Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust

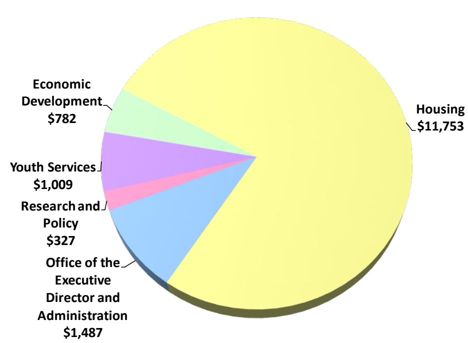
The mission of the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) is to ensure the equitable participation of residences in Miami-Dade County's economic growth through advocacy and monitoring of economic conditions and through various development initiatives in Miami-Dade County.

In supporting the strategic priority of An Economy that Works for All, MDEAT encourages and facilitates the coordination of programs aiding the community and strives for the elimination of disparities relative to the community-at-large. These programs include affordable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income families, youth services including Teen Court for Youths, research and policy, and various economic development initiatives to better the community of Miami-Dade County. MDEAT is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees selected by the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust Nominating Council and appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Executive Director nomination is submitted by the Board of Trustees to the County Mayor, who recommends the nominee to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

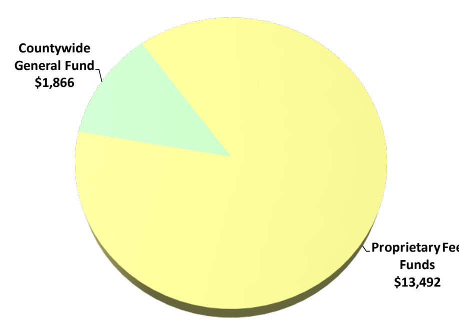
MDEAT's customers include established and aspiring business owners, at-risk youth, aspiring low-to-moderate income homeowners, and infill developers. Additionally, MDEAT serves internal customers through its research and policy and administrative functions.

FY 2026-27 Proposed Operating Budget

Expenditures by Activity
(dollars in thousands)



Revenues by Source
(dollars in thousands)



OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 23-24	Actual FY 24-25	Budget FY 25-26	Proposed FY 26-27
Revenue Summary				
General Fund Countywide	2,023	1,728	1,884	1,866
Carryover	21,379	21,762	13,256	15,412
Documentary Stamp Surtax	3,702	4,653	4,200	6,700
Interest Earnings	639	255	322	264
Surtax Loan Payback	9	42	4	4
Teen Court Fees	614	752	731	760
Total Revenues	28,366	29,192	20,397	25,006
Operating Expenditures Summary				
Salary	2,462	2,790	3,015	2,982
Fringe Benefits	997	1,167	1,327	1,448
Court Costs	0	0	0	0
Contractual Services	604	70	325	676
Other Operating	769	351	1,561	810
Charges for County Services	114	158	141	167
Grants to Outside Organizations	1,658	3,843	9,275	9,275
Capital	0	1	0	0
Total Operating Expenditures	6,604	8,380	15,644	15,358
Non-Operating Expenditures Summary				
Transfers	0	0	0	0
Distribution of Funds In Trust	0	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, Amortizations and Depletion	0	0	0	0
Reserve	0	0	4,753	9,648
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	0	0	4,753	9,648

	Total Funding		Total Positions	
(dollars in thousands) Expenditure By Program	Budget FY 25-26	Proposed FY 26-27	Budget FY 25-26	Proposed FY 26-27
Strategic Priority: An Economy that Works for All				
Office of the Executive Director and Administration	1,358	1,487	5	5
Economic Development	760	782	3	3
Youth Services	1,018	1,009	7	7
Housing	12,262	11,753	12	12
Research and Policy	246	327	2	2
Total Operating Expenditures	15,644	15,358	29	29

SELECTED ITEM HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS

	(dollars in thousands)				
Line-Item Highlights	**Actual FY 23-24**	**Actual FY 24-25**	**Budget FY 25-26**	**Projection FY 25-26**	**Proposed FY 26-27**
Advertising	32	24	38	38	41
Fuel	0	0	0	0	0
Overtime	21	17	0	0	0
Rent	9	4	12	12	12
Security Services	5	2	6	6	6
Temporary Services	132	152	150	10	0
Travel and Registration	16	11	19	19	20
Utilities	16	13	20	20	21

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Oversees programs, special initiatives and activities that promote balanced access for the communities in Miami-Dade County in the areas of housing, economic development and criminal justice

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
2	2

ADMINISTRATION

Develops the Department's operating and capital budgets; administers grant funds; conducts research; performs procurement, human resource, and accounts receivable and payable functions

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
4	3

HOUSING

Provides homeownership opportunities to working families through technical and financial assistance

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
12	12

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Promotes business expansion, retention and job creation in Miami-Dade County communities through capacity-building workshops, trainings and special initiatives based on emerging economic trends

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
3	3

YOUTH SERVICES

Provides an alternative sanctioning program for first-time misdemeanor juvenile offenders, as well as training for youth interested in the field of law

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
7	7

RESEARCH AND POLICY

Conducts research, recommends policy, and implements initiatives based on its findings that address Miami-Dade County community imbalances

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
2	2

The FY 2026-27 total number of full-time equivalent positions is 29

DIVISION: OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATION

The Office of the Executive Director and Administration Division provides strategic leadership and operational oversight for departmental programs, special initiatives, and advocacy efforts addressing disparities in Miami-Dade County, particularly in housing, economic development, and criminal justice. It develops and manages operating and capital budgets, conducts socio-economic disparity research, and oversees procurement, human resources, and accounts receivable and payable to ensure fiscal accountability and effective service delivery.

DIVISION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Division supports underrepresented businesses by improving access to contracting and procurement opportunities throughout the county. It provides financial assistance, such as Small Business Capitalization Grants and Business Resource and Education Grants, along with educational programs that teach skills like financial planning, proposal writing, and procurement compliance.

Strategic Plan Objectives

- EWA3-5: Encourage a dynamic and healthy small business community

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 23-24 Actual	FY 24-25 Actual	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 26-27 Target
Increase and promote economic access within the larger community	Number of community economic development forums conducted	OP	↔	16	13	12	20

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Economic Development Division strengthened small businesses despite a reduced grant budget through efforts including 13 workshops serving over 500 firms; expanded no-cost marketing and media exposure; transit advertising; intern access; vending opportunities; and a Grant Alumni Network to drive accountability, collaboration, and long-term growth; additionally, the Division launched the Activist Awards recognizing non-profit organizations across Miami-Dade County

KEY ISSUES

- The lack of a centralized data system, including an online grant platform, limits accurate data capture, program monitoring, and administrative efficiency; implementing this system would streamline processes, increase applicant access, enable data-driven decisions, and measure impact, which is key to expanding reach, improving services, and advancing economic inclusion countywide

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By September 2027, the Division will implement a Business Growth, Scaling & Operational Readiness Accelerator to prepare firms for larger contracts; this initiative will strengthen business operations through targeted consulting, training, and peer mentoring to drive sustainable growth, create jobs, and build a supplier pipeline; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $10,000 and will be funded through the General Fund
- By September 2027, the Division will launch an Online Grant Application & Data Management Modernization effort to deploy a centralized grant and data platform; this initiative will improve data accuracy, access, outcome tracking, and operational efficiency to support data-driven decision-making and stronger accountability; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $20,000 and will be funded through the General Fund
- By September 2027, the Division will expand comprehensive marketing and visibility support for grantees through strategy sessions, digital training, and media exposure; this initiative will strengthen branding, increase revenue, and expand community impact for grantees; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $10,000 and will be funded through the General Fund

- By September 2027, the Division will implement the annual MDEAT Activist Awards to recognize nonprofit leadership, advocacy, and impact; this initiative will use a community-driven selection process to highlight grassroots engagement and celebrate organizations advancing social change; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $50,000 annually and will be funded through the General Fund

BUDGET COMMENTS

- The FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget continues grant funding to outside organizations in the amount of $275,000 from the Countywide General Fund; this funding will provide small business owners access to capital to expand their business

DIVISION: YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Division delivers prevention-focused programs that advance youth development, equity, and community safety in Miami-Dade County. As administrator of Teen Court and related initiatives, it diverts youth from deeper criminal justice involvement while strengthening civic engagement, education, and workforce readiness. Operating across justice, mental health, education, and workforce systems, the Division uses data-driven, culturally responsive strategies to reduce recidivism.

Strategic Plan Objectives

- HSC5-6: Provide the necessary support services to residents in need

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 23-24 Actual	FY 24-25 Actual	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 26-27 Target
Provide outreach / prevention and intervention services to help decrease juvenile delinquency	Number of teen court referrals	IN	↔	184	184	160	160
	Number of workshop and training participants *	OP	↔	689	822	120	120
	Youth converted from teen court participants to volunteers**	OP	↔	82	117	40	40

*The budget represents the number of workshops for the year while the actuals are the participants that attended

**Variations between budget and actuals are due to conservative estimates because of the financial climate and the department not wanting to exceed their reach

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Youth Services Division advanced two youth-focused bills; delivered the Humanity in Healthcare Conference, engaging over 150 participants and 20 partners to build career pipelines; and supported a youth recidivism rate under four percent through diversion programs, restorative justice, and coordinated interventions

KEY ISSUES

- Reduced community and volunteer engagement creates operational challenges, as reliance on virtual platforms has lowered adult volunteer participation; this limits mentorship and hands-on learning opportunities, reducing program effectiveness, youth development outcomes, and community partnerships, highlighting the need for strategic outreach and engagement initiatives
- Funding instability presents a critical business risk, as declining primary revenue and heightened competition for grants limit the Division's ability to sustain operations, retain qualified staff, and scale services; reduced funding flexibility constrains long-term planning, innovation, and expansion of prevention and diversion programs essential to achieving performance outcomes

- Ongoing legislative and policy changes create operational complexity, as frequent shifts in juvenile justice, education, and diversion mandates require continuous program adaptation, updated compliance processes, and enhanced interdepartmental coordination; this demands agile management, staff training, and strategic planning to maintain service quality and regulatory alignment
- Rising operational demands challenge capacity and resource allocation, as shifts toward trauma-informed, mental health-centered, and workforce readiness models require increased investment in staff training, cross-sector collaboration, curriculum development, and performance measurement; meeting these demands is critical to enhance program effectiveness and achieve measurable youth outcomes
- Challenges in parent engagement impact program effectiveness, as limited family involvement, particularly among first-time youthful offenders, reduces the success of early intervention and restorative justice efforts; this limits behavior change, delays positive outcomes, and necessitates targeted strategies to increase parent participation and strengthen youth support systems

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By September 2027, the Division will implement a youth mental health and emotional regulation campaign to support teen well-being; this initiative will empower justice-involved and non-justice-involved youth to navigate healthy relationships, strengthen emotional regulation, and reduce impulsive decision-making; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $5,000 and will be funded through the Teen Court Moving Violations Fund
- By September 2027, the Division will expand the mock trial competition to strengthen youth civic engagement; this initiative will enhance critical thinking and public speaking skills through law-based experiential learning; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $10,000 and will be funded through the Teen Court Moving Violations Fund
- By September 2027, the Division will host the Annual Humanity in Healthcare Conference to promote community-based wellness and career exposure; this initiative will bridge healthcare, counseling, and mental wellness advocacy while creating post-secondary and career pathways; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $10,000 and will be funded through the Teen Court Moving Violations Fund
- By September 2027, the Division will implement a wrap-around mentorship initiative to support youth development; this initiative will strengthen educational and career pathways through structured mentorship, leadership development, and scholarship opportunities; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $10,000 and will be funded through the Teen Court Moving Violations Fund

DIVISION: HOUSING

The Housing Division expands affordable homeownership with loans for construction, rehabilitation, and down payment support. It partners with public, private, and financial groups to improve housing access for low-to-moderate income buyers. It processes affordable mortgage applications and offers eligible buyers down payment and closing cost assistance to foster sustainable homeownership and stronger communities.

Strategic Plan Objectives

- EWA4-1: Foster stable homeownership to promote personal and economic security

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 23-24 Actual	FY 24-25 Actual	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 26-27 Target
Provide for more housing opportunities for income-constrained families in Miami-Dade County	Number of homeowners provided closing costs and down payment assistance	OP	↔	129	156	114	96

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Housing Division funded 145 loans through the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) with $2.95 million, supporting $56.6 million in home purchases; additionally, the Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RAP) deployed $1.3 million dollars in high-need areas and strengthened liquidity through disciplined pacing, reduced processing time from six to three weeks via technology upgrades, advanced records digitization, and modernized servicing systems

KEY ISSUES

- Economic trends and potential storms may increase demand for home purchase and repair support over the next two years; while MDEAT's systems and staff can respond quickly, capacity is limited by available program funding and staffing, highlighting the need for scalable resources to address recession and disaster-driven demand volatility
- Current funding does not fully meet sustained demand; HAP and RAP use paced disbursements to manage liquidity, but extended gaps can increase waitlists, delay rehab, and risk MDEAT's and the County's reputation; stable, multi-source funding including surtax, SHIP, and other resources is essential to ensure reliable, year-round program continuity and impact
- MDEAT plays a key part in the County's coordinated housing system, valued for its operations, data practices, and tech-enabled workflows; a formal interdepartmental agreement with Housing and Community Development has been established to clarify roles and improve program deployment; ongoing success depends on aligning resources, maintaining strong collaboration, and constructively managing institutional friction as coordination deepens
- The Division manages complex record modernization, including lien processing, backfile quality control, and Optical Character Recognition data enhancement; reconciliation of legacy file errors increases staff time, while procurement and contract administration remain intensive, especially for vendor-dependent milestones, highlighting the need for dedicated resources to maintain operational efficiency and program integrity

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By September 2027, the Division will stabilize HAP and RAP capitalization and pacing by collaborating with County departments to secure additional funding; this initiative will prevent HAP suspensions, reduce the RAP backlog, and ensure steady monthly disbursements; it is anticipated that this initiative will require approximately $8 million ($3 million for HAP and $5 million for RAP) and will be funded through Surtax Revenue
- By September 2050, the Division will implement system enhancements and digitalization through Caseworthy (program management software), The Mortgage Office (loan management software), Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, and AI to modernize servicing operations; this initiative will streamline workflows, improve loan servicing, enhance reporting capabilities, and ensure accurate and transparent loan and program data; it is anticipated that this initiative will require an estimated $120,000 annual lifetime service fee and will be funded through Surtax Revenue

DIVISION: RESEARCH AND POLICY

The Research and Policy Division is dedicated to policy research, advocacy, legislative analysis, and strategic support. It ensures MDEAT's programs and initiatives align with its mission of advocating for the equitable economic participation of communities in Miami-Dade County. Through its multifaceted approach, the team actively addresses systemic inequities, promotes informed decision-making, and drives legislative solutions to empower targeted urban areas (TUAs).

Strategic Plan Objectives

- EWA3-1: Promote and support a diverse mix of current and emerging industries vital to a growing economy

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 23-24 Actual	FY 24-25 Actual	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 26-27 Target
Conduct research on economic challenges facing the community and identify legislation that supports economic opportunity	Number of reports and studies conducted and submitted for the community	OP	↔	7	7	8	8

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Division strengthened its role as a community-centered policy partner by aligning strategic partnerships, expanding university collaborations, and deepening resident engagement; additionally, it led oversight preparation for the Howard University Overtown feasibility study, ensuring accountability, community voice, and equity in decision-making

KEY ISSUES

- The Division faces fragmented and inconsistent data across key policy areas, limiting real-time analysis and responsiveness; strengthening data-sharing, interoperability, and modern tools would enhance scorecards, GIS, equity tracking, and evidence-based decisions for County leaders and communities
- Demand for research, legislative analysis, and policy guidance now exceeds current staffing; expanded capacity would improve responsiveness, increase research output, strengthen community-informed policy, and support major initiatives; investment in analysts and data staff ensures sustained impact and operational effectiveness
- Growing demand for policy analysis, white papers, data tools, and university partnerships has outpaced current resources; dedicated, recurring funding would expand staffing, strengthen research infrastructure, deepen academic collaboration, and enable timely, data-driven insights; without it, research scope and responsiveness remain limited

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By September 2030, the Division will establish a dedicated research and policy capacity initiative to secure recurring funding; this initiative will enhance research support, strengthen policy development, and improve data-driven decision-making through increased university collaboration, improved initiative monitoring, greater transparency, stronger community trust, and enhanced legislative responsiveness; it is anticipated that this initiative will cost approximately $60,000 and will be funded through the General Fund