

HOMELESS TRUST: LEGISLATION



The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust serves as the lead agency for Miami-Dade County's homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and is responsible for the oversight, planning and operations of the entire CoC including:

- ▶ Administering proceeds of a 1-percent (1%) Food and Beverage Tax. Miami-Dade had the first dedicated funding source for homelessness in the United States – a unique 1-percent Food and Beverage Tax, which is foundational to the funding of the Homeless Trust today.
- ▶ Implementing the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan: Priority Home, which provides a framework for preventing and ending homelessness in Miami-Dade County.
- ▶ Serving as the collaborative applicant for federal and state funding opportunities.
- ▶ Administering grants and overseeing operations and fiscal activities for over 120 housing and services programs operated by more than 20 competitively selected non-profit providers and government entities.
- ▶ Managing Miami-Dade County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the local technology system used to collect client-level data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.
- ▶ Developing policy and serving in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners on issues involving homelessness.
- ▶ Oversee and manage the bi-annual point-in-time homeless census.

HISTORY

In the early 1990s, more than 8,000 people were camping on the streets, sidewalks and underpasses of Miami-Dade County. Independent non-profits were overwhelmed, and there was little coordination between agencies serving homeless

households. In 1992, then Governor Lawton Chiles appointed leaders to a Governor's Commission on Homelessness. The commission was led by former Knight Ridder chairman, Miami Herald publisher, and longtime Miami resident, Alvah Chapman. Mr. Chapman, along with many other influential thought-leaders, businessmen and elected officials, came together and recommended three (3) key activities be pursued to address the community's needs:

- ▶ Pursue a dedicated source of funding/private sector funding
- ▶ Create a body with diverse representation to implement plan
- ▶ Research best practices to address homelessness and develop goals for implementation

FOOD & BEVERAGE TAX

The Governor's Task Force pursued and secured a one-percent Food & Beverage Tax (F&B Tax). Approved in 1992, the enabling legislation for the Homeless and Domestic Violence F&B Tax became the first dedicated source of funding for homelessness of its kind in the country. Eighty-five percent (85%) of funds go toward preventing and ending homelessness; 15-percent is allocated to the construction and operation of domestic violence centers and is overseen by the Domestic Violence Oversight Board.

This tax is collected on all food and beverage sales in restaurants that gross more than \$400,000 a year and are licensed by the State of Florida to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, except for hotels and motels. The tax is collected throughout Miami-Dade County, with the exception of facilities in Miami Beach, Surfside and Bal Harbour. The levying of the tax required the creation of a community plan. The Homeless Trust Board created by county ordinance is responsible for the implementation of the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan: Priority Home.

As a result of the CoC's work, under the leadership of the Homeless Trust, unsheltered homelessness in Miami-Dade has gone from more than 8,000 people to a little more than 1,000 individuals. Currently, the Homeless Trust has more than 8,000 beds/units in its Housing Inventory Count dedicated to serving persons who are homeless and formerly homeless, and access to more than 3,500 additional referrals and set-asides through partnerships with four (4) area Public Housing Agencies.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

In line with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Homeless Trust views the local homeless response as a coordinated system rather than a collection of individual programs operating independently in our community. As such, we measure our system's performance collectively, in addition to analyzing performance by specific projects and project types.

LEADERSHIP

The Homeless Trust, an agency of Miami-Dade County, is led by a 27-member Board of Trustees that includes representation from the municipal and business community, elected officials, formerly homeless persons, religious leaders and homeless advocates, among others. For over 26 years, Ronald L. Book, a lawyer specializing in government affairs, has continuously served as a committed volunteer member and leader of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust board and committees, and currently serves as the Chairman of the Board.

