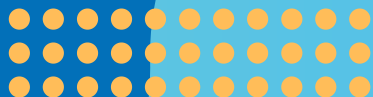


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ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

SAVE THE CBO
GRANTS PROGRAM



PURPOSE

This toolkit is designed to help nonprofit leaders, staff, board members, and community advocates speak out against the proposed elimination of Miami-Dade County's Community-Based Organization (CBO) Grants Program in the FY 2025–26 budget. Our collective voice is critical to protecting vital services for the most vulnerable. We encourage messaging that is respectful, solutions-oriented, and emphasizes partnership.



WHY THIS MATTERS

While this toolkit focuses on the proposed elimination of the \$16.5 million CBO Grants Program, it's important to understand that the FY 2025–26 Miami-Dade County budget includes an estimated **\$40 million in total cuts to nonprofit funding**.

In addition to CBO grants, these reductions include:

- **Arts & Cultural Grants***
- **Mom & Pop Small Business Grants**
- **Eviction prevention and legal services**
- **Immigrant support and integration programs**
- **Violence prevention and youth programs**

*The proposed FY 2025–26 Miami-Dade County budget eliminates **General Fund support** to the County's Arts & Cultural Grants Program, a loss of approximately **\$12.8 million**. This funding previously supported hundreds of nonprofit arts organizations of all sizes, particularly small and mid-sized groups that rely on flexible public funding

These programs are core to the County's safety net and community well-being. The nonprofit sector delivers trusted, cost-effective services that would cost significantly more if handled through government systems alone.

As you advocate for the restoration of the CBO program, consider lending your voice to the broader conversation:

- **Acknowledge the collective impact of these cuts.**
- **Emphasize that nonprofits are infrastructure.**
- **Include the arts as part of your messaging around nonprofit**
- **Include the arts as part of your messaging around nonprofit funding cuts, and collaborate with groups like Miami-Dade Arts Action Alliance to amplify impact.**
- **Encourage collaboration across sectors to ensure residents do not lose access to critical services.**

Together, we can make the case that investing in nonprofits is investing in Miami-Dade's future.



SAMPLE EMAIL TO THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

Subject: Restore CBO Funding to Protect Our Community

Dear [Commissioner Name] / Mayor Levine Cava,

I am writing as a [nonprofit leader/community member] deeply concerned about the proposed elimination of the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Grants Program in the FY 2025–26 County budget. This program provides more than \$15 million in critical funding to nonprofits that serve seniors, children, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, and families in crisis.

We appreciate the County's longstanding partnership with the nonprofit sector, and we understand the fiscal challenges ahead. However, we urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that preserve this vital public-private partnership. ***As a CBO-funded organization, we [insert short example of impact – e.g., provide 500 meals a week, serve 1,200 seniors annually, offer trauma recovery services to survivors, etc.].***

Nonprofits are among the most impactful and cost-effective partners in delivering essential services. For every dollar invested in our work, the community sees a multiplier in return — through reduced emergency costs, improved health outcomes, and strengthened community safety nets. Eliminating this funding will create ripple effects that burden other systems and leave vulnerable residents without support.

Please stand with Miami-Dade's most vulnerable and ensure this funding is reinstated.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title / Organization / Address / Phone]

PERSONAL IMPACT SCRIPT TEMPLATE

Use this script to speak at public meetings, record a video testimonial, or craft a personal story post. Customize it to reflect your organization's mission, services, and community impact.

Hello, my name is [Name] and I am [your title] at [Organization].

We are a proud partner in delivering essential services to the residents of Miami-Dade County. Through the support of the CBO Grants Program, **we [insert brief description of your core services – e.g., provide free legal support to immigrants, deliver home meals to seniors, offer trauma-informed care for children, etc.].**

In the last year alone, we **[insert measurable impact – e.g., served 1,500 residents, prevented 200 families from eviction, provided 3,000 meals, etc.].** These services are made possible because of the County's investment in our work.

The proposed elimination of this funding would be devastating. Without it, we may have to **[describe likely impact – e.g., reduce services, cut staff, turn away clients, shut down programs].** That means real people including seniors, children, veterans, immigrants will be left without support. We respectfully urge the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners to restore CBO funding.

Thank you.



CALL SCRIPT

Commissioner/Madam Mayor, my name is [Your Name], and I'm a [role/title] with [Organization].

I'm calling to respectfully urge you to restore the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Grants Program in the upcoming County budget. We understand difficult decisions must be made, but eliminating these funds would deeply impact essential services for vulnerable residents. Nonprofits like ours are key partners in delivering cost-effective, trusted services. For every dollar the County invests in us, we amplify that through volunteers, donations, and deep community trust. Please support maintaining this vital funding. Thank you.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Hashtags: #StandWithCBOs #ProtectMiamiNonprofits

Twitter / Threads / LinkedIn:

- Miami-Dade has long supported nonprofits as key partners in service delivery. We hope that commitment continues. Let's work together to preserve CBO grant funding. #StandWithCBOs #ProtectMiamiNonprofits
- Nonprofits support youth, seniors, and families in every district. Let's continue the public-private partnership that works. #StandWithCBOs #ProtectMiamiNonprofits

Instagram / Facebook:

- We believe in the power of partnership between Miami-Dade County and the nonprofit sector. The CBO Grants Program has helped us serve thousands. Nonprofits are impactful and cost-effective — help us preserve this critical resource. #StandWithCBOS #ProtectMiamiNonprofits

KEY TALKING POINTS & IMPACT MESSAGING

The CBO Grants Program supports over **\$16.5 million annually** to 150+ local nonprofits delivering essential services.

Nonprofits are **trusted, community-embedded, and highly cost-effective**. Public dollars invested in nonprofits are multiplied through additional philanthropic support, volunteer hours, and efficient delivery models.

Eliminating this funding will result in:

- **Loss of home care and meals for seniors**
- **Closure of youth mental health, mentorship, and afterschool programs**
- **Reduced access to legal aid and integration services for immigrants**
- **Fewer safety net supports for families facing food insecurity, violence, or homelessness**

These cuts may increase downstream public costs in emergency services, shelters, hospitals, and criminal justice.

Philanthropy alone cannot fill this gap. Continued public investment is critical.

We are eager to collaborate on alternative solutions that protect essential services and uphold Miami-Dade's commitment to community partnerships.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Use your voice. Forward this toolkit. Post respectfully. Make the call.
Together, we can preserve critical partnerships and protect our community.

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