

ANNUAL REPORT



www.catalystmiami.org

YEAR
IN REVIEW



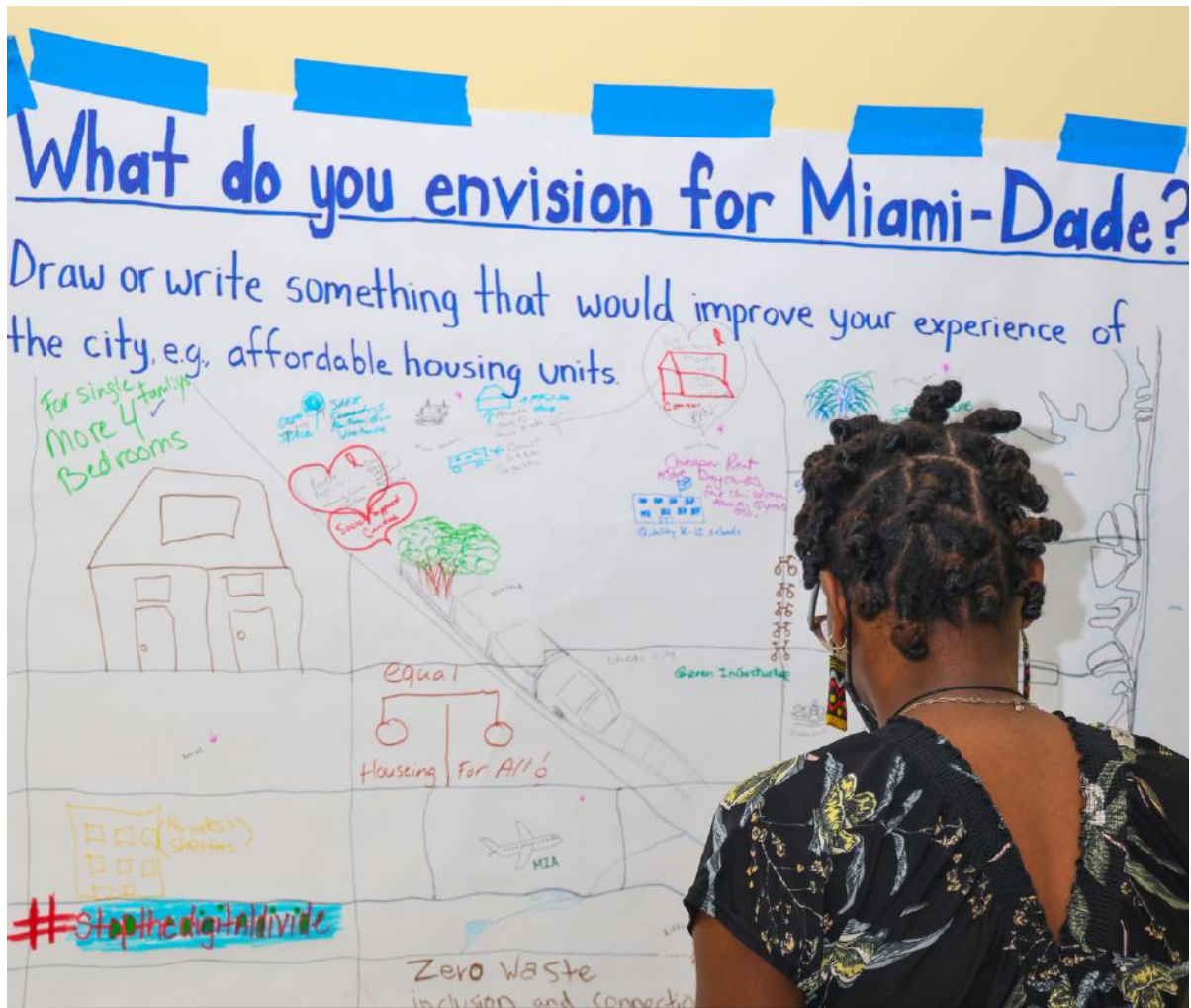


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LETTER FROM OUR CEO

If you are reading this report, then you are likely one of our many donors, staff, board members, partners, and community leaders to whom I owe immense gratitude.

Thanks to your support in 2024, our programs and services benefited **16,532** community members and provided **over \$64M** in direct financial benefits and community-wide policy wins.

We all know that Miami faces a combination of existential challenges: we are “ground-zero” in the United States for the climate crisis, we have the most unaffordable housing market in the country, and over half of our population lives and works below the poverty line.

