SAN DIEGO JEWISH COMMUNITY COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND

Update - February 2021
Dear Friends,

We are so deeply grateful to you. Almost 400 caring members of our community have stepped up over the last ten months to assist those whose lives have been torn apart by COVID-19. Almost $3 million has been raised for our community effort with about 80 percent of that already deployed.

Jewish tradition places great value on learning through taking action. At a time when we knew the pandemic would dramatically affect our community, but did not yet grasp the profound and long-lasting needs, your vision to invest in future solutions meant the Fund could respond immediately to support families and individuals seeking critical services. You took a risk by investing in the Fund without a clear roadmap. We are now coming back to you to report how the funds you contributed have sustained our community and meant so much to those enduring the greatest hardships.

Because of your support, our community has ensured people can access food, healthcare, and secure housing. We have provided nourishment for the body, mind and spirit. We commit to maintaining this pace of response and reaching those who need support the most.

We know now that COVID-19 is both a sprint and a marathon. The needs are not going away and will only become more pronounced as this pandemic has illuminated and widened inequities of all kinds. If you have already given to the Fund, thank you again. As we continue to encounter dynamic and pervasive needs, please consider renewing support. If you have not already given to the Fund, please consider a gift. And please pass this along to your friends and colleagues who might be interested in knowing more about the impact of the Jewish community in this incredibly difficult time and would consider joining our growing consortium of funders. In the words of our Sages, a community is too heavy to carry alone.

Again, thank you so very much. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of us with any questions.

Leo Spiegel and Beth Sirull, Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego
Brian Tauber and Michael Jeser, Jewish Federation of San Diego County
Emily Einhorn and Charlene Seidle, Leichtag Foundation

San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund Task Force
Uses of the Fund to Date

The following pressing needs have emerged over time since March 2020. The Fund has responded with grants and loans as well as technical support to leverage additional resources.

› Food assistance
› Medical care
› Maintaining existing staff for Jewish organizations
› Isolation and mental health support
› Re-employment assistance
› PPE access and safe reopening preparations
› Housing assistance
› Utility assistance
› Support for distance learning
› Childcare

Fund Grantees and Loan Recipients

› Aish San Diego
› Beth Jacob Congregation
› Camp Mountain Chai
› Chabad of Bonita – Beth Eliyahu Torah Center
› Chabad of Carlsbad North
› Chabad of Carmel Valley
› Chabad of Chula Vista
› Chabad of Downtown
› Chabad House of the College Area
› Chabad of East County
› Chabad of Encinitas
› Chabad La Costa
› Chabad Oceanside
› Chabad of Pacific Beach
› Chabad of San Diego
› Chabad of San Marcos/Alef Center
› Chabad of UC San Diego
› Chabad of University City
› Coastal Roots Farm
› Community Jewish High
› Congregation Adat Yeshurun
› Congregation Beth Am
› Congregation Beth Israel
› Friends of the IDF
› G’mach
› Hillel of San Diego
› Hope Village (Chesed House)
› Jewish Collaborative of San Diego
› Jewish Family Service of San Diego
› Ken Jewish Community
› Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
› Ner Tamid Synagogue
› Ohr Shalom Synagogue
› San Diego Jewish Academy
› San Diego Outreach Synagogue
› SCY High
› Seacrest Village Retirement Communities
› Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School
› StandWithUs
› Temple Adat Shalom
› Temple Beth Sholom
› Temple Emanu-El
› Temple Etz Rimon
› Temple Solel
› The Butterfly Project
› Tifereth Israel
› The Elijah Minyan
› Torah High School

$2.5 Million Committed

Safe Reopening, 40%  
$1,011,230

Essential Needs, 25%  
$625,673

Revitalization & Distance Learning, 13%  
$330,000

Immediate Crisis Assistance*, 12%  
$302,000

Virtual & Outdoor Programs, 10%  
$254,704

* Net amount after loan repayment to date
Immediate Crisis Assistance

Community Challenges:
› Needs were diverse and evolving, requiring nimble response
› Jewish organizations needed cash to continue operations while awaiting PPP loans and other sources of capital
› Keep staff employed at Jewish organizations
› Avoid making decisions in crisis mode
› Bridge healthcare and essential expenses for Jewish communal staff reductions

Response

- **$492,046**
  - Interest-free bridge loans
  - Camp Mountain Chai
  - Congregation Adat Yeshurun
  - Hillel of San Diego
  - Lawrence Family JCC
  - Soille SD Hebrew Day School
  - Chesed House
  - Temple Adat Shalom
  - Torah High School

- **$25,075**
  - Grants for essential expenses and healthcare premiums for former employees
  - 5 Organizations whose employees were supported

