

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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

DATE: January 21, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the 2026 federal legislative package, including urging resolutions adopted by the Board to date, guiding principles, departmental legislative requests, and priorities of the Public Health Trust; waiving provisions of Resolution Nos. R-764-13 and R-1267-18

Resolution No. R-66-26

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: January 21, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(5)

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)(5)
1-21-26

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-66-26

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE, INCLUDING URGING
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD TO DATE,
GUIDING PRINCIPLES, DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATIVE
REQUESTS, AND PRIORITIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
TRUST; WAIVING PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION NOS. R-
764-13 AND R-1267-18

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 2026 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; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to waive (1) the provisions of Resolution No. R-764-13 providing for the Board's selection of no more than ten priorities for distribution to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, and (2) the provisions 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 and to prepare a report for the Board's consideration detailing the findings of said feedback prior to the Board's selection of the federal legislative priorities,

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

Section 1. Approves the 2026 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 2026 federal legislative package.

Section 3. Waives (1) the provisions of Resolution Nos. R-764-13 providing for the Board's selection of no more than ten priorities for distribution to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, and (2) the provisions 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 and to prepare a report for the Board's consideration detailing the findings of said feedback prior to the Board's selection of the federal legislative priorities.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Anthony Rodriguez. It was offered by Commissioner **Oliver G. Gilbert, III**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Vicki L. Lopez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of January, 2026. 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



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2026 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, at minimum, the same level of federal funding for County programs as last year. Maintain programmatic funding as well as County specific funding.

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 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2026 FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS

As of December 16, 2025, and in chronological order by passage

R-978-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO STUDY BEACH EROSION IN THE 69TH STREET SEGMENT OF THE NORTH BEACH AREA IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR A BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT AT SAID 69TH STREET SEGMENT

R-981-25: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CORAL REEF RESTORATION GOALS OF THE UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THOSE GOALS

R-984-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ("DHS") AND THE U.S. TRANSPORTATION AND SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ("TSA") TO INSTITUTE THE "FAMILIES ON THE FLY" PROGRAM AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ("MIA") AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO WORK WITH THE DHS AND THE TSA TO BRING THE "FAMILIES ON THE FLY" PROGRAM TO MIA AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THIS BOARD REGARDING SUCH EFFORTS WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION

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

R-1013-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO EXPEDITE THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ALLOCATE FUNDING TO FULLY MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR SAID STUDY

R-1224-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT S. 266, H.R. 929, THE DR. LORNA BREEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELL-

BEING AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

R-1225-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PURCHASE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS IN THE COUNTY'S EEL ACQUISITION LIST, OR OTHERWISE RELATED TO COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN PROJECTS

R-1229-25: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXTEND ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDITS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT; SUPPORTING MEDICAID EXPANSION IN FLORIDA PURSUANT TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION EXPANDING MEDICAID IN FLORIDA

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS BY POLICY AREA

Policy Area: Transportation and Ports

Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

Surface Transportation Reauthorization - *ADVOCATE* for a new, long-term surface transportation reauthorization that provides consistent, reliable funding and discretionary opportunities to support County-owned and supported infrastructure—including local roads, bridges, and transit and rail systems—when *the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58/IIJA) expires in September 2026. ***SUPPORT*** full funding of the Federal Transit Formula Program and State of Good Repair (SGR) grants at least to IIJA levels, essential for County infrastructure modernization projects, including Metrorail and Metromover systems, vertical conveyance upgrades, and the acquisition of battery electric buses.

Public Transit and Passenger Rail Funding - *SUPPORT* passage of the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill and continuation of IIJA advance appropriations to maintain or increase funding for public transit and passenger rail to bring public transit to a state of good repair. ***SUPPORT*** funding the fully authorized amount for the following programs: 1) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program; 2) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program; and 3) public transit formula and bus and bus facility competitive grants. ***OPPOSE*** any decreases to FTA funding or staffing levels.

SMART Program Funding - *SUPPORT* funding and financing for all corridors (Beach, East-West, North, Northeast, and South Dade) of the SMART Program. ***SUPPORT*** streamlining of the federal funding application process to assist implementation of the SMART Program.

Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit Project - *ADVOCATE* for funding of the County's Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit Project with the goal of entering the FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement Phase of the FTA CIG Program by the end of 2025.

North Corridor Rapid Transit Project - *SUPPORT* funding and financing of the County's North Corridor Rapid Transit Project.

Discretionary Transportation Grants - *SUPPORT* the timely award of U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) grant funds for which the County is eligible.

Bridge Program - *ADVOCATE* for sufficient funding to rehabilitate or replace County bridges through USDOT discretionary and formula programs, Community Project Funding (CPF) requests, and other opportunities.

South Dade Trail - *SUPPORT* CPF or other funding opportunities for the South Dade Trail Multi-Modal Shared- Use Path, a 22.71-mile corridor along the South Miami-Dade Busway that would provide pedestrian and cyclist access to transit along the SMART Program BRT South Corridor. The project connects five municipalities and over six neighborhoods, linking to 14 BRT stations and renovated bus stops between Florida City SW 344 Street and the Dadeland South Metrorail Station where it joins the 10-mile Underline Project and four other trails. It includes safety and mobility improvements at 46 intersections plus lighting, signage, drainage, and a 48 percent (48%) increase in tree canopy along with other amenities. The design phase is funded and its NEPA has been cleared by FTA; however, construction (~\$184 million) remains unfunded.

Transportation Infrastructure (T&I) Services for the 2026 FIFA World Cup (FWC) - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for at least \$10 million through Transit Infrastructure Grants or other funding opportunities to support County T&I services leading up to and throughout the 2026 FWC, including mitigating significant challenges such as the lack of parking around Hard Rock Stadium, the projected movement of up to 49,000 people per stadium event, and FIFA's large event footprint and heightened security protocols. A comprehensive Mobility Plan featuring priority bus and emergency lanes, first- and last-mile transportation solutions, improved signage, incident management systems, shuttle services, and mobile app technology is in development.

Flood Risk Mitigation - *SUPPORT* maintaining or increasing funding levels for flood risk mitigation, s, through programs like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program (HMAP), the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation funding. ***SUPPORT*** efforts to ensure that federally funded projects are built resiliently, accounting for future environmental conditions and incorporating nature-based solutions to the extent practicable. ***OPPOSE*** efforts to eliminate or reduce funding for FEMA HMAP and/or BRIC grants.

Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Formula and Discretionary Grant Funding - *SUPPORT* funding the fully authorized amount for AIP (\$4 billion) as proposed in both the U.S. House and Senate FY 2026 Transportation appropriations bill and consistent with the FY 2024 Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization law. ***ADVOCATE*** for additional funding for discretionary grants to airports of all sizes as proposed in the Senate bill.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Staffing Levels - *SUPPORT* increased funding for CBP necessary to: 1) screen the number of passengers and baggage expected in 2026; 2) provide greater agency flexibility to maintain its operational capacity at MIA; 3) reduce wait times; and 4) equip MIA to handle the projected increase in international passengers and support new air service and economic opportunities. ***SUPPORT*** early hiring, which is critical to ensure trained officers are ready for 2026 operations and to mitigate the anticipated 2028 retirement cliff.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Staffing Levels - *SUPPORT* increased funding for TSA necessary to increase the number of Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) at MIA and to fully deploy TSO resources in response to an unprecedented increase in travelers in 2025 and projected increase in passenger volumes for 2026.

Air Traffic Control (ATC) Staffing Levels - *SUPPORT* federal action to ensure 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). ***SUPPORT*** NAS Safety Review Team recommendations calling for the development of a defensible, flexible, predictive ATC staffing model that determines system and individual facility needs.

PortMiami (PORT)

Donor and Energy Transfer (D&ET) Ports Program - *ADVOCATE*, in coordination with the American Association of Port Authorities, to implement *the Water Resources Development Act of 2020* (P.L. 116-260/WRDA 2020) Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) reforms in the FY 2026 Energy and Water Development (E&W) appropriations bills, specifically: 1) WRDA 2020 Sec. 104 (increase funding for the D&ET Program by \$2 million annually through FY 2030); and 2) WRDA 2020 Sec. 102 (allocate eight percent [8%] of available HMTF funds to Donor Ports). The House-passed FY 2026 E&W appropriations bill includes funding for the D&ET program (\$3,561,000 for Miami Harbor) but omits Sec. 102. This can be addressed in the FY 2026 Senate E&W bill and final conference report, including the 2027 THUD appropriations bills.