In light of these obstacles, 2024 was a year of alignment towards our core purpose at Catalyst Miami: to establish solutions *with* frontline communities so that everyday Miamians can choose to stay and live well in the process.

Although we employ a variety of strategies, our work centers on two common themes, economic and climate justice. **This means building a Miami where all people can afford to live well for generations to come.**

We were blessed to receive unrestricted funding in support of this purpose, including through the founding members of our Catalysts for Change annual giving program, which launched in 2024, as well as through a \$2M investment from Mackenzie Scott.

We also hosted our Be the Catalyst Summit (formerly known as Poverty Solutions Summit), which brought thought leaders from all over the country to Miami to share solutions to key community issues.

In the year to come, we are ever grateful for your partnership. We anticipate tumultuous times, which will challenge us, but also give us the greatest opportunities for making leaps towards positive social change.

With Gratitude,



Zelalem Adefris

Chief Executive Officer

Reinstating Critical Transit in Overtown

Eliminated in 2023, the 211 bus circulator was a critical transit route for community mobility, connecting Overtown’s seniors to the neighborhood’s few grocery stores, doctor’s offices, and pharmacies. By hosting **12 community meetings** and elevating the **voices of over 60 community members** to Miami-Dade County and City of Miami officials, our Overtown Community Champions won a partial reinstatement of the 211 bus circulator. They are continuing their activism to improve service and extend circulation times.



“I felt it was important for me to advocate for the 211, because I am an elderly person myself and I've seen the sadness on my elderly neighbors’ faces when they have to ask for a ride, ‘Could you please

take me to get groceries?’” Now that the 211 is back, you see them smiling when they talk about it, ‘I rode the 211, and got to Winn Dixie!’ — **Ms. Debra Davis**

Climate Ready Miami

Catalyst Miami played a crucial role in ensuring that underserved communities will benefit from Miami-Dade County’s South Florida Climate Ready Tech Hub. This **\$19.5M initiative** will develop and scale technologies for climate adaptation and mitigation. It is projected to create 23,000 new green-union jobs over the next five years, with 15,000 targeted for underserved communities.

2024 IN

Expanding Healthcare across Florida

We co-launched Florida Decides Healthcare — a ballot initiative to **expand Medicaid to 1.4M Floridians**. The campaign is now in the process of collecting petitions to be allowed on the 2026 ballot. Lend your support [below](#).



Advocating for Public Housing Improvements

In January, [Razing Liberty Square](#) aired nationally on PBS. This documentary shed light on community concerns surrounding Miami’s Liberty Square housing redevelopment. As a member of the Impact Campaign for Razing Liberty Square coalition, we helped organize visits between the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava, and impacted residents to resolve issues such as mold and leaks in the new units. As a result of our advocacy efforts, Miami-Dade County is establishing a new Resident Relocation team to better support public housing residents and respond to the unease around community displacement.

Innovations in Cohort-Based Financial Education

This year we launched a number of cohort-based financial education products that allow us to reach hundreds more community members.

These include our Financial Literacy Pilot in partnership with Miami-Dade County, our Worker-Owned Business Financial Fitness Course with the Miami Workers Center and Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida, and our Financial Education for Union Members with United Teachers of Dade. We will expand these initiatives to more communities, partners, and employers in 2025.

Improved Leadership Program Curricula

We added new modules to our Leaders in Grassroots Health Transformation (LIGHT) curriculum to incorporate information on advocacy opportunities around Medicaid expansion and eliminating medical debt. We also held joint sessions between our Housing Equity, Advocacy, & Leadership (HEAL) and Community Leadership on the Environment, Advocacy, & Resilience (CLEAR) programs. Through these joint sessions, program participants are able to connect across cohorts and learn about issues at the intersections of housing and climate justice— including climate gentrification, flooding and sea level rise, and food justice.

REVIEW

Supporting Small Businesses & Worker-Owners

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, yet they lack adequate support to reach their full potential.

This year, we incorporated four worker-owned cooperatives: the Miami Interpreters Cooperative – a language justice interpretation co-op, Mingaco– a mental health services co-op, Miami Cleaning Cooperative (MCC)-- a residential and commercial cleaning co-op, and Cienfuegos– a bookstore and coffee shop. We have also developed a network of cooperatively-owned service providers, including accountants, marketers, and website developers, to serve the businesses we support. In addition, we published two reports that shed light on the challenges that Miami-Dade County’s small business owners face, as well as potential solutions.

