



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Overtown Children and Youth Coalition Family,

As the sun rises on a new day, I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on the incredible journey we have undertaken together over the past year. It is my honor to present the Annual Report for the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition, encapsulating the impactful strides we have made in fostering positive change in the lives of the children and youth in the Overtown Community.

This year has been a testament to our commitment to implementing a collective impact approach to empowering the Coalition members to ensure the children and youth of Overtown reach their full potential. Through unwavering dedication, collaborative efforts, and a shared vision, collectively we have achieved remarkable milestones in our mission to create a nurturing environment that nurtures the potential within each child.

Key Highlights:

1. **Education Empowerment:** Our education and academic partners have reached new heights, providing educational resources and mentorship opportunities that equip our youth with the tools they need to excel academically.
2. **Healthy and Safe Awareness:** The Overtown Healthy Campaign community has been the focal point of our health initiatives. The efforts of the Healthy and Safe committee have provided over 7,000 meals to families and youth in the Overtown community and created weekly Fit Fitness and Zumba classes free of charge to all. Additionally, we have raised awareness and addressed safety and environmental concerns within the community, such as identifying contaminated areas surrounding the parks and ensuring the playground equipment at Henry Reeves Park is adequate and safe for everyone to play on.
3. **Youth Development:** Our focus on holistic development has yielded positive results. From leadership workshops to skill-building activities, apprenticeship and internship opportunities to experience hands-on work experience and career and college tours to expose the youth to postsecondary opportunities, we have witnessed the growth of confident, capable young individuals ready to face the world.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Key Highlights (Continued):

4. Advocacy and Awareness: The Overtown community is the heartbeat of why we do this work. Together, we have raised our voices for the issues that matter. Our advocacy efforts through the Overtown Parks Group have increased awareness of water and swim safety, fostering a sense of social responsibility within our community. Therefore, we are proud to announce the opening of Williams Park Pool and the water safety lesson being taught year-round at Gibson Pool and during the summer at Williams Park Pool.

Acknowledgments: None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our incredible team, the commitment to service from the Coalition members, the generosity of our supporters, and the resilience of the children and youth who inspire us every day. Your commitment to our cause fuels the engine of positive change, and I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you.

Looking Ahead: As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us carry the momentum forward. The challenges may be great, but so is our collective strength. Together, the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition members will continue to create a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I am excited to embark on another year of transformation and empowerment with you all.

Warm Regards,

Anthony L. Robinson, Executive Director

Overtown Children and Youth Coalition



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ABOUT OVERTOWN

Historic Overtown, a cherished Black heritage neighborhood nestled within the original boundaries of Miami, stands as one of the city's oldest areas, boasting a profound history and cultural legacy. Once a vibrant entertainment hub during the Harlem Renaissance, hosting iconic performers like Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday, Overtown now undergoes a modern-day renaissance.

Miami pays homage to its Black history through institutions like the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum, the Ward Rooming House, and the Black Archives History & Research Foundation within the restored Lyric Theater.

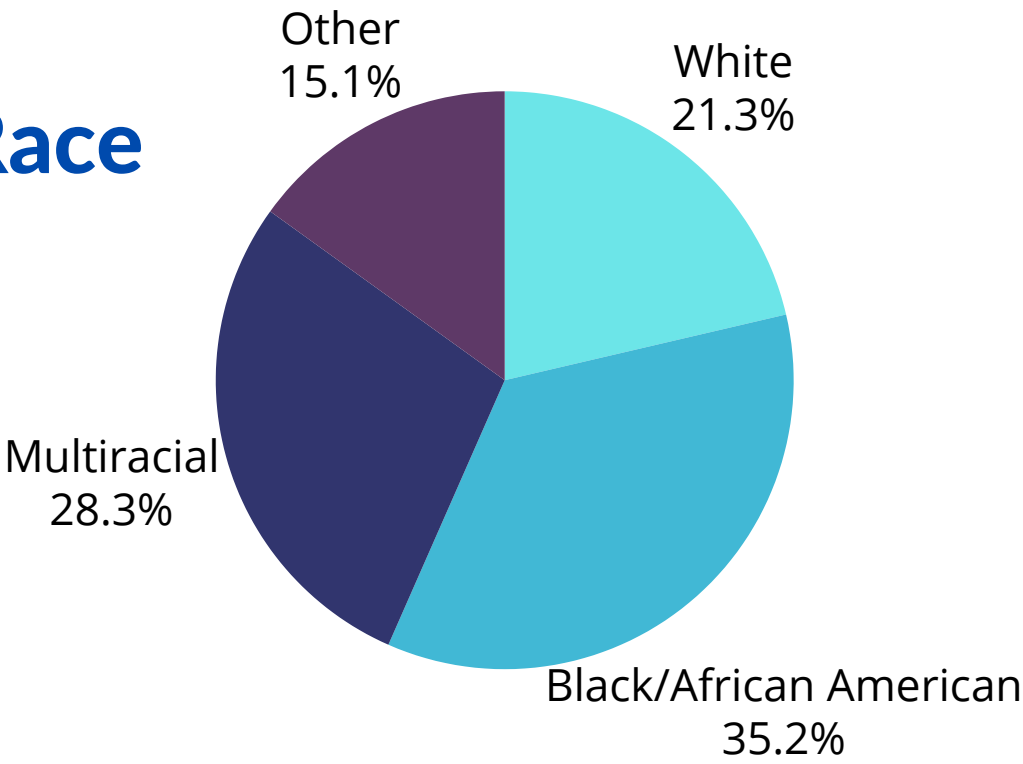
Additionally, Overtown proudly showcases culinary highlights, with Jackson Soul Food, serving delectable Southern fare since 1946, and the esteemed Red Rooster outpost by celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson, enhancing the neighborhood's allure.

