light rail systems and extensions. ***SUPPORT*** the provision of the fully authorized amount for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants, including public transportation and multi-modal projects. This funding supports investments in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact to improve safety and economic growth. ***SUPPORT*** the provision of the fully authorized amount provided for public transit formula and bus and bus facility competitive grants.

SMART Program Funding - *SUPPORT* funding and financing for all corridors (Beach, East-West, North, Northeast, and South Dade) of the SMART Program. ***SUPPORT*** the streamlining of the federal application process for funding to assist in the implementation of the SMART Program as per the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization approved Resolution No. R-52-2023.

Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit Project - *SUPPORT* funding of the County's Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit Project as recommended in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval to enter the New Starts Engineering Phase of the FTA's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program.

North Corridor Rapid Transit Project - *SUPPORT* funding and financing of the County's North Corridor Rapid Transit Project. This project would extend Metrorail by an exclusive 9.8-mile elevated guideway along NW 27th Avenue and includes the construction of eight new stations and seven adjacent park-and-ride facilities and transit terminals. The project will also include a new light maintenance facility to service and clean the rail vehicles used on the corridor.

Discretionary Transportation Grants - *SUPPORT* the award of U.S. Department of Transportation grant funds that the County is eligible for.

Fully Fund Federal Transit 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 to DTPW for several critical, but not fully funded improvement projects, which could qualify for 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 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and electric buses.

Bridge Program - *ADVOCATE* for sufficient funding to rehabilitate or replace County bridges through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program, Community Project Funding requests, and other funding opportunities. DTPW has configured a Bridge Program that will allow for the repair and/or replacement of several key bridges in upcoming years, including the Rickenbacker and William Howell Bridges. Project Development studies have been undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to advance the projects to the design and construction phases and to secure federal funding. In total, \$372 million of unfunded bridge improvement needs have been identified with relation to bridges within Miami-Dade County. The improvements will ensure safety and adequate transportation in this fast-growing region.

South Dade Trail - *ADVOCATE* for funding of the County's South Dade Trail Multi-Modal Shared-Use Path, a project providing pedestrian and cyclist access to transit services along the SMART Program Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) South Corridor. The shared-used path extends approximately 22.71-miles, running along the 100' right-of-way South Miami-Dade Busway connecting to 14 BRT stations and renovated bus stops between Florida City SW 344 Street (W Palm Drive) to the south and the Dadeland South Metrorail Station to the north. The project connects five municipalities and over six neighborhoods. At the Dadeland South Metrorail Station, the South Dade Trail will connect to the 10-mile Underline Project and allow pedestrian and bicyclists to connect to the Miami River Downtown Miami. In addition, the project allows for connectivity to four other trails located within South Miami-Dade (i.e. Ludlam, Snapper Creek, Snake Creek, and the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway). The project will deliver a shared-use path with sufficient width and improvements to 46 intersections to increase safety and improve mobility by promoting first- and last-mile connections to the new BRT stations and renovated bus shelters. Key project features include lighting, signage and way finding, drainage, site furniture and equipment, native landscaping, and a 48 percent (48%) increase in tree canopy and certain minor amenities. The project's NEPA has been cleared by FTA. The South Dade Trail's design phase is funded. However, the construction phase is unfunded, with an estimated cost of \$184 million across all nine planned segments.

Transportation Infrastructure and Services for the 2026 FIFA World Cup - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for the allocation of at least \$10 million in the FY 2026 appropriations act to ensure Miami-Dade County is fully prepared to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The scale and complexity of hosting this global event present significant challenges, especially in terms of transportation infrastructure and services. One of the most pressing concerns is the anticipated lack of parking around Hard Rock Stadium, compounded by FIFA's event footprint and heightened security protocols. This creates an unprecedented situation for moving workers, spectators, and other event participants. To address these challenges, DTPW is working closely with local transportation partners to prepare for the movement of up to 49,000 people per event at the stadium. DTPW is also developing a comprehensive Mobility Plan that includes key improvements to infrastructure and services at both the stadium and FanFest sites. These enhancements will include dedicated priority lanes for buses and emergency vehicles, first- and last-mile transportation solutions, improved signage, incident management systems, shuttle services, and the development of mobile app technology for event coordination. Due to the extensive planning and lead time required to implement these improvements, it is critical that FY 2026 funding be allocated on time in October 2025.

Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Full Funding for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Additional Funding for Supplemental Discretionary Airport Grants - *SUPPORT* efforts to provide \$4 billion for the AIP

account as proposed in both the House and Senate 2025 DOT/FAA funding bills and consistent with the 2024 FAA reauthorization law and provide additional funding for supplemental discretionary grants to airports of all sizes as proposed in the Senate bill. The AIP provides federal grants to U.S. airports for projects to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and to address environmental concerns. According to the Federal Aviation Authority, airports have \$62.4 billion in AIP and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) eligible projects – around \$12.5 billion annually – through FY 2027. Total airport capital needs are roughly around \$23 billion annually when non-eligible AIP- and IIJA- projects are considered. This additional funding would ensure that airports do not fall further behind addressing critical infrastructure needs.