Integrating Service Delivery and Policy Change

We believe that the most successful policies are informed by the communities who are most directly impacted. In this spirit, we launched our Secondary Intake Initiative, where every new direct services client receives an invitation to engage in our policy & advocacy initiatives. So far, 58% of contacted clients have expressed interest in getting involved.



Alumni from programs and services connect at our monthly [Miami Our Way](#) gathering

IMPACT

Catalyst Miami takes a multifaceted, people-led approach to achieve our vision of a just society where everyone can lead healthy, prosperous, self-determined lives.

Our communities know what we need, and meaningful change happens when communities affected by injustice can transform the systems that shape our daily lives.

Together with frontline communities, we work to establish solutions so that everyday Miamians can choose to stay and live well in the process.

Through our focus areas of economic and climate justice, we are **building a Miami where all people can afford to live well for generations to come.**



Be the Catalyst Summit attendees connecting with Catalyst Miami staff



Catalyst to the Capital Fellows meet with Florida State Lawmakers

To amplify our efforts in other areas, we made the decision to sunset a few of our programs.

Catalyst Candidate Institute (CCI) launched in 2021 and has provided critical information to 200 community members interested in **running for local office**. We are working with our partners to establish a new home for CCI.

Our Neighbors to Leaders Fellowship program supported our Leadership Program alumni with funding and technical assistance to implement their solutions towards a thriving Miami-Dade County. Over the last 6 years we **supported 35 fellows and made \$52,000 in community investments.**

Since 2014, Lending Circles provided a **total loan value of almost \$500,000 for 320 clients**, collectively helping them save \$90,830 in interest charges and fees. Going forward we are partnering with Self Help Credit Union to offer a new credit-builder loan product to meet this need.

\$186,268 was invested in 3,496 student accounts, including a significant increase in parent contributions—surpassing the total deposits from all previous years combined



209
Small business clients & cooperative entrepreneurs served

12,450
Youth and parents received financial education through Future Bound Miami

“I wish this program had been available for my four older kids when they were in Kindergarten. I was able to sign up my 5-year old son, and next year, I will sign up my youngest one, who is now 3 and still in VPK. They are little, and are not thinking about this, but I hope they grow up and succeed. I want them to go to college because it will prepare them for bigger steps in life.” — Ms. Anderson

1,027
Individuals accessed health care coverage and public benefits

160
Households receiving free energy saving attic insulation through the Green Corridor program

16,532

Community members supported in 2024

Catalyst Miami is the **only** local nonprofit actively providing Dept. of Children and Families appeals advocacy alongside public benefits enrollment.

On average, our participating households saved \$59 on their monthly energy bill

In 2024, our coaches favorably resolved **23 appeals** that resulted in the restoration of Medicaid and/or food assistance, impacting 61 household members.

\$1,090,541

In direct financial benefits to **1,589 households** secured through Prosperity Services

\$63,400,000

Invested by the county in climate justice, equitable transit, housing justice, libraries, and cultural arts, as advocated by **1,139** community members involved in our organizing efforts.



“I’m always trying to figure out ways to progress and grow. I’m currently working to expand my business as a hairstylist, so I can build generational wealth for my daughter, create more opportunities for her, and plan for retirement. She’s 12 and before you know it, she’ll be in college. I’m proud of myself for improving my credit score and money management with the help of Catalyst Miami.” — Monique Pierre

TENNY-ANN DANDY



CLEAR alumni and former facilitator Tenny-Ann Dandy worked with Catalyst Miami on a presentation for the Chisholm Legacy Project about water and Black Liberation. This presentation will live in perpetuity as part of Chisholm Legacy Project's climate justice online certification program.

We also supported Tenny-Ann in implementing her initiative, Toothpick, a manual waste management and sorting station for schools to improve recycling practices. Her initiative centers on a community-based approach to program design, education, awareness, and neighborhood clean-ups.

NATACHA ILARION

After participating in Catalyst Miami's coaching services, Natacha launched her consulting business, specializing in helping small businesses secure government contracts. The coaching process equipped Natacha with the tools and confidence to navigate this specialized field, enabling her to secure her first consulting client.

Building on her early success, Natacha designed and hosted her first workshop, "Introduction to Government Contracting," providing small business owners clear, practical steps and expert advice to help them secure government contracts. Her efforts have opened new growth opportunities for these entrepreneurs while establishing her as a trusted authority in government contracting. This year, Natacha was awarded over \$100,000 in government contracts, demonstrating her expertise and impact in this field.