Reimbursement of the Federal Share of a Navigation Project - *ADVOCATE* to eliminate a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) policy requiring a nonfederal sponsor to receive a new start designation as eligibility for reimbursement. This requirement presents a significant barrier to reimbursement for nonfederal sponsors who have expended funds to deliver a federally authorized project of national significance.

Ship-to-Shore (STS) Cranes - *ADVOCATE* for federal funding opportunities to support the acquisition and replacement of STS cranes to address growing cargo volumes at PortMiami. Modern, reliable cranes will support PortMiami's dramatic growth as a leading global container port and the "Gateway to the Americas," while strengthening the security and resilience of the global supply chain. ***SUPPORT*** industry proposals to incentivize U.S.

domestic production of STS cranes, including the *Port Crane Tax Credit Act* (H.R. 4589) and, in the short term, “friend shoring” with trusted allies to reduce reliance on single source manufacturing.

Maritime Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Staffing Levels - *SUPPORT* industry efforts to allocate additional U.S. Customs inspectors to maritime ports, pursuant to the additional funding provided by *the One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (P.L. 119-21) for hiring and training additional CBP personnel. With the incoming wave of officer retirements and cargo volumes steadily increasing, additional staffing is essential to ensure timely and efficient inspection operations at PortMiami.

Discretionary Grant Programs - *MONITOR* for notices of funding availability for discretionary grant programs supporting port development, including the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program (INFRA), the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program and the Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program. ***ADVOCATE*** for 2027 THUD appropriations for these programs and for longer term advanced funding beyond the September 2026 (IIJA) expiration. ***OPPOSE*** initiatives to rescind advanced funding or awarded-but-unobligated 2026 funding, including for the PortMiami Electrification Project.

Miami Harbor Operations and Maintenance - *SUPPORT* the \$55,000 for Miami Harbor 2026 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) needs as provided by the FY 2026 U.S. House-passed E&W appropriations bill. ***SUPPORT*** the O&M needs for FY 2027 outlined in the next Corps’ budget.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) - *SUPPORT* industry endorsed changes in the annual NDAA which extends the Maritime Administration’s authority to award grants to fund shore power projects at cruise berths by the Port Infrastructure Development Grant Program. A one-year extension is pending approval by the 2026 NDAA conference.

Policy Area: Environment and Resilience

Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM)

Coral Reef Restoration and Protection - *ADVOCATE* for strong federal support and funding for research and implementation of coral reef ecosystem restoration—including land-based nurseries and infrastructure—and disease research, intervention treatment, and mitigation.

Biscayne Bay Restoration - *ADVOCATE* to restore Biscayne Bay water quality and habitats, including the development of a Reasonable Assurance Plan, efforts to secure recurring funds for restoration, and legislation providing federal grants to facilitate projects to restore water quality and habitats and prevent fish kills and algal blooms.

Trees and Heat Islands - *ADVOCATE* for funding to expand tree cover and deploy high albedo (cool) and porous pavement to improve air quality, mitigate urban heat islands, and reduce runoff and heat impacts.

Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program - *ADVOCATE* for federal funding for Miami-Dade County's EEL Program to carry out critical activities, including: 1) acquiring and managing environmentally sensitive lands that mitigate erosion, storm surges, and saltwater intrusion; 2) reduce wildfire risks; and 3) improving accessibility.

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 and sea level rise mitigation.

Grant Funding Optimization - *SUPPORT* efforts to ensure that any new funding sources, like state revolving loan funds, be complementary to each other and can be paired with other federal grants. ***SUPPORT*** the streamlining of federal funding to move more quickly from federal to local or state to local governments.

Miami-Dade County Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management - *SUPPORT* funding to advance the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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 of 2024* (P.L. 118-272) to begin the Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design 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*** Community Project Funding for the Nature-Based Solutions Pilot Program.

