

NONPROFIT FUNDING IMPACT SURVEY

Understanding the Effects of Public Funding Reductions on Local South Florida Nonprofits

A PhilanthropyMiami report in collaboration with community partners











October 2025

Purpose & Scope

The Nonprofit Funding Impact Survey was launched in the Spring of 2025 to assess how recent and anticipated public funding cuts are affecting nonprofit organizations across Miami-Dade County. Developed and administered by PhilanthropyMiami on behalf of a coalition of public and philanthropic partners, the survey aimed to gather sector data to inform responsive funding strategies and policy advocacy.

It is important to note that this report reflects a point-in-time snapshot (April-June 2025), primarily capturing cuts to federal and state programs, which were most frequently cited by respondents during the survey period.

While efforts were made to ensure broad participation, the results may reflect overrepresentation in some issue areas based on who responded. For more on respondent demographics and organizational characteristics, see page 6.

Since the survey period closed, Miami-Dade County approved the new fiscal year's budget, restoring grant funding for community-based and cultural arts organizations. However, this was approved as one-time funding, leaving many nonprofits uncertain about long-term stability.

We extend our thanks to our partners, and to the hundreds of nonprofit organizations across South Florida who shared their voices, experiences, and the very real consequences of funding uncertainty on their work and communities.

Partners:

- United Way Miami
- The Miami Foundation
- Health Foundation of South Florida
- Miami Dade County
- The Children's Trust
- The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- Peacock Foundation, Inc.



Executive Summary

South Florida nonprofits are sounding a clear alarm: **public funding cuts—both actual and anticipated—are destabilizing essential services across the region**. Based on responses from over 340 organizations representing education, youth services, health, arts, housing, and more, this report documents the issues and the resilience of nonprofits working to meet rising community needs.

This survey provides a point-in-time snapshot of how nonprofits are being affected by public funding cuts, recognizing that the **funding landscape is rapidly evolving and continues to shift beyond the survey period.**

Key Findings

- Over half (55%) of respondents reported funding cuts in the past six months, totaling more than \$59 million in lost revenue across 134 organizations.
- Youth services, arts and culture, food security, housing, and health programs are being scaled back or canceled. Funding sources cited include AmeriCorps, National Endowment for the Arts, Medicaid reimbursements, HUD housing supports, and nutrition programs such as school meals and SNAP.
- Nonprofits report layoffs, delayed reimbursements, program closures, and increased waitlists. Staff are stretched thin, with some working unpaid to sustain core services.
- Organizations with budgets under \$1M are facing the deepest proportional cuts. Many of these organizations serve historically underresourced communities, making their stability especially critical.

What Nonprofits Need Most

- Flexible, unrestricted and multi-year funding to stabilize operations.
- Emergency bridge funding to prevent program and staff losses.
- Clear communication from funders about anticipated shifts.
- Capacity investments in leadership, staffing, and systems.

A Call to Action

Programs supporting children, families, veterans, older adults, and immigrants are being dismantled while demand is rising. Funders, policymakers, and partners must act with urgency, equity, and trust. Now is the time to align resources, simplify processes, and ensure nonprofits have the tools to adapt and endure.



Survey Methodology

Overview

The survey was distributed widely through nonprofit networks, funders, and community partners; and was administered online using both multiple-choice and open-ended questions. It included 25 questions across four sections: organizational overview, funding impacts, impact on key programs, and needs/recommendations.

Each participating organization was asked to submit a single response, ideally from a senior leader such as a CEO, Executive Director, or CFO. All responses were kept confidential and reported only in aggregate, though organizations have the option to share their individual data with specific funders if they chose.

For the analysis, duplicate entries were removed, and in some cases, only fully completed responses were used. Qualitative insights were drawn from openended responses, which were thematically analyzed to validate and enrich the quantitative findings. Additional limitations are noted in the dedicated section of this report.

