

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Two-Year *Investment* in South Florida's Nonprofit Backbone

COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT
ALLIANCE OF FLORIDA

Cumulative findings from the 2025 and 2026 cohorts of the South Florida Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative and the case for why this work must continue.

COHORTS: 2025 · 2026

COUNTIES: MIAMI-DADE · BROWARD · PALM BEACH

BY THE NUMBERS 2025 + 2026

37

Nonprofits funded
across two cohorts

\$433K

In direct grant capital
invested

3

South Florida
counties reached

92.9%

Report being
stronger

— THE NEED

The problem is **NOT SOLVED** it is growing.

Across two cohorts, CRAF has invested in **37 grassroots and emerging nonprofits** serving some of South Florida's most under-resourced communities. The evidence is clear: targeted capacity-building works. The harder truth is that **demand continues to outpace available resources**, and the structural barriers facing small nonprofits have not gone away.

65% Still report limited staff capacity as the top barriers to sustaining grant-funded progress.

53% Lack funding beyond the grant period, putting hard-won infrastructure gains at risk of unraveling.

36% Operate on budgets under \$100,000 often without foundational financial systems in place.

94% Are actively seeking additional support signaling continued, unmet demand across the sector.

"When organizations have the systems, support, and confidence in place, even modest investments can unlock transformational growth."

— 2026 GRANTEE

— THE REACH

Breadth, **NOT JUST** volume.

Across both cohorts, CRAF has funded organizations spanning **youth development, mental health, arts, food security, foster care, civic engagement, and community services**, the kind of grassroots infrastructure that anchors neighborhoods but is most often left out of mainstream funding cycles.

COUNTIES SERVED · COMBINED

Miami-Dade · 68%

Broward · 23%

25 ORGS

9 ORGS

PB · 3

2025

INAUGURAL COHORT

Organizations 20
Capital \$219,758
Grant types 2 tracks
Survey response 85%

2026

REFINED MODEL

Organizations 17
Capital \$214,000
Grant types 2 tracks + TA
Reporting "stronger" 92%

What changed in Year 2: Findings from the inaugural cohort led to a more targeted model, adding a Financial Stewardship track for the smallest organizations and a data storytelling partnership with the Behavioral Science Research Institute (BSRI). The result: stronger and more consistent outcomes.



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— THE SOLUTION

A proven model that pairs *flexible capital* with the technical assistance small nonprofits actually need.

01

Tiered, right-sized funding

Capacity-Building Grants of up to \$20K paired with Financial Stewardship awards of \$4–5K for the smallest, highest-need organizations.

02

Financial infrastructure

QuickBooks setup, one year of CPA monitoring, 990 filing, and audit support, turning capital into systems that compound.

03

Data & storytelling capacity

Through the BSRI partnership, grantees build the funder readiness, evaluation tools, and impact narratives needed to attract sustained support.

— THE PROOF

Outcomes reported by 2026 grantees

Six months after grant deployment, organizations report measurable, system-level gains, not just one-time wins.



"A \$20,000 investment transformed our infrastructure and unlocked access to significantly larger funding opportunities."

GRANTEE OUTCOME

— THE FIELD

37 organizations. One ecosystem.

A snapshot of the breadth of mission-driven organizations strengthened across two cohorts, each one a critical anchor in its community.

2026 COHORT • FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS 17

After School Film Institute	Out of Foster Foundation
Amplify Community Resources	People Acting for Community Together (PACT)
AEDAP Inc.	Propelling Into Triumph
Ava's Path	Latin Theater Lab
CEATT Inc.	New Conscience Productions
collaboARTive, Inc.	Ripples of Impact
EatWell Exchange Inc.	God's Creation 4 Fresh
Infinite Ways Network	Connections
Miami SCORES	Cristina's Academy

PLUS THE 2025 INAUGURAL COHORT

20 additional grassroots organizations across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach in youth development, financial empowerment, mental health, civic engagement, and community services.

The model works. The need *still outpaces* the resources.

Demand for capacity-building grew between cohorts, and the structural gaps, staff capacity, financial systems, and multi-year sustainability remain. Funders, financial institutions, and philanthropic partners have a clear, proven lever in front of them.

WHERE TO INVEST NEXT

- Scale the Financial Stewardship track for the smallest, highest-need organizations
- Move to multi-year funding commitments to protect Year 1 gains
- Expand BSRI-led data & storytelling support across every cohort
- Resource ongoing evaluation, grant supervision, and peer-learning infrastructure

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