Impact

- Bridge funding pre-PPP loans
- Capacity building including national and local resources
- Extended loan terms
- Appreciation for professionals
- Effort to retain talent in the Jewish communal field

Beneficiary Story

“Because of the technical assistance in applying for a PPP loan and the Fund’s essential bridge loan, Hillel of San Diego could retain staff and continue to serve students in need of compassionate care during their abrupt dislocation from campus.”
Essential Needs

Community Challenges:
› Basic Needs
› Food
› Medical expenses
› Housing
› Case Management
› Employment assistance
› Isolation and mental health support
› Domestic abuse support

Responses

Social Service Agencies

$108,000
For granting to households through JFS and G’mach

$417,673
Multi-year grant for new Jewish-centered case management at JFS - includes $178,000 for direct financial assistance

Rabbis’ Discretionary Funds

$100,000
For granting to households through rabbis’ funds

11 Synagogues
15 Chabads
33 Rabbis

Impact

110+ Households reached

Beneficiary Story
“When Sandra’s contract work ended, she wasn’t eligible for unemployment and couldn’t return to work as she was in the third trimester of her pregnancy. Her husband was laid off. Jewish Family Service supported the family with rent assistance for four months as well as much needed diapers and baby supplies.”

300+ Households reached
Safe Reopening of Work and Community Spaces

Community Challenges:
After months of sheltering-in-place and learning about the virus, it became possible to safely reopen preschool, summer day camp, day school, and certain other programs and workspaces. Yet, doing so with care and attention to guidelines required significant investments in equipment and staff.

Grants for PPE, Sanitization, Security, and More Staff

$1,011,230
To provide supplies and capacity for Jewish community organizations, synagogues, day schools to safely reopen

Impact

28
Organizations able to open and minimize COVID-19 transmission

Beneficiary Story

"The Fund helped us transform our campus with new, safe learning environments to meet the moment. Thanks to you, our students can opt-in to a full, on-campus educational experience and engage with their peers and teachers in person. All of this contributes to excellent academics, meaningful Jewish community, and--critically--helps support the mental health and wellbeing of our SDJA learners."

Zvi Weiss, San Diego Jewish Academy
Virtual and Outdoor Programming Support

Community Challenges:
As organizations quickly pivoted to provide our community with enticing and fulfilling programs in virtual and outdoor formats, they needed unique tools and platforms to create top-notch experiences. It was vital to maintain consistent Jewish connections to reduce the effects of isolation.

Response

Grants for special expenses for new programs

Impact

Beneficiary Stories

“I can’t express enough gratitude to Coastal Roots Farm - the camp has done wonders for my daughter after being isolated for so long. She comes home beaming. It’s been lovely to see her confidence grow. Thank you for providing such a wonderful environment for my daughter.”

Coastal Roots Farm After School Camp Parent

“Your help with the PPP loans, reopening funds and the ability to send questions to a knowledgeable, unbiased source have been invaluable. Those who contributed to the Fund are all a blessing to our community!”

Gillian Argoff-Treseder, Ohr Shalom Synagogue

$254,704
To Jewish community organizations, synagogues, day schools

18
Organizations supported
Revitalization and Distance Learning

Community Challenges:
› Safe space to complete school curriculum
› Access to technology
› Lack of academic support and wraparound services received at school

Response

Grants to Lawrence Family JCC

$202,000
“All Day at the J”
Safe, accessible space to complete school work

$100,000
Scholarships for preschool and camp

Impact

82 Households reached
118 Students assisted and given sense of normalcy
Parents/guardians could keep their jobs

Beneficiary Story

“As parents returned to work and our community sought new kinds of in-person programming, the JCC phased reopening needed to balance the highest standards of safety and quality. The funds enable us to say ‘yes’ to as many people who need help as possible. For that, I am beyond grateful. It would be impossible to do this work if I had to say ‘no.’”

Betzy Lynch, Lawrence Family JCC
Continued Needs: Looking Ahead Six Months

While the needs evolve and change each and every day, these are some priorities we’re hearing from frontline Jewish community workers.

Food & Housing
Reopening, Adapting, & Revitalizing Programs
Mental Health
Childcare
Isolation of Elderly
Employment Retraining & Placement
PPE, Testing, Sanitization

Photo credits: Coastal Roots Farm, Lawrence Family JCC, San Diego Jewish Academy, Seacrest Village Retirement Communities, Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School

If you or people you know are in need of assistance, contact:
G’mach: sandiegogmach@gmail.com or sandiegogmach.com
Jewish Family Service: (858) 637-3210 or jfssd.org/find-help-during-covid-19

During this time of hardship and grief, our community is counting on us.
Thank you for your support. Together, we can heal and rebuild.

Learn more at jcfsandiego.org/covid19