Home to historic churches, five parks, and several schools serving the resident youth, Overtown embodies a vibrant community woven with both cultural richness and a commitment to nurturing its future generations.

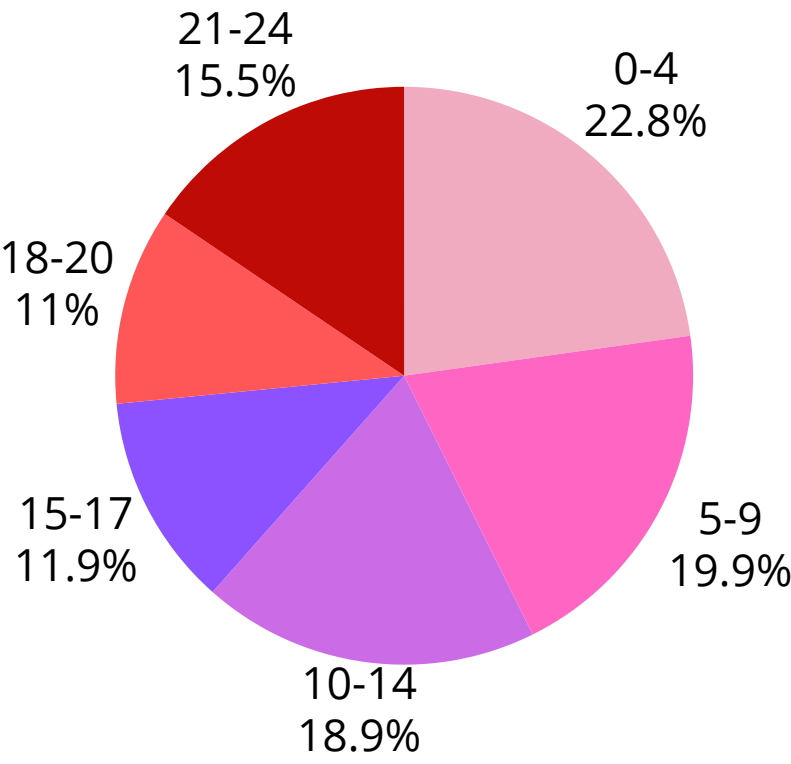


OVERTOWN'S POPULATION

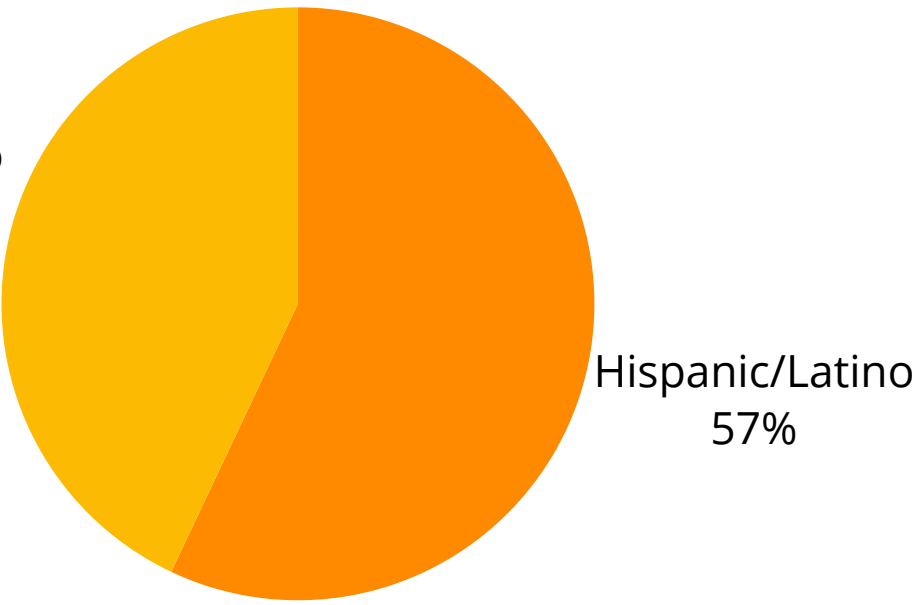
Race



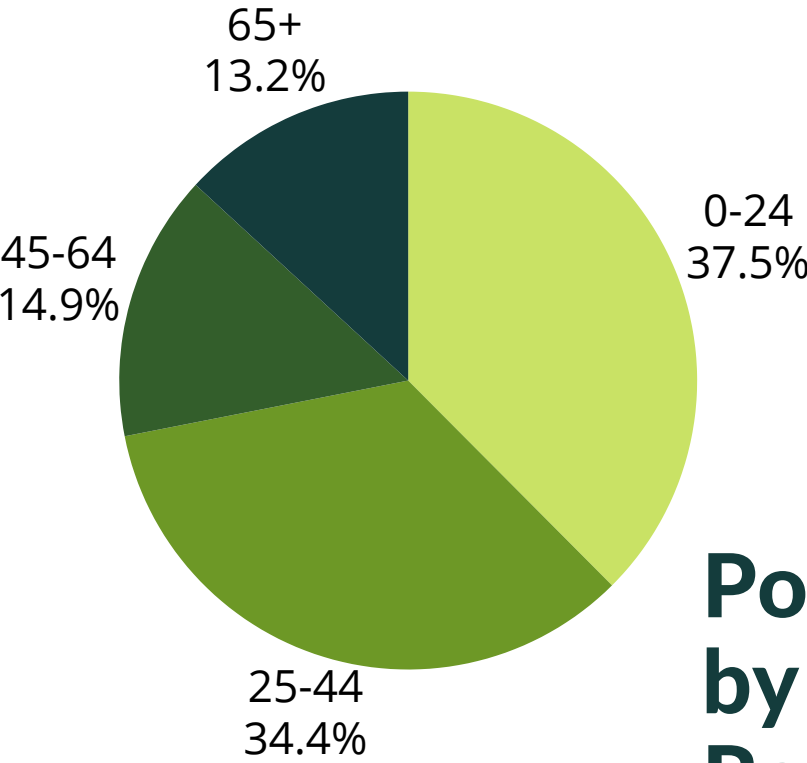
Children & Youth by Age Range



Ethnicity



Population by Age Range



Area of Overtown



For the purposes of this report, we use the zip code 33136 to determine latest population demographics.