Corps Everglades Restoration Projects - *SUPPORT* funding and implementation of Corps' 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 to be completed within two years; and 4) implementation of the Central and Southern Florida System Section 216 Flood Resilience Study.

Tax Credits - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** 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. ***SUPPORT*** the addition of 'communities building waste-to-energy facilities' as energy communities pursuant to 26 USC 45(b)(11)(B). ***SUPPORT*** the extension of the timeframe for the phase-out of energy tax credits for which County projects qualify.

Whole Building Data - *SUPPORT* federal programs enabling utilities to collect aggregated whole-building data from a local government jurisdiction's largest building and provide this data to building owners and local government representatives for benchmarking and to help identify opportunities to reduce water and energy usage.

Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) - *SUPPORT* the implementation of the FFRMS into all federal programs and other comprehensive funding packages to strengthen critical infrastructure, reduce long-term flood risk, and build community resilience both pre- and post-disaster.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Department of Energy (DOE) - *SUPPORT* maintaining EPA, NOAA, and DOE funding beneficial to Miami-Dade County, including for the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center. ***OPPOSE*** cuts to 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.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems, Battery Storage, and Renewable Energy - *SUPPORT* legislation, regulations, and programs to expand the deployment of solar PV system, battery storage and other renewable energy technology, including elective pay tax credits for solar, battery storage, and other renewable energy.

Reduce Air Pollution - *SUPPORT* action to reduce air and atmospheric pollution—including through targeted, outcome-based federal actions that streamline permitting, leverage private investment, and reward rather than mandate performance—to protect human health, preserve environmental assets, and improve economic competitiveness.

Extreme Weather Resilience - *SUPPORT* federal agency planning for extreme weather resilience, preparedness, and risk management to safeguard critical infrastructure, preventing costly damage before it happens by prioritizing risk-based strategies.

Energy Efficiency - *SUPPORT* expanding programs that advance energy efficiency, innovative energy sources, flood and wind protection, nature-based solutions, and other resilience measures.

Pre-Disaster Funding - *SUPPORT* restarting and maintain consistency for key pre-disaster funding streams, including the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and Flood Mitigation Program, all of which yield a significant return on pre-disaster investment.

Disaster Recovery Programs - *SUPPORT* robust funding for federal disaster recovery programs, including the Stafford Act, and greater transparency around eligibility and evaluation criteria.

Future Flood Risk Consideration - *SUPPORT* action by the Corps to fully reassess the Central and Southern Florida Flood Risk Resilience studies for future flood risk and resilience, leveraging existing flood vulnerability assessments already advanced in the region, inclusive of extreme rainfall intensification in all future conditions assessments, and the appropriations required for the advancement and completion of the section 216 and 203 flood risk studies, as well as the comprehensive study authorized by *the Water Resources Development Act of 2022* (P.L. 117-263/WRDA).

Oil Exploration and Drilling - *OPPOSE* oil exploration and drilling in the state or off the coast of Florida, including within Florida's territorial waters and the Everglades, including any form of extreme well stimulation, such as hydraulic and acid fracturing, and seismic surveying.

ENERGY STAR - *SUPPORT* measures that promote energy efficiency, including the State Energy Program, weatherization programs, market-based ENERGY STAR ratings and products, including ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, and building standards.

Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)

Waste Diversion and Zero Waste Programs - *SUPPORT* federal legislation to convert waste to recovered resources and divert materials from disposal through activities such as composting, recycling, organic digestion, and renewable hydrogen development. Legislation may include funding for or address: 1) a federal bottle bill; 2) extended producer responsibility; and 3) incentives for public-private partnerships (e.g. *the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act* [H.R. 4109] and *the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act* [H.R. 2145]).

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 can provide power to other local government infrastructure as an offset to electric energy provided by the electric utility during an applicable billing period. ***OPPOSE*** 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.

Flow Control and Interstate Waste Transport - *OPPOSE* efforts to amend 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 an appropriate legislative use of flow control authority.

Market Incentives for Electricity Produced from Renewable Resources - ***ADVOCATE*** for market incentives to encourage development and operation of renewable energy production. ***SUPPORT*** efforts to implement the Renewable Fuel Standard program in a manner that includes WTE eligibility. ***ADVOCATE*** for 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 dedicated funding through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control or directly to state and/or local governments for new and emerging technologies that reduce the risk of mosquito transmitted diseases.