IN LOVING MEMORY MICHAEL CLARKSON

Little Haiti activist Michael Clarkson joined Catalyst Miami in 2016 as part of our inaugural CLEAR cohort. Over the years, his ongoing feedback has helped improve our curriculum, which he often likened to the trainings he participated in as a young member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the Civil Rights Era.

Michael emphasized that the most important thing in this work is that we make tangible on-the-ground change for and with our communities. Michael's CLEAR fellowship project blossomed into the incredible organizations that are now Konscious Kontractors and Ti Ayiti Preparedness and Relief Institution (TAPARI). They have provided disaster relief, free landscaping, neighborhood clean-ups, and food distributions to over a thousand Miamians. One goal for CLEAR was to elevate our community members as nationally-recognized leaders in climate justice. Michael exemplified this vision. His work was featured in the NYTimes and he often shared his wisdom alongside County leadership on various panels.

Michael, who was deeply invested, constantly present, always paying attention, and determined to speak out, died this August at age 75. Michael taught us that legacy is about how you mentor others, invest in them, and leave them forever changed and inspired to carry their work forward in a better way.

Thank you Michael, we are honored to carry your legacy forward.

In 2021, we interview Michael for our Story Center. Check it out at stories.catalystmiami.org.

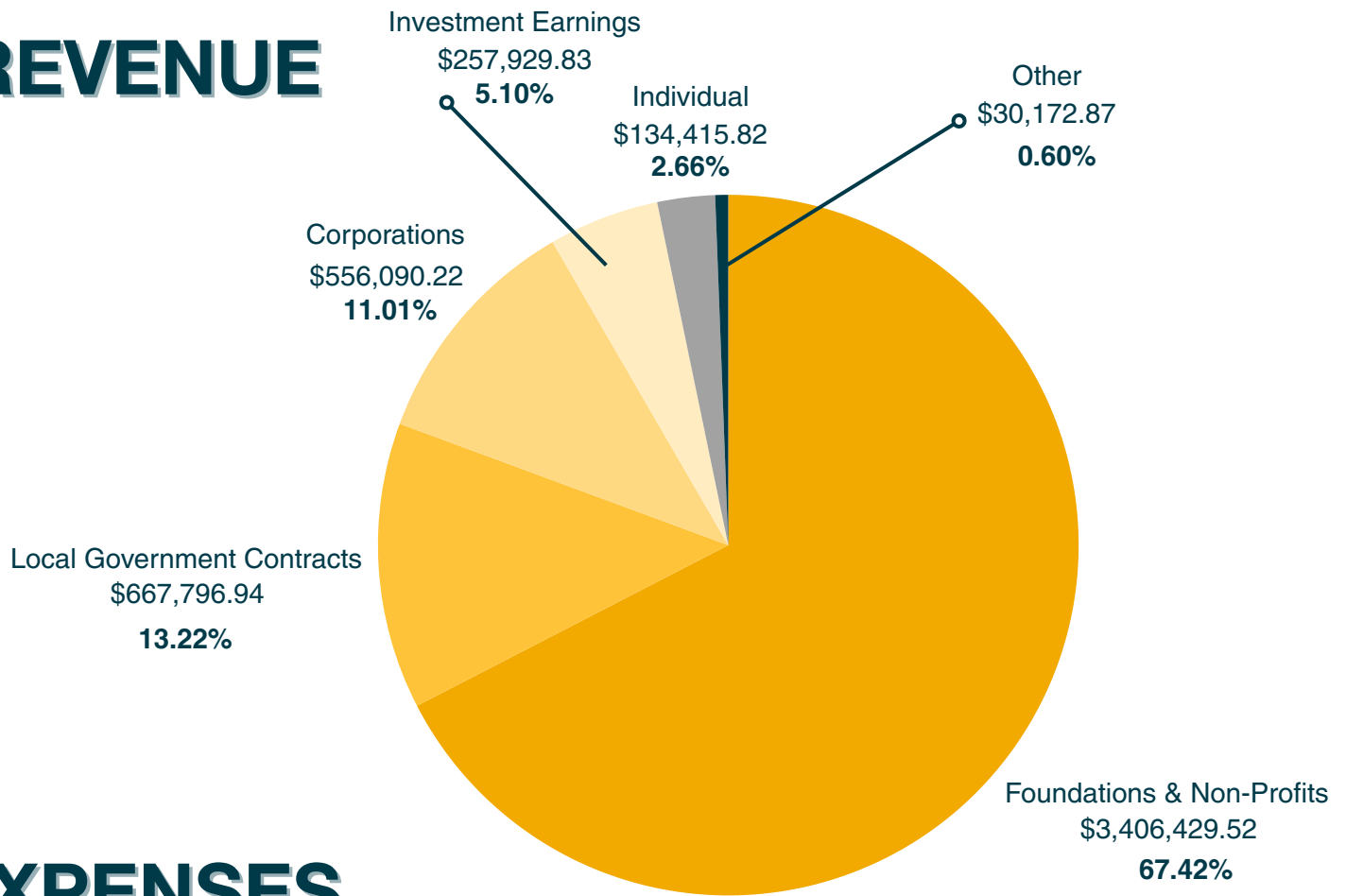


FINANCIALS

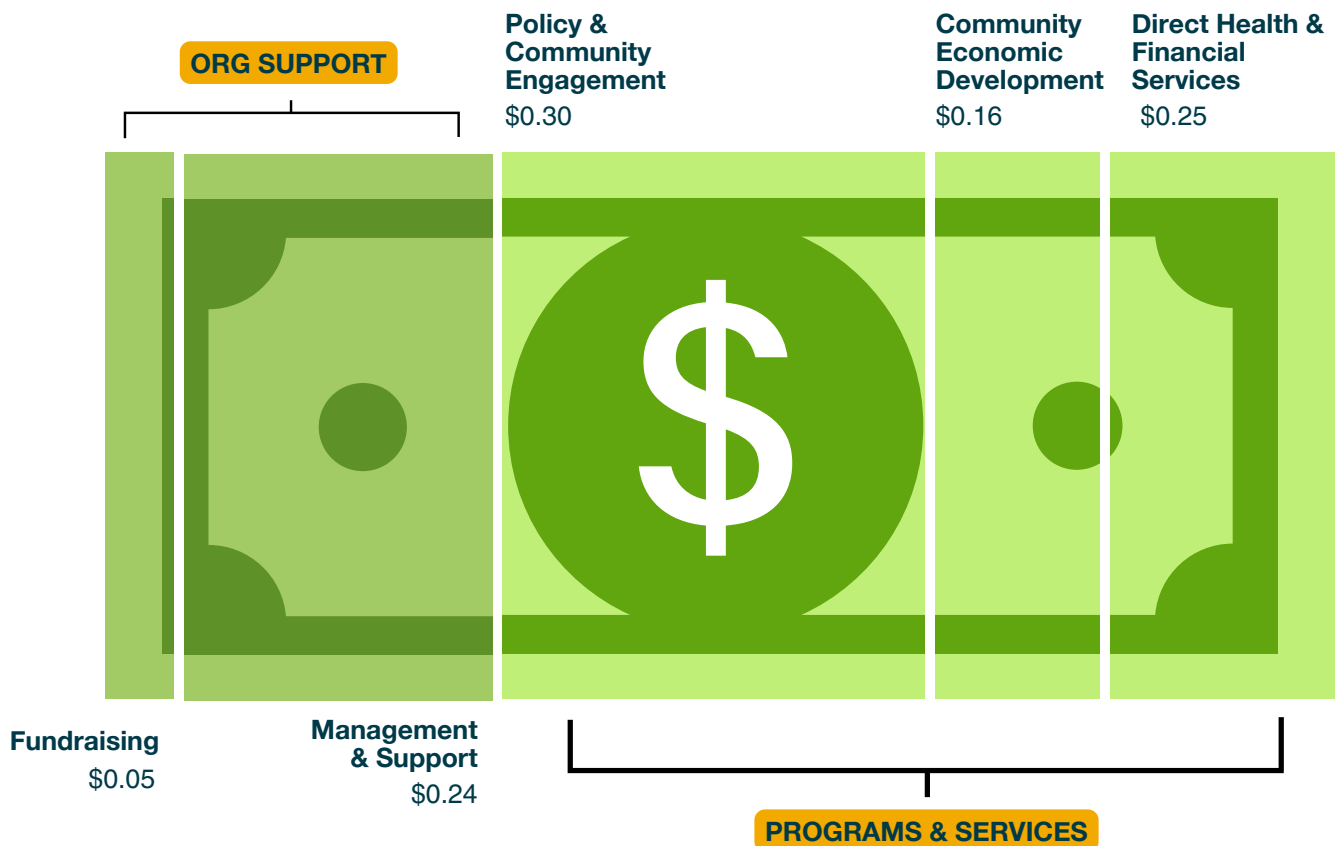
Through the generous contributions of our supporters, Catalyst Miami is enhancing its financial sustainability, allowing us to address the diverse needs of our community with increased effectiveness. Your invaluable support directly contributes to the advancement of equity and systemic change.

	REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions:			
Individuals	\$134,415.82	–	\$134,415.82
Foundations & Nonprofits	\$2,049,023.57	\$15,000.00	\$2,064,023.57
Corporations	\$81,090.22	–	\$81,090.22
Local Government	\$2,000.00	–	\$2,000.00
Grants:			
Foundations & Nonprofits	\$75,722.41	\$1,266,683.54	\$1,342,405.95
Corporations	–	\$475,000.00	\$475,000.00
Contracts:			
Local Government	\$667,796.94	–	\$667,796.94
Investment earnings	\$257,929.83	–	\$257,929.83
Other	\$28,172.87	–	\$28,172.87
Net Assets released from restrictions	\$2,805,137.75	(\$2,805,137.75)	–
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$6,101,289.41	(\$1,048,454.21)	\$5,052,835.20
	EXPENSES		
Program Services:			
Personnel	\$1,962,073.19	–	\$1,962,073.19
Professional Fees	\$419,320.42	–	\$419,320.42
Rent & Storage	\$17,522.13	–	\$17,522.13
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$125,138.26	–	\$125,138.26
Insurance	\$4,167.70	–	\$4,167.70
Utilities and Telecommunications	\$8,364.58	–	\$8,364.58
Depreciation	\$458.03	–	\$458.03
Other Expenses	\$6,007.53	–	\$6,007.53
Conferences and Meetings	\$132,231.02	–	\$132,231.02
Subgrants and Participant Funds	\$224,450.00	–	\$224,450.00
	\$2,899,732.86	–	\$2,899,732.86
Supporting Services:			
Fundraising	\$187,270.60	–	\$187,270.60
Management & Support	\$992,955.71	–	\$992,955.71
Total Expenses	\$4,079,959.17	–	\$4,079,959.17
Change in Net Assets	\$2,021,330.24	(\$1,048,454.21)	\$972,876.03
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$1,182,182.57	\$4,287,227.87	\$5,469,410.44
Net Assets End of Year	\$3,203,512.81	\$3,238,773.66	\$6,442,286.47

REVENUE



EXPENSES



IN GRATITUDE

\$2M+

Yield Giving

\$250k+

Kresge Foundation
Miami-Dade County
The Children's Trust

\$200K+

J.P.Morgan Chase*

\$150K+

Baptist Health South Florida
The Miami Foundation
The Solutions Project

\$100K+

CVS Health
Tides Foundation
United Way Miami

\$50K+

Green Corridor
Target

\$25K+

Allegany Franciscan Ministries
Capital One
Energy Foundation
Florida International University
Florida Voices for Health
Health Foundation of South Florida
Roblee Foundation
Wells Fargo

\$20K+

Clif Family Foundation
Daniella Levine Cava and Robert Cava*
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Seed Commons
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Tim and Mary Casey*

\$15K+

BankUnited*
CBT Technology Institute*
D. Marcus Braswell, Jr.*
Florida Health Justice Project
Justice40 Accelerator
Ken O'Keefe*

\$10K+

Bank of America*
Bradesco Bank*
Citi*
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Science Foundation
NTEN
Santander Bank

\$5K+

Baptist Health South Florida*
Citizens Bank
City National Bank
Community Catalyst
HSBC
Rockefeller Family Fund
TD Charitable Foundation
Winston & Strawn LLP*

\$2K+

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**Catalysts for Change Founding Members*

A SPECIAL THANKS

To our Catalysts for Change Founding Members

In 2024, we launched our annual giving program, Catalysts for Change.

Thanks to the support of our 30 founding members, we raised over \$247K in unrestricted support that will go towards furthering our impact.

Our donors supported our **Be the Catalyst Summit**, which engaged over 100 attendees and 16 speakers from around the country to introduce solutions to Miami such as community-centered real estate development, expanding Medicaid as a way to reduce medical debt by increasing healthcare access, and creating a guaranteed basic income program.

In the Fall, we hosted a Catalysts for Change founding members gathering at the home of our organization's founder, Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, during which we reflected on the past, present, and future of Catalyst Miami.

For more information on how to join Catalysts for Change in 2025, visit catalystmiami.org/change.



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