BUDGET

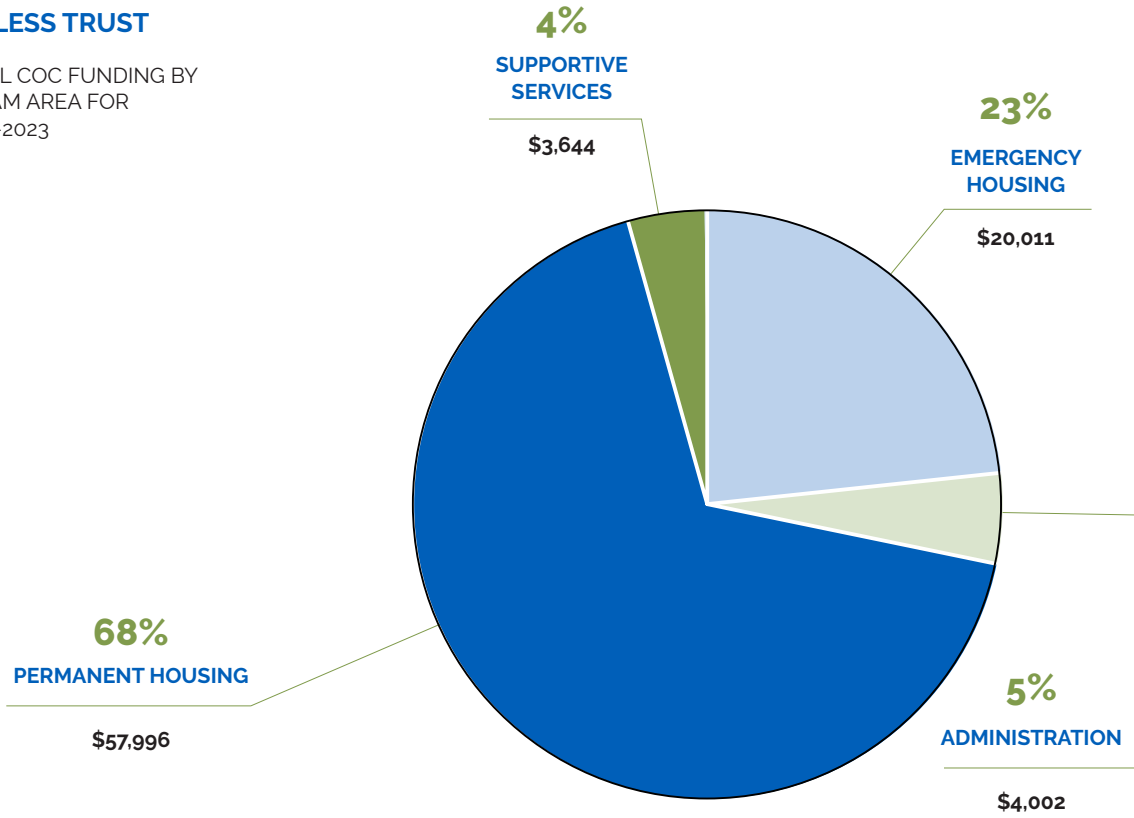
The Trust Board oversees a budget of more than \$83 million, which includes local, state and federal funding.

¹ Florida Statute 212.0306

² https://library.municode.com/fl/miami-dade_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH2AD_ARTLIXMIDECOHO-TR_S2-751CRMIDECOHOTR

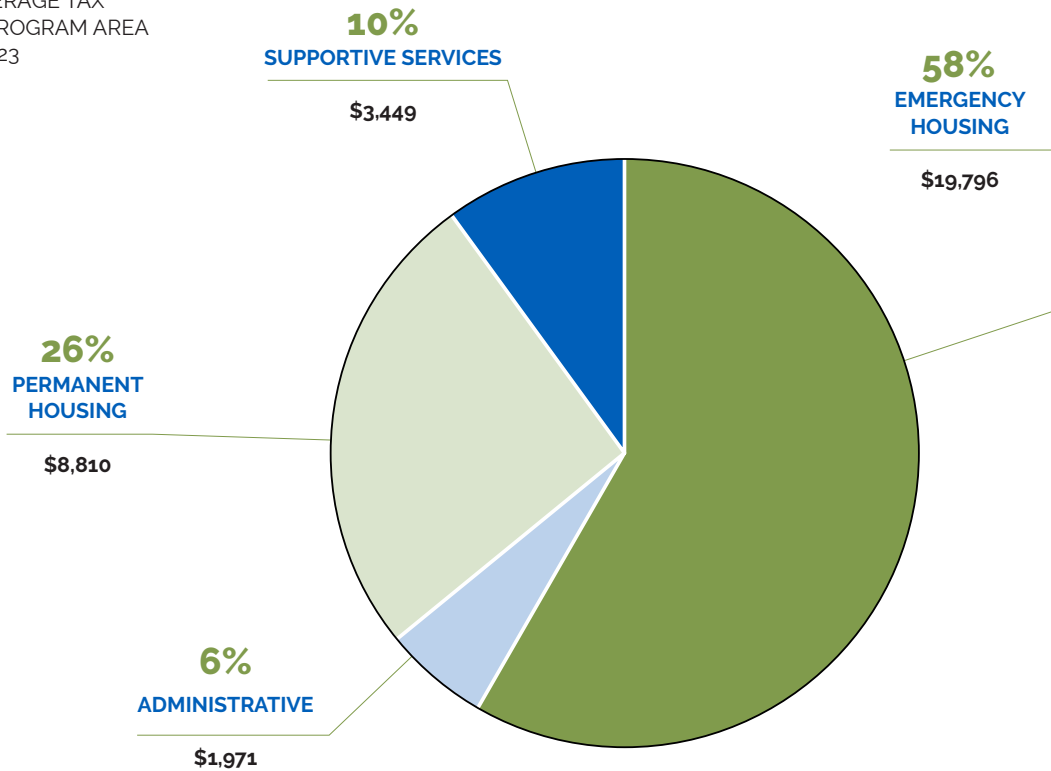
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OVERALL COC FUNDING BY PROGRAM AREA FOR FY 2022-2023



HOMELESS TRUST

FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX PROCEEDS BY PROGRAM AREA FOR FY 2022-2023



CONTINUUM OF CARE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Homeless Trust, in partnership with its network of partners and providers, has developed standards of care, policies and procedures that guide the operations of the CoC's housing and service delivery for persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The CoC is a Housing First oriented continuum and aims to offer individuals and families experiencing homelessness access to housing regarding the complexity or severity of their needs and without preconditions or service participation requirements.

TO DONATE, VISIT



To learn more about the Homeless Trust, visit HomelessTrust.org.