



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Receives Grant from NBA Foundation and Miami Heat

*The grant will support the Expansion of the Miami Lighthouse Pre-Employment Training Program
Including On-campus Career And College Exploration.*

MIAMI, FL – Jan. 29, 2026 – [The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) is proud to announce that the organization has received a grant from the NBA Foundation and the Miami Heat, recognizing the organization's exceptional commitment to empowering Miami's visually impaired youth.

"We are excited to partner with new grantee, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Learning about their work was a highlight when selecting grantees for Round 16, and we are glad to support their mission which provides economic opportunity for young people in the Miami Heat market," says NBA Foundation Executive Director Ruth Jurgensen.

This grant will mark a meaningful partnership aimed at fostering a positive change in the South Florida community through career readiness. With funding from the NBA Foundation and the Miami Heat, Miami Lighthouse's Pre-Employment Transition Services aims to expand its efforts to benefit blind and visually impaired participants ages 14-22 by offering pre-employment transition services with the opportunity to gain practical and important employment skills to enter the workforce.

"Our blind and visually impaired participants face a unique set of challenges, so we want to make the transition into the workforce or post-secondary education as seamless as possible to ensure our young adults reach their full potential," says Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. "We are so proud to have been recognized by the NBA Foundation and the Miami Heat through their investment in South Florida's future workforce."

Miami Lighthouse's Pre-Employment Transition Services teaches students a variety of necessary skills, including home and personal management, assistive technology, job readiness, and community orientation, along with employment skills such as keeping up-to-date resumes, job interviewing, and the use of business technology.

The organization is also expanding its current workforce development training through Job Readiness and Placement Classes to continue equipping blind and visually impaired individuals with the tools they need to reach their full potential in their next career move.

For more information about Miami Lighthouse and their workforce development efforts, please visit <https://www.miamilighthouse.org/>.

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About Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

For nearly a century, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has been working to build a more inclusive society for the blind and visually impaired. Through education, training, research and vision enhancement, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind provides hope, confidence, and independence to people of all ages. Miami Lighthouse serves over 28,000 program participants from blind babies to seniors, each year. For more information, please visit www.miamilighthouse.org.