

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

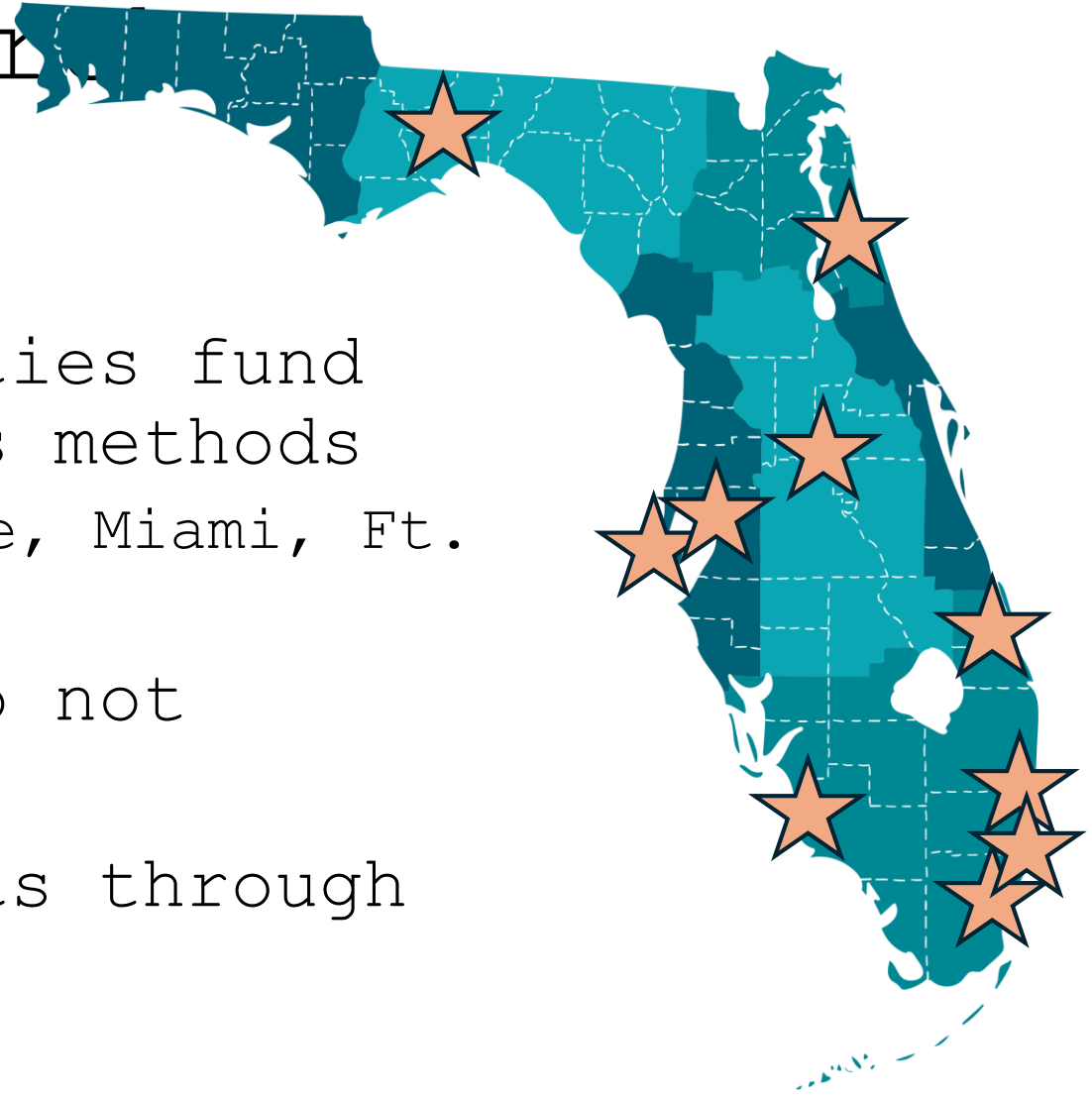
May 2025 Strategic Planning Session

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	\$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
Vincent De Paul

Child Resources
Tennis League

Civil Air Patrol
Friends

Boys and Girls Club St.

Police Athletic League Jr.

PSL Football League PSL

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

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