Demographic data were provided by Miami Dade Matters, updated as of March 2023

Total Population:
16,505



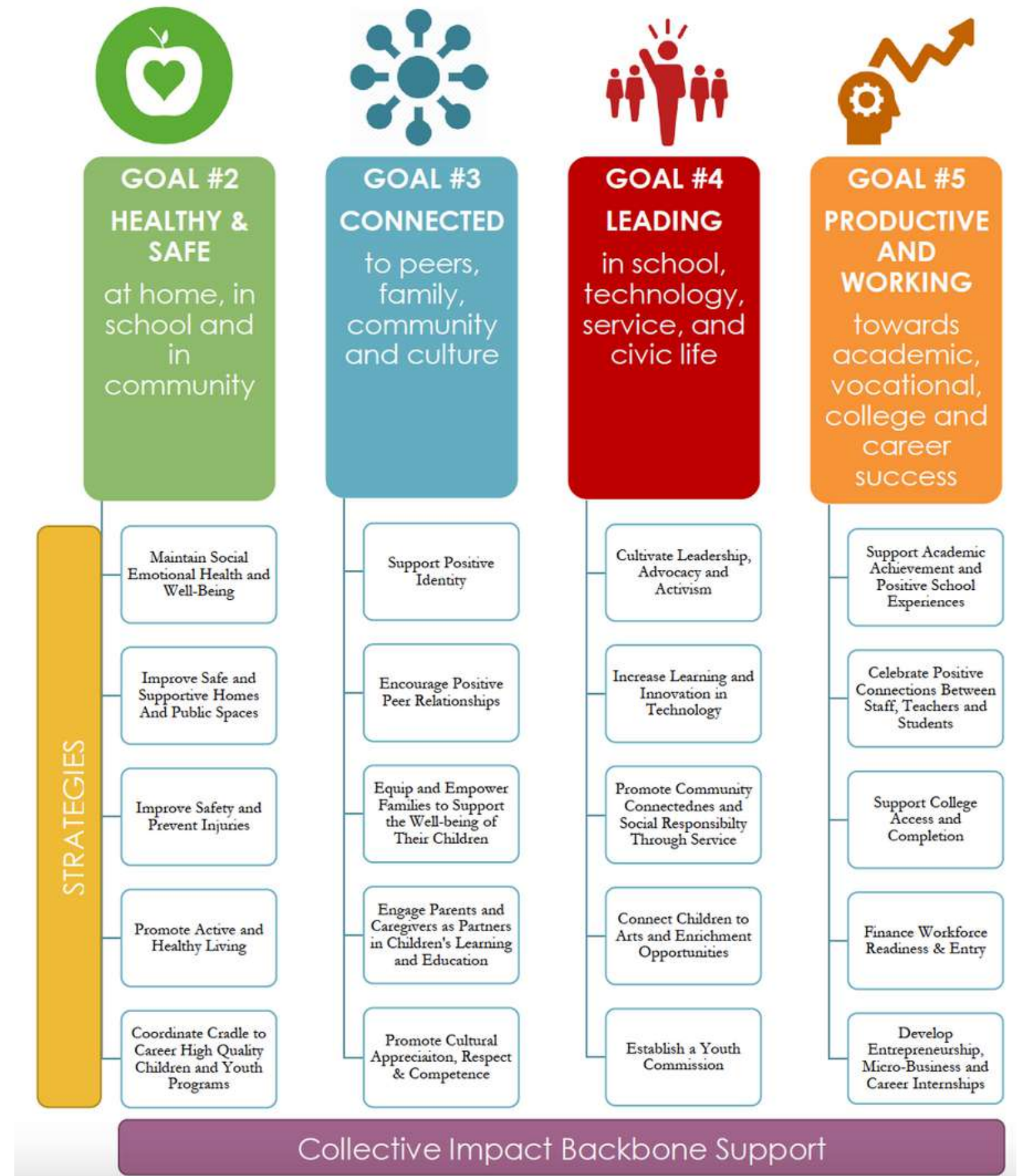
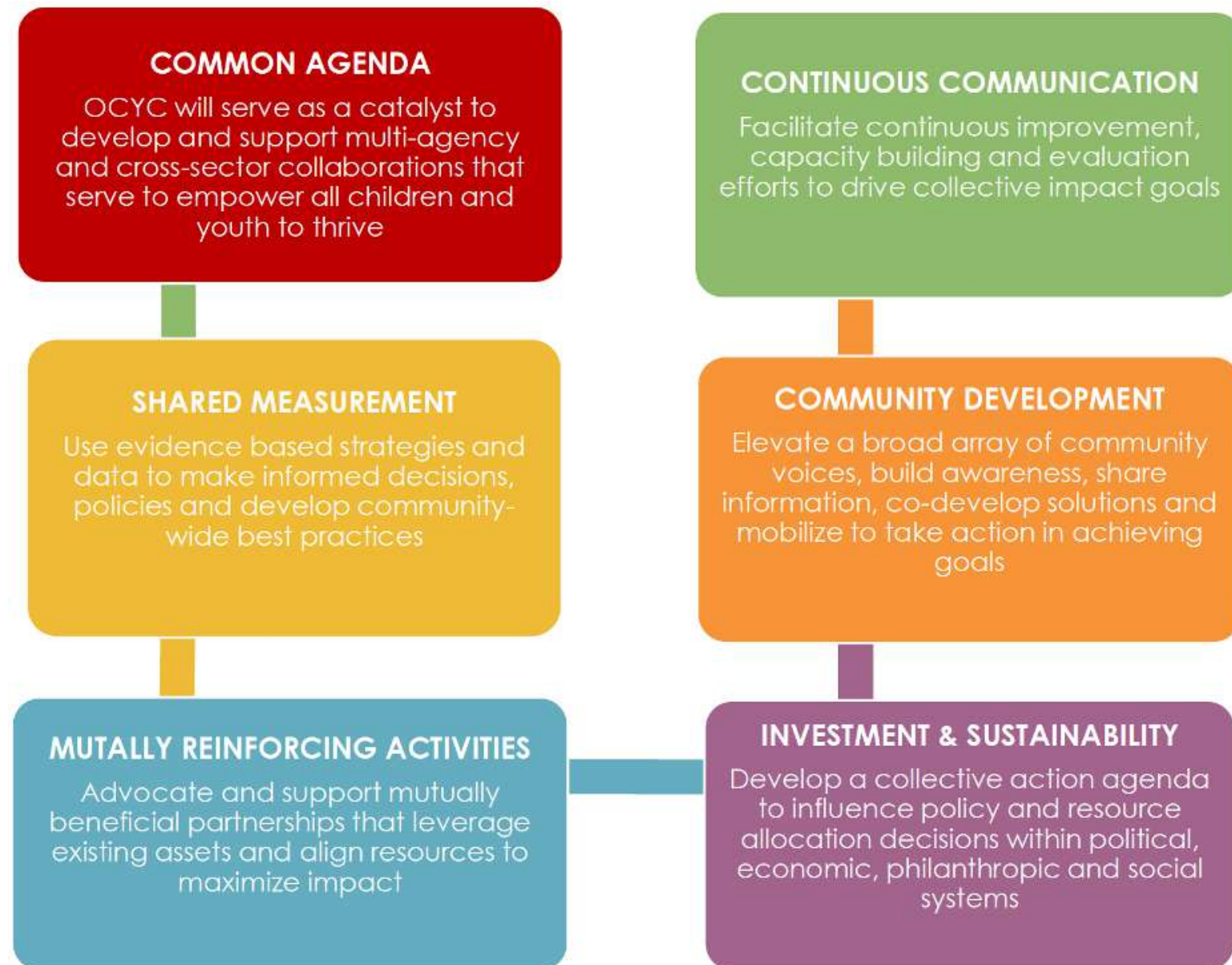
In the fall of 2012, the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) was formed by the anchoring community based non-profit organizations in the Overtown Community: Urgent, Inc., Overtown Youth Center, Touching Miami With Love, Lotus House and Dress for Success with the support of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency and City of Miami District 5 City Commissioner.

Establishing the OCYC was a groundbreaking step toward addressing the needs of Overtown's children in a more holistic manner, a focus designed to move away from the service based structure that addressed needs in siloes and towards a collective impact and systems level approach.

Since their inception over 10 years ago, guided by their strategic Master Plan, OCYC has continued to expand it's reach, collaborations, and impact, growing to a partner base of nearly 100+ members, partners, and sponsors.

