



The Metropolitan Center

Forging Solutions through Research and Training



Thirty-Year Retrospective

The Status of the Black Community in Miami-Dade County

Prepared for:

Metro Miami Action Plan (MMAP)

Miami-Dade County

Study Purpose

- To describe the changes within the Black community in terms of its demographic, social and economic characteristics over the past 30 years
- To examine disparity between blacks and other residents of Miami-Dade County.
- To provide the Metro Miami Action Plan (MMAP), the Black community, and Miami-Dade County with a current snapshot of the community
- To offer a benchmark and trend analysis that will inform decision-makers to direct and guide the County to take action by providing the following:
 - An analysis of demographic, employment, economic and housing trends
 - A profile of the current status of community services including public health services and education.
 - Analysis of the effectiveness of current procedures in the field of criminal justice.
 - An assessment of future conditions, and recommendations based on data analyses.

Summary

- Major disparities continue to exist between Miami-Dade's Black communities and other ethnic and racial groups that live in the County:
 - Over the last 30 years conditions for Blacks have improved in 7 indices, remained the same in 4, and gotten worse in 5 indicators of disparity.
- Miami-Dade is experiencing a Black "Brain Drain," as talented young Black professionals are the County.

Summary: Education

	Trend	1983	1993	Present
Education				
Percent of disciplinary action	Improved	60%	52.8%	15.9%
Rate of school suspensions	Improved indoor Remain the same outdoor	50%	41% indoor 53% outdoor	37.2% indoor 51.4% outdoor
Enrollment in Gifted/Advanced Courses	Improved	9% gifted	21% gifted 9.8% advanced	14.1% gifted 15.5% advanced
Drop out prevention programs	Improved	1	26	68

Summary: Housing & Economics

	Trend	1983	1993	Present
Housing				
Availability of Affordable Housing	Worsened	Critical shortage	Shortage exacerbated by Hurricane Andrew also causing homelessness	\$130,000 Housing Affordability Gap for Blacks countywide
Economic Development and Employment				
The median family income compared to overall County median	Slight improved	70%	60%	78%
Percent below the poverty level	Same	28.8%	28.7%	28.6%
Level of unemployment compared to County workforce	Worsened	7.3%	12.5%	14.9%
Percent of businesses ownership	Improved	1.4%	1.5%	9.53%
Number of persons working for Black owned businesses	Improved	2,323 (.36% of labor force)	2,891 (.41% of labor force)	16,783 (1.98% of labor force)
Black owned firms	Decrease	8% Manufacturing 6% Service 3.6% Retail	0.58% Manufacturing 22.2% Service 1.53% Retail	* Manufacturing 5.0% Service 0.60% Retail

