

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# PitchIt! offers essay contest for M-DCPS students to promote news literacy

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M-DCPS middle schools and high schools are invited to participate in "PitchIt!" — an essay contest designed to address the problems of disinformation campaigns. Students are being asked to write an essay of 500 to 1,000 words about a local, national or international story that would've benefited from literacy skills being applied to stop misinformation from being spread.

The contest comes from the News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan national

education nonprofit, provides programs and resources for educators and the public to teach, learn and share the abilities needed to be smart, active consumers of news and information and equal and engaged participants in a democracy.

"We're very pleased to be working with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to encourage students to use their voices as a catalyst for positive change in our communities," said Monica Valdes, NLP's Miami NewsLit Nation ambassador.

"Our learning goals for this contest include helping

students analyze different types of misinformation and showcasing their ability to think critically about what is and is not verifiable information," Valdes said. "When we fail to teach news literacy, we actively disempower students from being engaged members of their communities. That's why we hope students and teachers from across the district will enter and participate."

Students will choose from one of three prompts to consider the impact the story had and whether false claims about it could be debunked using reputable and verifiable sources of

information. The prompts include explaining how the First Amendment protects freedom of the press; how citizens can fact-check well-known figures; and why sharing reliable information is a civic responsibility.

The three middle school winners and three high school winners will be able to share their essay ideas with the "PitchIt!" judges, including education reporter Colleen Wright of the Miami Herald and Jessica Bakeman of WLRN, South Florida's NPR member station. The judges will choose the idea that would have best prevented misin-



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formation from being spread. The winning student and teacher will each receive \$100. Second-place finishers will receive \$50 and third-place winners will be awarded \$25.

The deadline for entries has been extended to 5 p.m. on May 15. Winners will be chosen the week of

May 24. Schools should submit their top two winning essays per grade band via email to: Ms. Monica Valdes, Miami NewsLit Ambassador, mvaldes@dadeschools.net

For more information, go to: <https://newsitit.org/updates/news-literacy-essay-contest/>

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CITY OF NORTH MIAMI**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**  
**HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)**  
**FY 2021-2022 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUMMARY**  
**30-DAY COMMENTING PERIOD**  
**MAY 6, 2021 – JUNE 7, 2021**

The City of North Miami has been notified that it will receive a total of \$1,089,029 in federal funds comprised of a Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") allocation of \$788,498 and a HOME Investment Partnerships ("HOME") grant allocation of \$300,531 for FY 2021-2022. Funds will be used to develop stronger communities by providing decent housing, creating suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for people of low- to moderate-income. The Annual Action Plan sets priorities among the needs identified in the 5-year approved Consolidated Plan and sets out the plan for use of the funds on a yearly basis. The Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") on or before August 15, 2021. The projected use of funds are provided below:

NO	Activity	Funding Allocation
1	CDBG Program Administration	\$141,930.00
2	CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program	\$423,293.00
3	CDBG Public Services – Non-profit Community Based Organizations & YOB Program	\$118,275.00
4	CDBG Elderly Emergency Repairs	\$80,000.00
5	CDBG Emergency Tenant-Based Rental	\$0.00
6	CDBG Public Facilities (Capital Project)	\$25,000.00
7	CDBG Economic Development	\$0.00
<b>CDBG Total</b>		<b>\$748,498.00</b>
8	HOME Program Administration	\$30,053.00
9	HOME Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Set-aside	\$45,080.00
10	HOME First-time Homebuyer Program	\$100,000.00
11	HOME Single-Family Rehabilitation Program	\$85,398.00
12	HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program	\$30,000.00
<b>HOME Total</b>		<b>\$300,531.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CDBG &amp; HOME FUNDS</b>		<b>\$1,089,029.00</b>

A draft copy of the City's Annual Action Plan will be available to the public for 30-day commenting period beginning May 6, 2021 thru June 7, 2021 at the Housing and Social Services Department Satellite Office 13753 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami, FL 33168 and the North Miami City Hall located at 776 NE 125th Street North Miami, FL 33161. You can also view the draft online by clicking here and individuals wishing to comment on the plan may submit written comments via email to [housing@northmiamifl.gov](mailto:housing@northmiamifl.gov).

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**COMMISSION WORKSHOP ON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**  
**MAY 24, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY** given the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach will hold a **City Commission Workshop** on May 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss bicycle and pedestrian safety.

**Observing the Commission Workshop:**

The Commission Workshop will be broadcast live on Miami Beach TV (MBTV), viewable on the City's website at <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/government/mbtv/>, as well as on Atlantic Broadband Cable channel 660, AT&T U-verse channel 99, Hailwire Communications channel 395, and Roku device on PEG TV channel. Closed captioning displays of the audio portion of the Commission Workshop is available in English and Spanish on MBTV. The Commission Workshop will also be broadcast live on social media at [facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach). Closed captioning displays of the audio portion of the Commission Workshop is available in English on Facebook.

**Submitting written public comment before the Commission Workshop:**

The public may submit written comments by sending an email to [CityClerk@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:CityClerk@miamibeachfl.gov). Emails received will be forwarded to the Mayor and Commissioners and will be included as a part of the meeting record.

**Providing spoken public comment during the Commission Workshop:**

To participate or provide comments during the Commission Workshop, the public may join the webinar at: <https://miamibeachfl.gov/zoom.us/j/81392857671> or via telephone at: 1.301.715.8592 (U.S.) or 888.475.4498 (Toll Free). Webinar ID: 81392857671. Members of the public wanting to speak on an item during the meeting, must click the "raise hand" icon if using the Zoom app or press \*9 on the telephone to raise their hand.

To request this material in alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2489 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).

Members of the public may present audio/visual (AV) materials relating to Agenda Items at City Commission Workshops by utilizing the City's AV equipment, provided that materials are submitted to the Department of Marketing and Communications by 8:30 a.m., one (1) business day prior to the meeting. Advance submittal of a presentation will allow the Communications Department to plan for the use of the appropriate AV equipment. AV materials must be submitted via email at [communications@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:communications@miamibeachfl.gov). The body of the email must include a notation listing the name or group, contact person, daytime telephone number, email address, description/title of the presentation, and Agenda Item Title as well as the Agenda Item Number. Please reference "Audio/Visual Material" in the email subject line. Acceptable formats for electronic submission are: pdf, ppt, pptx, pps, ppsx, wmv, avi, and mov. (Note that pdf is the preferred format for PowerPoint presentations.)

**MIAMI BEACH**

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