Funding for Additional Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers - *SUPPORT* increased funding levels for Transportation Security Officers necessary to (1) screen the number of passengers and baggage expected in calendar year 2025; (2) improve security effectiveness; (3) mitigate vulnerabilities associated with large groups of passengers waiting in lengthy queues at passenger screening checkpoints; and (4) reduce the potential for passengers and baggage missing their intended flights. Additional resources are needed to ensure screening checkpoint and baggage operations keep pace with air travel demands. At Miami International Airport (MIA), 2024 reached nearly 56 million passengers, another record-breaking year. Due to increased volume, the County remains concerned that CBP does not have enough officers to process international arrivals safely and efficiently without lengthy wait times. CBP's most recent workload staffing model identifies a shortfall of more than 5,000 officers nationwide to meet current and anticipated travel volumes at airports and other locations. In addition to MIA's record-breaking passenger volumes, Miami-Dade County will play host to the FIFA World Cup in 2026, where millions of international spectators will travel to the United States in a short time span. During World Cup planning sessions, the issue of Customs wait times at MIA is often mentioned as an area of great concern to the FIFA World Cup Miami Host Committee and Partners. MDAD urges Congress to provide funding to sustain all current CBP officers and hire an additional 1,000 new officers in FY 2026 to address ongoing staffing shortages at airports.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Staffing and Technology Investments - *SUPPORT* efforts to fully fund new Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) as requested and provide \$175 million as proposed by the House to expedite the acquisition and deployment of the latest security screening technologies to airport checkpoints. In 2024, TSA regularly broke records for the number of passengers screened at checkpoints with daily enplanements predicted by TSA to reach 3.1 million in 2025. MIA also continues to experience record breaking checkpoint screening numbers. For example, on January 4, 2025, TSA-MIA screened a record 201,180 passengers in a single day. The House passed the DHS/TSA/CBP spending bill which provides support for additional resources requested by the agency to hire TSOs to meet the growing travel volumes without increasing wait times but airports remained concerned that insufficient technology funding will delay the deployment of critical security screening technologies. These technologies are better able to detect the latest threats while also providing passengers with the convenience of keeping laptops, liquids, and aerosols in their carry-on bags thereby reducing TSA wait times.

Air Traffic Control (ATC) Staffing - *SUPPORT* efforts to address the urgent need for adequate staffing and training of air traffic controllers, technicians, and other aviation safety professionals to maintain the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). The understaffing that currently exists within the Air Traffic Organization places additional strain on the system, further eroding the margin of safety and increasing risk. MDAD also supports the recommendations of the NAS Safety Review Team that call for the development of a defensible,

flexible, predictive air traffic controller staffing model that determines system and individual facility needs.

Funding for Critical Security Needs for the 2026 FIFA World Cup - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for FY 2026 funding that ensures critical security needs associated with the 2026 FIFA World Cup are met. In 2026, Miami-Dade County will be one of eleven host sites in the U.S. for the FIFA World Cup. Due to its scale and geographic scope, the security risks associated with hosting the World Cup are unprecedented. State and local security and emergency services, specifically local law enforcement and first responders, need federal support to effectively address the risks. To help ensure the safety and security of spectators, teams, and communities across the country during the tournament, additional resources are needed for a wide range of State and local security services. This includes increased training, readiness exercises, cybersecurity defenses, expanded emergency response and policing services, as well as heightened screening at major transportation hubs among other security needs. In a December 6, 2024, letter to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Congressional FIFA World Cup 2026 Caucus stated that the estimated cost of the additional security needs across the 11 World Cup host cities is approximately \$625 million. Host cities, like Miami-Dade County, have been working closely with U.S. Department of Homeland Security to identify the scope of security risks and determine an efficient and effective way to execute federal funding to address these security needs. Given the lead-time required for security activities in advance of the World Cup, funding was necessary in FY 2025; however, it is now imperative that funding is provided on time in FY 2026. MDAD supports the request that Congress provide at least \$625 million for these efforts in any supplemental FY 2025 appropriations act or through the timely enactment of FY 2026 appropriations.

PortMiami

Donor and Energy Transfer Ports (D&ET) Program - *ADVOCATE* in coordination with the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and the nation's five other donor ports, for implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) reforms by the 2025 Energy and Water Development (E&W) appropriations bills; specifically, an annual increase of \$2 million through FY 2030 (\$60 million in 2025; \$62 million in 2026) for the D&ET Program and an additional eight percent (8%) allocation of HMTF funds to the nation's donor ports. ***ADVOCATE*** for the following in the final conference agreement, Energy and Water Development appropriations, FY 2026: (1) approval of the \$3,956,000 provided to Miami Harbor (in the House and Senate bills) and (2) a repeat of Senate committee report language which directs the Corps to provide the eight percent (8%) allocation by the Corps workplan. PortMiami received an allocation of \$21,934,000 in the Corps 2024 workplan. These funds are intended to provide equity to the nation's donor ports, including PortMiami, which contribute significantly to the HMTF but receive nominal amounts in return, as their navigation channels require little, if no regular maintenance needs. PortMiami utilizes these funds for essential capital development needs at the Port.

Reimbursement of the Federal Share of a Federal Navigation Project - *ADVOCATE* for a change in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers policy governing reimbursement to a nonfederal sponsor which advanced the federal share of a completed federal navigation project. Current policy calls for a new start designation, notwithstanding that the project is completed and producing benefits for the nation. Removal of this requirement will enable PortMiami to seek reimbursements, over time, for the completed -50/52-foot draft, while competing, on an equitable basis, with other major ports which are seeking federal navigation funding. Reimbursement is authorized by federal

statute and Congress has provided \$3 million for a New Start Reimbursement for the Manatee Harbor, Florida, by the 2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Ship to Shore Cranes (STS) - *ADVOCATE* for the provision of funding for STS cranes. PortMiami's cargo volumes are growing and the number of cranes at PortMiami is no longer adequate. Additionally, some cranes are aging, and some need replacement. Prompt acquisition of new cranes and replacement of aged cranes is essential to maintain safety and operational efficiency at the Port. The Port plans to acquire six new STS cranes, with an option for two additional cranes later in 2025. The Federal Government has expressed concerns regarding the national security implications associated with certain manufactured cranes. The Port is looking at the balance of cost and security depending on the country of origin, the cost of a crane can range from \$12 million to \$40 million. PortMiami is requesting an \$8 million Community Project Funding in 2026 to assist with a portion of the substantial funding gap. These modern, reliable cranes will strengthen the security and resilience of the global supply chain, while sustaining PortMiami's dramatic growth as the nation's eleventh largest container port and the "Gateway to the Americas". PortMiami is an economic force for Florida and the nation, responsible for 340,000 jobs and \$61 billion in economic impact.

Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - *MONITOR* for the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for the major programs funded by the IIJA of interest to ports: Port Infrastructure Development grant program (PIDP), Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. ***ADVOCATE*** for additional FY 2026 appropriations for the IIJA programs. ***MONITOR*** for and ***OPPOSE*** initiatives to rescind advanced appropriations already available to these programs.

Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program (PIDP) - *SUPPORT* the Senate proposed funding level of \$200 million in the FY 2025 the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) appropriations bill and continued robust funding in the 2026 House and Senate T-HUD appropriations bills.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) - *SUPPORT* industry endorsed changes in the annual NDAA which extends the United States Maritime Administration's (MARAD) authority to award grants for shore power connections at cruise berths, pursuant to the Port Infrastructure Grant (PIDP) Program. The FY 2025 NDAA extends the authority for an additional year.

Miami Harbor Operations and Maintenance - *SUPPORT* the \$50,000 for Miami Harbor 2025 maintenance needs proposed in FY 2025 Energy and Water Development Appropriations legislation. ***SUPPORT*** the amount budgeted for Miami Harbor maintenance in the FY 2026 Army Corps budget documents, to be released in early 2025.

Maritime Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Staffing Funding - *SUPPORT* efforts to provide additional funding to hire the staff necessary to inspect cargo at port terminals. Congress has not provided sufficient funding to hire the staff CBP needs to inspect incoming and outbound cargo from America's ports. Without the addition of resources, container shipments may be delayed; causing the region to lose millions in revenue and cruise debarkations similarly may be delayed, causing issues for incoming passengers. With a wave of officer retirements incoming, and cargo volumes only expected to increase in the years to come, additional funding is essential.

Western Hemisphere Nearshoring Act - *SUPPORT* H.R. 509 and similar which incentivizes producers to relocate to Latin America and the Caribbean, with the intent of reducing the U.S. supply chain dependence on China.

Policy Area: Environment and Resilience

Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)

Waste Diversion and Zero Waste Programs - *SUPPORT* federal legislation, including a federal bottle bill; extended producer responsibility; and funding for infrastructure and projects to support zero waste strategies to convert waste to recovered resources and divert materials from disposal, such as composting, recycling, organic digestion, and renewable hydrogen development. The department supports this legislation as it will allow the County to make significant progress towards waste reduction and maximizing beneficial use of waste streams. Legislation supporting zero waste efforts and other waste diversion efforts will also contribute to the County's goal of becoming a Zero Waste County. (Resilience and DSWM)

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. The department supports this legislation as it will allow government-owned WTE facilities to 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.

Electric Garbage Trucks and Electric Truck Tractors - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** dedicated funding be provided to large Counties (more than 100,000 residents) for electric garbage trucks, electric truck tractors, and their associated EV charging stations (Level 3 charging stations) to allow for zero emissions, reduced fuel, noise pollution, and maintenance costs.

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 - *ADVOCATE* for and ***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 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 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 Waste-to-Energy (WTE) development as well as other waste diversion including organics processing technology including anaerobic digestion processing and composting. ***SUPPORT*** efforts to implement the Renewable Fuel Standard program in a manner that includes WTE eligibility. ***ADVOCATE*** for and

SUPPORT funding for local governments for metal and other sustainable material recovery. **ADVOCATE** for extension of deadlines in relation tax credits/direct pay options that would support WTE and other waste diversion and organic processing infrastructure.

Mosquito Control Technologies - ADVOCATE for 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. The department supports this legislation as it provides for new and emerging technologies to help reduce the risk of mosquito borne disease.

Financial Assistance for Solid Waste Customers - ADVOCATE for amendments to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) programs to include solid waste services, allowing low-income households to receive financial assistance on the solid waste collection fees. This amendment is crucial for addressing the growing financial burden of vulnerable residents who struggle to afford essential services, including waste management. Expanding LIHEAP and LIHWAP to cover solid waste fees will ease financial hardship and improve the quality of life for our residents. Hillsborough County, Florida, Batton Rouge, Louisiana, Los Osos, California, Orange County, North Carolina, and Bernalillo County, New Mexico offer similar assistance programs.

Recycling Labeling Transparency - ADVOCATE for and **SUPPORT** federal legislation that creates federal labeling standards for when and how items like beverage containers, packaging and food service items can be labeled recyclable or compostable. Such legislation would reduce consumer confusion as to what materials are recyclable and/or compostable and would reduce contamination. DSWM has over 360,000 recycling customers. Our customers have helped recycle more than 60,000 tons of waste per year. However, nearly 40 percent (40%) of the materials recycled in Miami-Dade County are contaminated. Federal legislation creating minimum federal labeling standards, particularly for items commonly recycled across the nation (ex: HDPE, PET, etc.) would help reduce contamination and promote recycling.

Waste Diversion Funding - SUPPORT federal legislation (e.g. Recycling and Composting Accountability Act and the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act) providing funding for infrastructure and public-private partnership to support waste diversion like recycling and composting. The Florida state legislature adopted a recycling goal of 70 percent (70%) to be achieved by 2020. Currently, fewer than five counties (as of 2023) have accomplished this recycling rate. Miami-Dade County's recycling rate is just under 40 percent (40%). Funding for infrastructure and public-private partnerships would allow Miami-Dade County to divert more waste from landfills and improve our recycling rate.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS)

Boater Safety Education Program - ADVOCATE for funding for boater safety education. PROS focuses on improving public safety for waterfront users countywide, addressing the urgent demand for better safety measures. Miami-Dade holds the unfortunate distinction of being second in boating accidents in Florida. In response, proposed initiatives include a countywide Vision Zero Boater Education campaign. The goal of this initiative is to minimize accidents, improve user experiences, and create safer recreational areas, benefiting residents, visitors, and the environment through education.

