

# The Miami Foundation



2023-2025 CYCLE  
**COMMUNITY  
GRANTS**  
YEAR 1 REPORT



# THE POWER OF TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY

## What is Trust-Based Philanthropy?

Trust-based philanthropy is a funding approach prioritizing strong, equitable relationships between funders and grantees. It emphasizes unrestricted funding, simplified application and reporting processes, and a commitment to listening to and valuing the expertise of nonprofits. Unrestricted funding allows nonprofits flexibility to allocate resources where they are most needed, rather than being confined to specific, pre-determined uses.

## A Transformative Year for Miami's Nonprofits

In 2023, thanks to our deep partnerships with The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and Miami-Dade County, we strengthened our dedication to trust-based philanthropy and unlocked steady funding for community champions through our signature Community Grants program. This program is fueled by generous donors who have equipped The Miami Foundation with permanent resources to address Miami's most pressing needs.

Our team immersed themselves in the field, celebrating the successes of local organizations and listening intently to their challenges. We reimagined our funding practices in response to learning from local leaders on the ground and digging into data that revealed nearly half of organizations have 75% or more of their budgets restricted. We simplified the application and reporting processes, engaged 35 community advisors to ensure community voices were central in the grant-making process, and shifted to a two-year, fully unrestricted funding cycle. The impact has been transformative. Organizations have shared powerful stories from their first year of funding, reaffirming our belief in the power of trust-based philanthropy. In this report we are excited to share the remarkable progress made through our evolved Community Grants Program.



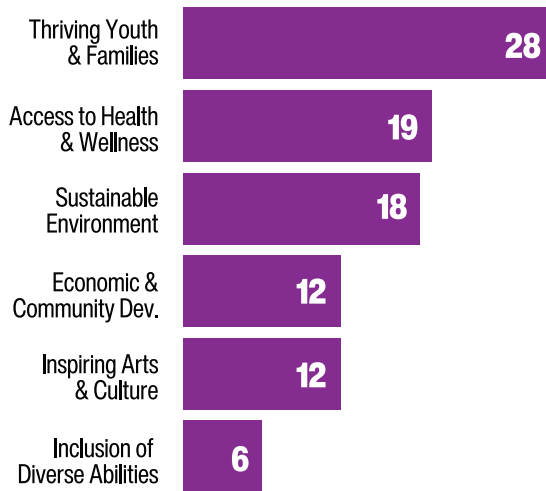
Photo Credit: Voices for Children

# GRANTEES AT A GLANCE

**95**

**Awarded Organizations**

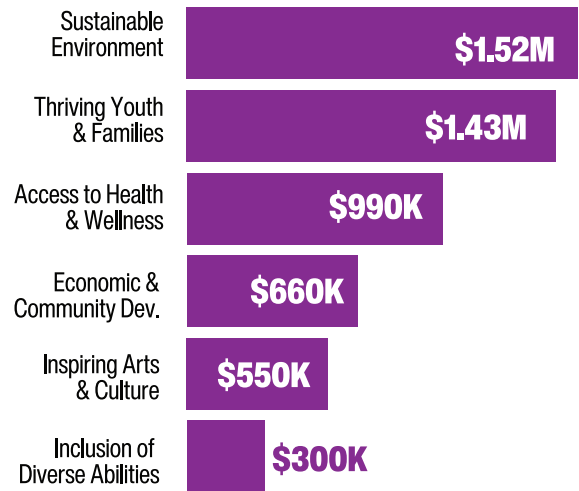
**The Miami Foundation awarded 95 organizations across six issue areas during the 2-year cycle.**



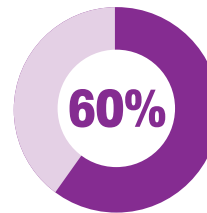
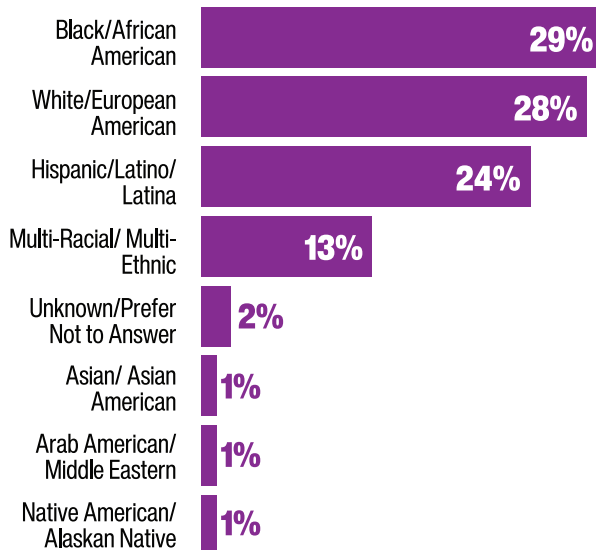
**\$5,450,000**

**Awarded Over 2 Years**

**Over 2 years, The Miami Foundation will invest \$5.4 million across 6 investment areas.**

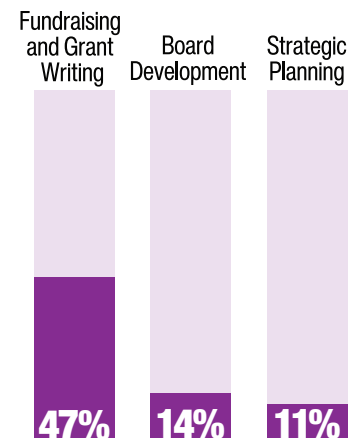


**69% of awarded organizations are led by persons who identify as BIPOC.**



**of funding was awarded to organizations with an annual operating budget of \$1 million or less.**

**Almost half the organizations stated fundraising and grant writing as their top capacity building need.**



# A YEAR OF IMPACT

Over the past year, The Miami Foundation has proudly supported 95 organizations through our Community Grants program, focusing on six key investment areas: Access to Health and Wellness, Economic Stability, Inclusion, Inspiring Arts and Culture, Sustainable Environment, and Thriving Youth and Families. With an initial investment of \$2,725,000 in the first year of this two-year cycle, we have seen incredible growth and transformation.

## \$2,725,000

Awarded to 95 Grantees in the First Grant Year

The reach and impact of our grantees has been extraordinary. Serving over one million unique individuals, these organizations continue to meet the diverse needs of Miami-Dade County and help build communities where everyone can thrive.

## 1,173,170

Unique Individuals Served

The power of unrestricted funding is showcased by how grantees have been able to expand their reach and deepen their influence. A remarkable 94% of grantees reported securing thousands of new partnerships, demonstrating their ability to leverage these relationships to enhance service delivery and community engagement. These collaborations are strengthening the fabric of our community, creating a network of support that extends far beyond the initial grant investment.

## 2,695

New Partnerships Secured by 94% of Grantees



Photo Credit: WeCount!

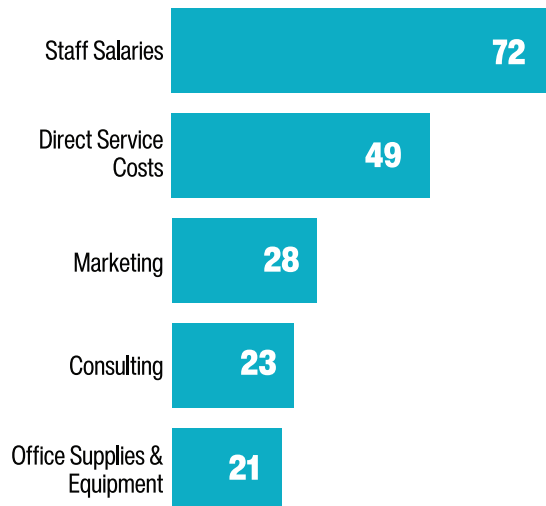
# EMPOWERING GROWTH AND IMPACT



Photo Credit: Dream in Green

The flexibility of unrestricted funding has been a game-changer, empowering organizations to invest their resources where they are needed most. The trust-based approach fueled the use of the \$2.7M across the 95 grantees in diverse and responsive ways. Here's what we learned:

## Top five ways organizations utilized these dollars:



This graph represents the number of organizations spending their dollars in these ways.

Moreover, a detailed review of the organizations' annual reports revealed that funds were strategically invested across various operational and programmatic areas. The top five include:

### 1. Scaling Programs (61 organizations)

Organizations like **Mahogany Youth** celebrated their ability to scale programs, stating, "The additional funds allowed us to supplement the salary of our new program manager who has been instrumental in overseeing and expanding program offerings."

### 2. Supporting Administrative Staff (53 organizations)

Investing in administrative staff smoothed operations and increased capacity for many. For instance, the **Key Clubhouse** noted, "The grant covered part of the salary for our Administrative and Development Assistant, allowing our CEO to focus on opening a new clubhouse in Kendall."