Total Responses Collected

419

Time Period

April 29th - June 30th 2025

Participating Organizations

344

Format

Self-administered digital survey

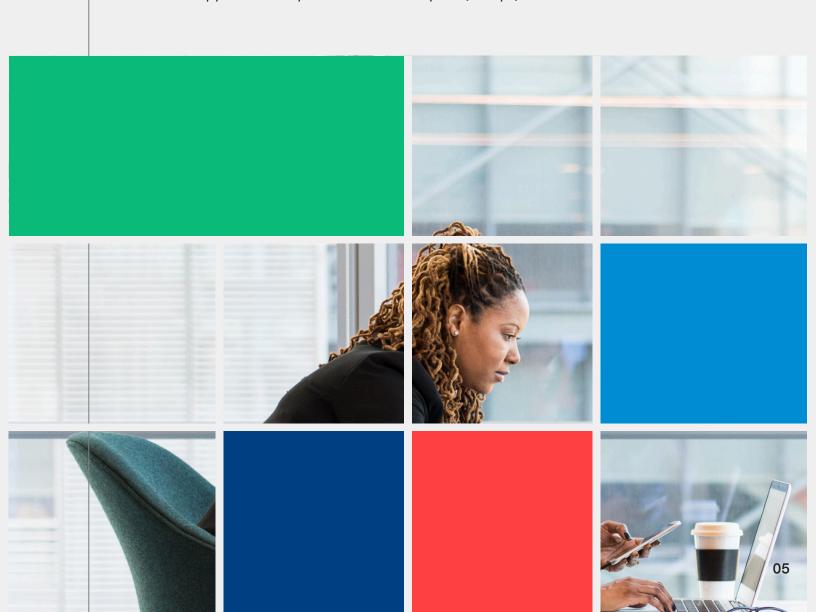




What Questions Did We Want to Answer?

The survey aimed to address the following core questions:

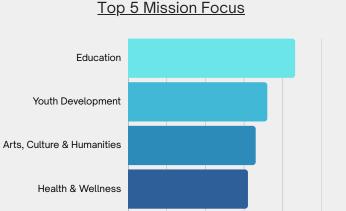
- How many nonprofit organizations have been impacted by public funding cuts?
- What types of funding (federal, state, county) have been reduced—and at what scale?
- Which types of organizations are most vulnerable, based on budget size, mission focus, or population served?
- What programs and services are being affected or eliminated?
- How are these funding reductions impacting community needs?
- What support do nonprofits need to respond, adapt, or recover?





Respondent Profile

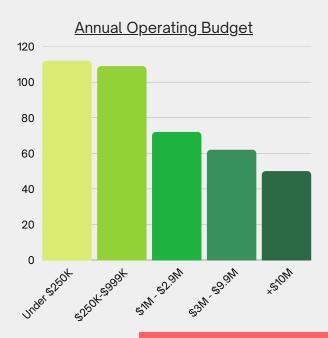
This snapshot reflects input from over **340 nonprofit organizations** in Miami-Dade County. The respondent pool reflects a strong cross-section of the Miami-Dade nonprofit landscape, especially in **education, youth services, arts, and health**. Most organizations surveyed have annual budgets under \$1M, consistent with the overall makeup of the sector. Some issue areas, such as environmental, religious, and public benefit organizations, may be underrepresented in this sample.



10

20

30



63%

Human or Social Service

Respondents are CEOs or Executive Directors 71%

50

Participating organizations serve Children & Adolescents

64%

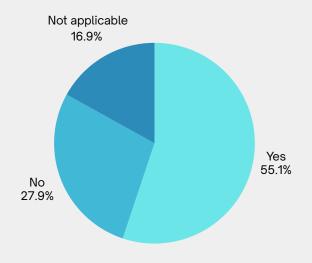
Participating organizations have operating budget of \$1M or less

Key Findings

Extent of Funding Loss

Over half (55%) of surveyed organizations have experienced funding cuts in the past six months. The largest losses were in federal and state grants, which were the most common funding withdrawals at the time of the survey. Respondents could select more than one funding source. "Other" includes foundation, corporate, and individual funding streams, though these were less frequently cited.

Funding Cuts in the Last 6 Months



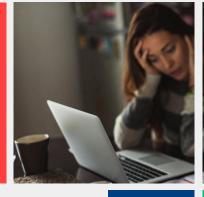
60 50 40 40 30 20 10

State

Funding Source

\$59.1M

in lost funding across 134 organizations reporting dollar amounts as of June 2025, primarily from canceled or reduced government contracts and delayed reimbursements.*



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Federal



County

Other

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"The funding cuts we've experienced recently were unexpected and immediate. This means funding that was promised was ripped away without any warning"

