

**The
Miami
Foundation**
For A Greater Miami

**A Landscape Study:
Mapping Miami's K-12
Education Nonprofit Programs**

A Letter of Introduction

As an epicenter for community impact, we at The Miami Foundation have a responsibility to amplify our community's voice. Through engagement with hundreds of nonprofits year-round and insights from our Give Miami Day (GMD) data, we've observed education consistently emerging as a top priority in our community.

In 2023, over four hundred participating organizations in GMD reported "Education and Youth" as their key focus. Yet, time and again we heard the same questions: *What does the breadth and depth of educational programming look like in Miami? Who can I partner with to enhance the impact of my work?* As we listened to so many of our community partners, we understood that there are gaps and opportunities that could be filled if it was clear what everyone was doing, and where they were doing it. Responding to this, we initiated an education landscape map in the fall of 2023 to identify gaps and opportunities for better decision-making.

Our education ecosystem here in Miami is unique. The Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) district is the third largest public school system in the country with over 330,000 students. More than half of the students are economically disadvantaged and qualify for free or reduced meal programs. Over 160 countries are represented in the M-DCPS diverse student base and almost a quarter are English language learners, indicating a potential language barrier to learning.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated educational disparities, particularly in digital access and post-secondary plans. There has been a drastic drop in post-secondary enrollment, especially for public institutions.² Simply put, our students are facing challenges across the educational spectrum.

This is where the role of our community partners makes a critical difference. In Miami, we have seen unique investments in education from our public sector. To increase equitable college and career-readiness outcomes for all students, M-DCPS Board established the College Assistance Program (CAP) in 1977 to enhance students' postsecondary access and success. Additionally, The Children's Trust was established in 2002 as a dedicated source of revenue to partner with the community in planning, advocating for, and funding strategic investments that improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County. The Trust represents an extraordinary commitment to our youth by supporting hundreds of vital after-school, summer, and wraparound programs for families to support their children's success. Working alongside our public institutions is the mighty army of nonprofit organizations uplifting K–12 youth across Greater Miami.

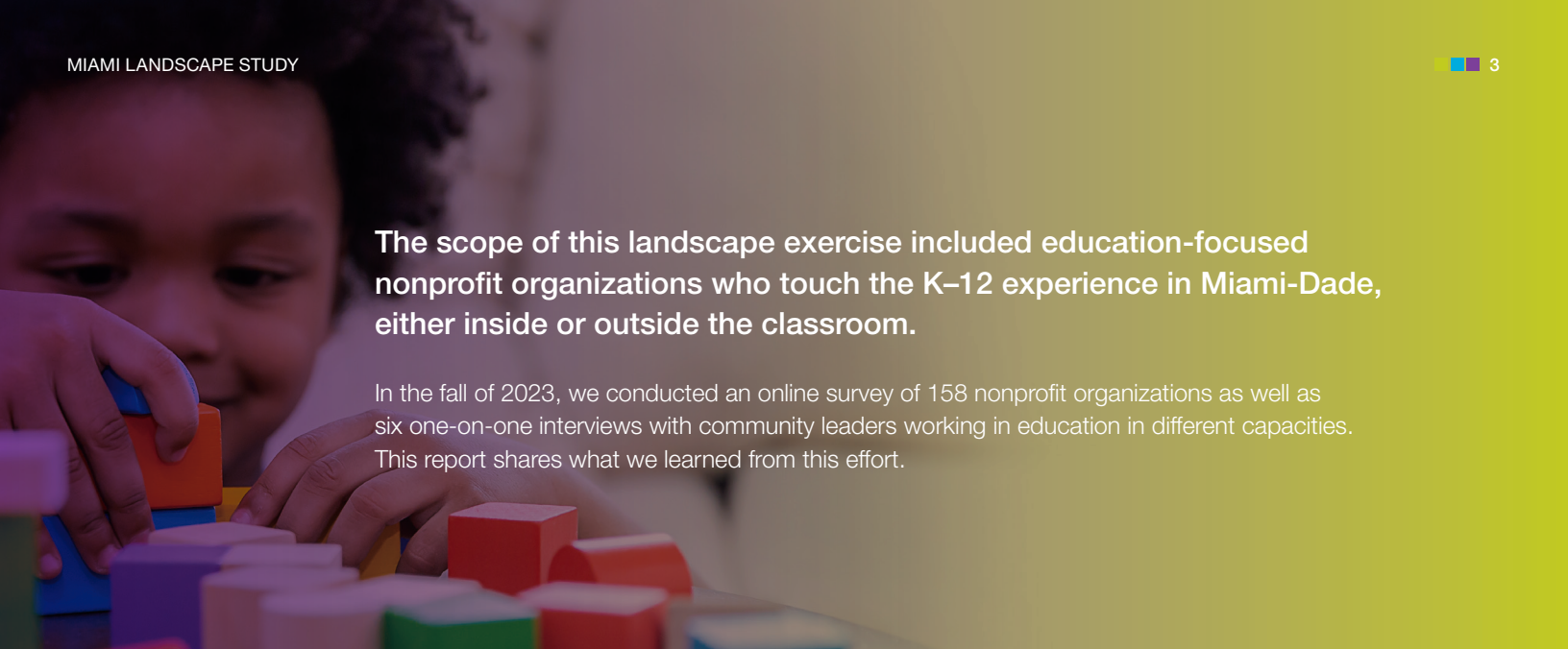
As things stand, however, many organizations still operate in silos without a unified call to action. Through this report, we are keen to share what we learned with you: our nonprofit leaders, our donors, our public partners, our families, and community at large. We know the real value comes from sharing this data for action. Let's unpack it together and co-build a stronger sector... We're only just getting started!



Rebecca Fishman Lipsey
CEO & President | The Miami Foundation

¹ <https://www3.dadeschools.net/home>

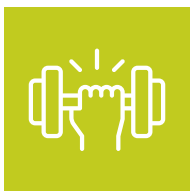
² <https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/>



The scope of this landscape exercise included education-focused nonprofit organizations who touch the K–12 experience in Miami-Dade, either inside or outside the classroom.

In the fall of 2023, we conducted an online survey of 158 nonprofit organizations as well as six one-on-one interviews with community leaders working in education in different capacities. This report shares what we learned from this effort.

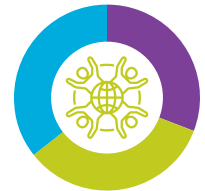
Key Findings



Strengths

Diversity

The nonprofit landscape reflects and celebrates the diversity of the Greater Miami Area. About a third of the sector’s nonprofits are **Black-led**, another third is **Hispanic-led** and the rest are **white-led**, demonstrating more diverse leadership than other nonprofit mission areas.³



Partnerships

64%

Miami’s education nonprofits are collaborative in nature, with a majority of nonprofit organizations reporting that they have frequently partnered with public schools and other community organizations in the last two years.

71%



44%



Program Offerings

Miami’s nonprofits are thinking more broadly when it comes to educational programming, with 71% focusing on **enrichment** compared to only 41% focusing on traditional **academic** support.

Enrichment programming includes social-skills training, life skills, financial literacy, and cultural/arts programming — all known to have critical benefits for all-rounded child development that extends beyond the classroom.

³ As per our Give Miami Day 2023 data, Black-led organizations constitute about half of their white counterparts in Arts & Culture and about a fourth of the white-led organizations working in the Inclusion space.



Opportunities

Systems Change

While we have hundreds of nonprofits working to address gaps in educational attainment for youth in Miami, few are addressing the root issues through systems change work. This would include organizations working at a systems level through advocacy, grassroots mobilization, policy development, research, operational and funding support.



Backbone Needed

There are hundreds of individual players working to increase educational opportunity for youth in Miami, but there is no backbone entity working to mobilize players toward unified goals together. It is hard to draw trends and gaps across the system at large with each player measuring impact differently in isolation.



Resource Allocation

While there is solid precedent for partnerships across the field with both public schools and within the nonprofit organizational ecosystem, we see opportunity to diversify and spread those partnerships and resources equitably across neighborhoods.



Elevating Support Systems

Only about a quarter of the nonprofit programs reported working with the child's parent or homecare support systems. Since research has shown that caregivers enhance long-term success for students, there is room to expand in this space.



Table of Contents

6	Chapter 1: An Overview of Miami's Education Nonprofit Ecosystem
9	Key Terms
10	Missions & Services
12	Organizational Budget & Funding
16	Staff Composition
17	A Diversity Lens
19	Collaboration & Continuity of Service
20	The Takeaways
21	Chapter 2: A Look at Nonprofit Educational Programs
23	Focus Areas & Program Outcomes
25	Communities Served
26	Reach of Service
28	Geography of Service
29	The Takeaways
30	Chapter 3: Sector Priorities & Perspectives
32	Hierarchy of Sector Issues
35	Perspectives from Local Education Champions
37	The Takeaways
38	Chapter 4: Conclusion & Next Steps
40	Acknowledgements
40	Appendix
41	List of Nonprofit Organizations Who Participated in the Mapping Exercise

List of Tables & Figures

10 Figure 1. Comparison of Mission Areas Across Participating Nonprofits	23 Figure 13. Educational Program Services Offered
11 Figure 2. Key Program Offerings of Participating Nonprofits	24 Figure 14. Types and Number of Educational Programs Offered
12 Figure 3. Budget Breakdown of Participating Nonprofits	25 Figure 15. Program Reach by Role Type (Student, Teacher, Caregiver/Parent)
13 Figure 4. Sources of Funding	25 Figure 16. Program Reach by Student Age
14 Figure 5. Diversity of Funding	26 Figure 17. Program Reach by Duration of Interventions
14 Figure 6. Largest Sources of Funding	27 Figure 18. Program Reach by Number of Students
15 Figure 7. Program Offerings by Budget Size of Organization	27 Figure 19. Program Reach by Program Duration
16 Figure 8. Staff Composition	28 Figure 20. Program Reach by Programing Venue
17 Figure 9. Racial/Ethnic Diversity of Nonprofit Leadership	32 Figure 21. Ranking of Sector Priorities by Nonprofit Leaders
17 Figure 10. Gender Diversity of Nonprofit Leadership	33 Figure 22. Ranking of Sector Needs by Nonprofit Leaders
18 Figure 11. Communities Served	34 Figure 23. Comparison of Sector Programming vs. Sector Perspectives on Priorities
19 Figure 12. Frequency of Partnerships Between Nonprofits and Public and Private Schools	



CHAPTER
1

An Overview of Miami's Education Nonprofit Ecosystem

CHAPTER

1

An Overview of Miami's Education Nonprofit Ecosystem

With more than a 100 organizations participating in this mapping effort, **we see a lot of diversity in Miami's education landscape** — across budget size, funding sources and programming. Here's what we learned about the education nonprofit ecosystem:

1

It's intersectional.

76% of the organizations that work on education also report having another primary area of focus (arts and culture, health and wellness, etc.)

2

It's experienced.

60% of the participating organizations have been providing services to MDC for over a decade. Only **8%** of these nonprofits are less than 2 years old.

3

It's volunteer-driven.

Organizations report a median of **15** volunteers compared to a median full-time staff of **3**.

4

Leadership is diverse.

The leadership force of this sector is diverse. **37%** of participating organizations are white-led, **35%** are Hispanic led and **32%** are Black-led. Education-focused work is driven by women, with **61%** of the leadership identifying as female.



Give Miami Day

At a Glance

The Miami Foundation's signature annual day of giving, **Give Miami Day**, brings thousands of Miami's nonprofits together to raise critical year-end unrestricted funds. This has contributed to a treasure trove of data spotlighting a pulse on the sector across time. Below is a snapshot of what we've learned about Miami's educational nonprofits through Give Miami Day (GMD) 2023.



404

Education Nonprofits Registered for GMD



24

Average of Years Serving M-D



40

Average # Months of Cash Reserve



212

Serve All M-D

148

Serve North M-D

187

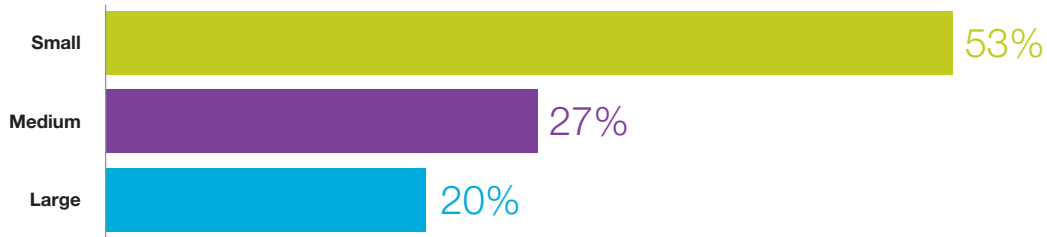
Serve Central M-D

135

Serve South M-D

Give Miami Day Educational Nonprofits by Budget Size

Small (< \$ 250,000) | Medium (< \$250,000 & > \$2.5M) | Large (>\$2.5M)



While Education & Youth Organizations account for 32% of participating organizations, **they received 41% of the dollars raised on Give Miami Day.**



80% do not have a permanent endowment, which means less financial security and more year-round efforts spent on fundraising.



More than half of these organizations have limited unrestricted funds (ie. less than 25%). Unrestricted funds enable organizations to allocate their budgets flexibly to respond to pressing and evolving needs.



Key Terms

A key objective of this report is to **create a common language** around the program services offered for youth in our community. As part of this mapping exercise, we included the following taxonomy of program types adapted from the Chicago Public School Board taxonomy (datapartnership.weebly.com/program-taxonomy.html), and asked organizations to select the three options that best describe their education programming.