Biscayne-Everglades Greenway - ADVOCATE for funding for the construction of the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway (BEG) Segment D, a 2.5 miles segment of the Greenway in southern

Miami-Dade County that will serve both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Miami-Dade County and help connect Biscayne National Park to Everglades National Park. The project supports providing a safe and scenic recreation and transportation alternative route including the construction of a 10'-wide asphalt multi-use trail along the Mowry canal, SW 117th Ave and SW 320th Street.

Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)

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.

Coral Reef Restoration and Protection - *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; ***ADVOCATE*** for continued federal support and funding for research, intervention treatment, and mitigation rescue efforts for coral disease. Florida is home to the only living coral reef in North America. Coral reefs provide habitat and food for a staggering variety of marine organisms. Reefs also serve as a buffer for the mainland, protecting our shoreline from erosion and storm surges. Loss of our living coral reef threatens property, economy, tourism, biodiversity, and the environment.

Biscayne Bay Restoration - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** legislative, regulatory, and programmatic measures to restore Biscayne Bay water quality and habitats, including the development of a Reasonable Assurance Plan, efforts to secure recurring funds to accomplish Biscayne Bay restoration, and legislation providing federal grants to facilitate restoration-related projects to restore water quality and habitats and prevent fish kills and algal blooms. (Environmental Resources Management and Resilience)

Grant Funding Optimization - *SUPPORT* efforts to ensure that any new funding sources like state revolving loan funds be complimentary to each other and can be paired with other federal grants. ***SUPPORT*** the streamlining of grants and other funding so that they can move more quickly from state to local governments. ***SUPPORT*** the preservation of awarded funding for grants focused on resilience and sustainability measures. (Environmental Resources Management and Resilience)

Missing Middle Housing Funding - *SUPPORT* the provision of grant opportunities from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to local governments to finance the new construction, redevelopment, rehabilitation, or expansion of missing middle housing units. ***ADVOCATE*** for reintroduction and passage of two federal bills: (1) the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Act and (2) the Working Families Housing Tax Credit Act. These bills would provide tax credits that could be used to develop affordable rental units for tenants with incomes between 60 - 140 percent (60-140%) of the Area Median Income (AMI) and could help support the development of missing middle housing units, in conjunction with the County policy towards missing middle housing development established through Resolution No. 1089-24.

Resilient Building Retrofits - *SUPPORT* funding for 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. These efforts would serve to cover support of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) findings as a result of their investigation on Champlain Tower in their anticipated 2026 report to address the safety of existing buildings. (Building)

Miami-Dade County Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management - *SUPPORT* the appropriations to advance the 2024 Chief's Report for the Miami-Dade County Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Study and associated amendments to the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) to begin the Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design (PED) phase for recommended projects, the Nature-Based Solution Pilot Program, the Programmatic Non-Structural Studies, and the development of the Comprehensive Study Framework to guide long-term planning. ***SUPPORT*** earmark funding for the Nature-Based Solutions Pilot Program. (Resilience and Environmental Resources Management)

Tax Credits and Elective Pay - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for continued access to elective pay federal tax credits benefiting County projects, including specific measures that could help ensure between \$600,000,000 - \$750,000,000 in federal tax credits for a waste-to-energy facility should the Board decide to construct a waste-to-energy facility. ***SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE*** for the inclusion of mass burn waste-to-energy and anaerobic digestion in the Department of Treasury's Annual Table, which identifies facilities eligible for 45Y and 48E tax credits pursuant to section 45Y(b)(2)(C)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code and 26 CFR 1.45Y-5(g). ***SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE*** for the addition of 'communities building waste-to-energy facilities' as energy communities pursuant to 26 USC 45(b)(11)(B). ***SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE*** for the extension of the timeframe for the phase-out of energy tax credits that County projects would qualify for. ***OPPOSE*** the rollback of energy tax credits, including elective pay and 179d. (Resilience)

Electric Vehicles (EV) and EV Charging Infrastructure - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for funding for EV charging station infrastructure, both private and public. ***SUPPORT*** continued access to elective pay tax credits for EV charging station infrastructure and EVs. ***OPPOSE*** federal legislation that would disincentivize or hinder EV infrastructure creation or deployment such as additional fines, fees, preemptive regulatory frameworks, or cuts to federal funding for EV infrastructure. ***OPPOSE*** the rollback of laws and regulations providing for elective pay tax credits for EV charging station infrastructure and EVs. ***OPPOSE*** cuts to related federal grant programs supporting EVs and EV charging infrastructure. ***SUPPORT*** the preservation of previously awarded funding for federal EV charging infrastructure grants. (Building and Resilience)

Preemption of Local Permitting of Broadband Electrical Systems - *OPPOSE* the preemption of permitting in private property or right of way. (Building)

Trees and Heat Islands - *ADVOCATE* for funding to expand tree cover and deploy high albedo (cool) pavement and porous pavement to improve air quality, mitigate urban heat islands, and reduce runoff and heat impacts. A recent budgetary analysis showed that Miami-Dade County has a tremendous need for reforestation of habitats that could be integrated into a comprehensive project that diversifies the plant industry (particularly trees), spreads out to community properties, and restores habitats preserved in perpetuity. (Environmental Resources Management and Resilience)

Flood Risk Mitigation - *SUPPORT* maintaining or increasing current levels of funding for flood risk mitigation, and more specifically nature-based features, particularly through programs like FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants including Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-Mitigation) funds. ***SUPPORT*** efforts to ensure that federally funded projects are built resiliently accounting for future conditions such as sea level rise and more extreme rainfall events and emphasize the incorporation of nature-based solutions to the maximum extent practicable. ***OPPOSE*** efforts to reduce funding for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants. (Resilience and Environmental Resources Management)

National Flood Insurance - *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.

