

**MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY**

# FUTURE READY

Creating a thriving  
Miami-Dade built on a  
foundation of a resilient  
small business sector,  
opportunities for full and  
fair participation in the  
economy, and a burgeoning  
innovation sector.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA



## LETTER FROM

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# OUR MAYOR

Since taking office as Mayor of Miami-Dade County, my administration has been focused on building a more inclusive, thriving economy by harnessing our County's resources, innovative spirit, and talent. Our economy – ranked the fastest-recovered in the nation – continues to grow with inbound investments, business relocations, and workers in search of new job opportunities, particularly in the tech sector. With our FutureReady Miami-Dade economic development strategy, we are capitalizing on this forward momentum to usher in a new era for the County – one in which our government, community, and the private sector build a collaborative ecosystem for economic growth that is innovation-led, inclusive, and sustainable.

We are at a pivotal moment in Miami-Dade. Our families are struggling with higher costs for the most basic needs, including housing, food, and transportation. Rising interest rates have made loans for homes and business investments more difficult to attain, putting the American dream out of reach for too many. And we remain at the forefront of the global climate crisis, with the devastating impact of Hurricane Ian reminding us just how much is at stake.

To catalyze change, we have a tremendous opportunity to transform the way the government interacts with the private sector. As the tech industry has expanded in our region, Miami-Dade County is ready to partner with the private sector to create and scale innovative solutions to the pressing challenges of climate change and skyrocketing housing costs. In order to ensure we have the most prepared workforce, we will be redesigning our talent pipelines and workforce development programs to ensure our innovative and hardworking residents have the opportunity to succeed in the new economy. My administration will also work with entrepreneurs and community groups to expand opportunities for small businesses, invest in revitalizing neighborhoods, and provide greater access to the innovation economy.

To achieve these aims, Miami-Dade County will serve as a partner to industry. Our goal is to create a new level of collaboration among public, private, nonprofit, and academic stakeholders, directing our shared efforts toward building a diverse, sustainable, and thriving economy. Vested in our collective success, we will invest locally, build on our assets, and expand beyond our current capabilities.

Through the many challenges of the past two years, Miami-Dade has shown ourselves and the nation that we are resilient and at our best when we stand together to take on big challenges – and that in tackling crises, we can unlock some of our greatest opportunities. Marshaling our resources, we can harness the burgeoning local tech sector, shape partnerships for common good, and create greater opportunity for people and businesses across our community.

**Together, let's build a FutureReady economy where all residents can thrive.**

Sincerely,



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

# A FUTURE READY MIAMI-DADE VISION

## ADVANCE WORKFORCE TALENT



Develop upward  
mobility pathways  
for all workers

Strengthen partnerships  
and collaborations around  
workforce development.

Scale academic programs  
and credential-based  
learning to provide paths to  
higher-paying jobs.

Expand existing workforce  
programs to upskill the  
local talent pipeline in  
strategic sectors.

## SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS



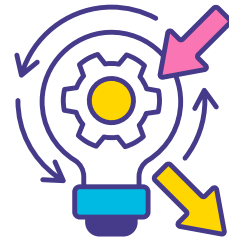
Build on  
Miami-Dade's  
entrepreneurial DNA

Make it easier to launch a  
small business and provide  
concierge services to  
small businesses.

Expand small business  
access to public and private  
procurement and partner  
with cornerstone industries  
to power opportunities for  
small business.

Capitalize the next RISE fund  
and BizUP grants to increase  
access to business capital.

## UNLEASH INNOVATION



Build long-term  
competitive  
advantage in the  
innovation economy

Launch a regional  
Broadband Equity Plan  
making way for ubiquitous  
access to the internet.

Partner with industry  
leaders to incubate and  
accelerate innovation in  
strategic sectors.

Create a collaborative  
ecosystem for Venture  
Capital funds.

A healthy, thriving economy is rooted in housing people can afford, healthy, safe, livable neighborhoods, and resilience efforts to ensure our future prosperity.

# THE PATH TO A FUTURE READY MIAMI-DADE

During her first two years, Mayor Daniella Levine Cava launched FutureReady programs positioning Miami-Dade County as a trusted partner to private and nonprofit organizations to drive the economy of the future.

## ADVANCE WORKFORCE TALENT



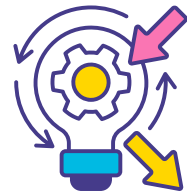
- Launched academic and private partnerships to build new pathways to technology careers:
  - FIU Apprenticeship Program: Launched credential-based technology paid intern program.
  - Miami Dade College Workforce Development Program: Launched tech scholarships and free credential programs.
- Accelerate Miami-Dade: Program focused on reskilling and upskilling residents in underserved communities and unlocking a new local pipeline of talent in the tech sector.
- Formed collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to support career building and technical education.

## SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS



- Business Innovation Start-Up “BizUp” Grant: Launched program distributing \$1 million dollars and StartUp FIU mentoring to local entrepreneurs.
- Strive 305 Small Business Innovation Program: Launched program and strategy reaching thousands of businesses over the last two years.
- Values-Based Procurement: Working across County departments to review procurement processes and expand opportunities for small and local business participation.
- Tropicana Flea Market: Provided centralized resources and small business support to help vendors devastated by the fire access funding and rebuild.
- Rise Loans: Ensure access to 1.7 million dollars in small business loans.

## UNLEASH INNOVATION



- The Opportunity Project for Cities: Built a tool to streamline business permitting in partnership with Knight Foundation, Google.org, the Centre for Public Impact, and Georgetown’s Beek Center.
- Miami Foundation Partnership: Broadband Equity and Miami Connected to ensure inclusive access to internet.
- Launched Miami-Dade County’s first startup in residence with Seaworthy Collective, a venture studio cohort that works to create new businesses based on pollution in coastal waterways, coral reef ecosystems, environmental data collection, and more.
- Partnered with climate tech startups including Olea Edge and Blue Action Lab, leveraging the County’s scale to prototype, test, and deploy solutions to resilience challenges, including improving the health of Biscayne Bay and making County buildings more resilient and efficient.