OCYC'S GUIDING MASTER PLAN 2015-2025

GOAL #1 COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY



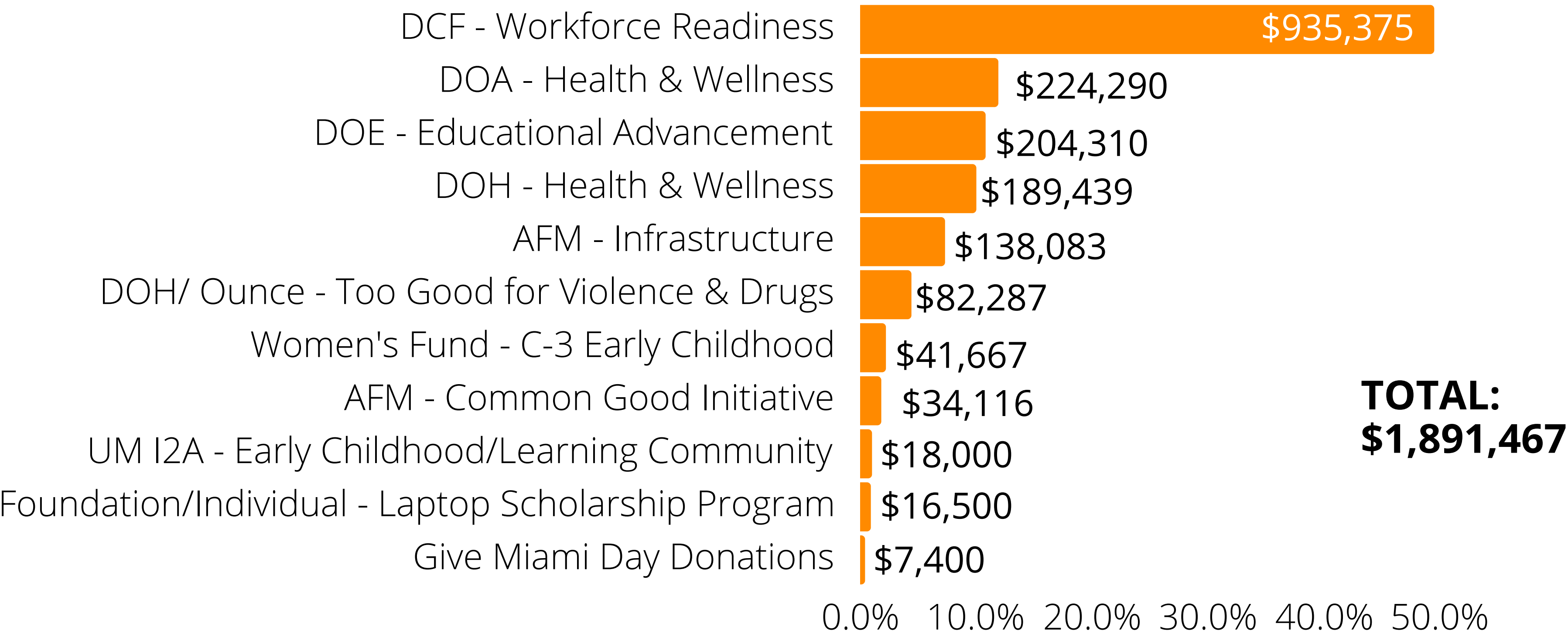


COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

This figure represents the ways in which OCYC operates through our children, youth, families, our partners and our committees, with the Accountability Committee and the Board of Directors facilitating efforts and progress driven by the community



2023 OCYC FUNDING SUPPORT SUMMARY



ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Committee Purpose: The purpose of the Accountability Committee is to help make collective impact easier to determine by driving problem-solving processes of OCYC. This Committee presents an evaluation framework that guides performance measures, evaluation protocols, and learning activities within the coalition committees and selected programs in efforts to uphold and inform accountability of OCYC to the Overtown community. We discuss and develop collective Data Sharing strategies, protocol for specific programs, and potential funding opportunities.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE



Impact Numbers:

- 38** Organizations across OCYC Committees
- 14** Tailored dashboards on OCYC Data Portal
- 15** Partners supported by OCYC funding in 2023
- 500+** Youth enrolled across initiatives supported by OCYC funding

Committee Highlights:

The Accountability Committee continued to build out of the OCYC Data Portal, hosted by UpMetrics. This year, we led the collection of several datasets and creation of dashboards to inform committee and initiative work, including the Park Conditions assessments, the I am the Boss of my Life work conference participant summary, Laptop Scholarship awardee summary, and updating important educational and neighborhood level metrics.

Goals for 2024 will focus on leveraging data-sharing as well as the process, informed by all OCYC committees, of building out the new cycle of the OCYC Master Plan to guide efforts through 2035.

HEALTHY & SAFE COMMITTEE

Impact Numbers:

- 7700** Snacks & Meals made available through Community Fridge Initiative
- 169** Fitness sessions held across partner programs
- 21** Community events held at Overtown Parks
- 598** Individuals reached by health & wellness social media campaign
- 6** Neighborhood canvassing events to assess environmental impacts

Committee Highlights:

With support from the FL Dept of Health the Healthy & Safe Committee facilitated the Overtown Parks Group in collaboration with Urban Health Partnerships, engaging 5 Overtown parks; Gibson, Dorsey, Reeves, Rainbow Village & Williams, activating health resources and services.

The committee also guided efforts of the Women's Fund Early Childhood Initiative to assess and support childcare centers in the community.