### 3. Investing in Program Staff (39 organizations)

Hiring and retaining dedicated program staff was a priority. **Exchange for Change** highlighted, "Our program has a two-fold mission, each of which requires more hours of engagement than a staff of two can provide. We were able to hire instructors to teach our classes inside local correctional institutions, increasing our outreach to the incarcerated population."

### 4. Outreach and Trainings (34 organizations)

Outreach and training initiatives were crucial in expanding community engagement and building capacity. **Dream in Green** shared, "Community Grant funds helped to support our mission by increasing the organization's capacity to reach Miami residents and empower them to lead in the response to climate change."

### 5. Staff Development (29 organizations)

Professional development opportunities allowed organizations to enhance their team's skills and knowledge. **Voices for Children** emphasized, "Unrestricted dollars allowed leadership to attend a leadership training week in Orlando, which helped us hone our strategic planning and individual staff development."

# SECURING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

A key outcome from this first year of the Community Grants cycle is our grantees' remarkable ability to secure additional funding. Of 95 grantees, 77 leveraged their award to gain more funding. Specifically, 18 organizations turned a \$480k investment from The Miami Foundation into \$6.6 million!

**81%**

of grantees secured additional funding because of their Community Grant award.

**\$480K → \$6.6M**

18 organizations leveraged \$6.6M in funding after an initial investment of \$480K from The Miami Foundation in their first year of the Community Grants cycle.

Three major themes emerged as organizations highlighted how they leveraged their grant to secure additional funding:

## 1. INCREASED CREDIBILITY IN FUNDING COMMUNITY

Nonprofits noted the **increase in credibility** across the funder community as a result of their Community Grant award. The Miami Foundation's support served as a powerful endorsement, supporting their ability to secure additional investments.



Photo Credit: Bridge to Hope

*"The Miami Foundation grant has served as a powerful leveraging tool. The credibility and prestige associated with the Foundation's support have made our organization more attractive to other potential funders. As evidenced by our successful application for the McKensie Scott \$1 million grant, TMF backing has been instrumental in securing additional funding. Long-term, unrestricted funds have allowed us to think beyond immediate needs and focus on strategic growth."*

**- Bridge to Hope**

## 2. STAFFING

Organizations specifically noted that the grant freed up staff time or directly influenced the award of additional funds. By covering operational costs and staff salaries, organizations could focus on strategic growth and development initiatives.



Photo Credit: Miami Homes For All

*"The Community Grants award allowed Miami Homes For All to hire a full-time communications manager... Not only has Daniela helped MHFA recruit 14 new funders, but through her efforts, MHFA has raised an additional \$170,000 in unrestricted funding through Give Miami Day and our educational events. Funds raised for Give Miami Day increased 30% from 2022 to 2023."*

**- Miami Homes For All**

## 3. MATCH DOLLARS

Several nonprofits leveraged the grant as match funding to secure other grants that required matching contributions. This ability to meet match requirements opened doors to larger funding opportunities that would have otherwise been inaccessible.



Photo Credit: Affirming Youth Foundation

*"One of our funders mandates the provision of matching cash or proof of current financial backing. The Community Grants grant has given us a strong basis, facilitating the acquisition of additional monies from other sources. This additional leverage greatly enhanced our overall possibilities for funding."*

**- Affirming Youth Foundation**

# THE POWER OF TRUST

## Fueling Community Transformation

Our nonprofits are the heroes on the ground, tirelessly working to uplift, support, and address the diverse needs of our population. They are the frontline champions, building a Greater Miami where everyone can thrive. Their deep connections within the community allow them to respond with empathy, insight, and effectiveness, creating impact that no outside entity can replicate.

The stories of impact we have shared are a testament to what can be achieved when we place our trust in these organizations. They have not only provided essential services, but have woven a stronger, more resilient community network. The success of this approach reinforces our belief in the power of trust-based funding, where flexibility and support enable our partners to do what they do best: change lives.

“Unrestricted funds are fundamental because they provide the necessary support for organizations like LSGMI to build capacity and invest in new partnerships while seeking additional funds to expand their work and secure their long-term sustainability. Support from a trusted community funder such as The Miami Foundation reflects LSGMI’s viability and promotes trust from other funders, making it possible for LSGMI to access more diverse funding opportunities and expand its partnerships.”

- Legal Services of Greater Miami



Photo Credit: Nora Sandigo Children Foundation



Photo Credit: Bridge to Hope

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and Miami-Dade County for their invaluable partnership. Your trust and support have been instrumental in making these investments possible, empowering nonprofits to create lasting impact in our community. Thank you for believing in our organizations and joining us in this journey.



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