Everglades Restoration in Miami-Dade County - *ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT* efforts towards 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.

Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program - *ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT* federal grant programs that provides 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, saltwater intrusion, impacts to Biscayne Bay). ***ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT*** federal grant programs that provide the EEL Program funding for wildfire risk reduction in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) 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. ***ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT*** federal grant programs that provide the EEL Program funding for improving access by adding trails, boardwalks, signage, and other amenities that make the lands more Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessible and enjoyable for all visitors.

Worker Protections from Extreme Heat - *SUPPORT* the establishment of national standards for protecting workers from extreme heat exposure by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). ***SUPPORT*** research into optimal heat safety protocols for worker safety and productivity and financial benefits associated with them. (Resilience)

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Everglades Restoration Projects - *SUPPORT* funding and implementation of USACE projects impacting the County, including: (1) continued 50 percent (50%) federal cost share for Everglades restoration; (2) swift delivery schedules for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, including Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades ecosystem Restoration and the Southern Everglades project; (3) accelerated construction on delayed southern features of Central Everglades Planning Project, so that these features can be completed within two years; and (4) implementation of the Central and Southern Florida System Section 216 Flood Resilience Study.

Resilience Hubs/Cooling Sites - *SUPPORT* FEMA funding for energy redundancy investments at resilience hub/cooling sites in vulnerable communities. (Resilience)

Whole Building Data - *SUPPORT* federal programs enabling 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. (Resilience)

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact - *SUPPORT* the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's 2025 federal climate, energy and resilience legislative priorities and principles, as approved by the Compact Leadership Committee. (Resilience)

Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Implementation - *SUPPORT* efforts by federal agencies to further implement and codify the FFRMS into all federal programs and other comprehensive funding packages to reduce long-term flood risk and build community resilience. ***SUPPORT*** efforts by FEMA to fully implement the FFRMS into programs by rulemaking. (Resilience)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Department of Energy (DOE) - *SUPPORT* maintaining funding for EPA, NOAA, and DOE, including grant funds and appropriations beneficial to Miami-Dade County. ***OPPOSE*** cuts to federal appropriations and rollback of regulations protective of South Florida's environment, the health and safety of residents, protection of property, and long-term cost savings for citizens. (Resilience)

Water and Sewer Department (WASD)

Infrastructure Finance and Programs - *SUPPORT* the implementation of Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA); provision of adequate funding of State Revolving Loan Funds; and new actions on affordability, resilience, Clean Water Act mandates, and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, which are all significant factors for WASD capital and operating requirements. WASD has been elected 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 more than \$8 billion in water and sewer capital needs due to 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. Specific examples of critical projects include Florida Ocean Outfall Legislation Projects, Lead and Copper Rule Projects, and Projects to comply with upcoming PFAS regulations.

Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing - *OPPOSE* altering tax-exempt municipal bond financing on public drinking water and wastewater systems and 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. Congress should retain the current federal tax exemption for municipal bonds. ***SUPPORT*** 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* actions that will allow the Environmental Protection Agency and other pertinent federal agencies to effectively 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.

Support 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 polyfluoroalkyl 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.

Support Funding for PFAS Treatment - *SUPPORT* legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants and loans to facilitate PFAS treatment, to research and test potential treatment technologies, and to construct PFAS remediation facilities and infrastructure upgrades that will be necessary for compliance.

Support 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.

Support 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 public resources such as Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. Funding is needed for public infrastructure as well as for the cost of connection for private property owners. Approximately 120,000 septic tanks can be found throughout Miami-Dade County, 9,000 of which are failing or susceptible to failure.

Policy Area: Community Services

Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD)

Community Services Block Grant Act (CSBG) - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** 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. The reauthorization and modernization of the CSBG Act will enable the County to better maximize and expand its capacity to provide County services that directly impact residents such as employment training and job placement, small business development, economic development, emergency assistance, nutrition assistance, transportation services, after school services for youth, housing assistance and family development services.

Older Americans Act (OAA) - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** increased funding allocations to the OAA. Increased funding would support expanded and enhanced service provision to target individuals; services such as in-home support, adult day care, and respite for caregivers, transportation services to service provision and related locations for increasing the socialization of older adults or vulnerable persons at risk for isolation, recreational field trips to improve the physical health of target individuals, and hot meals for qualifying clients. Furthermore, OAA funding will serve to offset costs for programs such as Medicare and Medicaid by way of reduced visits to health and institutional facilities (i.e., emergency rooms and nursing homes).

Systemic Treatment and Recovery for Opioid-Naloxone Grant - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** efforts 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.

Head Start and Early Head Start Funding - *ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT* legislative action that will maintain funding for 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 FY 2024 levels. ***ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT*** legislative action that would incentivize the State of Florida to begin matching the funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to Miami-Dade County, which is 20 percent (20%) of the total grant awards from the federal government, to match the funding being provided by community stakeholders through CAHSD. ***ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT*** the reintroduction and passage of the Child Care for Working Families Act and the Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act, or their equivalents, during the 119th Congress.

Older Adults Housing Assistance Repair Program (OAHARP) - *ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT* federal funding for a new OAHAP program to assist elderly homeowners with much 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. By increasing the number of the homes that the department repairs and rehabilitates for the elderly and seniors with disabilities, CAHSD reduces: (1) housing demands on the Miami-Dade County's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)); (2) the number of complaints made to Miami-Dade County Code Enforcement Office; and (3) reports made to the Florida Department of Children and Families for removal of the elderly to safe housing.

Low Cost to Free Community Health and Behavioral Health Services - *ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT* increased funding to address mental health needs of children and adults experiencing substance use disorder, mental health illness, or co-occurring disorders. Given the current behavioral health crisis at both national and local levels, the department prioritizes the development and expansion of free or low-cost community health and behavioral services for Miami-Dade County residents. This crisis is worsened by local factors such as the affordability crisis for housing and the high costs of goods and services. Residents are feeling the impacts of micro and macro inflationary factors, often facing tough decisions such as choosing between paying bills, rent, or costly prescription drugs and medical services. These issues compound and add to the general burden on working families in the County. With a robust federal funding priority from the 119th Congress, these issues can be mitigated or even resolved.