Additional committee initiatives include youth mental health and a focus on 'cradle to career' high quality youth programming, capital improvements/city recommendations, and free health resources and information throughout Overtown.

Committee Purpose: To increase and improve mental resilience, wellness, and healthy lifestyle choices by designating and creating safe community spaces and addressing food insecurity & nutrition issues within the community. This committee's goals are to support, develop, and/or execute community health and resource Fair, provide health education and awareness workshops, and professional Development for organizations serving children and youth in Overtown.

HEALTHY & SAFE COMMITTEE



HEALTHY & SAFE INITIATIVES

Overtown Parks Group: Health Hubs initiative

OCYC took the lead in implementing the Health Hubs Initiative, a project officially rolled out in August 2022. Funded by the Florida Dept of Health, this initiative brings together partners such as the Urban Health Partnership, the City of Miami Parks and Recreation Department, District 5 Commissioner King's Office, the Overtown CRA, The University of Miami, Overtown residents, Overtown Parks Group (OPG) committee members and local youth to address health-related disparities and advance health equity in public green spaces and the 5 identified parks in Overtown; Gibson, Dorsey, Reeves, Rainbow Village and Williams Park. The Health Hubs Initiative focuses on creating accessible and inclusive health resources, programs, and services to promote the well-being of the community. Through collaborative efforts, OCYC and its partners aim to improve the overall health outcomes and quality of life for residents by identifying strategies and to decrease environmental impacts and offering free fitness classes and health related programs, information, resources, activities and services throughout the 5 parks. For example, the OPG hosted forty-five (45) free fitness classes at Williams Park, including HIIT Fitness & Zumba Classes.



HEALTHY & SAFE INITIATIVES

Overtown Parks Group: Health Hubs initiative (continued)

Revitalizing Access to Pools

The Public Pool at Williams Park has been closed to the public since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. To enhance community access to recreational facilities, the OPG engaged in advocacy and community outreach with various stakeholders, including the City of Miami Parks and Recreation Department, park managers, the aquatics division, and pool managers. Subsequently, through collaborative efforts, the Williams Park Pool was successfully reopened for the summer of 2023! Further enhancements to the facility included the addition of bleachers to the pool deck, providing additional seating for the public. Both youth and adults can now enjoy the revitalized pool and deck, complete with lounge chairs and tables.

The Gibson Park Pool is also now functioning under extended hours and is collaborating with Overtown Optimist Club and Surfrider to offer 16 weeks of swim lessons to neighborhood youth.



HEALTHY & SAFE INITIATIVES

Overtown Parks Group: Health Hubs initiative (continued)

Elevating Reeves Park Playground

In Fall 2022, at Gibson Park, the CRA and District 5 Commissioner's Office met with the OPG to discuss the Henry Reeves Park playground remodeling. Construction later began and was funded through the City of Miami Bond, voted on, and approved by residents, community members & the OPG.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in December 2023. The playground was constructed with activities for various ages, levels, and comprehension levels, inclusive to all and any children who wish to enjoy the playground.

Those in attendance at the ribbon cutting were able to witness children from surrounding youth development afterschool programs, including the Overtown Optimist Club and Touching Miami with Love, test out and enjoy the new area constructed just for them. Being a part of the planning process and then witnessing the project come to fruition has been extremely rewarding and a significant achievement for the OPG.



HEALTHY & SAFE INITIATIVES

Ounce of Prevention

The 2022-2023 funding cycle of this initiative was its last one. The coalition, in partnership with Touching Miami with Love and Overtown Youth Center, was able to provide anti-drug and anti-violence programming for over 600 students K-5th population in the 5 years this program ran. Through these initiatives, OCYC aimed to create a safe and nurturing environment for young children, helping them develop positive behaviors, make healthy choices, and stay away from drugs and violence.

UM IDEAS to Action (I2A) Grant from The Children's Trust

OCYC is funded for a 5-year grant cycle to support the Early Childhood collaboration with the University of Miami. The grant focuses on two primary deliverables: 1) Development of an equitable learning community, and 2) Development of a population-level measure around early childhood education, development, and well-being. Collaborative activities include data analysis and discussion, surveys and focus groups, mapping resources, creating sustainability plans, and defining research questions to inform community organization work. Through this grant, OCYC aims to promote equitable access to quality early childhood education and improve the overall well-being of young children in the community.

Women's Fund

In collaboration with Sant La (North East Corridor / Little Haiti), ConnectFamilias (Little Havana), the University of Miami, and the Miami-Dade IDEAS Consortium, OCYC is working to understand and address the childcare center needs in the community. OCYC, Sant La, and ConnectFamilias formed a cross-community collaboration known as "C-3." To understand strengths and challenges, the C-3 has collected survey data from forty (40) childcare centers and will focus next on conducting focused discussions with center representatives to drive policy and advocacy work. Through this initiative, OCYC and its partners aim to ensure that childcare centers have the necessary resources, support, and policies in place to provide high-quality care for children in the community.

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Purpose: To serve as the community's key strategic partner in the following impact area(s): Youth Development, Youth Economic Development & Career Development Pathways, Quality K-12 Education, Higher Education Access, and Retention & Completion, Physical, Mental Health & Well-Being, Resident and Youth Engagement, Organization Capacity Building.