Family & Community

Services that support the cultivation and maintenance of healthy working relationships with parents, families, community members.



Academic Support

Activities or services designed to provide students with targeted support to master concepts in the core academic subjects. These can include but are not limited to tutoring, transition support, academic recovery, etc.



Enrichment

Services that are designed to provide innovative learning experiences for children. Ultimately enrichment can define a broad umbrella of services which supplement the curriculum, encouraging children to pursue new activities and goals.



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Services designed to support children with the development of the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to recognize and manage their emotions, demonstrate caring concern for others, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle challenging situations constructively. (These are the core tenets of SEL as described by CASEL).



Health & Wellness

Services that are designed to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students. Components of health and wellness services could include access to physical activity, nutritious foods, health services, health education and mental health supports for students with chronic conditions.



Athletics & Play

Services that are designed to provide learning experiences to develop “physically, mentally, and emotionally in controlled, safe activities outside the traditional classroom” through sports and play.



Systems Change

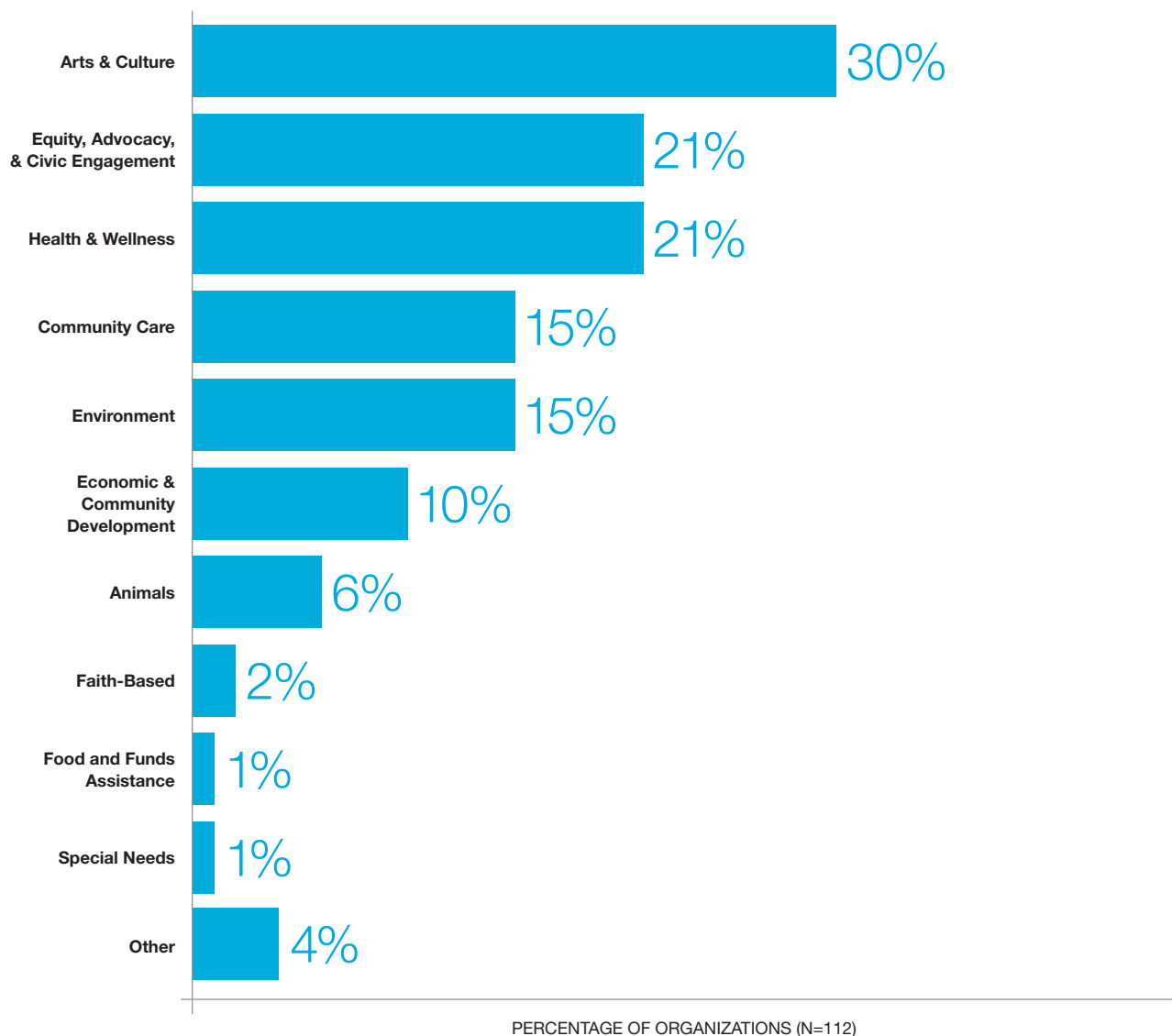
Services that are directed at strengthening the systems and enablers of the K–12 student experience in and out of the classroom. This would include organizations working at a systems level through advocacy, grassroots mobilization, policy development, research, operational/administrative and funding support, among others.

Missions & Services

Education-related nonprofits in the Miami-Dade region are a diverse group with wide-ranging missions and service categories; they don't only focus on education. Only 24% nonprofits reported focusing exclusively on Education and Youth services.

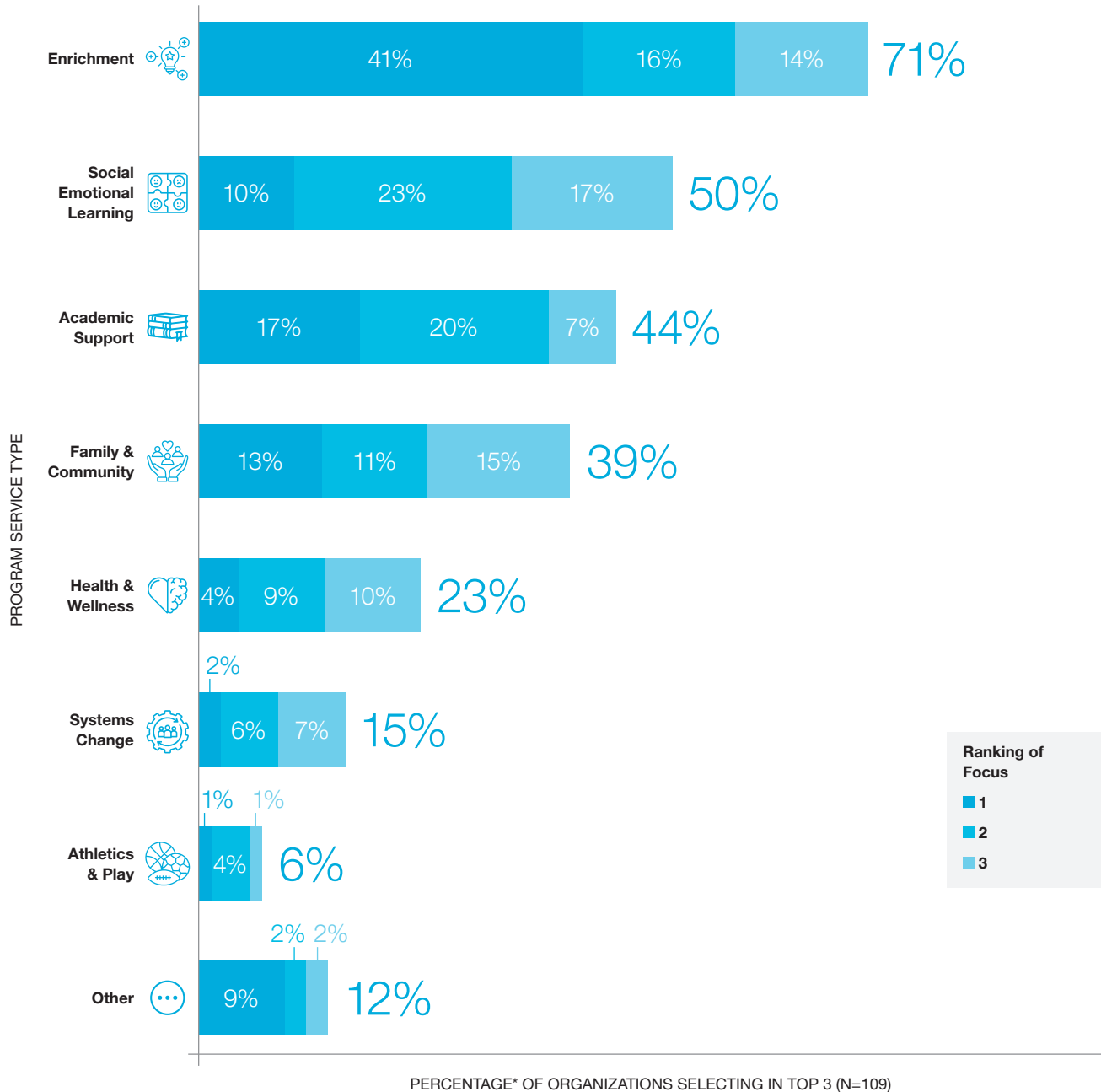
FIGURE 1

Among organizations that have an Education & Youth focus, 30% list Arts & Culture as an additional mission focus. Along with Arts & Culture supports, many education-oriented organizations also describe themselves as having a mission focused on Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement (21%) and/or Health & Wellness (21%).



Enrichment was most commonly selected as one of the top three ranked core program offerings, followed by SEL and Academic Support. Only 2% of organizations ranked Systems Change as their primary focus of programming.

FIGURE 2 The three areas that were most frequently ranked as the primary focus by nonprofits were: Enrichment (41%), Academic Support (17%) and Family & Community (13%).



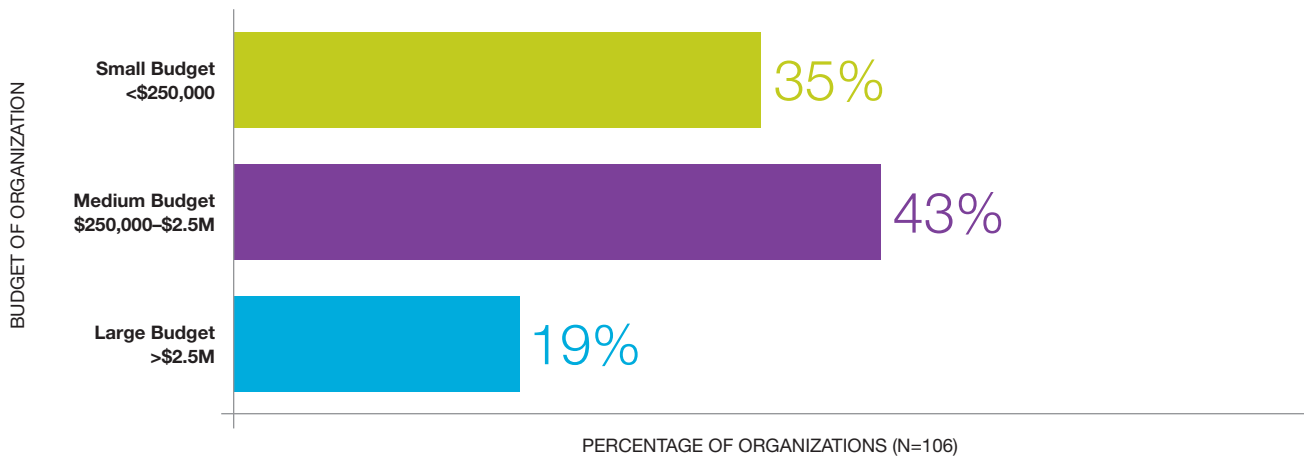
*Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error

Organizational Budget & Funding

Miami's education-focused nonprofits are also diverse in their budget size and funding sources, from smaller organizations that tend to be funded by one or two sources to larger organizations with a more diversified funding stream.

FIGURE 3

Almost 80% of education-focused nonprofits have operating budgets of less than \$2.5M.