**Values for manufacturing labeled as "suppressed" in 2002 report*

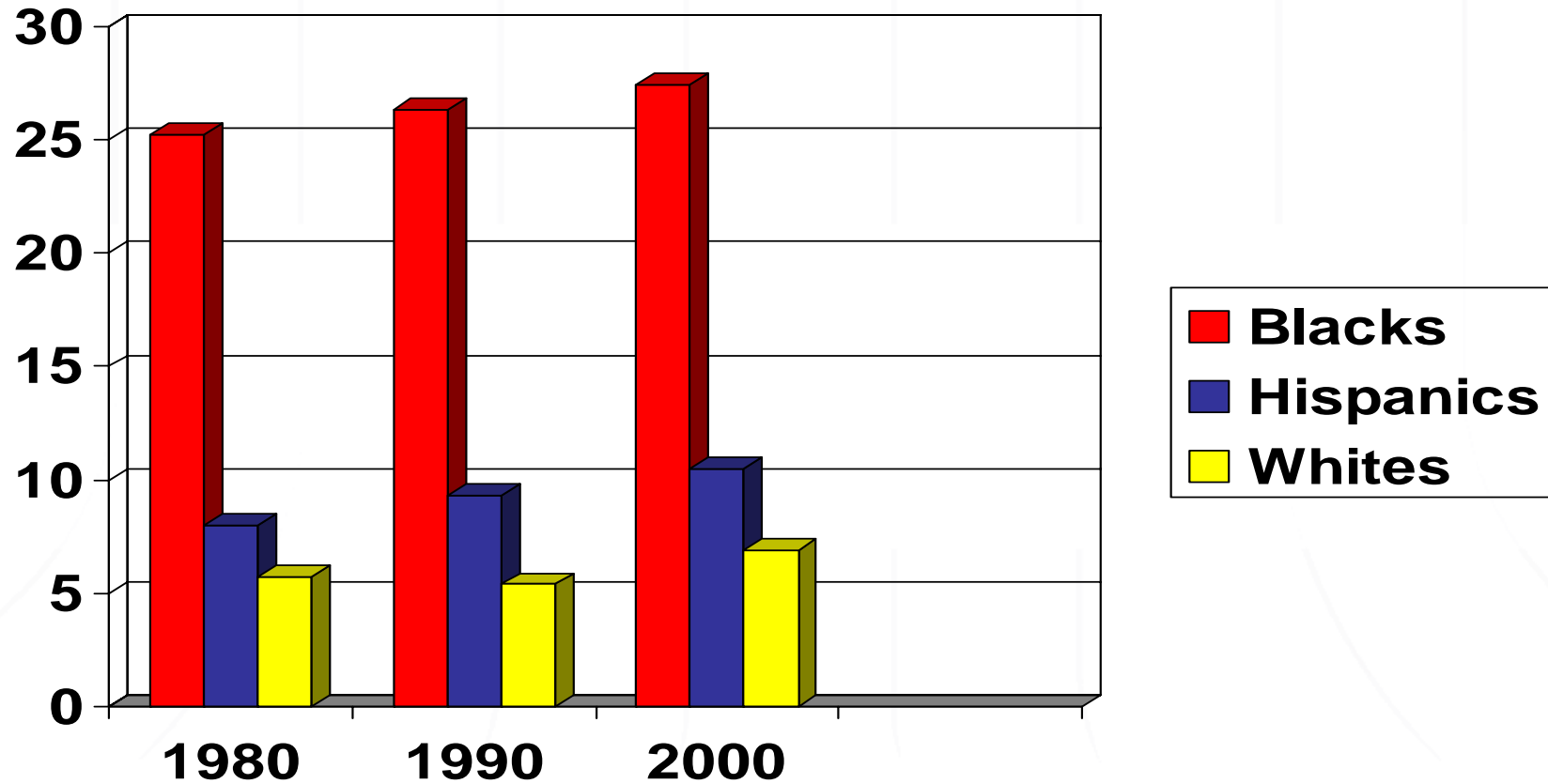
Summary: Public Health & Criminal Justice

	Trend	1983	1993	Present
Health and Human Services				
Health Conditions	Worsened	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Limited access to primary healthcare •Highest rate of non urgent emergency room use & primary care clinics 	Holds one of the highest Black/white death ratios in the nation (>3.5)
Reports of overall conditions in the Black community	Worsened	N/A	Holds highest rates of infant mortality, teenage births, violent trauma, tuberculosis, and newly reported AIDS cases	Holds highest rates of infant mortality, hypertension, adult diabetes, obesity , and HIV related cases & deaths
Criminal Justice				
Perceived treatment under the law	Same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unequal treatment •Denied right to jury of peers •Killers of Blacks don't worry about death penalty •Underrepresented within system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unequal treatment •Denied right to jury of peers •Killers of Blacks don't worry about death penalty •Underrepresented within system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unequal treatment •Denied right to jury of peers •Killers of Blacks don't worry about death penalty •Underrepresented within system
Incarceration of Black youth	Increased	Disproportionate number	42% of all arrests 62% of all incarcerations	51.7% of all arrests
Occurrence of homicide rates	Same	7-8 times higher than rates among whites	Significantly higher than rates among whites	Significantly higher than rates among whites

Demographics

- Miami-Dade's Black population has stopped growing. In 2000, Blacks comprised 21.6%. Today, they make up only 20.5%.
- An increasing number of Black children in Miami-Dade County are being raised by single mothers or by their grandparents.