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Impact Numbers:

716

Youth participated in academic enrichment activities at partner organizations

100%

Youth enrolled in DOE demonstrated increased learning

9

Professional development trainings held for the community partners

100

New laptops awarded to Overtown youth K-12

Committee Highlights:

In 2023, we invited a new Chair to the committee - Principal Christopher Simmonds, who had implemented Care Elementary's "Care for Literacy" Program at the Overtown Youth Center. With committee support, the goal is to implement across youth programs in Overtown.

Funded by the Dept of Education, OCYC led the Community Partnerships in Education (CPE) Initiative to target direct areas of educational needs that affect students in grades K-12.

Additional initiatives of focus for the Education & Engagement Committee included OCYC's Learning Portal, Educational Advocacy efforts, Policy Development, and bolstering after school programming.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

OCYC's Laptop Scholarship Program

To date, through the OCYC Laptop Scholarship Program, we have awarded 225 laptops to youth with the goal of reaching 5,000 households over the next 5 years. In recognition of 2023 National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, [Art] and Math Day, OCYC awarded the most in a single ceremony—100 new laptops to Overtown students.

OCYC strives to ensure that children and youth enrolled in Overtown schools and youth programs have the technology tools they need to succeed in their educational goals. The program aims to bridge the digital divide and provide students with the necessary tools for academic success, ensuring equal opportunities for learning and skill development.



PRODUCTIVE & WORKING COMMITTEE

Impact Numbers:

- 88** Youth participated in the *I am the Boss of my Life* work conference
- 49** Youth employment training sessions held
- 74** Students completed internship and/or apprenticeship programming supported by DCF

Committee Highlights:

The Committee coordinated and hosted the 5th Annual “I am the Boss of my Life” conference in April 2023.

The committee also oversaw the allocation of Dept of Children and Families (DCF) funds to 10 partners to support job readiness. The committee is focused on youth development programs as well as educational visits and job training.

Committee Purpose: To ensure and work towards every youth in Overtown achieving academic, vocational, college and career success through the creation of a sustainable pipelines of employment for youth and young adults living within Overtown. The committee engages strategies to Increase summer employment opportunities for youth and young adults living in Overtown, develop, plan, and implement a Work Readiness Fair for ages 14-24 yearly, and build a connective system that supports both education and employment for Overtown while maintaining and growing employment and training of opportunities available.

PRODUCTIVE & WORKING COMMITTEE



PRODUCTIVE & WORKING INITIATIVES



I am the Boss of my Life Work Conference

The conference took place April 7, 2023 at the Intercontinental Hotel located in Downtown Miami. The conference was geared to youth 14–24-year-olds and had a registration of 112 youth and 88 in attendance.

The sessions included a presentation by CareerSource South Florida where attendees were able to learn more about different career opportunities, an Entrepreneurship Panel which was **MCEd** by Martha Whisby from Commissioner Keon Hardemon's office and was formed by Keon Williams, Dominique Rivers, Lakeycia Cooper, and Myron J. Davis, Ph.D. and, a Motivational Closing by Rashad Thomas, Regional Manager at AT&T.

The conference offered three breakout sessions: Your Image on Trial (Yvette Harris - Harris PR, Sonia Jacobson - Suited for Success), Inside Out School of Etiquette (Jackie Thompson), Making Money Moves (Annabelle Orelus - Makeup Studio), Boss Up in STEM (Inga Samuels - Global STEM Academy).

FLORENDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

This initiative is now in its second year and continues to support partners including URGENT Inc., Overtown Youth Center, and the Touching Miami with Love, Suited for Success, and the Future Leaders of Hospitality and Tourism, in engaging youth in year-round work, college, and career development opportunities. A new partner was brought in this funding cycle, Do Good 4-1, which will support the S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) component of this program, with a specific focus on Technology; other two components that were introduced this year are second language classes, and a fatherhood program. The initiative aims to provide a comprehensive range of professional development services, including in-service training for partners, business development and entrepreneurship programs, internships, college tours, the I'm The Boss of My Life work conference, workshops, capacity building, and academic enrichment activities. Through these efforts, OCYC strives to empower youth and equip them with the necessary skills and resources to thrive in their future careers.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OCYC secured the 3rd consecutive year of funding to implement wellness, health, and educational programming for children and youth. This initiative, developed in collaboration with the Mahogany Youth Corp. and the Optimist Club of Overtown, aims to serve 60 children and youth. Proposed experiences include fishing trips, culinary exploration, cheer classes, and more, providing opportunities for personal growth, physical well-being, and educational enrichment. Additionally, OCYC has linked arms with the Buddy System to increase the food provided through the Community Fridge, ensuring access to nutritious meals for those in need.