Financial Assistance for Solid Waste Customers - ***ADVOCATE*** for amendments to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program programs to include solid waste services which will allow low-income households to receive financial assistance for solid waste collection fees.

Recycling Labeling Transparency - ***ADVOCATE*** for the creation of federal labeling standards that define when products can be labeled recyclable or compostable, especially for common materials like beverage containers, packaging, and food service items.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regulations and Compliance - ***SUPPORT*** federal assistance to provide clear guidance, technical assistance, and dedicated funding to help local governments and solid waste agencies meet evolving landfill compliance standards, including methane capture, PFAS monitoring, and leachate treatment.

WTE and Renewal Energy Credits - ***ADVOCATE*** for WTE as a viable source of renewable energy eligible for tax credits or incentives to minimize landfill waste and align with Miami-Dade County's sustainability objectives.

Rail Transportation of Waste - ***ADVOCATE*** for support from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the EPA to assist with policy coordination and streamline regulatory processes, ensuring the safe and reliable transportation of waste by rail.

Federal Funding Opportunities - ***SUPPORT*** federal funding and technical assistance to advance WTE projects, recycling infrastructure, and circular economy initiatives that will ensure the County can enhance solid waste resiliency, develop local recycling markets, and implement sustainable waste management practices, all while minimizing financial impacts on local ratepayers.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS)

Biscayne-Everglades Greenway - *SUPPORT* funding to construct the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway, Segment D, a 2.5-mile segment of the greenway between SW 117th Avenue and SW 137th Avenue along the Mowry Canal and SW 320th Street in southern Miami-Dade County, east of Homestead.

Greynolds Park Frost Museum Raptor Center Septic-to-Sewer Project - *SUPPORT* funding for the Greynolds Park Raptor Center septic-to-sewer conversion, which is essential to meet environmental standards. Some building renovations are funded through major grants from the Batchelor Foundation and the State of Florida's Cultural Facilities Program, but this essential utility upgrade remains unfunded.

Boater Safety Education Program - *SUPPORT* federal funding for boater safety education that PROS uses to improve public safety for waterfront users countywide.

Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)

Missing Middle Housing Funding - *SUPPORT* 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*.

Resilient Building Retrofits - *SUPPORT* funding for building envelope and foundation weatherization programs to support retrofitting existing buildings, flooding adaptation plans for underground parking garages, seawall fortification, and cool roof technologies to comply with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Champlain Tower findings and the anticipated 2026 NIST report on the safety of existing buildings.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) - *SUPPORT* efforts to reauthorize, improve, and strengthen the NFIP 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.

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.

Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing - *OPPOSE* altering tax-exempt municipal bond financing on public drinking water and wastewater systems and capping or eliminating the 100-year-old tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. ***SUPPORT*** the amendment of federal tax laws to again permit the refinancing of existing tax-exempt bonds with new tax-exempt bonds at more favorable rates.

Sound Science for Public Health and Environmental Protection - *SUPPORT* actions that will allow the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies to 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. ***OPPOSE*** efforts to decrease or permanently eliminate EPA staff positions.

PFAS Remediation - *SUPPORT* legislation that provides protection to water and wastewater utilities from PFAS liability—particularly under CERCLA—as well as dedicated funding for cleanup, control, and research to set scientifically-based standards using cost-effective technologies, recognizing the significant burden utilities face in remediating PFAS. ***SUPPORT*** federal grant and loan programs facilitating PFAS treatment, including necessary infrastructure upgrades.

Needs-Tested Funding for Utility Customers - *SUPPORT* legislation authorizing needs-tested funding to utility customers for whom utility costs are unaffordable as utilities are legally constrained in using revenues to subsidize financially challenged customers.

Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Funding - *SUPPORT* federal grants and loans for septic-to-sewer projects, including for public infrastructure and private property connections, where septic systems pose public health risks or harm key public resources, such as Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park.

Biosolids Processing and Bioenergy Facilities Funding - *SUPPORT* legislation expanding funding opportunities, independently or with private partners, to develop processing facilities and transform biosolids into renewable bioenergy products.