Female-Householder Families with Children



The Black “Brain Drain”

- Over 30% of the respondents have plans to leave the area. Those expressing an interest to leave are often the best and the brightest:
 - 41% of the respondents earning between \$60,000-\$80,000
 - 39.2% of those with a college degree
 - 35.2% of those with at least some college
 - 36.4% of those working full-time
 - 36.1% of those describing themselves as upper-middle class

Reasons for “Brain Drain”

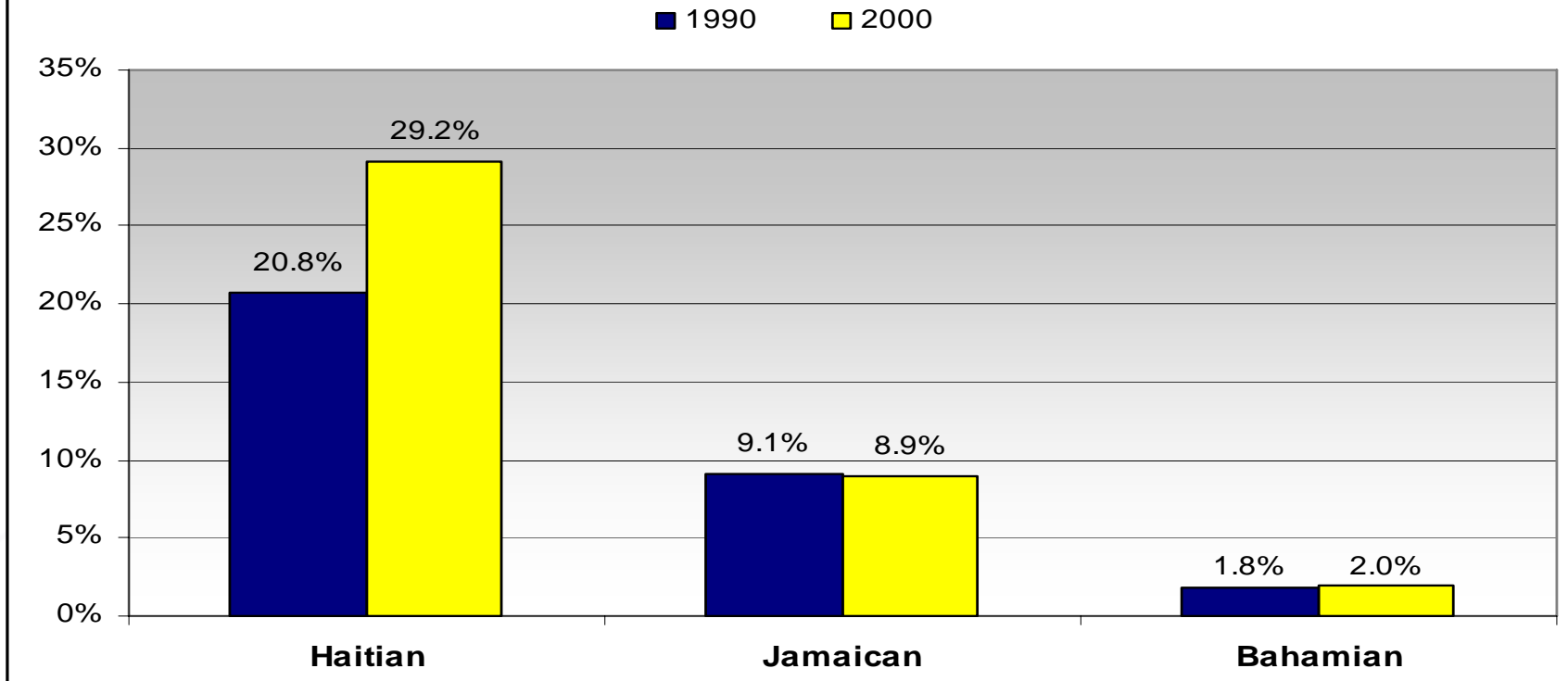
- Perceived lack of opportunity in Miami’s private corporate sector.
- Sub-standard Public School System
- Lack of adequate affordable professional housing

Economic Development

- Countywide participation of Blacks in the labor force has decreased in absolute terms since 1990.
- Black unemployment increased from 4.9% in 1980 to 9.4% in 2005.
- Black professionals are increasingly reliant on the public sector as a source of employment.
- Blacks are dramatically underrepresented in the Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate sectors, which are relatively high-paying.