**Florida Department of
Agriculture and
Consumer Services**

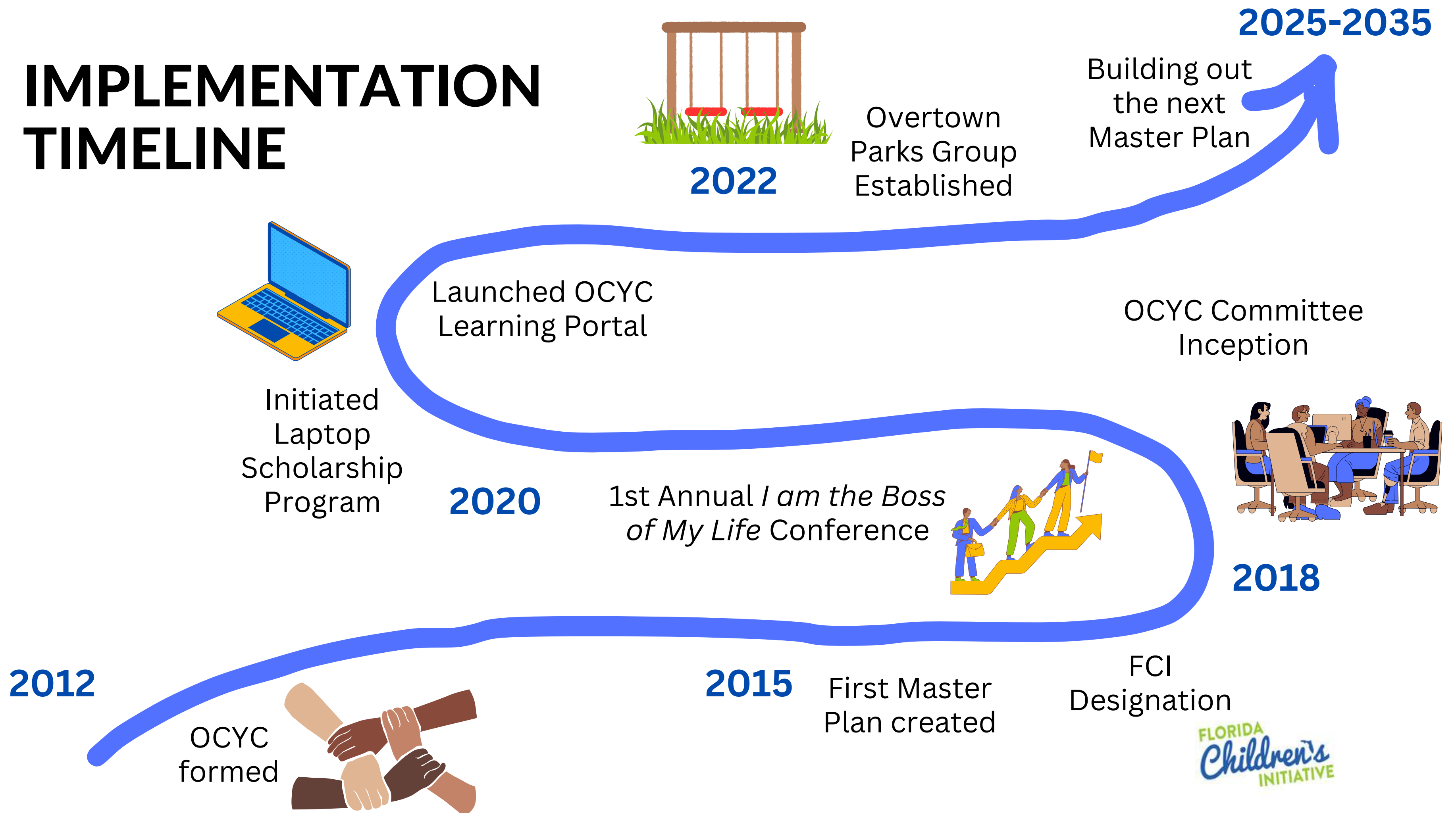
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OCYC spearheaded a new round of Dept of Education funding to support partners in providing academic enhancement, tutoring, and mentoring programs for students from kindergarten to 12th grade. Through the Community Partners in Education initiative, OCYC collaborates with Level Up For Success, CARE Elementary School, and the Overtown Optimist Club. OCYC aims to ensure that students receive the necessary support to excel academically. In addition to these programs, OCYC also organized a professional development series that includes workshops, conferences, and college tours, enabling educators and mentors to enhance their skills and stay up to date with the latest educational practices.



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**
fldoe.org

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



OCYC PARTNERS

Anchoring Organizations:



SUITED FOR SUCCESS



Members, Collaborators & Funders:

Achieve Miami, Allapattah Collaborative, Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Art Bakehouse Complex, CARE Elementary School, Career Source South Florida, Catalyst Miami, Center For Black Innovation, Chapman's Partnership, Children's Bereavement Center, Citrus Foster Care Network, City of Miami Black Police Precinct, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Department Of Children and Families (DCF), Family Safety Net, FLHAT, Florida Department of Agriculture, Florida Department of Children & Families, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Health, Florida Reading Corps, Florida International University, Girl Power, HOPE Inc., IDEAS Consortium for Children, Informed Families, Juvenile Services Department – Miami Dade, Level Up, Lotus House, Mahogany Club, Miami Dade Public Schools Department Title 1 Schools, Mindful Kids Miami, Opportunity Overtown Connect, Optimist Club, Overtown Youth Center, Perez Art Museum of Miami, Radical Partners, Suited For Success, The Children's Trust, Together For Children (TFC), TOUCCH, Touching Miami with Love, United Way, University of Miami, University of Florida, Urban Health Partnerships, URGENT Inc., Women's Fund



THANK YOU