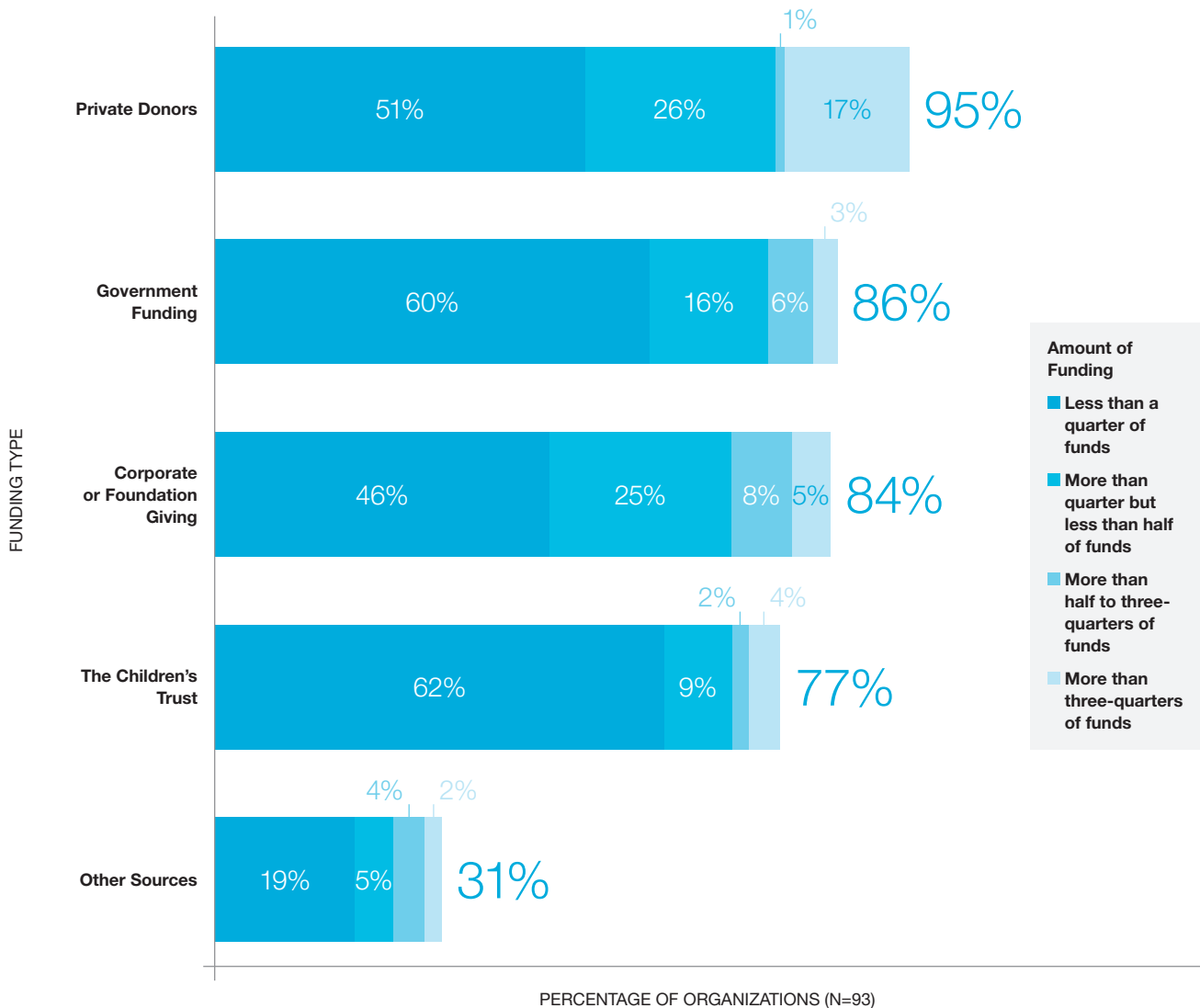


To help understand the funding landscape for these organizations, each participating organization was asked to identify the sources of their funding and the percentage of their total budget that came from each source.

Nonprofits rely on a variety of sources for funds from Private Donors to local public funds like The Children's Trust. Only 10 organizations reported receiving all their funding from a single source.

FIGURE 4

While 95% of nonprofits receive funding from Private Donors, only 17% rely on them for most of their funding (more than three-quarters of funds).



Diversification of funding sources can help to protect education organizations from financial risk. This is especially relevant in light of the fact that smaller organizations tend to be less diversified in the types of funds they receive. Among organizations that reported budgets of less than \$250,000 per year, 71% of such organizations reported two or fewer funding sources, while 94% of organizations with budgets above \$2.5 million reported receiving funds from three or more sources.

FIGURE 5

Most reporting organizations have more than one funding source. Organizations with larger budgets tend to have a more diverse set of funding sources.

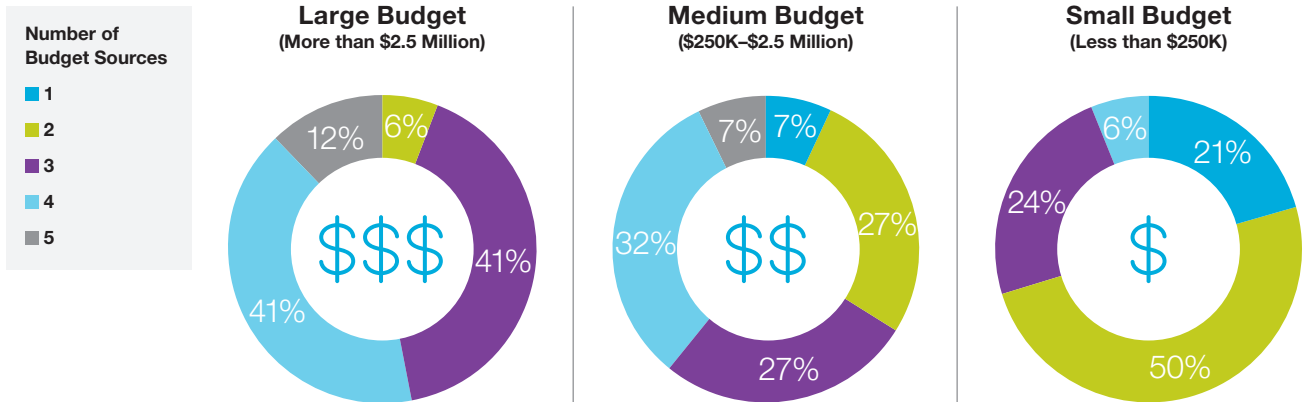


FIGURE 6

Among organizations that receive 75% or more of their funding from a single type of source, a majority receive that funding from Private Donors, Foundation Giving and The Children’s Trust.

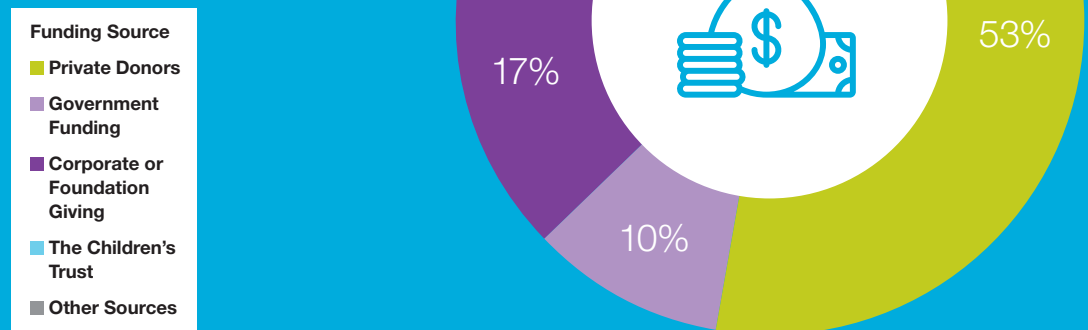
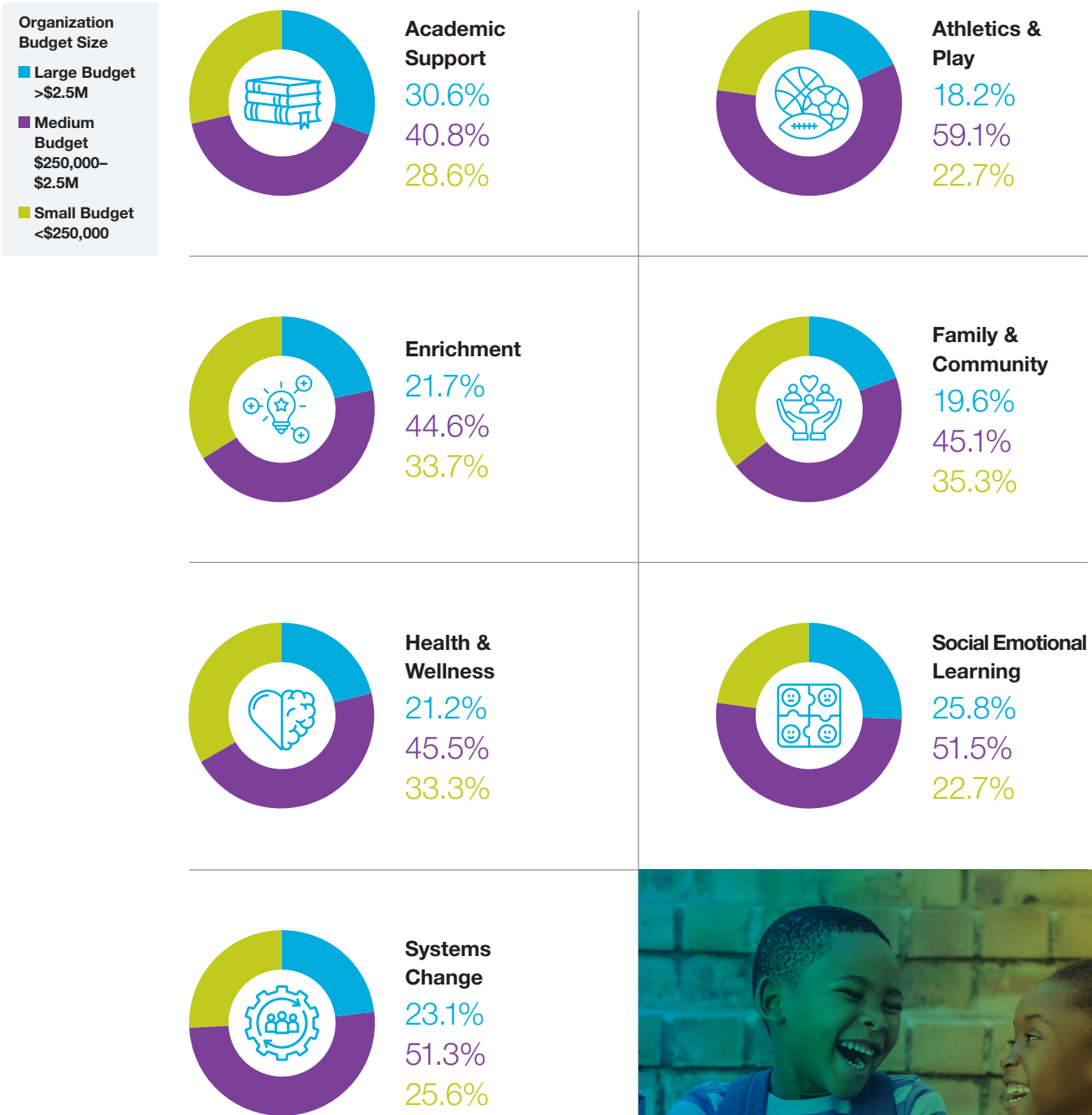


FIGURE 7

Organizational budget-sizes do not seem to vary greatly across the different program areas. Large-budget organizations are most represented in Academic Support programming and least represented in Athletics & Play and Family & Community programs. Medium and small budget nonprofits account for at least 70% of the organizations in each of the program types.



PERCENTAGE* OF ORGANIZATIONS (N=106)



*Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error

Staff Composition

Who leads and does the work at Miami's education-focused nonprofits?

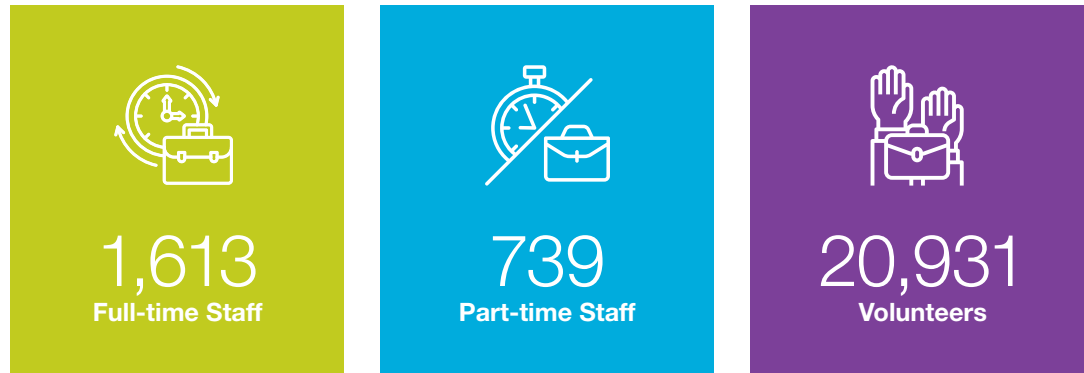
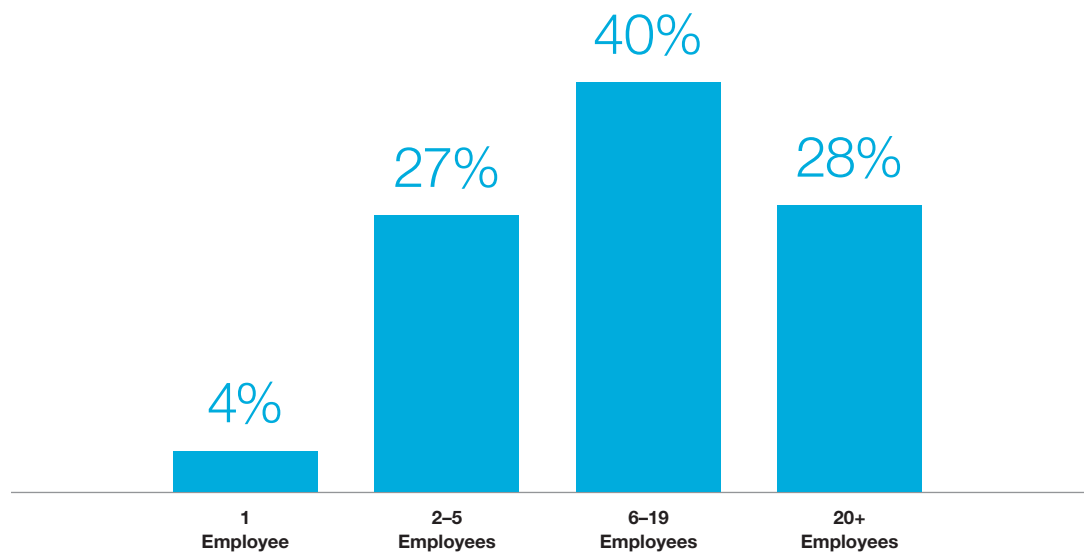


FIGURE 8

Most organizations reported employing fewer than 20 full and/or part-time staff members.



