



Review of 1984 Resolution on Nonprofit Funding



Summary of 1984 Resolution

- Adopted June 26, 1984
- Prohibits cash contributions to outside organizations
- Cites:
 - Use of tax dollars must be handled by Council
 - It's not Council's role to decide which nonprofits get funds
 - Donor support should be voluntary
- Resolution remains in effect today

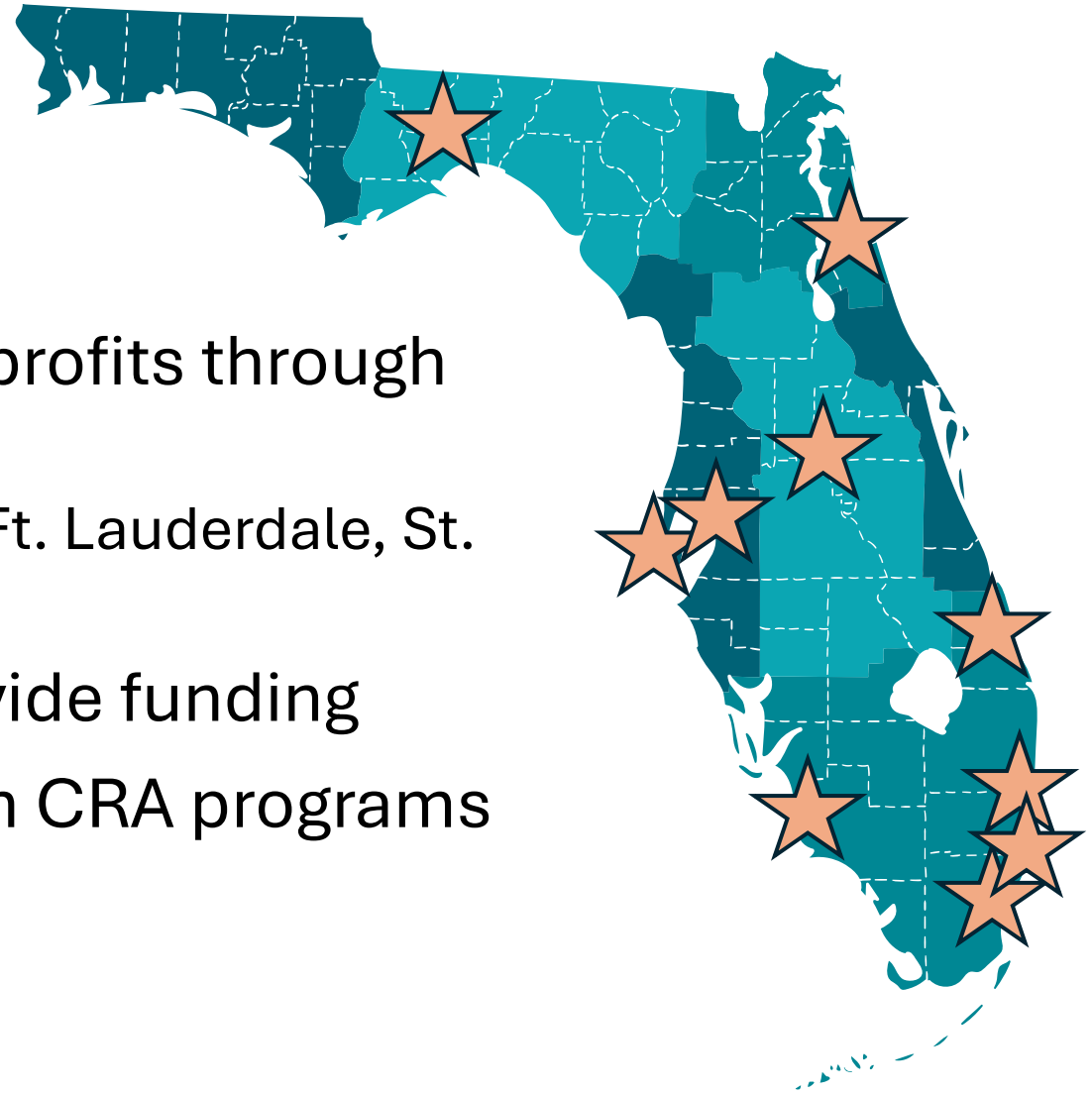
May 2025 Strategic Planning Session Follow-up

- Staff directed to:
 - Research Resolution 84-R36
 - Review legal framework
 - Examine practices in other Florida cities



Top 10 City Research

- 6 of Florida's largest cities fund nonprofits through various methods
 - Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, St. Petersburg
- Hialeah and Tallahassee do not provide funding
- Cape Coral funds nonprofits through CRA programs