Policy Area: Community Services

Community Services Department (CSD)

Community Services Block Grant Act (CSBG) - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** passage of *the CSBG Improvement Act* (H.R. 3131) to reauthorize CSBG at \$1 billion annually from FY 2026 through FY 2032. ***ADVOCATE*** amending CSBG to adopt performance requirements and benchmarks for its performance measurement system.

Older Americans Act (OAA) - *ADVOCATE* for passage of *the Older Americans Reauthorization Act* (S. 2120) to support expanded and enhanced service provision, including in-home support, adult day care, respite for caregivers, transportation, recreational field trips, and hot meals for qualifying clients.

Systemic Treatment and Recovery for Opioid-Naloxone Grant - *ADVOCATE* for dedicated, sufficient funding to expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment for high-risk individuals with opioid use disorders and to link these individuals to appropriate care.

Head Start and Early Head Start Funding - *ADVOCATE* to maintain or increase FY 2025 funding levels 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. ***ADVOCATE*** for and ***SUPPORT*** the following: 1) legislation incentivizing the State of Florida to match the 20 percent (20%) share provided, respectively, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and community stakeholders; 2) passage of *the Child Care for Working Families Act* (H.R. 4418/S. 2295); and 3) reintroduction of *the Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act* in the 119th Congress.

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.

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.

Job Development and Pipelines to In-Demand and Future-Ready Jobs - *SUPPORT* and ***ADVOCATE*** for increased funding for job development programs and initiatives that prepare job seekers for in-demand and high-tech jobs, bridging the skills gap and fostering economic resilience.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (Byrne JAG) Grant Funding - *SUPPORT* funding for Byrne JAG through the U.S. Department of Justice to continue vital funding for the Prearrest Delinquency Citation Program that provides juvenile offenders an

alternative to arrest with an 83 percent (83%) success rate and just three percent (3%) recidivism.

Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Services - *ADVOCATE* for and ***SUPPORT*** federal funding to expand low-/no-cost behavioral health services for individuals in Miami-Dade County with serious mental illnesses and those diverted from the criminal justice system in a comprehensive, therapeutic, and recovery-focused continuum of care environment.

Continued Support and Maintenance of Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - *SUPPORT* and ***ADVOCATE*** for the continued funding of the SNAP program, and ***SUPPORT*** legislative efforts that increase funding to meet growing needs. SNAP is a critical federal program that helps reduce food insecurity and improve health outcomes for low-income individuals and families. In Florida, nearly 3 million residents benefit from SNAP, including more than 215,000 households in Miami-Dade County. According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, three out of five of these households include one or more older adult members. SNAP also plays a vital role in supporting local economies by increasing food purchasing power at grocery stores and farmers markets. As food costs rise and economic pressures persist, it is essential that Congress protect and strengthen this program to ensure continued access to nutritious food for those who need it most in the community.

Cultural Affairs (CUA)

Federal Arts Funding and Cost Shifts - *OPPOSE* eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). ***SUPPORT*** maintaining or increasing funding for the arts as recommended in the FY 2026 U.S. Senate Interior appropriations bill and increasing funding for IMLS to \$294.8 million from the Senate-proposed FY 2026 level. ***SUPPORT*** increased funding for the following arts education and other federal programs, including: 1) U.S. Department of Education arts education programs; 2) U.S. Department of Defense Morale, Welfare, and Recreation account; and 3) Department of Veterans Affairs Community Engagement programs.

Homeless Trust (HT)

Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program Funding - *SUPPORT* the continuation of funding for the EHV program, which currently houses nearly 700 formerly homeless households in Miami-Dade County, including senior citizens, disabled persons, and survivors of domestic violence.

Funding for Homeless Programs - *SUPPORT* the preservation of full funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

Grants programs, including the competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant formula grant program.

Support Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agencies - *ADVOCATE* that CoC's remain the designated entities within specific geographic areas to plan, coordinate and manage funding to address homelessness.

Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funding - *ADVOCATE* for increased federal funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG program and continued funding for the HOME program and ***OPPOSE*** eliminating these programs. ***SUPPORT*** maintaining adequate HUD staffing levels required to execute these programs.

