

# Catalyst to the Capital 2021 Legislative Priorities

Catalyst Miami is an economic justice non-profit based in Miami-Dade County that works with thousands of families annually to navigate social services, build grassroots community leadership, and advocate for policy change. Our mission is to identify and collectively solve issues adversely affecting low-wealth communities throughout Miami-Dade County. Together, we work to achieve our vision of a just and equitable society in which all of our communities thrive.

# 1

## PROTECT FREE SPEECH, PUBLIC ASSEMBLY, & LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

As an organization committed to social justice, Catalyst Miami actively participates in direct actions and protests as a tool to create positive social change. We also advocate on a local level to ensure our municipal budgets reflect the priorities of Miami-Dade's most underserved communities.

Rioting, the destruction of property, assault, battery, burglary, and sedition are already unlawful. We know that the communities of color that we work with will be disproportionately impacted by additional unnecessary punitive measures. Therefore, we are asking our legislators to **OPPOSE SB484/HB1**.

# 2

## END FLORIDA'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Half of Miami-Dade County households are cost-burdened by housing, meaning they pay over 30% of their income on shelter (MHFA, 2020). This crisis has been worsened by the coronavirus pandemic, as tens of thousands of Florida households face foreclosure and eviction. We believe that housing is a human right, and that creating housing stability will lead to improved economic stability across the state.

- Prevent widespread homelessness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic's economic crisis by reforming Florida's eviction process by SUPPORTING SB412/HB481, SB1090/HB6025, SB290/HB603, SB1746/HB1193, SB926/HB657, and SB1548
- Ensure existing and build much-needed new affordable housing by SUPPORTING SB1020/HB6021 and SB510/HB14

# 3

## PROMOTE HEALTH TO BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH

If 2020 taught us nothing else, it is that access to affordable healthcare is key to a thriving local economy. If Florida adopted Medicaid expansion, over 400,000 Floridians would gain health coverage while saving the state at least \$200M annually. A healthy Florida is a prosperous Florida, for both government and its constituents.

- Improve access to healthcare coverage by SUPPORTING SB698/HB341, SB238/HB645, SB556/HB443, SB604/HB961, SB1552/HB1117, and SB1244/HB201

# 4

## GUARANTEE FLORIDA'S FUTURE BY TAKING CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Known around the world as "ground zero," Florida quite literally risks everything in the face of climate change. We know that our low-wealth communities are impacted first and worst by increasingly severe climate impacts such as flooding, hurricanes, and extreme heat. If we act now, we can surmount these challenges and become a leader in the global green economy.

- Help local municipalities do their part in addressing the climate crisis by OPPOSING SB856/HB839, SB1008/HB761, SB1236/HB617, and SB1128/HB919
- Reduce energy bill burden and secure a renewable energy future by SUPPORTING SB1860/HB1435, SB720/HB283, and SB1718/HB1611

# 5

## SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES & WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

We can all agree that Florida must bounce back economically from the harmful impacts of the coronavirus pandemic as soon as possible. In order to do so, small businesses, the lifeblood of our local economies, must be prioritized. In addition, we must lower barriers for workforce participation, especially for returning citizens.

- Encourage workforce entry and participation by SUPPORTING SB644 and SB1032/HB953
- Bolster struggling small businesses by SUPPORTING SB2002/HB1469
- Keep Floridians employed by reforming the practice of driver's license suspensions for unpaid fines & fees by SUPPORTING SB386/HB557

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