Top 10 City Funding

City	Population	Annual Budget	Type of Funding	Allocated Funding
Jacksonville	1,051,278	\$4,540,853,568	Public Service Grant Fund	\$7,000,000
			Annual Budget for Nonprofits	\$2,125,000
Miami	467,171	\$3,479,051,000	Anti-Poverty Initiative and Economic Accessibility Initiative	\$2,600,000
			Annual Budget for Nonprofits	\$1,300,000
Tampa	409,458	\$2,418,848,162	Annual Budget for Nonprofits	\$2,500,000
Orlando	335,066	\$1,819,744,594	Mayor's Matching Grants and the Community Investment Grant	\$2,992,200
			Annual Budget for Nonprofits	\$7,000,000
St. Petersburg	267,031	\$901,907,409	Several different grants in various departments	Not able to obtain
Cape Coral	220,236	\$1,058,403,269	Breaking Barriers to Business Program	\$5,000
			South Cape Banner Program	\$500 for up to 50 banners
			Demolition Assistance Grant Program	\$50,000
Ft. Lauderdale	189,583	\$1,193,279,369	Annual Budget for Nonprofits	\$2,600,000

Local City/County Funding

City	Population	Annual Budget	Type of Funding	Allocated Funding
Indian River County	171,029	\$524,719,875	FY 24/25, they budgeted \$306,928 for nonprofits and 2,751,287 for quasi nonprofits for a total of \$5,814,215.	\$5,814,215
Okeechobee County	40,230	\$193,861,074	IN FY24/25, they budgeted \$1,800 to the Historical Society; \$45,000 to Suncoast Mental Health, \$15,000 to Hanley Center Foundation. Total of \$61,800 to nonprofits.	\$61,800
Martin County	164,853	\$672,655,700	In FY24/25, they budgeted \$844,057 for private organizations. However, they spent over \$2M due to ad hoc requests.	\$2,844,057
St. Lucie County	385,746	\$795,411,550	Listed in their Budget highlights is \$300,000 to the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council Housing Hub; \$150,000 to the St. Lucie County Chamber Small Business Assistance Program; \$25,000 to the Economic Development Council.	\$475,000
Fellsmere	4,990	\$47,844,879	They do not fund nonprofits.	0
Fort Pierce	50,823	\$64,668,104	They have a Public Service Agency Grant which uses CDBG Funds to award \$50,000 (up to 5,000 per person/entity). They also budget for grants and aid to outside entities.	\$50,000
Okeechobee	5,452	\$8,459,528	They budget \$40,000 for local community requests.	\$40,000
Sebastian	26,907	\$44,411,347	They do not fund nonprofits. They do sponsor event, with use of stage, use of parks and promotional assistance.	0
Stuart	20,191	\$110,312,396	They budget \$190,000 from CRA funds towards private organizations, which only \$20,000 goes to nonprofits.	\$20,000
Vero Beach	16,805	\$34,620,759	They budget \$26,000 toward Main Street Vero Beach; a nonprofit helping revitalize downtown.	\$26,000



What Does Florida Law Say?

Two-Part Legal Test

- To lawfully fund nonprofits, cities must:
 - Ensure clearly defined primary public purpose
 - Maintain City control over administration and use of funds
(Examples: grant programs, contracts, performance tracking)

How Cities Comply with State Law

- Competitive Grant Programs
- Clear Guidelines & Qualifiers
 - Eligibility typically requires:
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit status
 - Service to city residents (some require local headquarters)
 - Alignment with city goals or Mayor's initiatives
- Financial & Program Reporting Required
 - Usually annually, with some cities require monthly/quarterly reports
- Language to Allow Termination of Funding
- Codified via Ordinance or Resolution

What This Means for PSL

- City could fund nonprofits if it:
 - Repeals or amends the current resolution
 - Establishes a structured program
 - Demonstrates public benefit
 - Retains program oversight



Consideration: Using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

- Port St. Lucie spent CDBG funds on nonprofit organizations
 - 1992-1999: \$1,167,010.47
 - 2012-2025: \$ 502,465.74
- Recipients:

Council on Aging	Boys and Girls Club	St. Vincent De Paul
Child Resources	Police Athletic League	Jr. Tennis League
Civil Air Patrol	PSL Football League	PSL Friends
PSL Volunteer Ambulance	Deaf Services Center	
- Future CDBG funding remains an option today.



Additional Consideration:

Current In-Kind Support Requests

- Port St. Lucie handles In-Kind Support on an Ad Hoc basis.
- There is no formal policy for in-kind support requests.
- In Kind Sponsorship Events:
 - 2025 – 17 Events
 - 2024 – 11 Events
 - 2023 – 8 Events
- Examples include: City logo use, promotional activities, use of Parks stage, and city presence at event.

Possible Guidelines based on best practices (if Reso 84-R36 is repealed)

- Codified internal non-profit grant program with ordinance or resolution
- A competitive, policy-guided funding program
- Clear criteria and evaluation tools
- A designated office or staff liaison for nonprofit engagement
- Ability for the City to withdraw funds
- Itemize funding in City's annual budget

Items for Council Discussion

- Maintaining current policy (no funding)
- Repealing/Amending Resolution 84-R36
 - Direct staff to establish a formal policy for a grant program with eligibility & control
- Providing staff direction on In-Kind Support Requests