Flexibility for Public Housing Capital Fund and Other Funds - *SUPPORT* that any additional funding to the HUD Public Housing Capital Fund be made flexible to work with other programs, such as the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, that promote redevelopment or repositioning.

Funding for Public Housing and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) - *ADVOCATE* for increased federal funding for public housing and Section 8 programs to preserve existing housing stock and improve federally funded programs that provide crucial housing support to low-income families. ***SUPPORT*** allowing HUD to permit PHAs rated "standard" to qualify for Moving to Work status with justification. ***SUPPORT*** allowing PHAs to appeal operating subsidies per unit month if there is a significant gap between the existing per unit month and RAD contract rents.

HUD Assisted Housing for Specific Disabilities and Elderly - *SUPPORT* allowing HUD-assisted housing to be designated for specific disabilities and the elderly.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program Expansion - *SUPPORT* efforts to expand the Housing Choice Voucher Program, including the following: 1) strengthening financing capacity; 2) protecting HAP reserves; and 3) enhancing acquisition strategies.

Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Program - *ADVOCATE* for increased funding beyond the \$10 million appropriated by Congress.

Public Library System (LIB)

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and U.S. Department of Education (DOEd) Funding - *SUPPORT* the Senate Labor HHS ED committee recommendation of \$291,800,000 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and increased funding support for the US DOEd, which both provide significant support for libraries. This funding, which provides funding through the states to library systems, supports literacy, workforce development, and America 250 efforts. Recent national study by the Public Libraries Survey makes clear that public libraries remain one of the most trusted and utilized institutions in American life. With over 800 million visits, millions of programs offered, and steady rise in both physical and digital circulation, libraries are demonstrating their enduring relevance and reach in communities nationwide. Library visits nearly doubled compared to 2021, reaching over 800 million in 2023.

Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT)

Full-Day Universal Prekindergarten (Pre-K) for Three (3) and Four (4) -Year Olds - *ADVOCATE* for early learning beginning with full-day, universal pre-k for all three- (3) and four- (4) year-olds.

Due Process for Minors - *ADVOCATE* for legislation expanding due process for minors, including policies that: 1) require legal representation for minors during interrogations; 2) place reasonable restrictions on when a law enforcement officer, school employee, or other person in temporary custody of a minor may conduct a custodial interrogation; 3) impose restrictions on the custodial interrogation of a minor, including that the minor has an unwaivable right to counsel prior to an interrogation and that the interrogation is video and audio recorded.

Policy Area: Finance and Government Operations

People and Internal Operations Department (PIOD)

Zero-Emission Fleet Transition - *SUPPORT* federal legislation, funding, and regulatory flexibility that assist local governments in transitioning to zero-emission vehicle fleets, including through federal grant programs, tax incentives, and infrastructure investments.

Electric Vehicles (EV) and EV Charging Infrastructure - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE* for funding for public and private EV charging infrastructure. ***SUPPORT*** federal incentives for private sector investment in EV infrastructure creation and deployment, including job

creation that will support growth in American manufacturing. **OPPOSE** cuts to EV-related federal grant programs. **SUPPORT** the preservation of previously awarded but unobligated funding for federal EV charging infrastructure grants.

Development on County-Owned Property - SUPPORT for federal initiatives that incentivize local development, zoning, and land-use reforms to increase housing supply and promote affordable housing and economic development, including tying federal funding to local efforts that streamline permitting, encourage transit-oriented development, and remove barriers to multi-family housing construction. **SUPPORT** adaptive reuse of surplus public facilities and the alignment of federal incentives with local reinvestment tools and anti-displacement practices.

Public Facility Maintenance and Modernization - SUPPORT and **ADVOCATE** for federal legislation and funding to help local governments maintain and upgrade public buildings, including expansion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and appropriations to: 1) fund resilience retrofits; 2) enable digital modernization; and 3) allow pairing with local dollars to reduce life-cycle costs and improve sustainability at courthouses, administrative buildings, cultural facilities, and public service centers.

Public Sector Workforce Investment - ADVOCATE for federal legislation and funding to strengthen local capacity to recruit, retain, build a talent pipeline, and develop a high-performing public workforce. **SUPPORT** federal legislation that prioritizes investments in apprenticeship programs, upskilling, digital literacy, and incumbent worker training.