37%

Respondents are anticipating funding cuts in the next 6-12 months

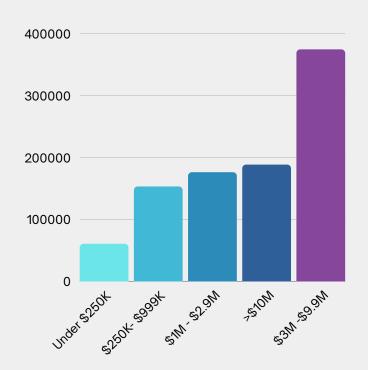
*see limitations section



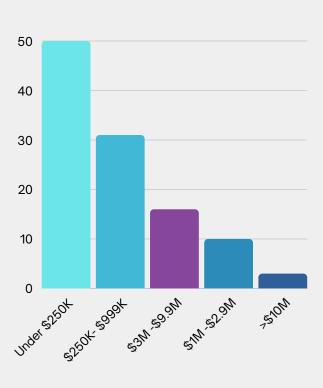
Types of Organizations Most Affected

- Organizations with budgets under \$250K faced the highest average percentage cuts — nearly 50% of their total funding.
- Mid-sized organizations (between \$3M-\$10M) experienced the largest average dollar losses, surpassing \$375,000 on average.

Average \$ Cuts by Operating Budget

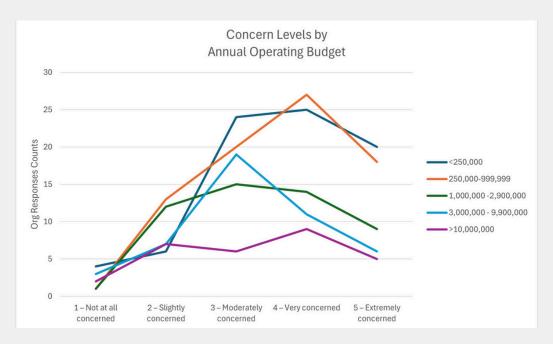


Average % Cut by Operating Budget

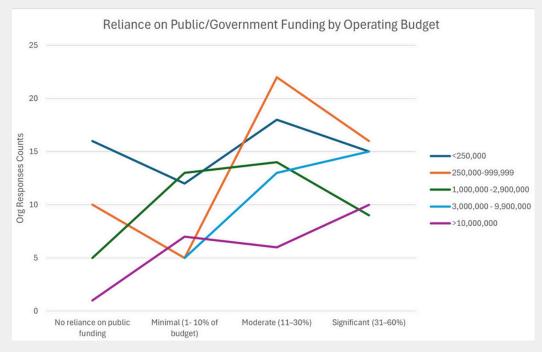


"Smaller organizations within our arts community are being hit the hardest, as we lack the major private and ongoing foundational support that larger institutions can rely on."

Reliance on Public Funding & Level of Concern



51% of respondents reported being **very or extremely concerned** about their organization's financial stability. Small-budget organizations (<\$1M) are the most concerned about and experiencing the largest proportional cuts (median 25-46%), placing them at high risk of collapse.



Organizations with heavy or significant reliance on public funding (31%-60% reliance) face the highest proportional losses and concern levels.

Service Area Impacts

In our sample, the largest share of impacted organizations serve children, youth, and food-insecure families. Nearly 300 organizations cited cuts to children and youth programs, while food security and arts and culture groups also reported above-average median losses—threatening both basic needs and community wellbeing.

Despite the small sample size, the most severe proportional cuts—up to 90%—were reported by organizations focused on advocacy, community organizing, and legal justice. These trends point to the need for targeted, equitable, and sustained funding, especially for nonprofits working at the intersection of direct service and advocacy.

Service Area	Median % M	edian \$ Cut	Average %	Average \$ Cut	Org Counts *Duplicated
Community Organizing & Advocacy	90%	\$500,000	90%	\$500,000	2
Legal & Justice	70%	No data	70%	No data	4
Food Security	30%	\$250,000	30%	\$250,000	45
Children & Youth	20%	\$175,000	25%	\$166,777	286
Health & Wellness	20%	\$175,000	17%	\$175,000	115
Arts & Culture	20%	\$70,000	20%	\$70,000	110
Housing & Shelter	10%	\$300,000	15%	\$286,666	45

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"Children with special needs are losing critical access to therapies, consistency in care, and the safe, nurturing educational environment they rely on daily."

*Respondents could select more than one service area, and dollar data was only included where available. Median cuts help control for extreme outliers; average values show overall trends.

Program Areas Most Impacted

Based on an analysis of open-ended survey responses, several recurring themes emerged regarding programs and services that have already experienced funding cuts as well as those that respondents worry may be at risk. The order presented reflects the frequency with which these themes appeared in the responses. It is important to note, however, that the prominence of certain themes may also reflect the composition of the respondent pool, which includes a strong representation of organizations focused on youth development, education, health, and the arts.

