



Grants in Action

Grant making is a catalyst for change, fueling the positive impact we all aim to achieve within our community and the world. We are pleased to share a retrospective look at two grantee organizations and how they have put their grants into action by exploring creative, new ideas and approaches.

Jewish Association for Community Living

When the Foundation made a grant to Jewish Association for Community Living (JCL) to build its fundraising and donor engagement capacity, it was investing in JCL's sustainability. Capacity building grants like this are key to a thriving Jewish community, helping organizations improve effectiveness and positioning them to better fulfill their mission.

Like many agencies, JCL must reconcile a gap in its state funding and the costs of providing quality care to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Unfortunately, each year the gap grows and maintaining the quality level of care becomes more expensive. Fundraising from grants and individuals is key to meet this challenge.

Guided by a logic model it learned from the Foundation's Center for Innovative Philanthropy, JCL set a goal to enhance fundraising by improving communication with donors, expanding its donor base, raising visibility, training existing JCL staff to serve as advocates, and building internal capacity for raising awareness. The Foundation's two-year grant enabled JCL to hire a development professional to write a strategic fundraising plan as well as a marketing consultant to put the plan into action.

The result: JCL has experienced a 70% increase in total donations, grants, and gifts.

Jewish Leadership Academy

Resilient, forward-thinking leaders ensure vibrant, sustainable communities. That's why the Foundation was proud to award a grant to the Jewish Federation to establish the Jewish Leadership Academy (JLA) to strengthen the skills of veteran and emerging community leaders.

In its first year, JLA has seen over 400 program participants, with 270 unique users. It achieved these results by providing educational and training programs for agency presidents/board chairs, young professionals, synagogue leadership and community members, including:

- Community Leadership Initiative (CLI) – a year-long program for incoming board presidents or candidates for board leadership. Topics include managing change and understanding personal leadership style.

- The Presidents' Circle – a peer learning group which brings together synagogue and agency presidents to network, build trust and explore creative problem-solving.
- Turn Your Passion into Professional Success – a program for Jewish professionals that fosters excitement about leadership.

JLA is strengthening our community by building connections, fostering trust and encouraging collaboration and preparing once untapped talent for key leadership positions.