



TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH IN MIAMI-DADE

Collaborative for Innovation and Sustainability

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Background

In 2021, the Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County received the OT21-2103 grant, aiming to enhance Miami-Dade County's health outcomes by letting the community direct fund allocation and implementation. A Request for Applications invited community providers, municipalities, and universities to submit projects focused on five key areas:

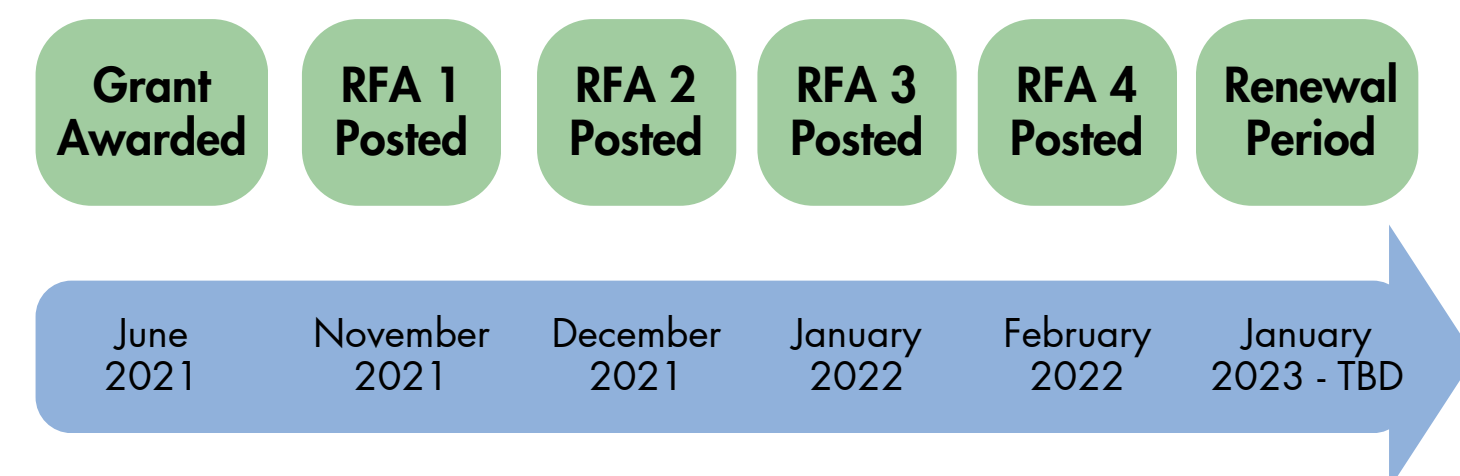
1. Social/community context
2. Health care access and quality
3. Economic stability
4. Education access and quality
5. Neighborhood/built environment



Project Description

Diverse Projects with a Unified Goal

A total of 34 unique projects targeted various barriers to health. The approach was underpinned by a commitment to sustainability and strategic evaluation, fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement among contracted providers.