Unemployment: Black Community

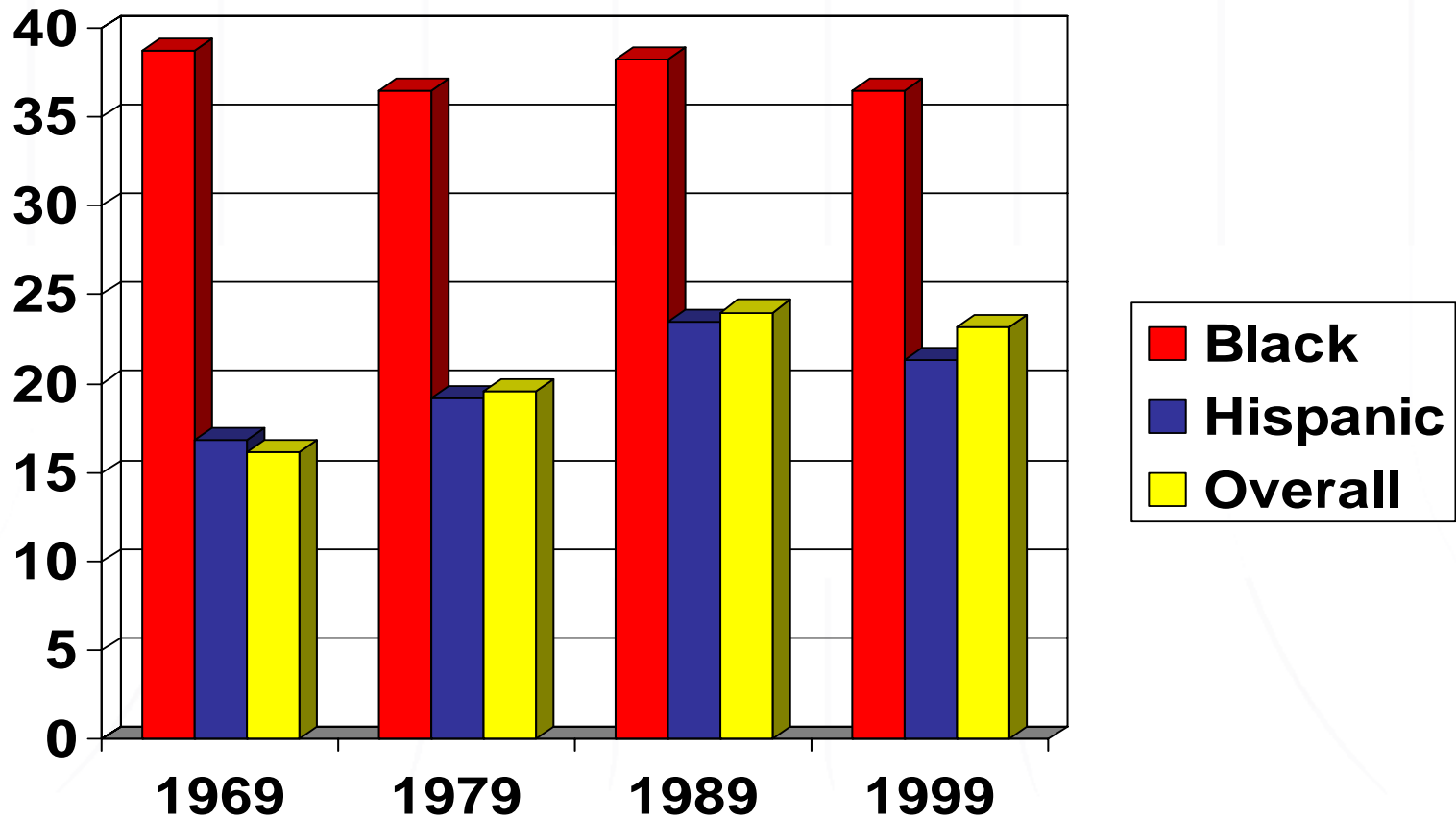
Figure 2.3
Unemployment Rates of Black Communities as a Percentage of Total Black Labor Force