PERCENTAGE OF ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING FULL AND/OR PART-TIME STAFF (N=95)



A Diversity Lens: Education Nonprofit Landscape⁴

Leadership

FIGURE 9

There is diversity in leadership in Miami's education-focused nonprofits⁵

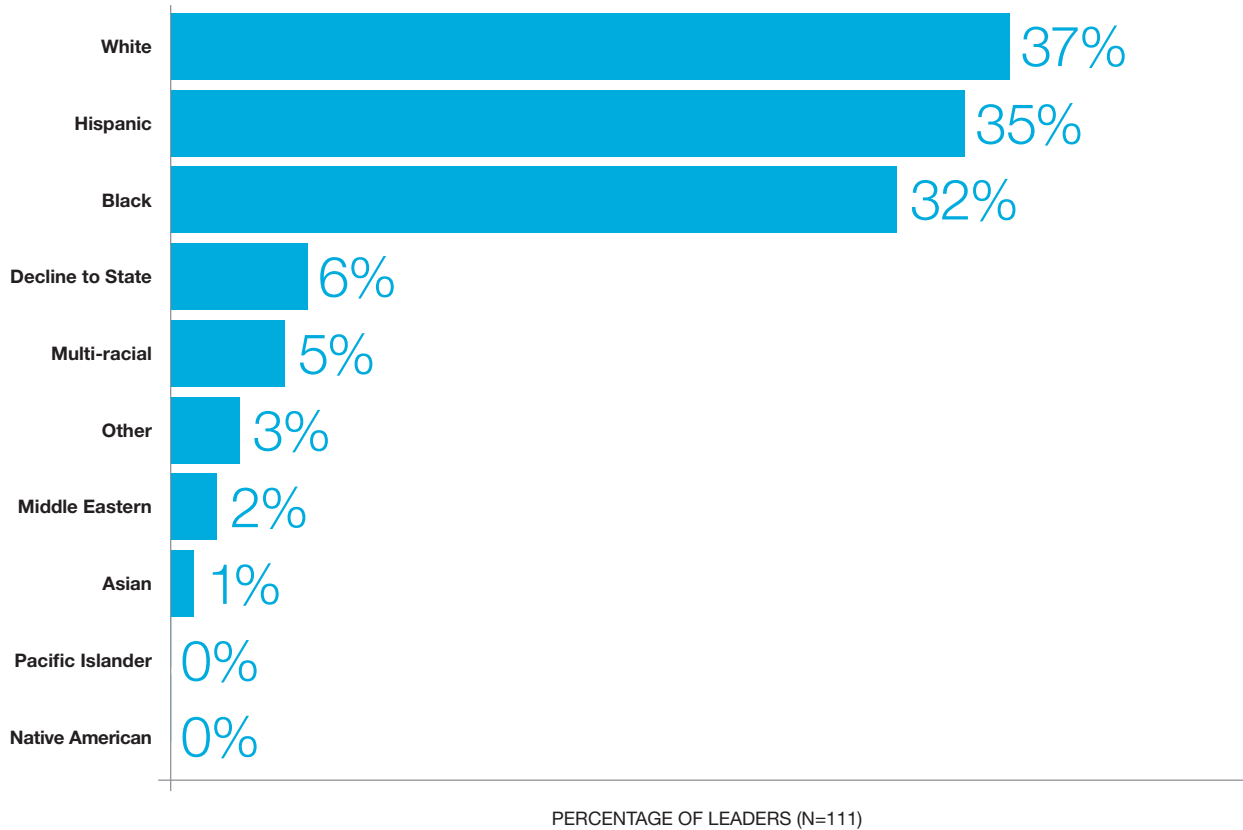
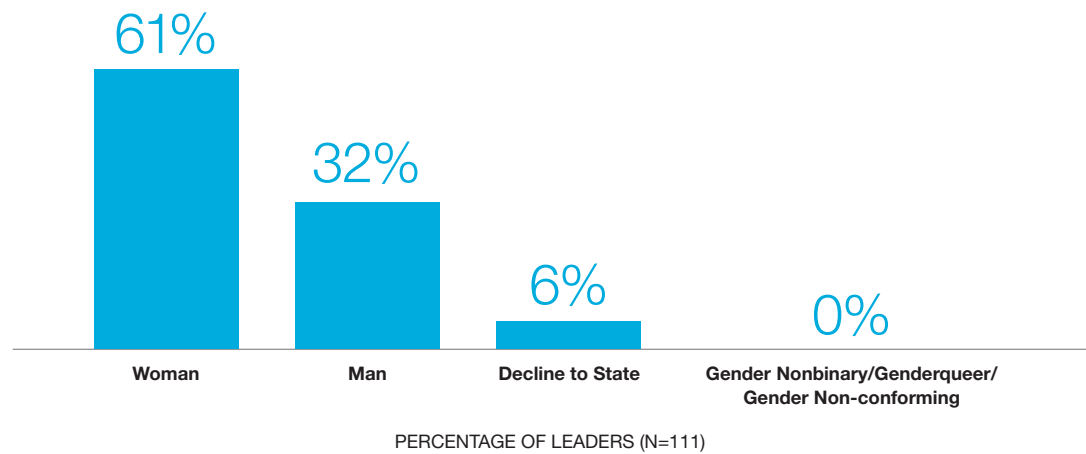


FIGURE 10

Most education nonprofits are led by women.



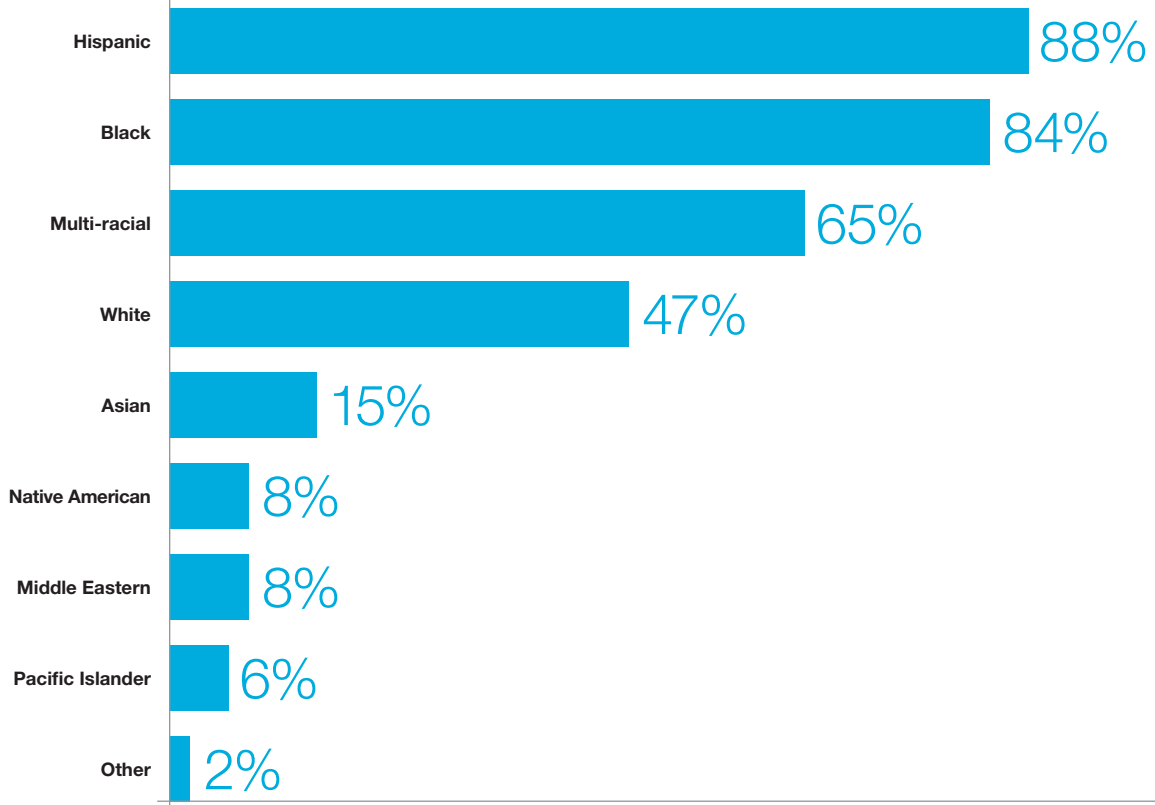
⁴ To simplify presentation, survey response options are presented using the following classifications: White/Caucasian/European (White); Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx (Hispanic); Black/African American/Haitian (Black); Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic (Multi-racial); Middle Eastern/North African (Middle Eastern); Asian/Asian American (Asian); Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander); Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous (Native American)

⁵ The survey allowed more than one category to be selected in the racial/ethnic group resulting in a total of more than 100%.

Communities Served

FIGURE 11

Organizations are reaching a variety of racial/ethnic groups in the Miami-Dade area – particularly Hispanic and/or Black communities.



PERCENTAGE OF ORGANIZATIONS (N=110)

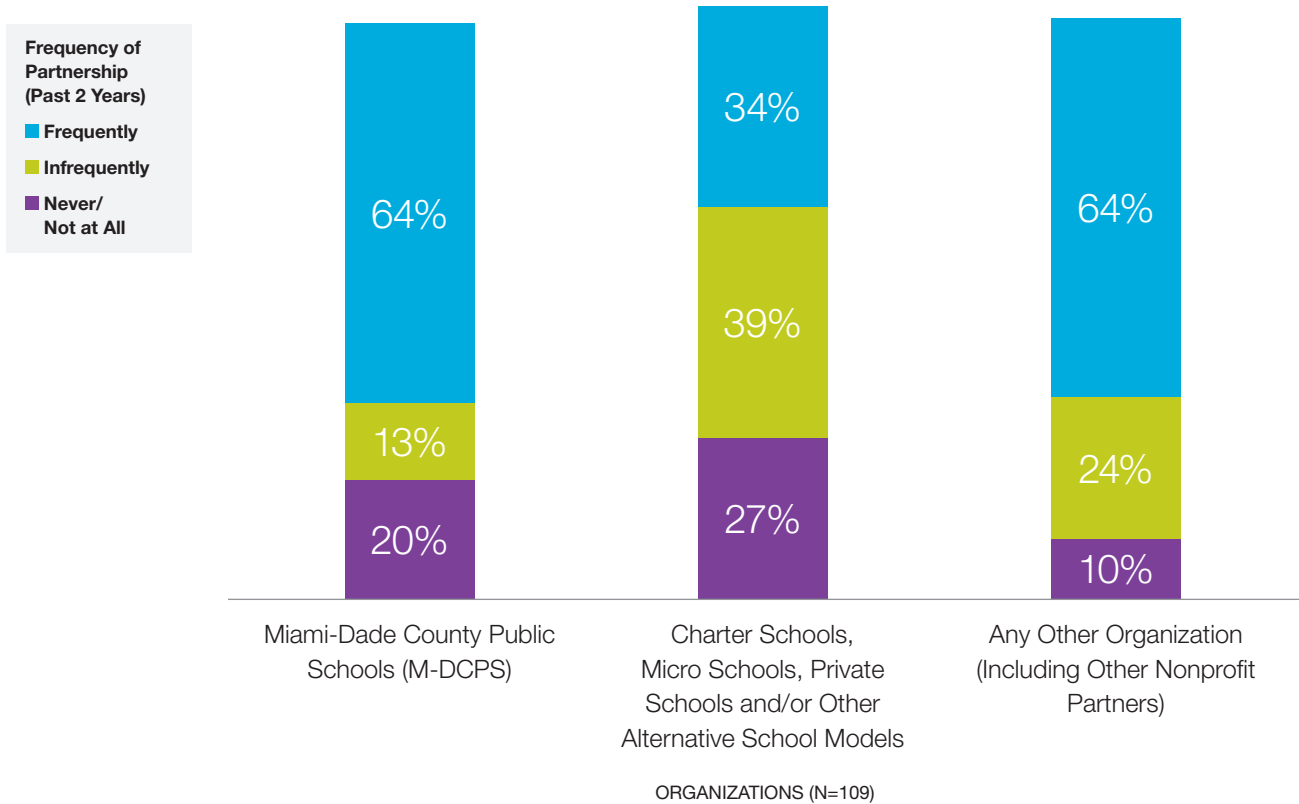


Collaboration & Continuity of Service

Of the 85 organizations that collaborate with M-DCPS at least occasionally, the extent of that collaboration varies widely. The median organization partners with five M-DCPS schools, but 31% of organizations report partnering with ten or more schools.

FIGURE 12

About two-thirds of nonprofits reported frequently collaborating with public schools and other community organizations.



CHAPTER

1

THE TAKEAWAYS

1

The focus on Arts & Culture as one of the most frequently cited missions for Education-focused organizations is not surprising, given our local context.

As the third largest school district in the country, the Miami-Dade County Public School system has a thriving ecosystem of partnerships to enhance the student experience, including arts programming. The recent collective push to drive investment for enhanced and equitable arts access in Miami through initiatives like Music Access Miami and the launch of artlook® Miami, could possibly be incentivizing more nonprofits to diversify their programming in this space.

2

Only 2% of organizations reported working on systems-change work as their primary focus.

Interestingly, 15% of organizations considered this work as top priority for impacting educational outcomes. There is a need to better understand what is contributing to this gap (funding limitations, policy environment, resource barriers) to offer pointed support in advancing this critical work.

3

Collaborations with school partners continue to be a strong backbone for partnerships in Miami's education landscape.