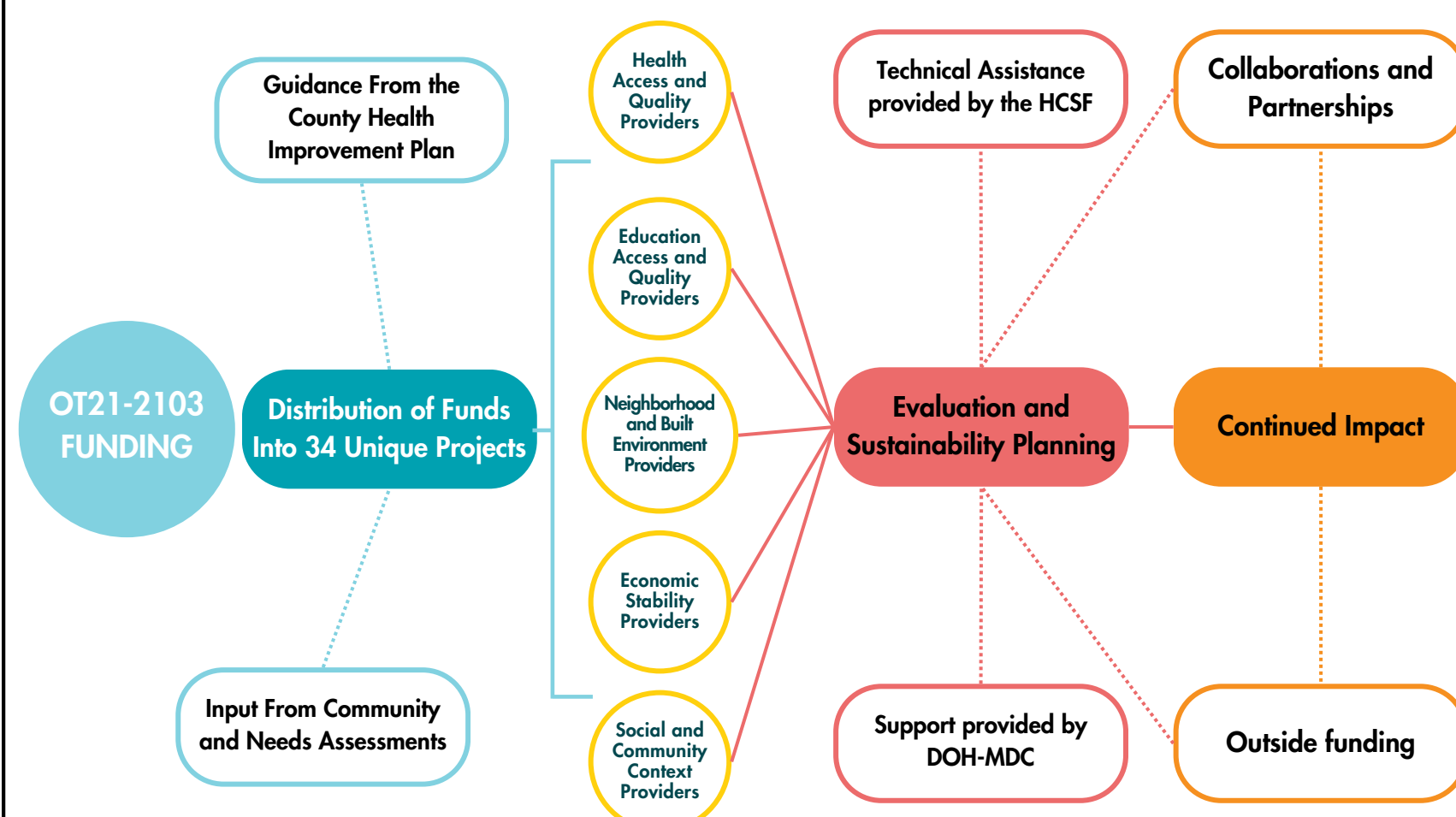


Strategy

Collaboration and Capacity Building

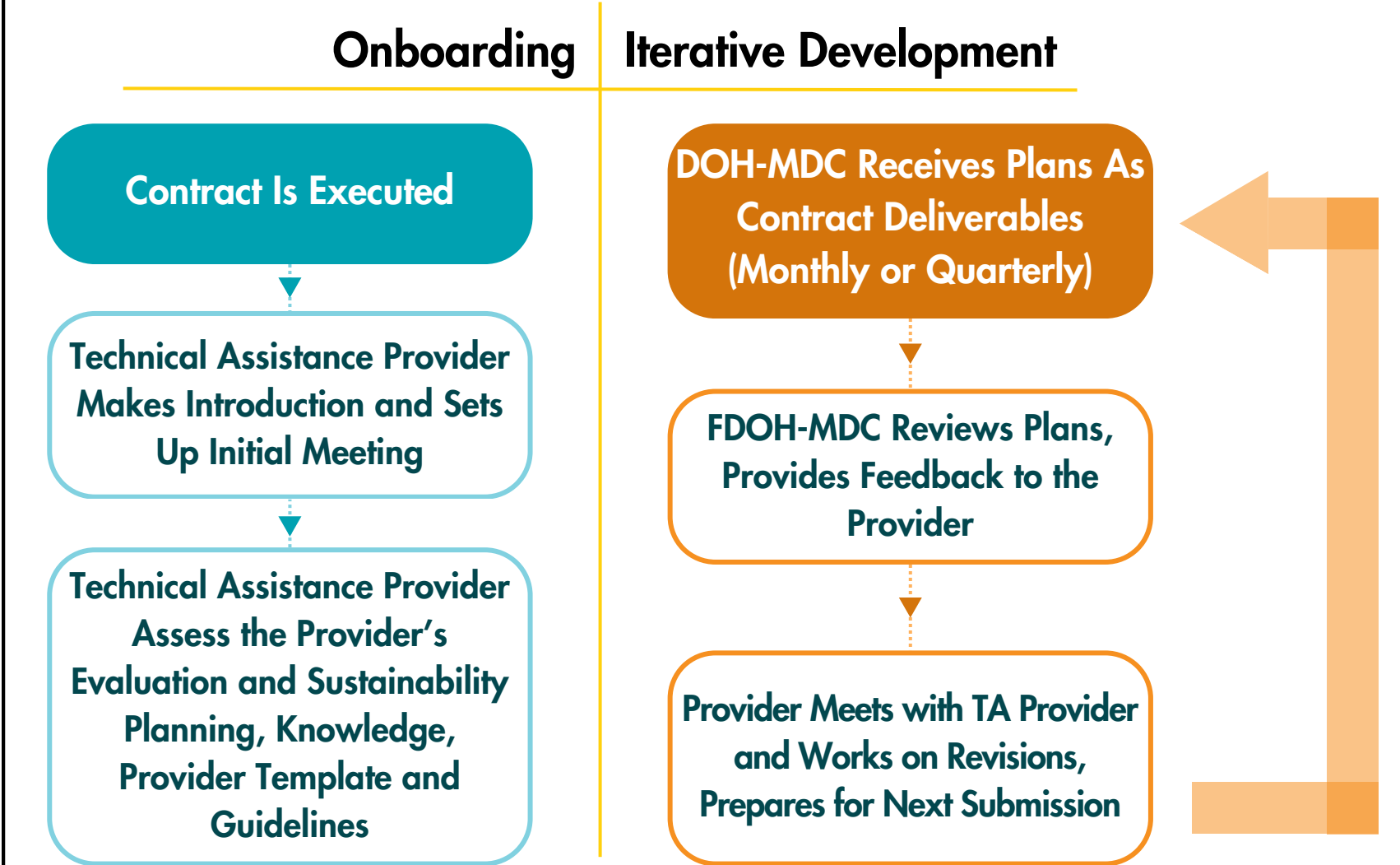
The strategy was two-fold:

1. **Engagement:** Engage and award local organizations familiar to the community to implement projects that are accessible and relevant to community needs.
2. **Sustainability and Evaluation:** Mandate the creation and implementation of sustainability plans to support organizations post-grant, emphasizing outcome-focused capacity building and strategic evaluation using SMART criteria to ensure projects are sustainable and impactful.



