

FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Plan

How to Read a Department's Budget Narrative

Departmental budget narratives in the Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan contain important details regarding how Miami-Dade County funds its strategic goals and fiscal priorities. These sections contain a general departmental description, information regarding operating and capital revenues and expenses, strategic planning alignment and performance expectations, a table of organization with position counts, and divisional highlights, among other things. The way all this information is presented helps demonstrate the progress Miami-Dade County is making towards achieving its strategic goals and fiscal priorities. To help the reader better understand how Miami-Dade County is funding priorities, the following pages explain in detail what is contained in these department narratives.

To ensure Miami-Dade County departments are internally aligned to the County Strategic Plan, unit measures are aligned to a separate departmental objective which itself is linked to a Strategic Plan Objective. Departmental objectives help communicate to the reader how a department specifically supports the County Strategic Plan. These Strategic Plan Objectives – which were updated as part of the FY 2022-23 budget process to account for community priorities identified during the Mayor's Thrive305 community engagement initiative – are listed in Appendix X in Volume 1.

In addition, the departmental budget narratives include how certain divisional and capital operating highlights are categorized under the Mayor's 4Es of Economy, Environment, Engagement, and Equity. These categories are displayed in the narratives with the following symbols:



The information below is a summary of the department budget narrative layout. The numbered bullets below correspond to the circled numbers on the sample narrative page that follows.

1. **Introduction** - A summary of the department's mission, functions, projects, partners and stakeholders
2. **Budget Charts** - Pie charts showing the department's expenditures by activity and its revenues by source
3. **Table of Organization** - A table that organizes the department by major functions and position amounts
4. **Unit Description** - Department narratives include sections for major functional units; each section begins with a description of the unit's role in the department and a list of its functions
5. **Unit Measures** - This section, when applicable, includes tables detailing how specific unit measures and departmental objectives support the Miami-Dade County Strategic Plan; measures are classified by Type and Good Direction; measure types include input (IN), output (OP), efficiency (EF), and outcome (OC). Each measure includes a target and the actual level attained; for some measures, 'target' represents forecasted demand, not desired performance level
- **Division Highlights and Budget Enhancements or Reductions** (not pictured) - Notable programs/initiatives that support the achievement of a Strategic Plan Objective, along with relevant budget and performance impacts; enhancements are in bold and reductions are italicized; as described above some division highlights will also be categorized as supporting one of the Mayor's 4Es.
- **Department-wide Enhancements or Reductions and Additional Comments** (not pictured) - Bullets detailing resource changes to existing programs and initiatives; detailing newly funded programs and initiatives; commenting on other relevant departmental matters; enhancements are in bold and reductions are italicized; as described above some department-wide highlights will also be categorized as supporting one of the Mayor's 4Es.
6. **Capital Budget Highlights and Operational Impacts** - Details the department capital budget information, total project cost, funding by source and impacts on operating budget; as described above some capital highlights will also be categorized as supporting one of the Mayor's 4Es.
7. **Selected Item Highlights and Details** - Reflects costs associated with specific operating budget line items
8. **Fee Adjustments** - For departments with fee adjustments, this section lists any fee for service that the department has created, increased, decreased or eliminated
9. **Operating Financial Summary** - Tables detailing the department's operating revenues and expenditures, non-operating expenditures, if applicable, and expenditures by major programs