While partnerships appear to be equitably spread across organizations of all sizes, smaller nonprofits need additional support to diversify their funding for their long-term sustainability.





CHAPTER
2

A Look at Nonprofit Educational Programs

CHAPTER

2

A Look at Nonprofit Educational Programs

Education organizations reach children through the programs they offer.

In a robust sampling of over 236 programs offered between August 2022 and August 2023 by more than a 100 organizations participating in this mapping effort, **we have a unique view into the richness of program offerings.** Here are a few highlights about the **programming landscape:**

1

It's about more than academics.

90% of the programs include a focus on Enrichment, which includes programs focused on such priorities as Youth Leadership and Life Skills.

2

It's comprehensive.

94% of the program serve children directly across all stages of the K–12 experience, with high school students being the most frequently served group.

3

Programs vary by frequency and intensity.

44% of programs engage students for less than an hour per week. On the other end of the spectrum, **11%** of programs engage students for more than 10 hours per week.

4

It reaches students where they are.

37% of programs reach students in schools outside of school hours, the same as are reported reaching students at Community Centers.

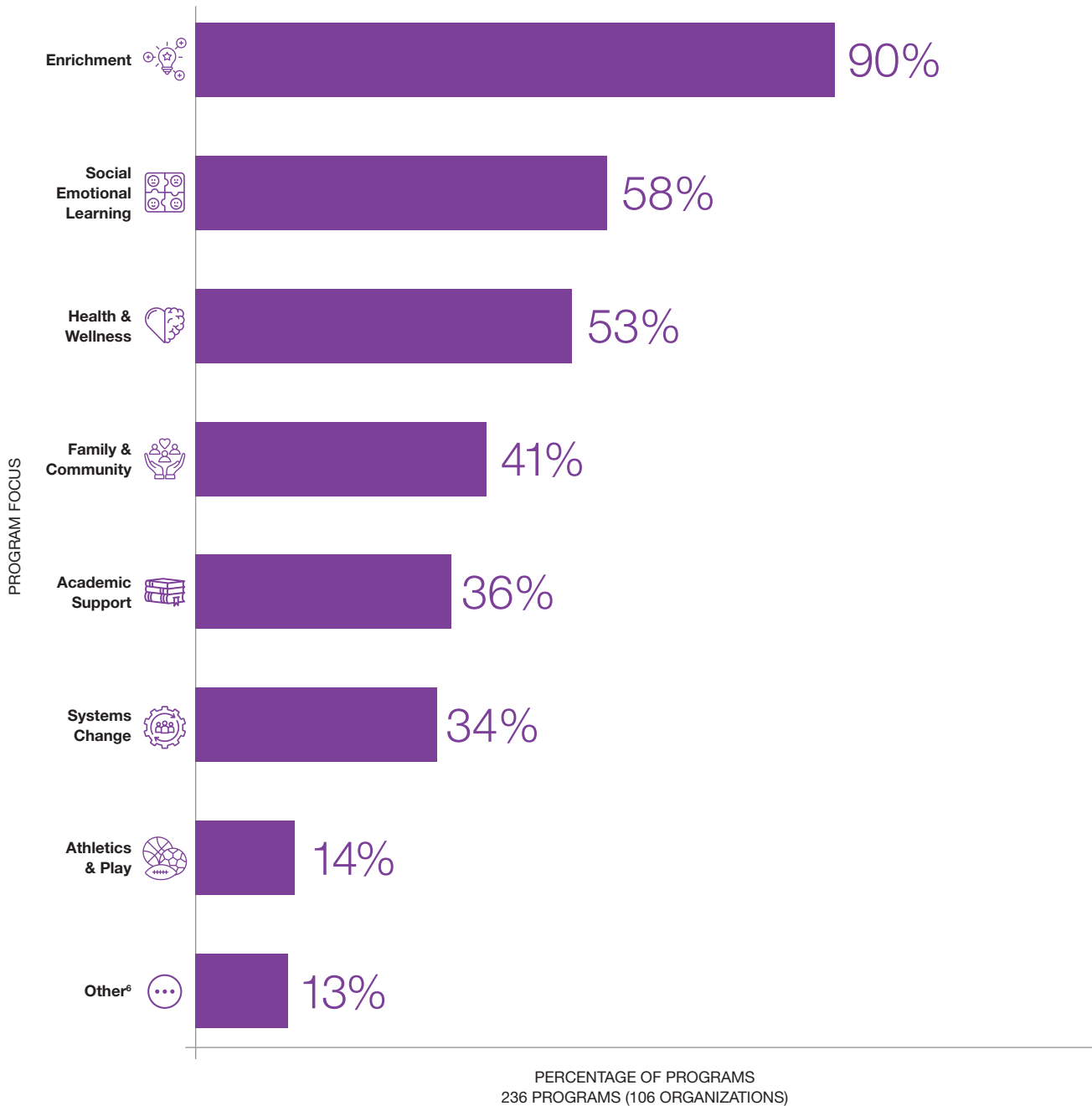


Focus Areas & Program Outcomes

The programs offered by Miami-Dade’s education organizations are as wide-ranging and diverse in their focus as are the organizations themselves.

FIGURE 13

Enrichment activities — within which fall both Life Skills and Youth Leadership — is the most prevalent program category across all organizations.

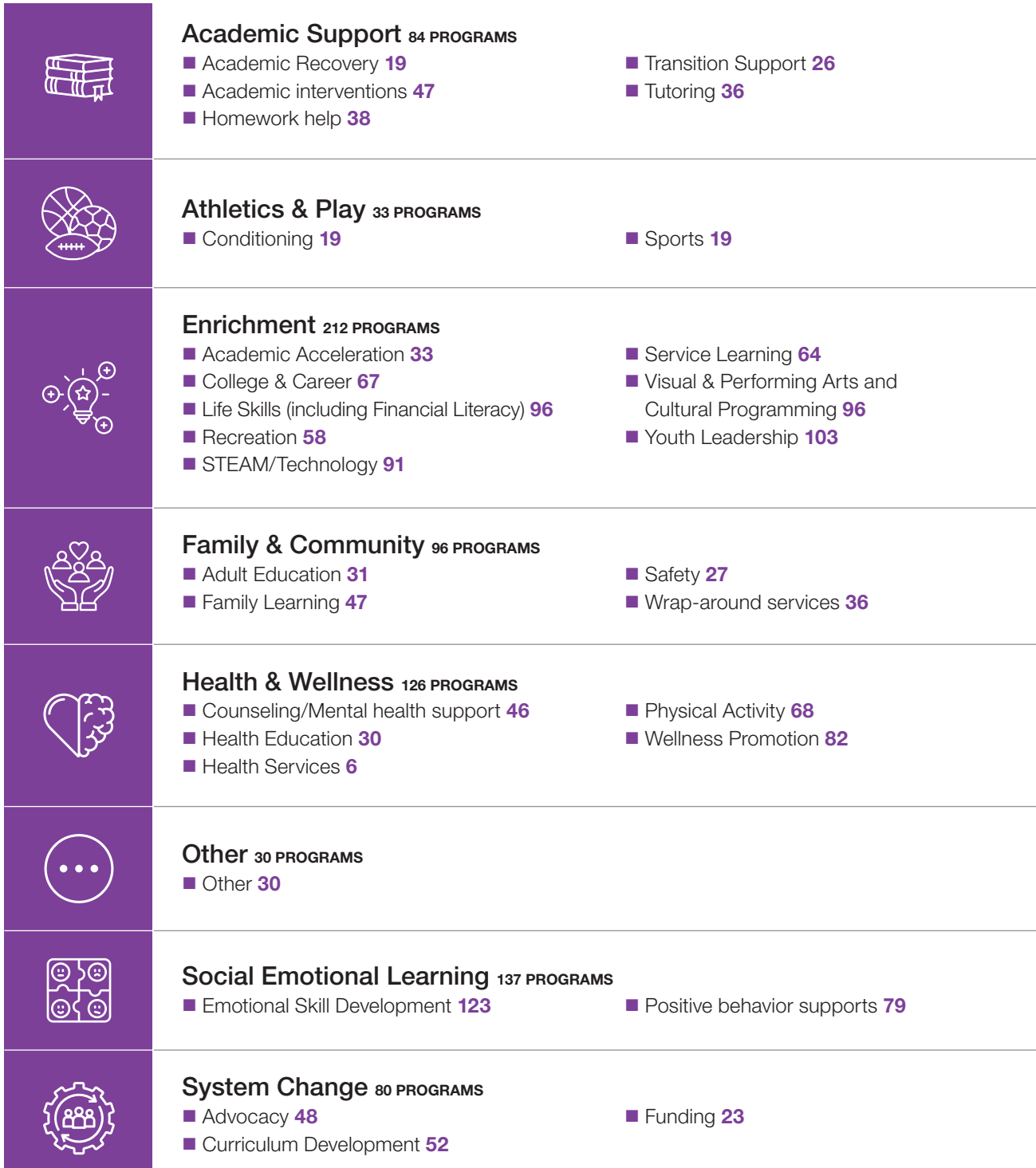


⁶ Programs tagged as “Other” included, but aren’t limited to, programs focused on Career Development and Mentorship, Dance Training, and the fulfillment of basic and other miscellaneous needs (e.g., food, resources).

To understand this diversity, we asked organizations to classify the focus areas of each of their reported programs. By far the largest share of programs (90%) include a focus on Enrichment, while 58% of programs include a focus on Social Emotional Learning. Only 14% of reported programs include a focus on Athletics & Play.

FIGURE 14

Program Focus Categories & Sub Categories



Communities Served

FIGURE 15

Almost all reported education programs directly serve children/students; only a quarter or so are geared towards students' support structures.

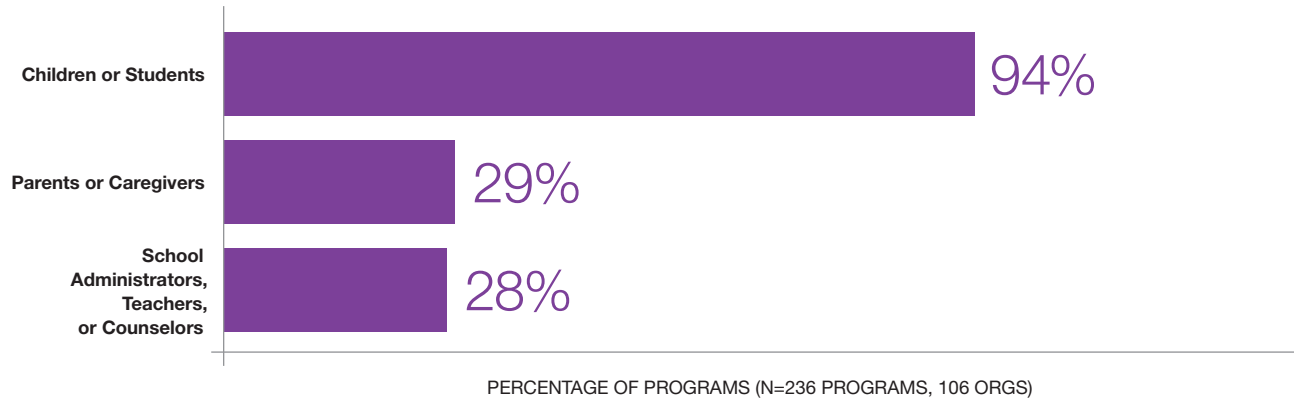
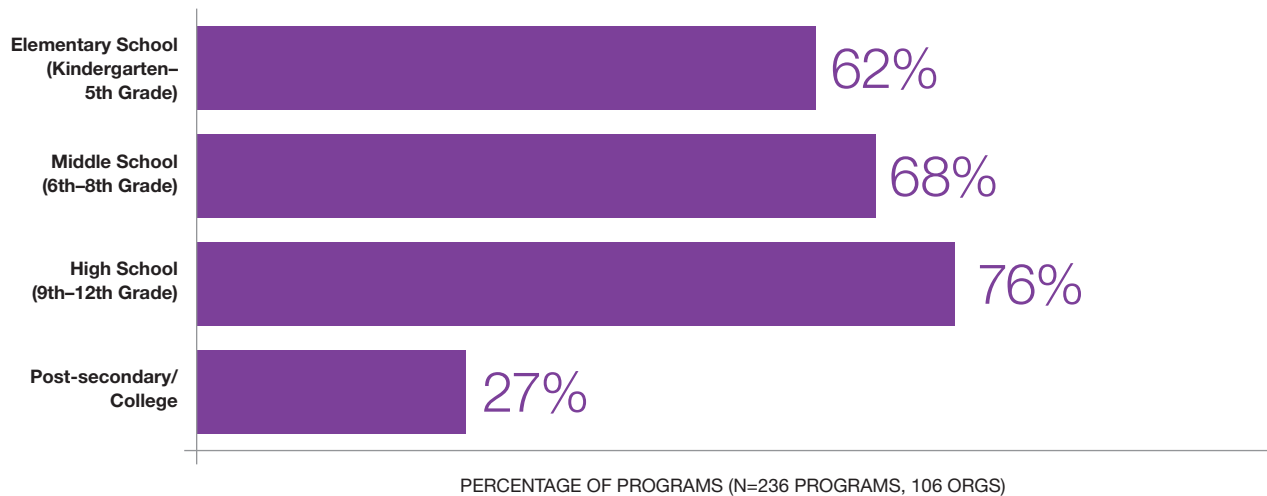


FIGURE 16

Programs reach a range of student ages, with High School students being the most frequently served group. Only 11% of programs focused on supporting students in a single age category.