Technical Assistance

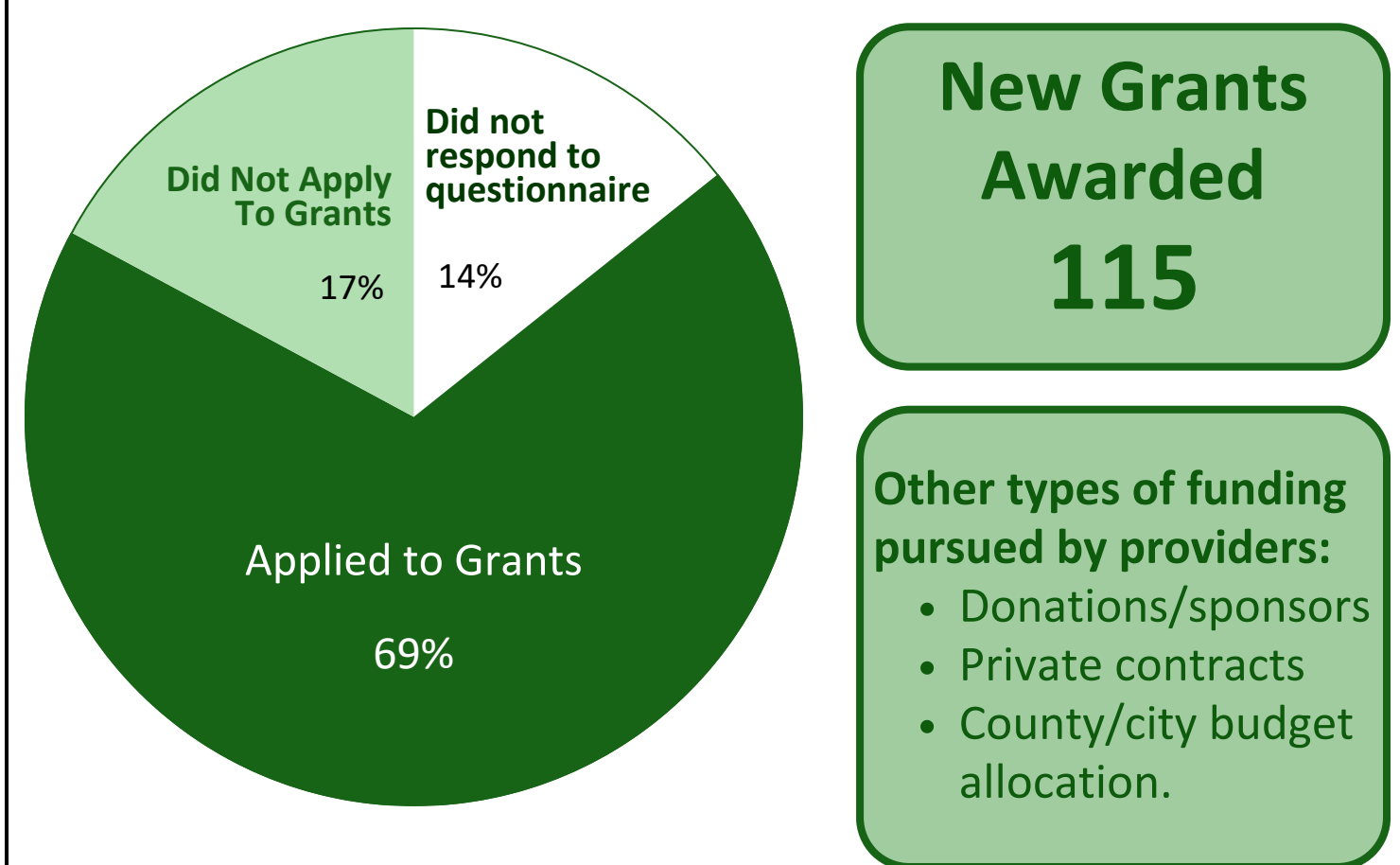
Our technical assistance provider, Health Council of South Florida, worked alongside our agency in promoting the creation of a sustainability plan as well as assisting our providers with the evaluation planning and execution process. The process is as follows:



Results/Findings

Many funded organizations initially lacked expertise in evaluation and sustainability planning. Collaboration with Health Council of South Florida's technical assistance staff led to improved planning. Our aim was ensuring services' continuity, adaptable to community needs. The data below highlights providers' success in securing further funding, mainly through grants.

Grant Applications



Provider Highlight

Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention (CMWP)

Project Description

CMWP recognized the impact of financial stability on health, teaching financial planning to Miami-Dade County youth in schools and community centers at no cost.

Evaluation Findings

Pre and post-tests showed an 80% knowledge increase among participants, with 96% finding the learning valuable and 93% confident in skill application.

Sustainability Practices

In addition to pursuing new grant opportunities, CMWP implemented a train-the-trainer program to allow the curriculum's impact to extend beyond CMWP's initial efforts.

Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

Successes

TA Utilization

All contracted providers made evaluation and sustainability plans. Around 90% utilized TA services.

Peer Sharing Showcase

Our 'Improving the Quality of Life in Miami-Dade' showcase allowed us to convene our providers and facilitate new partnerships while celebrating the important work being done across the county.

Challenges

- Overcoming provider inexperience with sustainability and evaluation planning, and some provider resistance to iterative planning.
- The burden on small teams to balance project planning with other duties.

Lessons Learned

- Establishing clear procedures for feedback between funder and TA provider is essential.
- Providing evaluation and sustainability planning training and grant writing workshops before program implementation would allow for greater success.
- Smaller community-based organizations may need more time to get from planning to implementation (and to evaluation).

Next Steps

Maintaining Relationships

Established in 2003 by the DOH-MDC, the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade aims to combat chronic diseases and boost community health through collaborative efforts. Of the 34 providers, 28 joined. Support will continue through the Consortium beyond the direct funding period.

Stipends

We intend to offer stipends to providers post-contract using alternative funding, for formal follow-ups on their project's evaluation and sustainability using monthly or quarterly updates.

Acknowledgements/Contact Information

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