

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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

DATE: November 4, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature and United States
Congress to appropriate funding
for the re-investing in our Small
Business Economy (RISE)
program

Resolution No. R-1097-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Eileen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: November 4, 2025

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Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

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)(12)
11-4-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-1097-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND
UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING
FOR THE RE-INVESTING IN OUR SMALL BUSINESS
ECONOMY (RISE) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, small businesses are the heart of the Miami-Dade County economy; and

WHEREAS, the small business community was disproportionally harmed during the COVID pandemic, with many businesses having to close their doors; and

WHEREAS, in response, the Board of County Commissioners approved the creation of the Re-Investing in our Small Business Economy (“RISE”) loan fund program with the adoption of Resolution No. R-557-20 on June 2, 2020, which was amended and replaced, in part, by Resolution No. R-1178-21 on December 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Fund was created with the express goal of creating an accessible and supportive process to quickly get loans into the hands of Miami-Dade County’s micro and small business owners; and

WHEREAS, RISE initially launched with \$25,000,000.00 in seed funding that was made possible following the County’s allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act funding; and

WHEREAS, during its first phase, RISE was a huge success, and Dade County Federal Credit Union (“DCFCU”) has advised that RISE provided millions in funding to over 900 small businesses across Miami-Dade at the low interest rate of 3.25 percent; and

WHEREAS, RISE established a new route for small businesses to secure funding, improve their credit, and progress towards thriving long-term, instead of just surviving the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, while RISE initially provided immediate relief, its underlying design was geared towards establishing a sustainable, long-term revolving loan program, reinvesting funds to support new applicants; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County and DCFCU maintain their steadfast commitment to providing funding opportunities to small businesses and the families they sustain; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the RISE Fund has awarded a total of \$36,198,719.46 in loans to small businesses across Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, this year alone, RISE has provided 203 loans totaling \$8,189,800.00, underscoring its continued demand and effectiveness in empowering small business growth; and

WHEREAS, the success of the RISE Fund can be attributed to the strong partnership between Miami-Dade County and the DCFCU, whose prudent management has maintained a delinquency ratio of just two percent while ensuring equitable access to capital; and

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. R-675-24, the Board of County Commissioners reaffirmed its support for the RISE Fund by approving a \$1,500,000.00 grant agreement with DCFCU to expand lending capacity for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the RISE Fund's revolving loan model continues to reinvest repaid funds into new loans, creating a sustainable cycle of opportunity and helping small business owners build credit, grow revenue, and contribute to local job creation; and

WHEREAS, amid rising interest rates and tightening credit markets, RISE remains one of the few accessible, low-interest funding options for micro and small businesses across Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, continued support and investment in the RISE Fund will ensure that Miami-Dade County's small business community has the financial tools needed to thrive in an evolving economy, preserving the entrepreneurial spirit that drives the County's long-term prosperity; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Florida Legislature and United States Congress will ensure that RISE continues to pave the way for sustained growth and prosperity for small businesses in the County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County now seeks the support of the Florida Legislature and the United States Congress for the Re-Investing in our Small Business Economy (RISE) program to further capitalize the small business loan fund, enabling the continuation of accessible, low-interest loans to underserved small businesses across Miami-Dade County,

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 and United States Congress to appropriate funding for the Re-Investing in our Small Business Economy (RISE) program.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate Majority Leader, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Florida House Speaker, and the Chair and remaining members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state and federal lobbyists to advocate for the action described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs: (i) to amend the 2026 State Legislative Package to include this item, and (ii) to include this item in the 2026 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Roberto J. Gonzalez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Natalie Milian Orbis** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of November, 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.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes