Emergency Management

The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) vision is to be the premier emergency management model focused on whole community preparedness, response, and resiliency. Its mission is to prevent, protect, respond, recover, and mitigate through the engagement and coordination of stakeholders in addressing all natural, human generated, and technological disasters impacting the community.

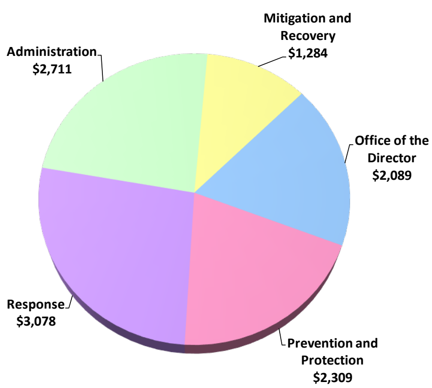
In supporting the strategic priority of Risk Reduction and Resilience, the Department plays a critical role in keeping Miami-Dade county safe and prepared for disasters. DEM coordinates vital information and resources to prevent and protect against potential threats, respond to emergencies, and support the community recovery and rebuilding efforts. The Department manages the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which directs planning for disaster response and recovery and ensures resources are efficiently allocated during major events. Following a whole community approach, DEM collaborates with federal and state agencies, local municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and other partners to fulfill its mission.

The Department serves approximately 2.8 million residents across incorporated and unincorporated areas. DEM's customer base encompasses residents, visitors, and commuters who live, work, and travel throughout the County; vulnerable populations requiring additional assistance; businesses that support the economic stability of the County. To meet the needs of its diverse customers, DEM engages the community through public education campaigns, outreach events, the Community Organized to Respond in Emergencies (CORE) Coalition, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings, municipal meetings, and whole community forums. The Department also gathers year-round customer and partner feedback through surveys, outreach activities, and engagement events. DEM is committed to ensuring that its programs and services support preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for all communities across Miami-Dade County.

FY 2026-27 Proposed Operating Budget

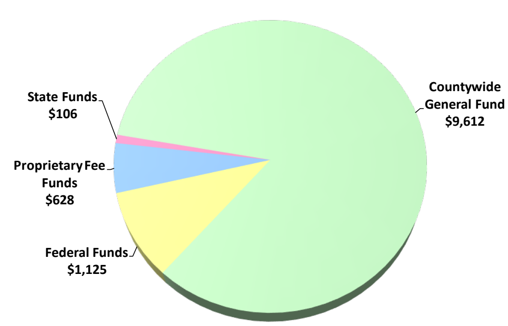
Expenditures by Activity

(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	9,709	7,204	9,469	9,612
Contract Service	358	358	357	357
Miscellaneous	221	325	271	271
State Grants	120	106	106	106
Federal Grants	1,496	1,158	1,282	1,125
Total Revenues	11,904	9,151	11,485	11,471
Operating Expenditures Summary				
Salary	3,452	3,882	4,431	4,633
Fringe Benefits	1,323	1,634	1,938	2,093
Court Costs	0	0	2	2
Contractual Services	2,243	269	1,501	123
Other Operating	2,803	1,675	3,251	4,148
Charges for County Services	1,014	1,095	352	353
Grants to Outside Organizations	463	417	0	0
Capital	606	179	10	119
Total Operating Expenditures	11,904	9,151	11,485	11,471
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	0	0
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	0	0	0	0

	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: Risk Reduction and Resilience				
Office of the Director	456	2,089	3	3
Prevention and Protection	2,125	2,309	11	11
Response	2,978	3,078	10	10
Mitigation and Recovery	1,302	1,284	6	6
Administration	4,624	2,711	6	6
Total Operating Expenditures	11,485	11,471	36	36

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	2	0	0	0	0
Fuel	2	2	17	21	17
Overtime	0	2	0	0	0
Rent	1,293	1,136	1,467	1,467	1,467
Security Services	1	1	8	1	9
Temporary Services	83	87	0	0	0
Travel and Registration	47	28	91	30	94
Utilities	101	89	143	106	153

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Manages and coordinates the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC); coordinates disaster prevention, protection, response, recovery and mitigation programs

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
3	3

PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

Maintains the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and Continuity of Government Plan (COG); conducts community engagement and outreach programs; plans for specialized emergencies and coordinates interagency agreements

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
11	11

RESPONSE

Oversees the countywide Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the continuity of critical infrastructure, health and human services and public safety; coordinates pre-disaster readiness, evacuations, shelters, disaster assistance employees, vulnerable populations, mass care, debris removal, recovery operations, and re-development

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
10	10

MITIGATION AND RECOVERY

Maintains the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS); coordinates the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI); collaborates with federal, state, and county partners; aids in county and community economic recovery and disaster assistance

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
6	6

ADMINISTRATION

Manages the Department's business operations, human resources, communications and social media; prepares budget and business plan; administers finance, procurement and grants

FY 25-26	FY 26-27
6	6

The FY 2026-27 total number of full-time equivalent positions is 36

DIVISION: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Office of the Director provides executive leadership and strategic direction for the Department; it also oversees department-wide operations; policy development and coordination with County departments, constitutional offices, partner agencies, and stakeholders to ensure effective preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation and recovery efforts. Additionally, the Division is responsible for setting priorities, ensuring compliance with applicable regulations, and advancing Department initiatives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Department successfully strengthened community resilience and preparedness by hosting 10 whole community meetings in 2025 that united hundreds of partners across multiple disciplines and expanded the Communities Organized in Response to Emergencies (CORE) program to over 85 organizations
- The Department participated in several hurricane relief efforts including those related to Hurricane Melissa; coordinated with air carriers' partners to provide relief to Jamaica and Haiti; and collaborated with key partners across the region to coordinate and synergize efforts to support residents during the federal freeze of SNAP benefits
- The Department earned its third re-accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), reaffirming its status as a nationally recognized leader in best practices
- The Department enhanced the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) efforts, delivered over 100 trainings, and executed 15 exercises which tested its capabilities and partnership coordination ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

KEY ISSUES

- Recent and anticipated changes to state and federal emergency management programs, including funding levels, grant requirements, and regulatory guidance, may affect County priorities, resources, timelines, and compliance obligations, requiring ongoing monitoring to reduce impacts on emergency management capabilities
- The role of emergency management in Miami Dade County continues to expand due to increased disaster frequency, more complex incidents, broader public safety integration, and heightened preparedness and resilience expectations, significantly increasing operational demands on Department staff
- The Department lacks a dedicated 24/7 operational monitoring capability, limiting continuous situational awareness and early hazard detection; as incidents increase in frequency and complexity, the absence of round the clock coverage creates challenges for timely coordination and response readiness
- The County continues to host an increasing number of large-scale, high-profile events including Formula 1, the FIFA World Cup 2026, and other major sporting and special events; these events require extensive emergency management coordination and place significant demands on staffing, interagency planning, and operational readiness
- The Emergency Operations Center's technology and audio-visual systems are outdated and no longer meet current operational or incident management needs; deferred upgrades have created technological gaps that limit coordination, information sharing, and the Department's ability to meet the expectations of a premier emergency management program
- The Department faces challenges in attracting and retaining qualified and diverse emergency management professionals due to competitive labor markets and evolving skill requirements, affecting workforce sustainability, succession planning, and the Department's capacity to meet expanding operational demands

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will promote sustainable building practices and infrastructure improvements by conducting trainings and exercises; these activities will enhance community resilience, reduce long term recovery costs, and align with County strategic priorities; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will conduct exercises to evaluate communications processes, systems, and equipment needed to support emergency operations; the exercises will strengthen operational coordination and ensure continuous communication during incidents; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources

DIVISION: PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

The Prevention and Protection Division focuses on emergencies such as terrorism & public health threats. It maintains key plans including the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and Continuity of Government (COG). The Division prepares for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats. It coordinates plans for the Florida Power & Light Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant. The Division also provides training to thousands of first responders and members of the public to improve disaster readiness.

Strategic Plan Objectives

- RRR1-1: Increase countywide preparedness and community awareness

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 continuity of operations program to ensure critical County services; and emergency management plans for specialized emergencies and coordinates inter-agency agreements.	Number of new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members trained	OP	↔	83	221	148	148
	Number of subscribers to the Miami-Dade County Alerts System	OP	↔	1,140,100	1,310,268	900,000	1,200,000
	Percentage of County departments with compliant Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)	OC	↑	100%	100%	100%	100%

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will collaborate with municipalities to increase Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Communities Organized to Respond in Emergencies (CORE) involvement; this initiative will expand community preparedness and increase volunteer response capacity; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will implement monthly whole community meetings with emergency management stakeholders to provide regular preparedness information; the meetings will accelerate community recovery, support economic stabilization, and foster resilience; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will conduct workshops and training sessions to educate residents on emergency preparedness, response, mitigation, recovery, and resilience; these sessions will build knowledge and readiness across departments and community stakeholders; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will conduct emergency drills and simulations across the County with community stakeholder participation; the exercises will improve readiness, enhance coordination, and identify capability gaps; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources

DIVISION: RESPONSE

The Response Division ensures the county is ready before disasters happen, coordinating evacuations, shelters, and post-disaster recovery efforts; and manages the Emergency Operations Center during emergencies to ensure that infrastructure, health services, public safety, and assistance to vulnerable populations are effectively supported. The Division also oversees damage assessments and recovery operations, including debris removal and community redevelopment.

Strategic Plan Objectives

- RRR1-1: Increase countywide preparedness and community awareness

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 23-24 Actual	FY 24-25 Actual	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 26-27 Target
Ensure countywide pre-disaster readiness, evacuations, shelters, and recovery operations for Miami-Dade County	Number of emergency shelter spaces available for general population *	OP	↔	111,202	111,202	105,000	105,000
	Number of Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) registrants	OC	↑	4,201	4,862	3,000	3,000
	Number of emergency shelter spaces available for special needs *	OP	↔	2,143	2,143	1,500	1,500
	Number of plans reviewed for medical facilities	OP	↔	1,268	1,518	1,296	1,296

*Fewer shelter spaces for special needs and general population are available due to ongoing renovations to the shelter facilities

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will establish a rapid response team for immediate post disaster assessment and aid distribution in coordination with community stakeholders; the team will enable faster recovery, improve situational awareness, and ensure equitable allocation of assistance; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources

DIVISION: MITIGATION AND RECOVERY

The Mitigation and Recovery Division focuses on reducing the impact of future disasters and improving the county's ability to recover and rebuild. The Division leads initiatives like the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), which helps reduce risk, and manage disaster recovery efforts, including economic recovery, debris clearance, and mass care for affected communities.

Strategic Plan Objectives

- RRR1-2: Ensure recovery after community and countywide disasters and other emergencies

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 aid in county and community economic recovery and disaster assistance	Number of local mitigation strategy meetings	OP	↔	4	4	4	4

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The county's Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) is going through its five-year plan update; as part of this effort, DEM actively engaged its stakeholders, including all municipalities, to provide input and context to the hazards, as well as to develop and evaluate capabilities for addressing these threats; additionally, the 2025 Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plan was approved by the State of Florida

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will offer business continuity planning resources and training in partnership with community stakeholders; this initiative will improve business continuity and strengthen economic resilience following disasters; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will utilize existing outreach platforms
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will implement a recovery assistance program to support affected individuals and businesses in collaboration with local organizations and community leaders; the program will accelerate community recovery, provide economic stabilization, and foster resilience; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will utilize recovery and mitigation grant funds
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will establish a business recovery taskforce in partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Business Recovery Center initiatives and local business leaders; the taskforce will provide sustained recovery support, facilitate coordinated access to financial and technical resources, and promote faster economic stabilization following disasters; there is no budgetary impact
- By the end of FY 2025-26, the Department will develop and manage a centralized recovery operations center to coordinate recovery efforts and collaborate with community stakeholders; the center will improve inter agency coordination, reduce duplication, and increase efficiency during recovery operations; there is no budgetary impact as this initiative will be completed with existing resources

DIVISION: ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division handles the internal workings of DEM, including budgeting, communications, and community outreach. The Division manages the department's business operations, like human resources and grant programs, and ensure public engagement and communication during emergencies through social media and other channels.

BUDGET COMMENTS

- The FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget includes the continuation of $60,000 in reimbursements for the use of the Emergency Operations Center from the following departments: Water and Sewer ($15,000), Seaport ($15,000), Regulatory and Economic Resources ($15,000) and Solid Waste Management ($15,000)

Department Operational Unmet Needs			
	(dollars in thousands)		
Description	**Startup Costs/ Non Recurring Costs**	**Recurring Costs**	**Positions**
Enhance response quality and efficiency by incorporating multi agency personnel where appropriate; these improvements will expand operational capacity, strengthen coordination, and ensure timely emergency response	$0	$1,450	0
Fund the Integrated Command and Communications Center and establish a 24-hour Watch Office within the Miami Dade Emergency Operations Center; the transition will improve situational awareness, provide 24/7 monitoring, and increase incident response efficiency	$0	$620	4
Total	**$0**	**$2,070**	**4**