Policy Area: Public Safety

Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

Integration of the National Weather Service (NWS) Miami with Miami-Dade County DEM - SUPPORT the collocation of the NWS Miami in Miami-Dade County's Integrated Command and Communications Center within the County Emergency Operations Center in order to integrate meteorological forecasted information into the decision-making process during the response phase of extreme weather events.

Immediate Access to World Cup Safety Funds - SUPPORT the prompt award of funding to the County through the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Grant Program and the FIFA World Cup Grant Program, enacted as part of *the One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (P.L. 119-21), to support public safety during major public events.

FEMA Reform - SUPPORT passage of *the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans Act* (H.R. 4669) that returns FEMA to a cabinet-level agency and streamlines the federal

government's disaster response and recovery programs. **SUPPORT** maintaining the following: 1) funding for FEMA; 2) current federal disaster thresholds; and 3) cost-share levels.

**Agenda Item: 5.c
Special Meeting Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
August 27, 2025**

RESOLUTION NO. PHT 08/2025 - 040

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 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 2026 FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

(Carlos A. Migoya, 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 2026 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 2026 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 2026 Federal and State Legislative Priorities to Miami-Dade County, through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, for inclusion in the County's Proposed 2026 Federal and State Legislative Package.

Agenda Item: 5.c
Special Meeting of Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
August 27, 2025

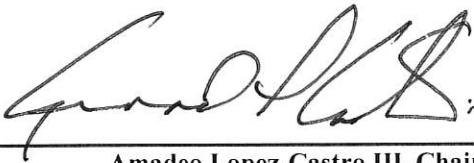
-Page 2-

The foregoing resolution was offered by Laurie Weiss Nuell and the motion was seconded by Senator Alexis Calatayud as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution as duly passed and adopted this 27th day of August 2025.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: ;
Amadeo Lopez-Castro III, Chairman

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



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

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

DATE: August 27, 2025

RE: 2026 Federal and State Legislative Priorities

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Public Health Trust Board of Trustees approve the 2026 federal and state legislative priorities.

Scope

The legislative priorities encompass the major issues likely to impact Jackson Health System during the 2026 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 2026 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 CEO and Vice President of Government Relations Esther Caravia will monitor the advancement of these priorities throughout the year.

Background

The 2026 federal and state legislative priorities are being presented to the Public Health Trust Board of Trustees for submittal to the Board of County Commissioners as described above.

The specific priorities recommended for 2026 are attached.

2026 Legislative Priorities

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **Protect the 340B Program:** Oppose any changes that restrict hospital or patient eligibility to ensure continued access to affordable medications for underserved populations.
- **Safeguard Federal Funding:** Work to ensure federal budget proposals protect all supplemental funding streams and align with hospital funding priorities to sustain high-quality care. Advocate for the extension of enhanced ACA subsidies set to expire at the end of 2025, which are critical to maintaining coverage for low-income individuals and reducing hospital uncompensated care.
- **Strengthen the Workforce:** Support initiatives that expand and stabilize the healthcare workforce.
- **Shape Federal Policy:** Track and influence federal rules and regulations that impact hospital operations and patient care.

STATE PRIORITIES

- **Prevent Funding Cuts:** Oppose reductions to state hospital funding to preserve essential services.
- **Maximize Federal Match:** Advocate for strategies that increase federal supplemental funding to support operations.
- **Secure Support for Jackson:** Seek additional state funding to sustain Jackson's mission in Miami-Dade.
- **Expand Mental Health Services:** Promote policies and funding that address the state's growing mental health needs.
- **Empowering Collaborative Healthcare Solutions:** Support policies that enable strategic partnerships to expand access, improve care, and advance the hospital's mission.
- **Preserve Legal Protections:** Defend existing tort reform and sovereign immunity laws to ensure stability.
- **Grow the Workforce:** Support recruitment and retention programs to build a robust healthcare workforce in Florida.
- **Monitor Trauma Standards:** Ensure any changes to trauma regulations enhance access and quality.
- **Protect Transplant Services:** Track organ transplant regulations to safeguard high-quality, equitable care.