



## ***Jewish Hartford Rapid Relief and Recovery Fund*** **Q&A Briefing**

We are living in unprecedented times. The accelerated scale of COVID-19 is harshly impacting the most vulnerable people in our community. Coming together as a community to help people in need is a core Jewish value: That's why Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford have launched the *Jewish Hartford Rapid Relief and Recovery Fund*.

### **What is the mission of the Fund?**

We aim to quickly provide our Jewish community with the resources required to immediately address the emergency social service and organizational needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also anticipate that the Fund may have the ability to bolster the capacity of agencies and synagogues to address their unexpected challenges related to COVID-19 and ensure continuity of their operations. We understand that the impacts could continue for several months and we are here to help during this crisis.

### **Who will the Fund help?**

The Fund will *initially* provide immediate assistance to our local Jewish community partners to ensure access to food, medicine and financial resources to help cover basic needs – particularly to vulnerable people who may already be socially isolated, in fragile health or in financial crisis. Services will include providing kosher meals to the hungry and homebound, and ensuring behavioral health counseling for people in crisis. We will regularly report to Fund donors and the entire community on emerging needs and how contributions are being spent.

### **How was the Fund established? Who manages it?**

Our two organizations seeded the Fund with an *initial* philanthropic investment of \$150,000 through available resources, and an additional \$100,000 has been contributed by private donors. We aim to grow the Fund through targeted development efforts. The Fund is co-directed by the CEOs of Federation and the Foundation, in close conjunction with their Board Chairs, and operated through appropriate committees with oversight from our Board of Directors.

### **How can donors support the Fund?**

You can make a contribution of any size directly to the Fund through Federation, which will be deposited in the Fund and held at the Foundation. Distributions from the Fund will be approved by a joint committee of community lay leaders and Federation/Foundation staff. **100% of your contribution will be used to help those affected by COVID-19 in Greater Hartford's Jewish community. Please click here to donate today: <https://bit.ly/HartfordJewishRelief>**

You may also request a grant from your donor advised funds, held at the Foundation or your commercial institution. For expert assistance, please contact Kathryn Gonnerman at [kgonnerman@jcfhartford.org](mailto:kgonnerman@jcfhartford.org).

**Many organizations are in need right now. Should I give to this new Fund or directly to my favorite organizations?**

We recommend both. Please continue to give to the local organizations and synagogues you regularly support at your current levels; they need you now more than ever. Then please consider making an additional gift to the Fund. We will coordinate with our partner organizations and synagogues to deliver this assistance, and we'll explore partnerships with other local service providers as necessary. We will continue to reassess needs and report out to the community as the situation unfolds.

**What will NOT be included in the first phase of funding?**

We anticipate multiple phases of funding to address today's acute needs and the longer-term impacts of the pandemic. In this first phase, we are prioritizing community-based organizations that are serving families and individuals who are immediately and disproportionately suffering from the COVID-19 crisis. In this first round, we are not able to prioritize organizations that have lost revenue or are likely to lose future revenue due to canceled events or programs. We recognize these challenges, and as the crisis and long-term impacts continue to unfold, we will continue to work with our Fund Development Cabinet and Grants Committee to assess and evolve our funding capacity and strategies.

Based upon the charitable structure of Federation and the Foundation, our grants must be made to 501c3 nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive tax-deductible contributions, such as schools, faith-based organizations, and other public entities. We are not able to directly fund individuals or businesses, labor unions, or other 501c4, 501c5, and 501c6 organizations, but we can provide financial aid to individuals and families through our community partners.

**How can an agency receive more information about the Fund?**

Please send an email to [grants@jcfhartford.org](mailto:grants@jcfhartford.org).

**Are there other funding sources for COVID-19?**

State and federal governmental help is available for agencies and organizations. Federation maintains a list of COVID-19 resources for individuals, nonprofits, and businesses on its website and updates it frequently; visit [www.jewishhartford.org/coronavirus](http://www.jewishhartford.org/coronavirus).