Economic Issues: Public Outlook

- When it comes to their family's economic situation and advancement, respondents expressed limited optimism:
 - A substantial percentage indicate their economic condition to be about the same as it was three years ago (46.6%)
 - An equally substantial percentage also indicate their economic conditions will be about the same three years from now (42.5%)
 - Despite this limited optimism, a similar percentage feels their prospects for professional and economic advancement in Miami-Dade County are “good” to “excellent” (46.5%), but an almost equal number (39.3%) view their prospects as “poor” or “unsatisfactory.”
- When it comes to the economic prospects for Black youths and the African-American community, respondents' opinions are mixed:
 - A substantial percentage indicate prospects for professional and economic advancement for Black Americans in the corporate sector of Miami-Dade County within the next three years are “good” to “excellent” (42.5%)
 - An even larger percentage, however, feel prospects for advancement of Black youths in Miami-Dade County within the next three years are “unsatisfactory” to “poor” (46.5%)

Children Living in Poverty



Housing

- Middle and working-class Black families have been disproportionately affected by the housing affordability crisis.
- The percentage of Black households with housing costs that are equal or greater than 35% of their household income grew from 1990 to 2000 for both owner-occupied units (34.6%) and renter-occupied units (43.5%).
- The affordability gap for homeownership increased for Blacks, from \$20,691 in 2000 to \$138,208 in 2005.
- The percentage of Black home-ownership dropped from 48.2% in 2000 to 45.8% in 2005.

Homeownership Affordability Gap

**Table 2.35
Homeownership Affordability Gap**

			Median Family Income	Median Sales Price	Affordable Home Price @ Median	Affordability Gap @ Median
2000	County	Single Family	\$40,260	\$145,000	\$162,723	17,723
		Condo	\$40,260	\$89,500	\$162,723	73,223
	Black	Single Family	\$30,756	\$145,000	\$124,309	(20,691)
		Condo	\$30,756	\$89,500	\$124,309	34,809
2005	County	Single Family	\$42,499	\$310,000	\$171,792	(138,208)
		Condo	\$42,499	\$206,000	\$171,792	(34,208)
	Black	Single Family	\$33,371	\$310,000	\$134,883	(175,117)
		Condo	\$33,371	\$206,000	\$134,883	(71,117)

Owner- and Renter- Occupied Housing

Table 2.30
Owner- and Renter-Occupied Housing Units
Miami-Dade County, Florida

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005
Total					
Occupied Units	428,026	609,830	692,355	776,774	834,800
Owner	231,562	332,527	375,912	449,325	488,681
Percent	54.1	54.5	54.3	57.8	58.5
Renter	196,464	277,303	316,443	327,449	346,119
Percent	45.9	45.5	45.7	42.2	41.5
Black					
Occupied Units	49,485	84,551	120,321	148,285	146,153
Owner	19,318	37,331	52,590	71,449	66,919
Percent	39.0	44.2	43.7	48.2	45.8
Renter	30,167	47,220	67,731	76,836	79,234
Percent	61.0	55.8	56.3	51.8	54.2
Black Percent of Total					
Occupied Units	11.6	13.9	17.4	19.1	17.5
Owner	8.3	11.2	14.0	15.9	13.7
Renter	15.4	17.0	21.4	23.5	22.9

Homeownership: Public Outlook

- When asked how important homeownership is, 72.6% of respondents indicated “very important.”
- The majority of those who rent have a negative outlook on achieving homeownership:
 - 65.6% of this group are either “unsure” or feel they will “never be able to afford” to purchase a home in Miami-Dade County
 - The biggest obstacles to homeownership as identified by this group are: housing costs (37.3%) and low wages (22.6%)

Education

- Blacks hold the highest dropout rate, at 8.8%
- Black students have had the lowest participation rate in Advanced Placement classes since 1990 (avg. 12.5%); lower than the countywide total (avg. 18.4%)
- Since 1990, Black students hold the highest annual number of outdoor suspensions; In fact, the number of Black student outdoor suspension has increase by over 1,000 students from 1990 to 2006.
- Blacks comprise the largest percentage and number of students in alternative education
- Total Black student enrollment in FAMU, FAU, and FIU combined has increased by 60.2% since 1990.
- Since 1990, Black students at FAMU, FAU, and FIU have consistently majored in Public Administration, Education, and Engineering Technology.

