2025

New Horizons

- Future Bound Miami operations transfer to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, after opening more than 16,000 children's savings accounts while housed at Catalyst.
- Catalyst takes on operations of Miami Climate Alliance, 10 years after helping to create the coalition.

2026

Catalyst Miami turns 30!

CATALYST MIAMI
30 YEARS OF PROGRESS

2024

Drilling Down to Essentials

- Catalyst begins aligning all work to two central pillars: economic and climate justice.
- Integration between service delivery and advocacy efforts increases with the implementation of a secondary intake process connecting clients to programmatic opportunities.

2023

Forward Focused

- Zelalem Adefris is named Catalyst's 3rd CEO, aligning the organization to a new strategic plan and overseeing the launch of a community organizing effort, Miami Our Way, bringing residents together monthly to tackle local concerns.

2020

Small Business Support

- Catalyst begins offering technical support for small businesses impacted by the 2020 pandemic, one of three organizations to receive a grant from the City of Miami for this work.

2014

New Beginnings

- Gretchen Beesing is named CEO, overseeing the launch of several initiatives, including Step Up Miami, Step Up Kids, Lending Circles, Ways 2 Wealth, and the 1st annual Anti-Poverty Summit.

2016

Climate Justice Portfolio

- Catalyst launches its climate work with the training CLEAR (Community Leadership on the Environment, Advocacy & Resilience) after receiving grants from The Kresge Foundation in 2015.

2019

Housing, Savings, and Workforce Programs

- Catalyst launches another leadership training, HEAL (Housing Equity, Advocacy & Leadership).
- The Worker-Owned Business Program is formed, helping participants create worker-owned businesses.
- Catalyst leads the formation and launch of Future Bound Miami, the 1st universal Children's Savings Account (CSA) program in FL, in collaboration with local partners.

2011

Miami Thrives Network

- The anti-poverty initiative spans service providers, labor groups, and faith-based organizations, funded with the support of the Kresge Foundation.

2010

Fueling the Spark

- Human Services Coalition officially renames to Catalyst Miami.

2008

Supporting Local

- The Center for Civic Change: An Incubator for Social Impact is launched, and HSC begins offering services and consultation, all to increase the capacity of Miami's health and human services sector.

2007

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

- The Connecticut-based program launches in Miami to train parents and children to become effective advocates in their communities.

2001

Community Leadership Institute

- Launched in Little Havana with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The curriculum is co-designed with residents using Paulo Freire's method.

2003

Prosperity Campaign Launches

- Encouraged local leaders to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit, benefits enrollment, and anti-poverty initiatives.

2006

Civic Life Academy

- Launched to house all civic capacity-building and advocacy programs at HSC.
- The education and mobilization program Access through Action is launched to increase civic participation in healthcare, funded by Allegany Franciscan Ministries.

1998

New Leaders Program

- 1st community leadership training program established, focusing on the South Florida immigrant population.
- HSC receives its 1st government contract from the Department of Health

1997

Community Coalitions

- Community Coalition for a Living Wage (CCLW) is formed by HSC, AFL-CIO, and other organizations.
- HSC participates in its 1st "Dade Days" where residents visit Tallahassee to advocate for community concerns.

1996

Official Incorporation

- HSC becomes a 501(c)(3) and recieves its 1st grant from the Joseph and Florence A. Roblee Foundation.

1995

Early Beginnings

- Founder Daniella Levine Cava incorporates the Human Services Coalition (HSC) of Dade County, now known as Catalyst Miami, sponsored by Barry University's School of Social Work.