Weatherization Assistance and Home Rehabilitation Programs - *ADVOCATE* for and *SUPPORT* increased funding for the Weatherization and Home Rehabilitation programs to improve investments in energy efficiency and home rehabilitation improvements available to lower income homeowners. If legislation is proposed to address this concern, the legislation would greatly impact and improve the lives of qualified homeowners in Miami-Dade County by allowing them to live in a safe, accessible, resilient, and energy-efficient home that can withstand the South Florida climate for years to come.

Job Development and Pipelines to In-Demand and Future-Ready Jobs - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for increased funding for job development programs and initiatives that aim to prepare job seekers with in-demand and high-tech jobs. Given the significant economic challenges and employment gaps, the department prioritizes the development of job pipelines to in-demand and future-ready positions. This initiative aims to secure funding for programs that equip local residents with the skills necessary to thrive in high-tech and other high-demand sectors. This initiative underscores the importance of federal funding support from the 119th Congress to bridge the skills gap and foster economic resilience in our community.

Cultural Affairs (CUA)

Federal Funding for the Arts and Cost Shifts - *SUPPORT* continued increases in federal funding for the arts, specifically for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and Creative Arts Therapies in Veterans Healthcare Networks. Urge the U.S. Congress to continue NEA and NEH funding in FY 2025 and FY 2026. ***SUPPORT*** increased funding for the following arts education and other federal programs, including:

- ***SUPPORT*** the U.S. Department of Education's arts education programs.
- ***SUPPORT*** the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) FY 2025 request by funding \$10 million in the next Defense Appropriations bill to the DoD Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) for the support and expansion of community arts programs and partnerships in all military services. The funding is designed to pilot a coordinated local public-private sector strategy for building a partnership between military bases in the United States and the local and regional arts agencies to expand opportunities for service members and their families to participate in the arts for their health and well-being.
- ***SUPPORT*** the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by funding \$10 million in Community Engagement programs.

Homeless Trust (HT)

Homeless Assistance Grants - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** preserving and expanding U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) 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 street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention and rapid rehousing (short- to medium-term rental assistance). The CoC Program funds permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing for youth, and coordinated entry (outreach). Nationally, there was an 18 percent (18%) increase in homelessness in 2024, with 770,000 people counted as homeless nationally. While the 2025 Point in Time Count demonstrated a 2-percent decrease in homelessness, 3,728 persons (sheltered and unsheltered) were enumerated as homeless on a single night. This includes 287 families with minor children. Clients in the homeless system are typically below 30% Area Median Income, which is about \$34,000 for a family of 4. Due to this increased need, it is critical that the House and the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) Appropriations subcommittees preserve funding, including efforts to increase FY 2025 and FY 2026 funding by \$700 million with no new harmful directives or policy.

Increased Funding for Federal Housing Vouchers - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** increased federal funding for Housing Choice Vouchers to assist struggling families and individuals, including persons experiencing homelessness. Funding is needed to continue to support existing households, and to 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 HT and the Miami-Dade Department of Housing and Community Development currently partner 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 (HT and Housing and Community Development).

Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Miami Beach Affordable Housing - *SUPPORT* additional funding to effectively acquire, renovate, preserve, and operate the Miami Beach Community Development Coalition (MBCDC)'s affordable housing portfolio. The portfolio of 16 affordable housing properties is being transferred to the County because MBCDC could no longer financially maintain these assets due to rising costs and age of the properties. This request is a critical priority because these properties (1) require urgent structural repairs due to deferred maintenance by MBCDC, and (2) serve a vulnerable population of low-income and elderly residents with limited housing options.

Flexibility for Public Housing Capital Fund and Other Funds - *SUPPORT* that any additional funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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.

Funding for Public Housing and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) - *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. ***SUPPORT*** allowing HUD to permit PHAs rated "standard" to qualify for Moving to Work (MTW) status with justification to HUD. ***SUPPORT*** efforts to allow Public Housing Authorities to appeal their operating subsidy per unit month (PUM) if there is a wide variance between the existing per unit month and Contract Rents under RAD.

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's transforming the Annual Contributions Contract from a "contract" to a one-sided grant agreement. The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities and Public Housing Authorities Directors Association also oppose this measure.

Increase Funding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program - *ADVOCATE* for increased federal funding for the HUD CDBG program and continued funding for the HOME program. CDBG funds are designed to support projects that are integrated into a long-range community strategy, will leverage further private and public partnership, and enhance deteriorated residential and business districts. While the HOME Program expands and strengthens partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, in the production and operation of affordable housing.

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.

Juvenile Services Department (JSD)

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 by providing vital funding to the Prearrest Delinquency Citation Program (formerly known as Civil Citation Program), intended as an alternative to arrest for juvenile offenders. The program provides youth with the opportunity to avoid a criminal record which can often impede their ability to gain employment or access to other opportunities and has also yielded documented cost savings to the County. Since inception, over 23,800 clients have been served with a success rate of 83%. According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's 2022-2023 Comprehensive Accountability Report, Prearrest Delinquency Citations on Youth Completions FY 2021-2022 had a 3% recidivism rate in Miami-Dade County, confirming the program's success.

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 requested FY 2025 IMLS budget is \$280 million, which includes \$177.2 million for LSTA grants and projects nationwide. Over the past several years, Miami-Dade Public Library System has received over \$1 million in IMS funds through the Library Services and Technology Act 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 maker space YOUmedia Miami 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.

Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT)

Expand Due Process for Minors - *ADVOCATE* for the mandatory provision of legal representation for minors during law enforcement interrogations.