Reach of Service

While programs in Miami-Dade may serve a wide range of students, they tend to be lower intensity in terms of the number of hours they serve those students.

FIGURE 17

Two-thirds of reported programs reach students for less than three hours a week, with most of those registering less than an hour per week.

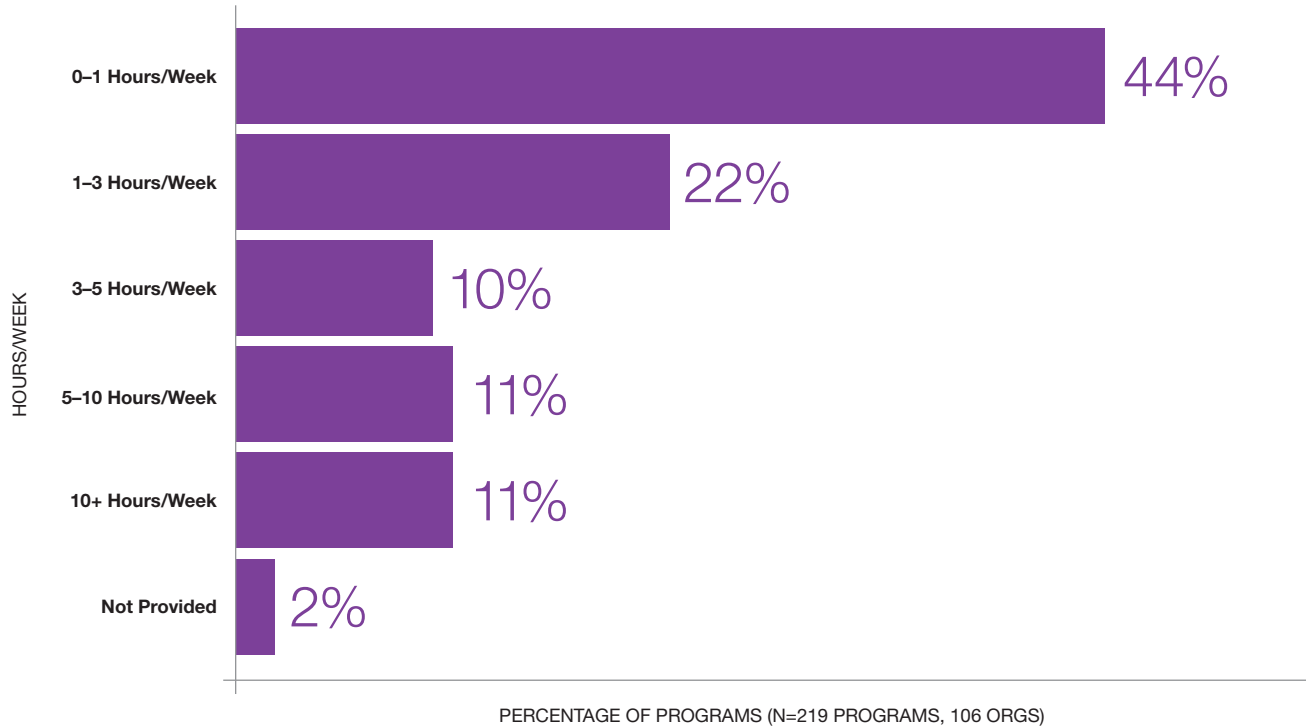
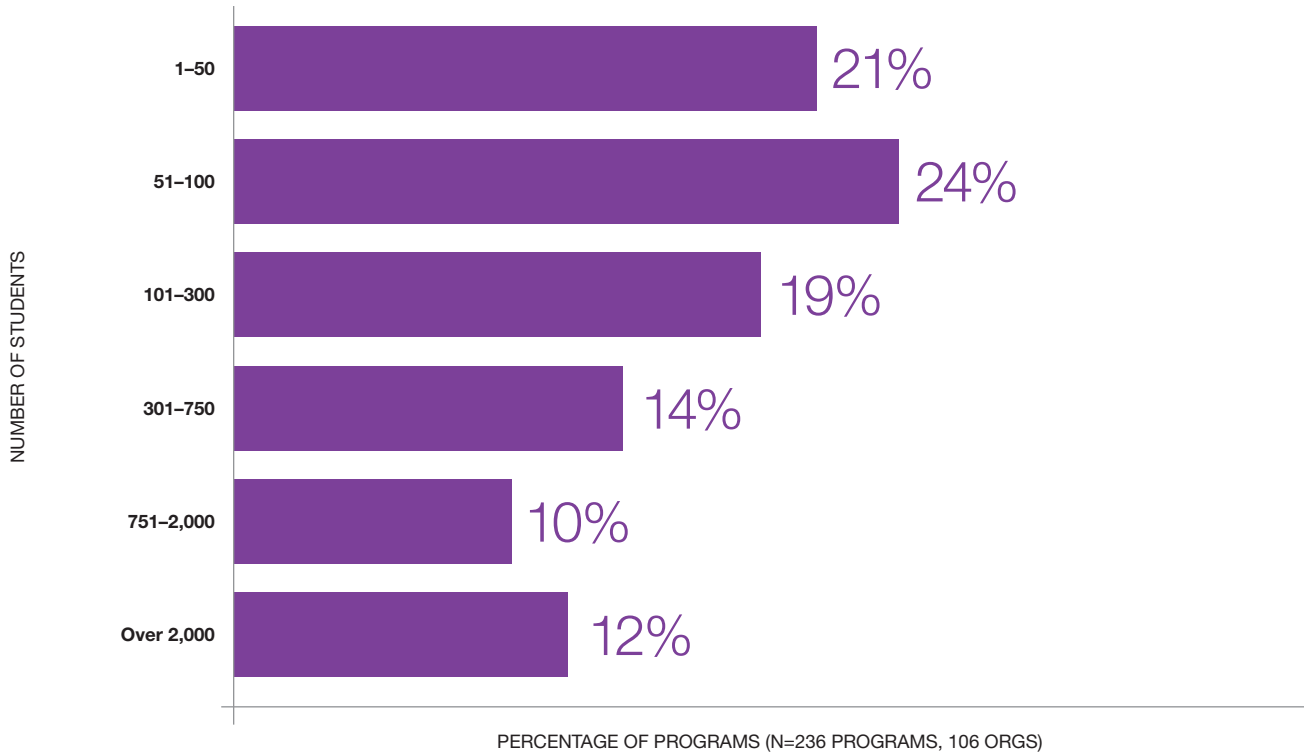


FIGURE 18

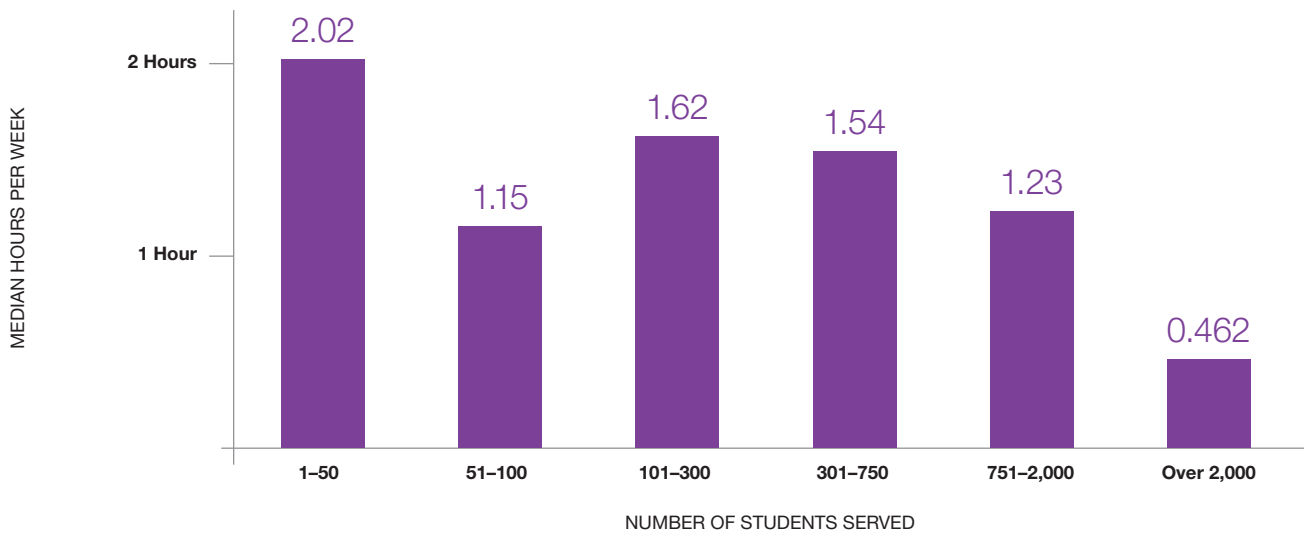
Forty-five percent of programs reach 100 or fewer students per week.



Programs that serve more students tend to reach them for fewer hours, implying that as programs scale, they may not operate at the same intensity per student. For example, those that reached between 1-50 students had a median of more than two hours of engagement per week for the year, while those that reached more than 2000 students had a median of less than a half-hour per week.

FIGURE 19

In general, median hours of programming seem to decrease as the number of students served increases.

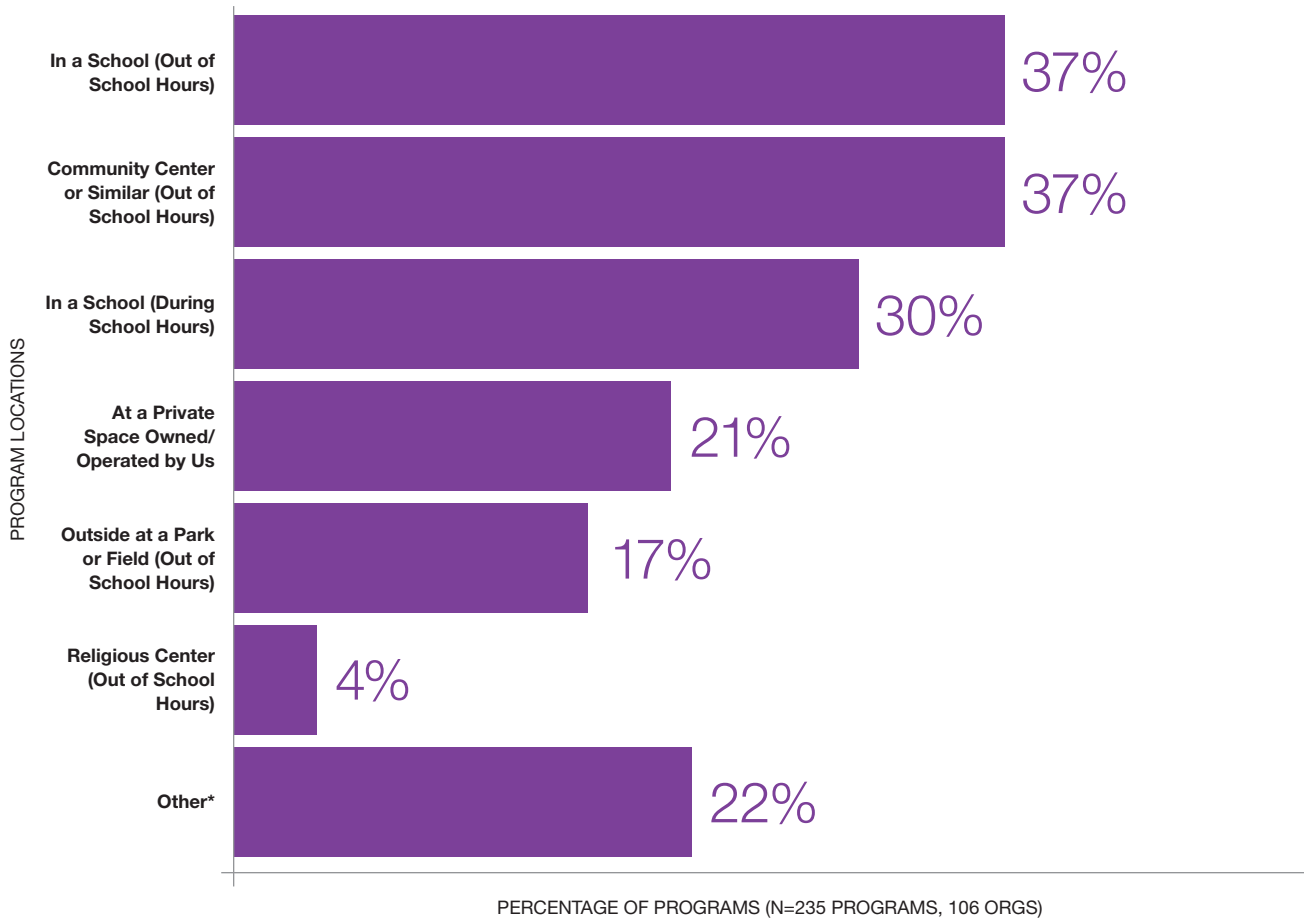


Geography of Service

Program location plays a significant role in determining the extent to which students are reached by education-focused nonprofits in Miami-Dade.

FIGURE 20

Most education services are happening in school — whether during school hours or outside of them. Community centers are also common service locations.



The vast majority of these programs (73%) take place at only one location, with only 9% of reported programs being spread out over ten or more locations.

*In about half of the programs for which respondents selected “Other,” the programs were virtual, while the remainder comprised a mix of specific locations (e.g., Biscayne Nature Center) and other community locations such as local theaters.

CHAPTER
2

THE TAKEAWAYS

1

Miami's educational ecosystem reflects a contemporary approach to education, prioritizing academic enrichment even over traditional academic programming.