1. Youth Services & Education Programs

After-school, summer camps, mentoring, early learning, and academic support programs are being scaled back or canceled. Respondents cited cuts and risks to federal and state education-linked funding, including AmeriCorps positions and stipends, Title I supports, and DOE enrichment programs. Head Start/Early Head Start was also flagged as uncertain and at-risk, and providers noted that funding instability limits planning and continuity for early learning programs that serve low-income families.



2. Arts, Culture, and Community Engagement

Many small and mid-sized arts and cultural organizations are losing funding tied to state arts councils and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants, resulting in reductions to residencies, exhibitions, youth scholarships, and other programming. These losses have already public events, school-based diminished free education. performances, and artist stipends.



"Funding cuts don't just reduce budgets—they reduce access, opportunity, and stability for the children and families who rely on us. For many of the students we serve, our programs are not extracurricular—they are essential spaces for emotional support, creative expression, access to essential resources, and consistent mentorship"

3. Health & Mental Health Services

Nonprofits providing behavioral health, substance use treatment, HIV prevention/testing, and gender-affirming care reported losing federal and Medicaid-related funding, reducing access to essential health services. Respondents also flagged risks to mental health and suicide prevention programs, health literacy initiatives, and federally supported research programs such as National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants.



4. Food Security

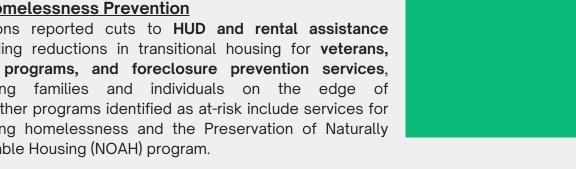
Organizations reported reductions in emergency food assistance, senior meals, and pantry distributions. Additional programs mentioned to be at risk, including SNAP, the National School Lunch Program, the Child Care Food Program, DOE Congregate Meals, and Older Americans Act nutrition services, creating uncertainty for providers serving children, older adults, and families facing food insecurity.

5. Workforce & Economic Development

Respondents reported cuts to small business support programs and reduced access to job training, placement, and reentry services that help youth and adults enter or reenter the workforce. These programs were described as grant-funded (often federal pass-throughs such as AmeriCorps VISTA), but not consistently tied to a single source, with examples including youth stipends, refugee workforce upskilling, and other local initiatives.



Many organizations reported cuts to HUD and rental assistance programs, including reductions in transitional housing for veterans, public housing programs, and foreclosure prevention services, directly impacting families and individuals on the edge of homelessness. Other programs identified as at-risk include services for youth experiencing homelessness and the Preservation of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) program.



"We are seeing an all-time high with more and more families living in their cars. If we had funding, we could set up at night so families could utilize our services .. with the lack of funding coming in we may have to cancel some of days we provide services."

7. Family & Social Services

Respondents reported reductions in **domestic violence and sexual assault services**, **including helplines**, **support groups**, **and family counseling**, which relies on grant funding but were not reported to a specific federal or state program. Respondents also cited losses in workshops for seniors, special needs programming, and family support services such as help with rent, utilities, and food, while warning that other community-based supports remain vulnerable if grant dollars continue to shrink.

8. Immigration Services

Respondents reported the loss of **naturalization**, **refugee resettlement**, **and citizenship programs**, along with cancellations of some children's programs that were only partially reinstated. Other services remain at risk, including immigration legal aid, ESOL classes, refugee workforce upskilling, and FEMA-supported security initiatives, leaving immigrant families uncertain about access to critical support.



Respondents described cuts to **environmental education programs**, including references to the elimination of initiatives supported by EPA Community Change grants. Other efforts mentioned include Zero Waste Miami coalition building, climate apprenticeship programs, and access to federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars (Solar for All), raising concerns about the sector's ability to sustain local climate and environmental initiatives.

10. General Operating & Staffing

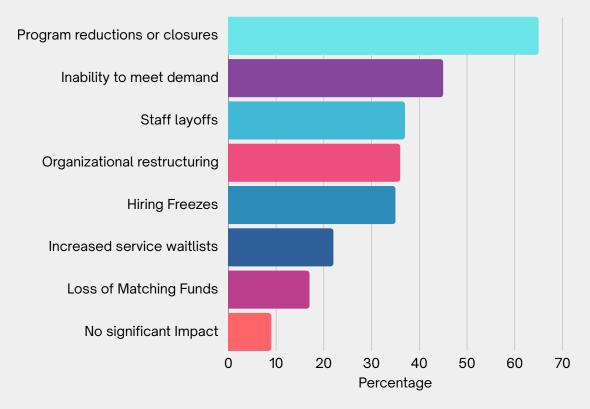
Many organizations reported **layoffs, eliminated staff positions, and deferred compensation;** with some warning they are at risk of closing entirely without replacement funding. Others noted that reliance on unstable federal pass-through grants puts all programs and administrative functions at risk, threatening the long-term capacity of nonprofits to deliver core services to their communities.