Education

- Respondents did not assign the educational institutions of Miami-Dade County high marks:
 - 76.3% feel “too little” is spent on education
 - 50.8% feel the Miami-Dade School District is not serving the interests of the Black community
 - 51.5% feel the Miami-Dade School District is not preparing the youth of the Black community for the future
 - 60.5% feel the Miami-Dade School District does not serve the interests of all racial groups equally
 - 49.8% feel local colleges and university do not serve the interests of the Black community

Criminal Justice

- Juvenile arrests for Black offenders in Miami - Dade County have decreased between 1998 and 2006 with a total percent change of (7.51%).
- Blacks comprise 51% of juvenile arrests.
- Males comprise 78% of juvenile arrests.
- Teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 make up 94% of juvenile arrests.
- 58.71% of juvenile arrests in Miami-Dade County from 1998 to 2006 were from Districts 1,2,3, and 9.
- Blacks are slightly overrepresented in state prisons in Miami-Dade County
- Blacks and Whites are overrepresented in community supervision programs.
- For the population of juvenile offenders, age and the number of arrests are positively correlated.
- This data indicates that adolescents between the ages of thirteen and seventeen are the most affected by crime given how they might be more prone than other juvenile age groups to arrests.
- 86.2% of Black participants in the MMAP Teen Court Program came from these four districts from 1998 until 2004.

Police Services: Public Outlook

- Respondents had a favorable view of police services:
 - The majority rated police services in their neighborhoods as “good” to “excellent” (67.5%)
 - The majority rate their personal experience in dealing with the police as “good” to “excellent” (62.2%)
- Despite these favorable ratings, the majority of respondents share a belief that most officers treat Blacks differently from Whites or Hispanics (68.8%)
 - 6.9% of the respondents feel that Blacks are always treated the same
 - 51% believe that Blacks are usually treated the same but it often depends on the officer
 - 36% believe that Blacks are either always treated differently or are treated differently most of the time.

Sense of Safety: Public Outlook

- The majority of respondents indicate they feel safe to very safe in their neighborhoods walking at night (64.3%)
 - 67.7% of the respondents in District 1 feel safe in their neighborhoods at night
 - 58.1% of the respondents in District 2 feel safe in their neighborhoods at nights
 - 59.1% of the respondents in District 3 feel safe in their neighborhoods at night.
 - 71% of the respondents in District 9 feel safe in their neighborhoods at night.

Healthcare

- Racial inequities in health care were unusually disparate in Miami-Dade County.
- In 2000, Miami-Dade County had one of the highest Black/White death rate ratios (>3.5) and the highest death rates for Blacks in the nation.
- Miami-Dade County spends the least amount of money on Public Health resources of the Tri-County area.
- Overall, many members of minority groups defer health care consultations because of a lack of finances, mistrust, embarrassment, or fear of how they will be treated if they admit to using folk or traditional remedies
- Blacks in Miami-County suffer from higher rates of diabetes, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, obesity, injury and violence prevention, and heart disease and stroke.

Recommendations

- Expand networking opportunities for Black entrepreneurs by promoting programs such as the South Dade Small Business Capitalization Initiative, the Black Consumer Marketing Conference, and the Great Miami Chamber's Business Empowerment Network Series
- Create 75 internships for Black college students in the fields of Business, Finance, and Real Estate - high-paying jobs in which Blacks are currently underrepresented.
- Collaborate with local universities and Florida's traditional Black colleges to create scholarships in the fields of Business, Finance, and Real Estate.
- Design a Mentor Program that pairs successful Black entrepreneurs with newly graduated Blacks

Recommendations

- Expand current programs on financial literacy within Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Advocate for more public spending on education, especially K-12.
 - Advocate initiatives that attract Black students to programs such as Gifted and Advanced Placement.
- Develop a Black equivalent to Leadership Miami and Leadership Florida to create networking opportunities for young Black professionals.
- Encourage and advocate large businesses to offer housing subsidies for their professional Black employees (i.e. programs currently offered by Baptist Hospital and University of Miami to many of their middle-class employees)