Advocate for Full-Day Universal Prekindergarten for All Three (3) and Four (4) -Year Olds - *ADVOCATE* for universal public option for early learning beginning with full-day universal prekindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds. Research shows that children who lack access to high-quality early education options often enter kindergarten already behind their peers, contributing to significant academic achievement gaps. These gaps can lead to lower literacy rates, higher school dropout rates at increased levels as children progress through the education system without the foundational skills they need to thrive. Additionally, when parents are forced to choose between their careers and caring for their young children, it creates inefficiencies in the labor market.

Policy Area: Public Safety

Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

Integration of the National Weather Service (NWS) Miami with Miami-Dade County DEM - *SUPPORT* the colocation of the NWS Miami in Miami-Dade County's Integrated Command and Communications Center. Natural disasters caused by weather related events such as hurricanes, flooding, and tornadoes, involve a large portion of emergency management's operations in Miami-Dade County. As a best practice, integrating meteorological forecasted information into the decision-making process during the response phase of extreme weather events is critical for service delivery to the residents and business owners. This will include the use of office space and in the Emergency Operations Center.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR)

MDFR Training Complex Towers - *SUPPORT* funding to purchase a prefabricated fire training tower to enhance recruit training. This tower will provide a realistic environment for live fire drills, search and rescue, hose management, roof operations, forcible entry, and ladder operations. It will reduce competition for training spaces, minimize downtime, and allow for larger or simultaneous classes, addressing the growing need for recruits. This investment will build firefighter competence, improve response times, and enhance effectiveness in real-life fire scenarios.

Funding for FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (USAR) Teams - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for federal funding for Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1), the USAR Task Force sponsored by MDFR. FL-TF1, part of the National USAR Response System under DHS/FEMA, faces a \$4 million annual funding shortfall. This shortfall impacts equipment maintenance, readiness, and training, all of which are currently funded privately and on a volunteer basis. MDFR has deployed FL-TF1 to major disasters nationwide, including Hurricanes Katrina, Irma, Maria, Ian, Idalia, Debby, Helene, Milton, and the Maui wildfire, showcasing its critical role in national response efforts.

Reinstate MDFR Urban Search and Rescue - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for the reinstatement of 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) Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). MDFR's Urban Search and Rescue Team was designated as Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1) for the BHA (formerly Office Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) between 1985 to 2004. During that period of 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, MDFR will be applying for reinstatement as an international response search and rescue task force within the USAID BHA.

Policy Area: Finance and Government Operations

Information Technology Department (ITD)

Emergency Communications for the 2026 FIFA World Cup - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for federal resources to upgrade Remote Data Communications Systems (RDCS) and deploy fixed spectrum analyzers to detect rogue frequencies, ensure reliable emergency

communications, and protect World Cup teams, fans, and Miami-Dade residents. Collaboration with DHS, CISA, and FCC is essential for effective spectrum management and public safety. Funds will upgrade existing RDCS, lease additional units for remote fan sites, and implement a Countywide monitoring system to rapidly identify and mitigate communication disruptions, ensuring a safe and secure international event.

Miami-Dade County Cybersecurity Shield: Comprehensive Enhancement Initiative - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for federal resources to enhance Miami-Dade County's cybersecurity infrastructure through three key initiatives: SOAR Maturity Effort, Certificate Management Automation, and Application-Specific Penetration Testing. This comprehensive project is crucial for protecting the County's critical infrastructure, ensuring compliance with NIST standards, and safeguarding against evolving cyber threats. It aligns with federal cybersecurity priorities, enhances public safety, and strengthens the County's ability to detect, respond to, and mitigate cybersecurity incidents. Implementation will significantly improve Miami-Dade's cyber resilience, protecting essential services and residents' data from potential attacks.

Digital Skills Expansion: Empowering Miami-Dade's Workforce for the Tech Economy - *SUPPORT* the provision of federal resources to launch an initiative with the goal of advancing digital access, tech skills, and workforce development across the County.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FY 2026 FEDERAL PROGRAMMATIC &
COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS**

1. RER: Miami-Dade County Reforestation
2. RER: Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project from NE 191st Street to North of Miami Gardens Drive
3. RER: Nature-based Solutions Pilot Program, Back Bay, Miami-Dade County
4. DTPW: Vision Zero Safety Improvements – SW 136th Street, SW 152nd Street, and SW 184th Street
5. DTPW: Vision Zero Safety Improvements – West 12th Avenue
6. DTPW: Vision Zero Safety Improvements – NW 22nd Avenue
7. DTPW: Roadway Resurfacing along Coral Way from SW 57 Avenue to SW 72 Avenue
8. DTPW: Roadway Resurfacing along SW 120 Street from SW 117 Avenue to SW 137 Avenue
9. DTPW: Safety Improvements along SW 328 Street, Entrance to Homestead Bayfront Park to SW 117 Avenue
10. DTPW: Roadway Resurfacing along Coral Way, SW 77 Avenue to SW 87 Avenue
11. DTPW: Roadway Resurfacing of Glen Cove area, SW 96 Terrace to SW 104 Street
12. DTPW: Roadway Resurfacing Project NW 87 Avenue from NW 72 Street to NW 58 Street, Miami, Florida
13. Seaport: New Start Reimbursement, Miami Harbor, Miami-Dade County
14. Seaport: Donor and Energy Ports Funding
15. Seaport: Ship to Shore (STS) Cranes
16. Seaport: PortMiami Roadway Improvements
17. CUA: Support for Arts and Culture
18. ITD: Miami-Dade County Cybersecurity Shield: Comprehensive Enhancement Initiative
19. ITD: Emergency Communications for 2026 FIFA World Cup
20. Homeless Trust: Acquisition and Renovation of Housing for Families with Minors Experiencing Homelessness
21. MDFR: Hard Rock Interior Fire Response
22. CAHSD: Enhancing Head Start Facilities and Outdoor Playgrounds
23. DTPW: FIFA World Cup 26' Mobility Improvements (Miami)
24. MDFR: National Search & Rescue Support
25. DTPW: South Dade Trail
25. Homeless Trust: Mia Casa Senior Housing Expansion
26. Seaport: Reefer Yard Electrification and Expansion Project
27. CAHSD/Children's Trust: Children's Trust Child Care Facilities Improvement Project
28. ISD/Nicklaus Hospital: Feeding Miami-Dade Families and Children

Jackson
HEALTH SYSTEM
Miracles made daily.

