The Jorge M. Perez Metropolitan Center (JPMC) opened its doors in 1997 in downtown Miami as a three-year experiment with seed money from the Provost’s Office. The expectation was that its research, training, and technical assistance would inform decision-making, and improve practice in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors throughout South Florida.

Our recipe is nonpartisan, data-driven analysis grounded in a rich understanding of the communities we serve. The experiment has succeeded, and the JPMC has grown in stature and outreach to become the region’s foremost urban think tank.

Our success is grounded in an amazingly talented and hard working staff. The work of our full-time employees has garnered respect from a wide cross-section of policy makers. The JPMC’s work is made possible by our graduate and undergraduate research assistants. I am extremely proud of the JPMC’s research and take satisfaction in our status as a training ground for future leaders. This reflects FIU’s Carnegie status as a research intensive institution with a commitment to community engagement.

The JPMC’s success would not be possible without the strong, support of the Steven J. Green School, FIU, and the community. On behalf of my colleagues, I send our deepest appreciation while looking forward to another 25 years.

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Our economic development studies include data-driven assessments of cities and a platform for community economic development policies including planning strategies, implementation plans, benchmarking, and stakeholder engagement. Previous studies include:

- Fort Myers Community Economic Development Strategy (2021)
- Small Business Big Impact (2020)
- Economic Impact of the Nonprofit Sector in Miami-Dade (2020)
- Make It Miami (2019)
- Healthy West Kendall (2019)
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The JPMC provides cutting-edge research on the state of the economy and housing markets in Florida counties and municipalities. Our housing studies focus on the demand and supply factors impacting the availability of affordable housing. Recent studies include:

- Broward County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (2022)
- Habitat for Humanity: Impact of Homeownership Study (2022)
- Palm Beach County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (2021)
- Miami Affordable Housing Master Plan (2020)
- Miami-Dade County Affordable Housing Blueprint (2019)

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The Center provides customized training solutions to our clients by combining best practices from academics and industry leaders who bring a wealth of experience from the public, private and non-profit sectors. We offer trainings at our facility in Miramar as well as onsite at the sponsoring organization or other locations. Our programs offer an affordable and flexible option for investing in professional development for all levels of employees and workforce. Training programs include: leadership, problem-solving, conflict resolution, team building, diversity and inclusion, ethics, etc. Recent clients include cities in Broward County like West Park and Miramar.