"Families are facing greater challenges affording food and housing as costs rise, while immigration concerns are creating significant fear"

"Without reliable public support, sustaining partnerships and service continuity is becoming increasingly difficult".

Organizational Impacts of Public Funding Cuts

Nonprofits reported broad disruptions stemming from recent or expected funding reductions.



"We are one of many non-profits quietly cutting staff and programs, but not being public with the information because we do not want to look unstable and jeopardize the few funding sources that remain"



Organizational Impacts of Public Funding Cuts

Nonprofits reported widespread disruptions due to actual or anticipated public funding reductions, with the following core impacts based on qualitative feedback.



Service Delivery

Canceled or scaled-back programs, delayed launches, reduced operating hours, and increased waitlists.



Staffing

Staff layoffs, burn out, hiring freezes, salary cuts, and the elimination of positions.



Client Access

Loss of benefits like Medicaid and SNAP is increasing demand on nonprofits, while many clients now lack coverage for essential services like therapy, housing, and basic needs.



Financial Risk

Many nonprofits are dipping into reserves, downsizing, or relying on unpaid staff — with some at risk of closure due to lost grants or delayed reimbursements.





"Our team members are doing 2-3 jobs, working at high paces and living in a county with tremendous increase in cost of living".



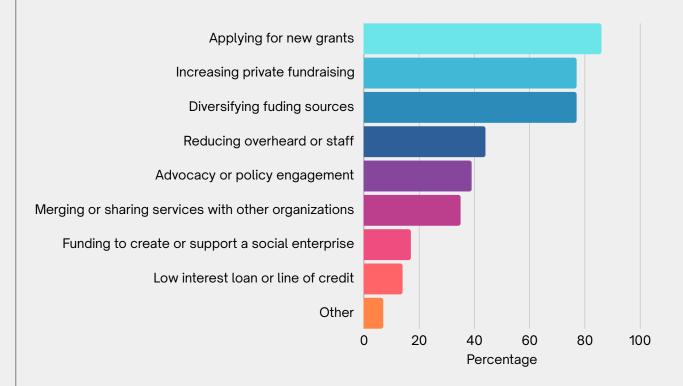
Ripple Effects

Cuts to partner organizations are disrupting cross-sector work, weakening shared initiatives and systems-change efforts across the community.



Response Strategies

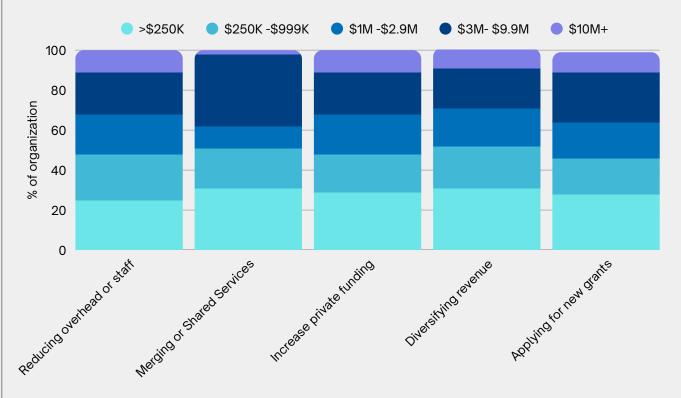
Nonprofits are responding to funding cuts by **diversifying** revenue streams, increasing private fundraising, and pursuing new grant opportunities.



"We're doing everything we can to keep this program going. That means being innovative, building new partnerships, and stretching every dollar. But the truth is, we can't do it alone."

Response Strategies by Operating Budget Size*

- Smaller-budget organizations report higher use of fundraising and costreduction strategies in response to cuts.
- Larger-budget organizations report lower use of these strategies, potentially reflecting existing financial buffers or diversified funding.





Organizations with smaller budgets report taking more immediate action— especially fundraising and cost-cutting measures—in response to funding uncertainty.

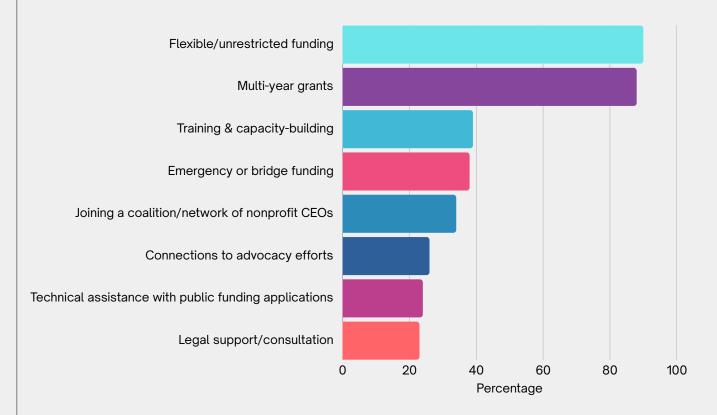




*Based on self-reported strategies used by organizations grouped by annual operating budget. Percentages reflect the proportion of organizations in each group selecting each strategy.

Support Needed

Organizations are calling for **unrestricted funding**, **emergency bridge grants**, and **capacity-building support**.



"We've tried our best to show a position of strength, but the time is now for us to start letting our community know that we need help."

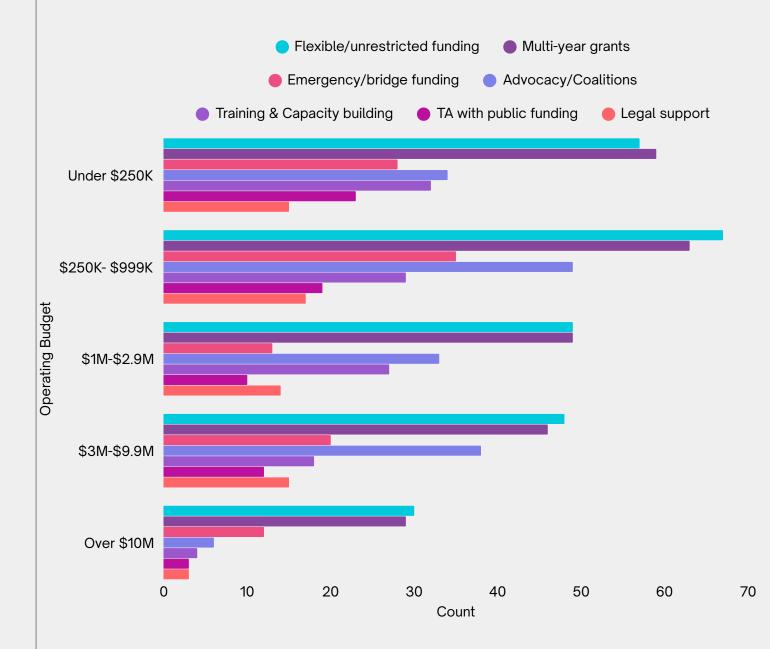


"Now is the time for multi-year grants. It's time to go deep. It would also be beneficial for foundations to introduce grantees to other potential funders."

While the outcomes of our work are often celebrated, too few funders are investing in the infrastructure that makes it possible: our people.

Support Needed by Operating Budget Size

Organizations across all budget sizes prioritize flexible/unrestricted funding and multi-year grant commitments. Smaller budgets also emphasize training and capacity-building, while larger budgets show interest in advocacy connections and coalition participation.



Support Needed

Nonprofits emphasized a strong need for **flexible**, **sustainable**, **and timely support** to respond effectively to public funding cuts. Based on qualitative feedback, their needs fell into several recurring themes:



Increased and Unrestricted Funding

Many organizations cited the urgent need for **flexible**, **multi-year**, **and emergency funding** to keep services running and avoid layoffs.



Diversified and Private Funding Sources

Organizations are exploring **private donors**, **foundations**, **and corporate partnerships** to reduce dependency on public funds.



Advocacy and Policy Support

Several respondents emphasized the need for **legal guidance and advocacy** to navigate policy changes and executive orders.



Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Many requested **grant writing help, shared services, and training** for staff to improve long-term sustainability. Nonprofits also expressed interest in peer learning opportunities and platforms to exchange tools and strategies.



Improved Communication from Funders

Nonprofits want more timely and transparent information about funding changes (real or anticipated) to avoid disruption. Funders should proactively share upcoming shifts in funding priorities to give grantees and potential grantees time to prepare and respond.



Community Collaboration and Collective Response

Organizations encouraged **collaborative efforts**, **shared infrastructure**, **and joint fundraising strategies**.



"This is a quickly changing landscape day-to-day, it would be helpful to know from local funders if they anticipate changes to their giving. For example, will funders need to eliminate certain categories? Will they shift funding priorities?"

Considerations for Action for Funders

Based on what we heard from nonprofit leaders, the following considerations reflect recurring themes and opportunities for philanthropic partners to support sector stability. These are offered in the spirit of dialogue, learning, and continued collaboration with the funding community.

Expand Access to Flexible and Sustained Support

- Provide unrestricted or general operating support to stabilize services and staffing.
- Offer multi-year commitments to allow for long-term planning and reduce uncertainty.
- Prioritize emergency and bridge funding to prevent disruption.

Invest in Organizational Resilience & Capacity

- Invest in technical assistance, especially around grant writing, compliance, and financial planning.
- Fund training and leadership development to strengthen organizational resilience.
- Encourage shared services models to reduce overhead and extend capacity.

Improve Communication and Transparency

- Be transparent about grantmaking shifts being considered and communicate changes to grantees in advance.
- Share timely updates on funding timelines, priorities, and expectations.

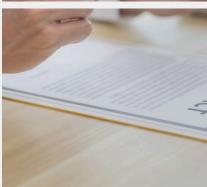
Support Policy Navigation and Sector Voice

- Support coalition-building and collective advocacy efforts to protect essential programs.
- Provide legal consultation and policy briefings to help nonprofits navigate changing regulations.

Strengthen Collaboration Across the Ecosystem

- Encourage partnerships among nonprofits, funders, and public entities to coordinate responses.
- Provide platforms to share data, insights, and strategies across the ecosystem.





Challenges & Limitations

While the survey provides important insights into how public funding cuts are affecting South Florida nonprofits, there are several limitations to consider. All data is self-reported, which may introduce bias or inconsistencies in how impacts were assessed. Some organizations may have under- or over-reported due to uncertainty around pending funding decisions.

The survey allowed multiple responses in some questions (e.g., program focus areas), which may have led to inflated totals. In a few cases, duplicate entries occurred, as the survey was distributed through overlapping networks. However, steps were taken to eliminate duplicative entries. Some questions were not mandatory, resulting in missing data that limits completeness in certain sections.

Finally, the survey reflects a snapshot in time; since the collection period ended, new developments—such as county budget decisions—may have altered the funding landscape for many organizations.



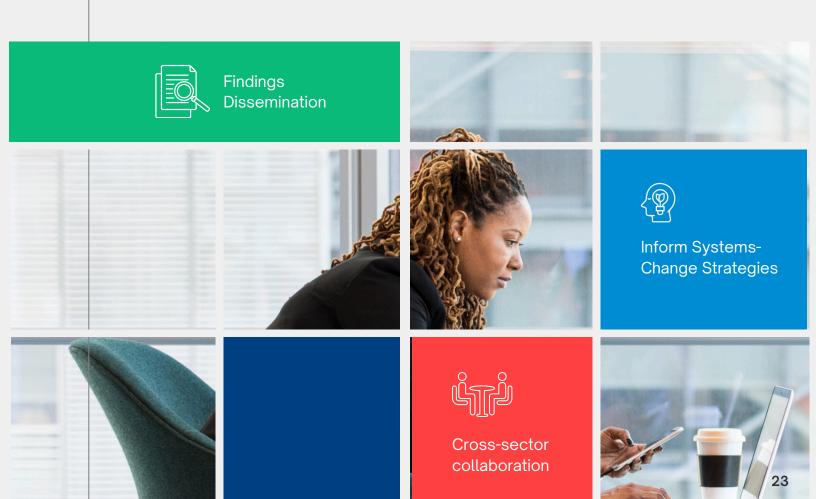
For additional resources to help nonprofits navigate evolving budgetary issues and monitor policy developments, see Appendix C.

Conclusions & Next Steps

The data in this report is a snapshot of a sector under strain but also one actively adapting. Nonprofits are doing everything they can to meet rising demand with fewer resources. Now, it's time for a coordinated, collective response. These findings underscore that smaller nonprofits and those serving youth, families, and marginalized communities are at highest risk — and should guide how funders and policymakers target support.

What's Next:

- PhilanthropyMiami will share this report widely with funders, nonprofits, and civic leaders.
- Cross-sector convenings will be hosted to align strategies, identify solutions, and elevate community voices.
- This report will hopefully inform future funding strategies, advocacy efforts, and systems-change initiatives across South Florida.