TO: Amadeo Lopez-Castro III, Chairman
and Members, Public Health Trust Board of Trustees

FROM: Carlos A. Migoya
President and Chief Executive Officer Jackson Health System

DATE: September 24, 2024

RE: 2025 Federal and State Legislative Priorities

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Public Health Trust Board of Trustees approve the 2025 federal and state legislative priorities.

Scope

The legislative priorities encompass the major issues likely to impact Jackson Health System during the 2025 session of the Florida Legislature, and during ongoing legislative and regulatory activity in Washington, D.C. The priorities will be incorporated into Miami-Dade County's proposed 2025 federal and state legislative package.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact to setting the Trust's legislative priorities. Policy and funding changes made by the Legislature in reflection of these priorities can have a significant impact on the health system.

Track Record/Monitor

Chief of Staff to the President and CEO and Vice President of Government Relations Esther Caravia will monitor the advancement of these priorities throughout the year.

Background

The 2025 federal and state legislative priorities are being presented to the Strategy and Growth Committee for submittal to the Board of County Commissioners as described above.

The specific priorities recommended for 2025 are attached.

RESOLUTION NO. PHT 09/2024 - 048

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST AND DIRECTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SUBMIT THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, FOR INCLUSION IN THE COUNTY'S PROPOSED 2025 FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

(Carlos A. Migoya, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jackson Health System)

WHEREAS, the Public Health Trust (the "Trust") recognizes the need to establish its Federal and State legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption, the Trust is required to submit its Federal and State legislative priorities to Miami-Dade County, through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, for inclusion in the County's Proposed 2025 Federal and State Legislative Package; and

WHEREAS, the list of the Trust's Federal and State Legislative Priorities is attached hereto and made a part hereof and requires approval of the Public Health Trust; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer recommends approval of the attached priorities and of submission thereof to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby approves the Public Health Trust's 2025 Federal and State Legislative Priorities, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and declares it to be an official action of the Public Health Trust, and provided further that the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, is directed to submit the 2025 Federal and State Legislative Priorities to Miami-Dade County, through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, for inclusion in the County's Proposed 2025 Federal and State Legislative Package.

Agenda Item 11.g
Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
September 24, 2024

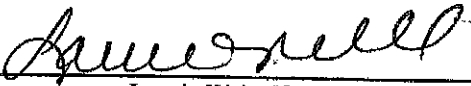
-Page 2-

The foregoing resolution was offered by Mojdeh L. Khaghan and the motion was seconded by Carmen M. Sabater as follows:

Amadeo Lopez-Castro, III	Aye
Carmen M. Sabater	Aye
Antonio L. Argiz	Excused
Senator Alexis Calatayud	Aye
Laurie Weiss Nuell	Aye
Walter T. Richardson	Aye
Mojdeh Khaghan	Aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution as duly passed and adopted this 24th day of September 2024.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: 
Laurie Weiss Nuell, Secretary

Approved by the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office as to form
And legal sufficiency 

2025 Legislative Priorities

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **Protect the 340B Drug Discount Program:** Advocate vigorously against any proposed changes to the federal 340B drug discount program that would limit hospital and patient eligibility. Ensure that the program continues to support hospitals in providing affordable medications to underserved populations.
- **Safeguard Federal Funding:** Closely monitor federal funding initiatives to prevent further cuts. Ensure that our health system receives the necessary resources to maintain high-quality care and support our community.
- **Strengthen the Healthcare Workforce:** Support and advocate for federal initiatives that bolster the healthcare workforce.
- **Advocate for New GME Slots for Florida:** Prioritize efforts to secure additional properly funded Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots for Florida. Advocate for federal policies that increase the number of residency positions, thereby addressing the state's growing healthcare needs and ensuring a robust pipeline of qualified healthcare professionals.
- **Monitor Changes to Federal Rules:** Stay informed about proposed federal rules and regulations that may impact the health system. Engage in advocacy to shape policies that support healthcare operations and patient care.

STATE PRIORITIES

- **Prevent Cuts in State Funding:** Advocate strongly against further reductions in state-appropriated funding. Ensure that our health system remains adequately supported to deliver essential services to the community.
- **Maximize Federal Supplemental Funding:** Work to maximize federal supplemental funding opportunities to support health system operations and patient care.
- **Support Medicaid Rate Increases:** Advocate for increases in Medicaid reimbursement rates to better reflect the cost of providing care.
- **Secure Additional Funding for Jackson:** Seek additional state funding for Jackson to support its unique and critical mission to Miami-Dade.
- **Address the Mental Health Crisis:** Advocate for further state-level changes to address the growing mental health crisis.
- **Maintain Tort Reform and Sovereign Immunity:** Support the preservation of current tort reform and sovereign immunity laws to protect the health system from excessive litigation and ensure a stable operational environment.
- **Strengthen Florida's Healthcare Workforce:** Advocate for measures aimed at the recruitment and retention of skilled healthcare professionals to grow and strengthen Florida's healthcare workforce.
- **Monitor Trauma Center Standards:** Monitor changes to Florida's trauma center standards and work to ensure any modifications maintain or improve the quality and accessibility of trauma care.
- **Monitor Organ Transplant Regulatory Standards:** Track changes to organ transplant regulatory standards to ensure they support high-quality and equitable transplant services.