The top five most frequently offered programs were:

1. Emotional skill development
2. Youth leadership
3. Life skills including financial literacy
4. Visual, performing arts & cultural programming
5. STEAM/technology

While the sector continues to voice academic support as a critical priority to advance educational outcomes, these programs only account for 36% of the programs offered, compared to 90% of enrichment programming. There is a need to further unpack this disconnect between the perceived importance of academic supports and the apparent programming gap.

2

Research has consistently shown that family engagement in children's education plays a critical role in the long-term success of a child, especially in the early stages. We need more of this.

Family engagement is associated with stronger social-emotional development, higher school attendance, and better academic outcomes for students of all ages.⁷ With this study revealing that less than a third of nonprofit programs focus on the family support systems in Miami, there is an opportunity to explore expanding family engagement programming while also considering the time and resource constraints of families.



⁷ <https://overdeck.org/news-and-resources/article/spotlight-on-evidence-investing-in-family-engagement-programs-that-work/>



CHAPTER
3

Sector Priorities & Perspectives

CHAPTER

3

Sector Priorities & Perspectives

Miami-Dade's education sector comprises a wide range of nonprofit organizations, from larger and more established organizations to startups, offering a variety of programming that leverages everything from sports to the arts to bring educational benefits to students across the county.

How do these organizations think about the future of the education sector? What do they see as sector priorities moving forward?

In order to gain a more complete picture of the education landscape in our region, we conducted a series of one-on-one interviews with six stakeholders to give us more insight into the issues and priorities for the field at large. Here are a few highlights from our survey and interviews:

1

It's about more than academics.

53% of the organizations indicate that Enrichment should be a sector focus, while **51%** prioritize a focus on Family & Community. Also, one highlight of our interviews was the importance of vocational education.

2

Resources and talent top the list of sector needs.

On a scale of 1–5, with 1 being the most important, the average nonprofit ranks **resources** at 1.4, by far the top priority need. The average score for Talent is 2.6.

3

Collaboration matters.

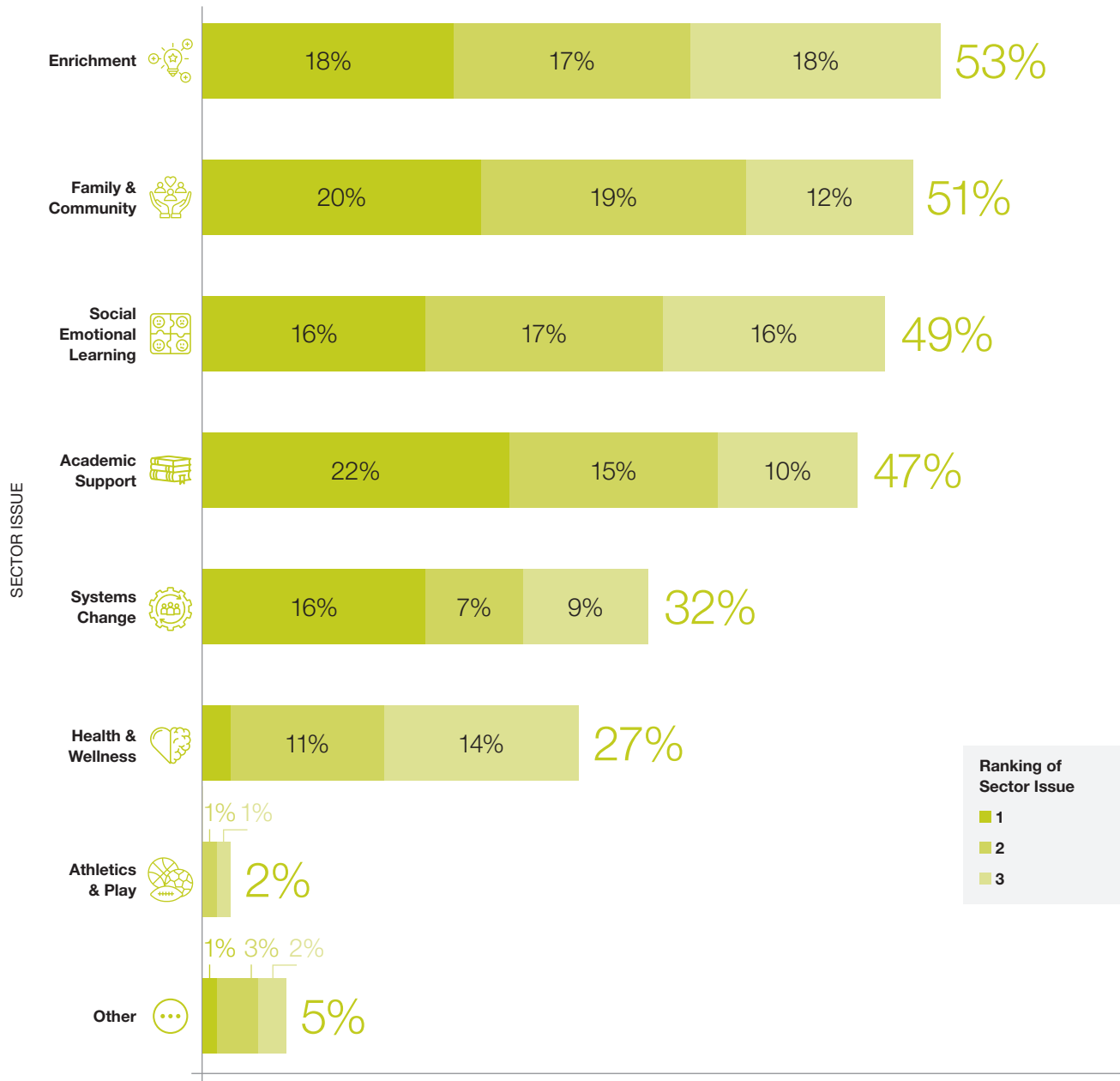
A recurring theme in our interviews was that collaboration **across the sector** will be important to ongoing success.



Hierarchy of Sector Issues

FIGURE 21

Stakeholders identified programs focused on Enrichment, Family & Community, Social Emotional Learning, and Academic Support as the top priorities for the educational sector to make a true impact on educational outcomes.



PERCENTAGE OF ORGANIZATIONS SELECTING IN TOP 3 (N=106)

FIGURE 22

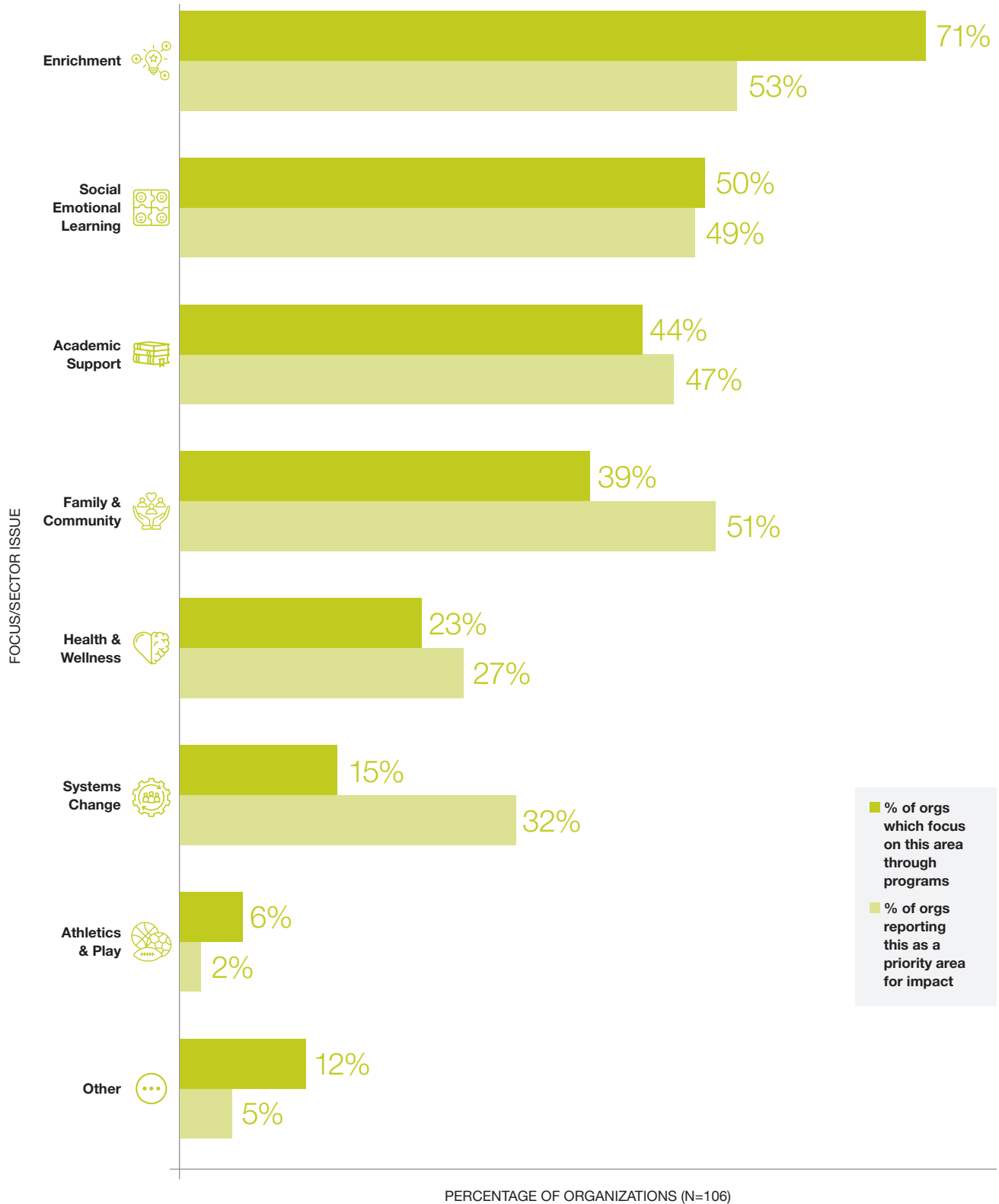
When asked to describe the top nonprofit needs in the education sector, Resources were by far the top choice.

NONPROFIT NEED	AVERAGE RANKING (1 = MOST IMPORTANT 5 = LEAST IMPORTANT)
<p>Resources Funding and infrastructure support (offices/transportation, etc.) for nonprofits</p>	1.43
<p>Talent Nonprofit staffing, professional development and leadership cultivation</p>	2.60
<p>Collaborations Partnerships among nonprofits and with other sectors including public and private partners</p>	2.77
<p>Innovations Program Innovations, new curriculum development, modes of delivery etc.</p>	3.40
<p>Data & Knowledge Data insights into the sector's operational and impact metrics</p>	3.46



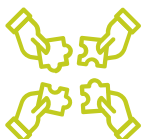
FIGURE 23

The Reality & Belief Gap: There is a strong appetite for programming that focuses on Family & Community and Systems Change, while the actual supply of that programming trails significantly behind.



Perspectives from Local Education Champions

Our deep-dive stakeholder interviews provided a unique window into the perspectives of those most embedded in the issues of the sector, representing public, nonprofit and community voices. While many of these insights were consistent with what we learned in the survey, there were a few areas that we'd like to elevate here for further reflection.



Collaboration

Collaboration was a topic of great interest and focus, emerging organically across all six interviewees. All champions echoed that collaboration is valued, is necessary, and can be a solution to current issues. There was some variation in opinions about exactly how to accomplish and prioritize collaboration across schools, the neighborhoods, and with external nonprofit partners. Specifically, there was a call to establish a more coordinated, strategic vision for collaboration that can serve as a backbone to drive collective impact for education in our community.

“How do we get out onto the balcony, get strategic, and how do we find a way to be able to **collectively lead** with those institutions that are prepared to ... **truly collaborate** [and] agree on **common goals**?”

“We are wanting everyone to **succeed**, and we want everyone to be able to meet the needs of our community. So, we’re sharing best **practices**, we’re sharing **strategies**, we’re figuring out how to share **resources**.”

“We are the best at launching new things, you know, being **entrepreneurial**. We’ve still got work to do on being sustainable for the long term, and then collaborating across specific things we want to change in our **community**.”



Equity & Inclusion

Recognizing that inequities persist across educational access and outcomes for children in our communities, stakeholders echoed the need to continue identifying gaps by neighborhood and tailoring hyperlocal plans to meet those needs. Additionally, the vital role of inclusive programming that caters to all students regardless of economic status, disability status, learning abilities, race, among other factors, was also brought up.

“We have significant **achievement gaps** when you look by socioeconomic status, by racial subgroups... It’s an important lens to keep, as we think of this work and how resources can be used and what the overall goal of some **collaboration** might be.”

“I think the level of **accommodations** for kids with learning disabilities has increased. However, we still have a long ways to go.”



Enhancements

The aspirations of students are diverse, and so are the resources they need to truly thrive. Strengthening mental health supports and diversifying educational paths (such as vocational training) to meet these diverse needs emerged as an important point from the interviews.

“What are the other supports that we’re putting in place for our students? We know that COVID has really highlighted the need for **mental health** supports, and I think we’re beginning to see that more in the district. We’re not where we should be, frankly, but I’m hearing about it more than I have in the past.”

“For many years, we ignored the kid that might have become the electrician or the carpenter or the tradesman because we said everyone must be college-ready... And we forgot one of the **truths of education**: Everyone isn’t going to college and everyone doesn’t want to go. And there are many careers that someone can make a great living in without a college degree if **trained properly**.”