Appendix A: Programs and Funding Sources Mentioned by Survey Respondents*

Theme	Programs Mentioned	Funding Sources AmeriCorps (VISTA, stipends), DOE Congregate Meals, Title I, MDCPS	
Youth & Education	After-school, summer camps, mentoring, sports programs, college tours, FAFSA/aid scholarship support, teaching residencies, VISTA placements		
Arts & Culture	Theater productions, residencies, arts education, music education, dance festivals, cultural programs, artist stipends	National Endowment of the Arts, State of Florida Arts Council, MDCPS (education programs)	
Health & Wellness	Mental health therapy, HIV testing/prevention, substance use treatment, therapy for special needs, gender-affirming care, VOCA-funded services	Medicaid, Medicare, VOCA, NIH research, DOH, Federal Mental Health Block Grant, STARS program	
Food Security	Food pantries, fresh food for seniors, free farmers markets, school-based food programs (school lunch, afterschool, summer meals)	SNAP/EBT, National School Lunch Program, Child Care Food Program, DOEA Congregate Meals	
Housing & Homelessness	Transitional housing, foreclosure prevention, youth homelessness support, NOAH, energy assistance	HUD (CDBG, HOME, vouchers, public housing), LIHEAP, FEMA (security/resettlement grants)	
Workforce & Economic Development	Small business programs, apprenticeships, stipends, reentry/job placement, refugee upskilling	AmeriCorps VITSTA Employer Engagement Program (federal grant)	
Family & Social Services	Domestic violence & sexual assault services, parenting workshops tied to TPP/PREP, childcare subsidies, wraparound family services, senior workshops	VOCA, TPP (Teen Pregnancy Prevention), PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program)	
Immigration Services	Refugee resettlement, citizenship/naturalization, ESOL, immigration legal services	HUD (refugee resettlement), DHS (naturalization)	
Environment & Climate	Environmental education, climate apprenticeships, Zero Waste Miami, coalition building	EPA Community Change, GGRF (Solar for All, NCIF, CCIA)	

Appendix B:

Policy & Funding Program Reference Guide

Survey respondents cited several federal, state, and local funding streams that are being cut or are at risk.

AmeriCorps

Provides stipends and placements for service members, teaching fellows, and community volunteers.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

Federal climate financing program (Solar for All, NCIF, CCIA) designed to expand renewable energy access in low-income communities.

HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Funds affordable housing, rental assistance, transitional housing, and homelessness prevention services.

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Helps families with energy costs such as electricity and air conditioning.

Medicaid & Medicare

Federal health coverage programs that reimburse nonprofits for care to low-income, elderly, and disabled populations.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) & Child Care Food Program (CCFP)

Federal nutrition programs providing free/reduced meals to children in schools and early learning centers.

NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) & State Arts Funding

Support arts education, residencies, performances, and cultural programming.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget and ensure nutritious food access.

TPP (Teen Pregnancy Prevention) & PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program)

Federal programs that fund sexual health and family education for youth and parents.

VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Grants

Federal program/State-administered funding for victim services, including domestic violence hotlines, sexual assault response, and trauma recovery programs.

Appendix C: Resources for Monitoring Public Funding

The following resources can help nonprofit leaders track evolving policy and budgetary changes:

Tracking & Policy Resources

National and state organizations that monitor budget changes, publish policy analysis, and provide timely updates on funding issues.

- AmeriCorps americorps.gov
- Florida Policy Institute floridapolicy.org
- Florida Nonprofit Alliance (FNA) flnonprofits.org
- Miami-Dade County Budget Office miamidade.gov/budget
- National Association of Counties (NACo) naco.org
- National Council of Nonprofits councilofnonprofits.org
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) arts.gov
- Social Current social-current.org
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food & Nutrition Service fns.usda.gov
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) hud.gov

Local Partners & Conveners

South Florida-based organizations that keep nonprofits informed through convenings, advocacy, and shared updates.

- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce miamichamber.org
- Nonprofit Executive Alliance nonprofitExecAlliance.org
- PhilanthropyMiami philanthropymiami.org
- Radical Partners radical.partners
- The Children's Trust the children strust.org
- The Miami Foundation (TMF) miamifoundation.org
- United Way Miami unitedwaymiami.org



Call to Action

This survey and report was developed by PhilanthropyMiami as a collaborative sector snapshot, elevating nonprofit voices during a period of funding uncertainty. We extend our gratitude to the nonprofit leaders who shared their perspectives during this critical moment for our sector.

We also acknowledge our community partners, whose shared commitment to transparency and collaboration made this effort possible. Together, we can ensure that nonprofit voices are not only heard but also shape a stronger, more equitable funding ecosystem.

Funders, policymakers, and partners must move in step with nonprofits. We must act together with urgency, equity, and trust to stabilize the organizations that serve our communities