CHAPTER
3

THE TAKEAWAYS

1

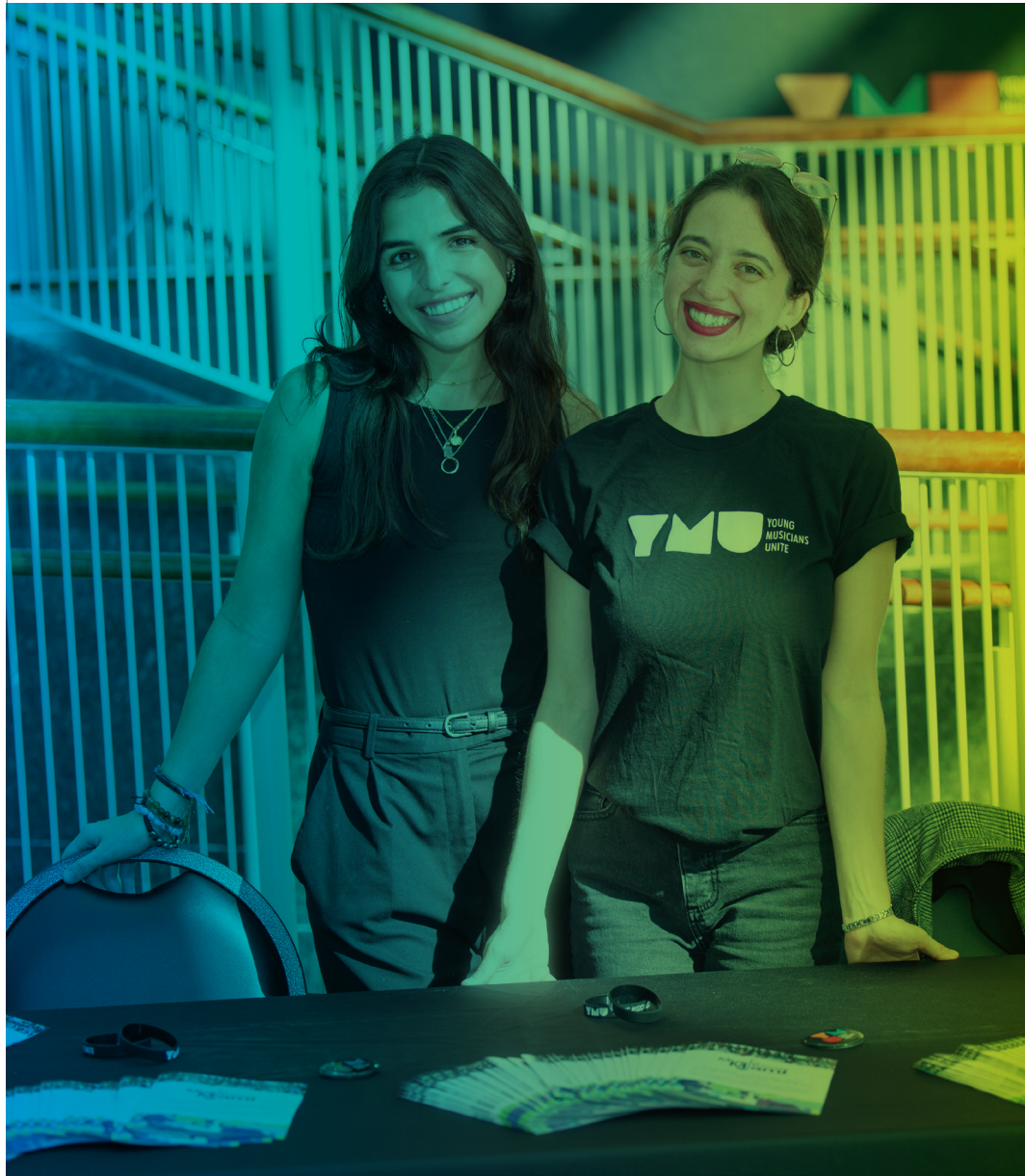
Resources continue to be a key area of need for the sector but perhaps the more pertinent question is how should these resources be allocated for the most impact?

Sector leaders did not seem to prioritize data or innovations as a sectoral need for long-term impact in education. With the rapidly evolving needs of Greater Miami, the role of innovation and data-driven investments should be explored hand-in-hand with partners.

2

An opportunity:

Systems Change was voiced as a priority by so many organizations but the number of organizations focusing on this work falls relatively short. In an environment where short-term projects and programs have been favored, how can we help foster an appetite for the longer term, systemic work that is needed to overcome persistent inequity?



Miami Book



CHAPTER
4

Conclusion & Next Steps

CHAPTER

4

Conclusion and Next Steps

This mapping exercise was a critical first step in an ongoing effort to equip ourselves with data and fill the knowledge gaps that can strengthen services for our community. The educational landscape in Miami is wider and deeper than the scope of the study and the findings we presented here, focusing on nonprofits working with K–12 youth. Yet, we discerned some key learnings about *who is leading the work in this space, what are the operations of their work and the expanse of educational programming across our neighborhoods.*

We believe the real impact of data-exercises like this one come from what happens next. Looking ahead, we are eager to take these reflections to the community, including funders, school-district partners, nonprofit leaders and families in M-DC, to forge a path forward.

Call to Action



As a funder:

- **Use** the data to understand the gaps and opportunities to support Miami's nonprofits.
- **Donate** to education-focused nonprofits in Miami through Give Miami Day and/or get connected to the nonprofits listed [here](#) to learn more.
- If you'd like to dig deeper and are interested in opening a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) to support education-focused nonprofits, reach out to philanthropy@miamifoundation.org



As a nonprofit leader:

- **Benchmark** your organization against the landscape for size, budget, staff, program type, etc.
- **Use** the data in your fundraising efforts including grant-writing, social media and marketing efforts.
- **Use** the Appendix to discover and connect with other nonprofits that work in your area.
- **Reach** out to us with your questions and reflections on this report: this data can only get stronger with your added insights.



For questions, reflections and recommendations, please reach out to insights@miamifoundation.org



Acknowledgements

The soul of this study was inspired by the hundreds of community partners working relentlessly to improve the child and youth experience in Greater Miami- our community is stronger because of you. We thank the nonprofit leaders whose time and contributions to this research were an invaluable pillar of this work.

This study would not have been possible without the initiative and support of Jane Toll — an avid believer in the transformative power of education for our communities.

A special thanks to our trusted partners at The Children’s Trust for their guidance and insights in strengthening this study; along with the six educational champions whose perspectives helped shape our understanding of this complex space.

Finally, thank you to our data partners, Parliament, for being the key drivers of this work from survey design to data analysis.

Photo credits: Arts4Learning (Cover page), Miami Heat (page 4), Guitars over Gun (page 6), Arts4Learning (page 18), Kipp Miami (page 20), Arshat Center Ballet for Nutcracker event (page 21), Miami Connected (page 29), Kipp Miami (page 30), The Children’s Voice (page 31), Young Musicians Unite (page 37), and Miami Dade college book fair (page 38).



Appendix

Data Sources & Method(s) of Data Collection

The primary source for this data was an online survey designed by The Miami Foundation and its research partner, Parliament Collective Intelligence. The audience for this survey was **education-focused nonprofit organizations who support K–12 age students in Miami-Dade**, either through direct programming to children or through programs for supporters and systems that surround these students (such as parents or teachers).

To reach these organizations, we created a sample based on:

- **The Miami Foundation’s own Give Miami Day and Community Grants data**
- **The Children’s Trust Youth Development grantees**
- **Candid Directory**
- **Miami-Dade Public Library System partners**

Our final recipient list totaled 863 organizations, and we received completed responses from 158 organizations, of whom 112 met the requirements of being education-focused nonprofit organizations supporting K–12 students.

One-on-one Interviews:

To provide further context, texture, and elaboration on the core issues of this research, The Miami Foundation also conducted a series of one-on-one virtual interviews with “Education Champions”: stakeholders in the Miami-Dade education ecosystem who have a stake in the current — and future — state of education-oriented services and resources for the region’s children. The Miami Foundation conducted 6 Champions interviews to help inform the survey development and provide the needed framing to understand our findings.

Please reach out to insights@miamifoundation.org for a copy of the full survey questionnaire and any other questions about data collection and survey audience.

List of Organizations Who Participated in This Mapping Exercise

ORGANIZATION	FOCUS AREAS
A Better Me	Arts & Culture, Community Care, Education & Youth
Achieve Miami	Education & Youth
Affirming Youth Foundation, Inc.	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Affirming Youth Foundation, Inc. formerly k.a. Jonathan Spikes Foundation, Inc.	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Health & Wellness
AfriKin	Arts & Culture, Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth
Aim	Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Amplify Community Resources	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Health & Wellness
Area Performance Gallery, Inc.	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Ari Arteaga Foundation and Be The Light	Community Care, Education & Youth
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Atlantic Council of The United States	Environment
AYUDA, Inc.	Community Care, Education & Youth
B.L.U.E. Missions Group Inc	Education & Youth, Environment
Bass	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Be Strong International	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Blue Scholars Initiative	Education & Youth
Branches	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth
Breakthrough Miami, INC.	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Casa Valentina	Education & Youth
Catalyst Miami	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Centro Cultural Brasil-USA da Florida	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Children's Resources	Education & Youth, Other
City Year Miami	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Clean Miami Beach, Inc	Education & Youth, Environment, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Collective Sistahood Inc	Community Care, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
COMMUNITY COALITION INC.	Community Care, Education & Youth
Coral City Foundation	Animals, Education & Youth, Environment
Coral Gables Community Foundation	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness

ORGANIZATION**FOCUS AREAS**

Coral Gables High School PTSA	Education & Youth
Coral Gables Museum	Arts & Culture, Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth
Coral Restoration Foundation	Animals, Education & Youth, Environment
Crafting Confidence	Arts & Culture, Community Care, Education & Youth
Creative Media Group	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Cristina's Academy	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
CSTA Miami	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Dade Heritage Trust Inc.	Education & Youth, Environment, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Dance NOW! Miami	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Debris Free Oceans	Education & Youth, Environment, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Dream in Green	Community Care, Education & Youth, Environment
Everglades Outpost Wildlife Sanctuary	Animals, Education & Youth, Environment
Evolutionary Arts Life Foundation Inc.	Education & Youth
EXILE Books	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Environment
Foundation for Talent Transformation Inc	Education & Youth
Friends of Pinecrest Dance Project	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
G W Carver Middle School PTSA	Education & Youth
Gamebred Youth & Families	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Girl Power Rocks Inc.	Education & Youth
Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, Inc.	Education & Youth
Girls Incorporated of Greater Miami dba Strong Girls, Inc	Education & Youth
Girls Scouts of South Florida	Education & Youth
Global Innovative Foundation, Inc	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Other
Guitars Over Guns Organization, Inc.	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Health and Education Love Project	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Health Information Project Inc	Education & Youth
Ketab Corp	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth
Kids N Touch Academy	Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Leading With Love Inc	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Lincoln-Marti Community Agency	Education & Youth
Mahogany Youth Corporation	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Environment

ORGANIZATION**FOCUS AREAS**

Miami Animal Rescue	Animals, Community Care, Education & Youth
Miami Community Music Center	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired Inc	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Health & Wellness
Miami Rush Kendall SC	Education & Youth
Miami-Dade County 4-H Youth Development Program	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Health & Wellness
Moonlighter FabLab	Arts & Culture, Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth
National Tropical Botanical Garden	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Environment
Nu Deco Ensemble	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Nyah Project	Education & Youth
O, Miami	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Phoebe's Fortress Inc.	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Project Y.E.S.	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Health & Wellness
Propelling into Triumph	Education & Youth
Prosperity Social & Community Development Group, Inc.	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Roxy Theatre Group	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
S.E.E.K Foundation, Inc.	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Sereia Films	Education & Youth, Environment, Health & Wellness
South Florida Center for Percussive Arts	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
South Florida Chamber Ensemble	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc.	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
STARS Global Preparatory	Education & Youth
Surf Skate Science	Education & Youth
Teach For America, Inc.	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Team Kareem Memorial Foundation	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
Teen Up-ward Bound, Inc.	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Faith-Based
The Alliance for Florida's National Parks	Animals, Education & Youth, Environment
The Arc of South Florida	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement, Other
The Children's Voice Chorus	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth

ORGANIZATION**FOCUS AREAS**

The CLEO Institute	Education & Youth, Environment, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
The Education Fund	Education & Youth
The Learning Instinct	Education & Youth
The Liberty City Optimist Club of FI, Inc	Community Care, Education & Youth
The Lucy Project	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment, Inc.	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
The New Jerusalem Community Development Corporation	Education & Youth
The Opera Atelier	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
The Optimist Club of Overtown	Community Care, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
The Posse Foundation	Education & Youth
The Student Success Project	Education & Youth
The Victory Center, Inc.	Education & Youth
THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION of Greater Miami and Dade County, Inc.	Economic & Community Development, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Three Virtues Organization	Education & Youth, Other
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Faith-Based
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay Inc (TLL)	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
Uplift Literacy	Education & Youth
Urban Health Partnerships	Education & Youth, Environment, Health & Wellness
URGENT, Inc.	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Wildlife Rescue of Dade County	Animals, Education & Youth, Environment
World Affairs Council of Miami	Education & Youth, Equity, Advocacy, & Civic Engagement
World Happiness Foundation	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth, Health & Wellness
YES Institute	Education & Youth
Young Musicians Unite	Arts & Culture, Education & Youth
Youth Environmental Alliance	Animals, Education & Youth, Environment