

# San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund

*Two-Year Update and Final Report*  
August 2022

## Dear Friends,

Two and a half years ago our country, along with the rest of the world, experienced a disruption and crisis not seen in a century. The COVID-19 pandemic brought abrupt devastation to so many lives, those who lost family members, those who suffered with illness, those who lost jobs and livelihoods with no warning.

Together with almost 400 caring members of our community, you stepped up. Your contribution to the San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund brought life-changing and life-saving assistance to the individuals, families and organizations most in need. Almost \$3 million was raised for this community-wide response and all funds raised have now been deployed.

This season of loss was punctuated by the untimely passing of our beloved partner in this effort, Michael Jeser z"l. Michael served as President and CEO of Jewish Federation of San Diego County and a co-founder of this Fund. He was in all of our meetings until his health meant he could no longer take part. He led us to serve the community he and we so treasure. We are honored to have continued this work as part of Michael's legacy.

Your support has ensured that, over the past 2+ years, people have been able to access food, healthcare, secure housing, job training, financial support, and now mental health services. The COVID Fund has provided vitally needed nourishment for the body, mind and spirit. In our final phase of granting, the fund supported the mental wellbeing of Jewish communal professionals and helped ensure ongoing safe organization operations.

This period of crisis response prompted new initiatives that will continue to serve the Jewish community. The Center for Jewish Care at Jewish Family Service provides critical services for immediate needs with cultural expertise for members of the Jewish community. Local Jewish organization professionals established the Working Group on Jewish Poverty & Stability to increase awareness of Jewish poverty and enhance coordination to respond to those struggling to make ends meet. We are gratified to see enhanced efforts around addressing the issues of community members in need.

Your generosity has made a tremendous impact. We are grateful and humbled to partner with you.

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

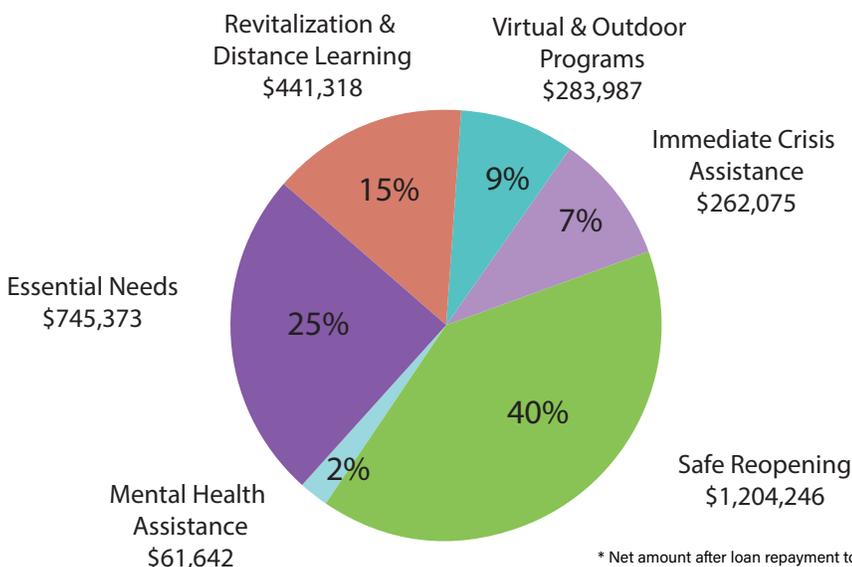
San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund Task Force

# The Fund at Work: \$2.9 million Distributed

The Fund has addressed pressing and evolving needs with grants and loans as well as support to leverage additional resources. The latest phase provided much needed assistance to Jewish community organizations to aid the mental health and wellness of cherished staff.

## Phases of Fund Responses

Emergency	Adapting	Rebuilding	Stability
<b>Immediate Crisis Assistance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Food</li> <li>&gt; Medical expenses</li> <li>&gt; Housing</li> <li>&gt; Utilities</li> <li>&gt; Transportation</li> <li>&gt; Employment</li> <li>&gt; Counseling</li> <li>&gt; Domestic abuse intervention</li> <li>&gt; Loan guarantees</li> </ul> <b>\$1,007,448</b>	<b>Safe Reopening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; PPE</li> <li>&gt; Security</li> <li>&gt; Sanitization</li> <li>&gt; Technology</li> <li>&gt; Equipment</li> <li>&gt; Safety training</li> </ul> <b>\$1,204,246</b>	<b>Maintaining Safety</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Virtual and outdoor programs</li> <li>&gt; Sanitization</li> <li>&gt; Technology</li> <li>&gt; Equipment</li> <li>&gt; Security</li> <li>&gt; Distance learning</li> </ul> <b>\$725,305</b>	<b>Mental Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Mitigate burnout and turnover</li> <li>&gt; Build staff resilience</li> <li>&gt; Consultations with licensed psychologists</li> <li>&gt; Trainings on promoting healthy workplaces</li> <li>&gt; Subscriptions to relaxation/meditation apps</li> <li>&gt; Workshops to recognize signs of mental health challenges</li> </ul> <b>\$61,642</b>



\* Net amount after loan repayment to date

*"Staff look forward to a day-long session with a licensed psychologist and Mental Health First Aid training. We know both will be valuable."*

Rabbi Sammy Seid,  
Ner Tamid Synagogue

# Fund Initiative: Mental Health



*"We had our staff wellness training with BaMidBar and then lunch together. It was beyond helpful in centering ourselves as a team and as individuals. This grant was critical for us at a time when we started the second half of our school year remote and needed a resilience booster. Our plan is to do the meditation right before spring quarter and before workload spikes as a way to reset before the final push. Thank you for supporting our team!"*

Karen Parry, Hillel of San Diego

*"While our community responded quickly to the pandemic, we saw a parallel pandemic affecting mental health. These struggles are only growing. We've welcomed training in mental health first aid and the guidance of a licensed psychologist. The JCC is built on the value of Shmirat HaGuf, "guarding the body," so it's crucial to connect physical well-being with holistic health."*

Betzy Lynch, Lawrence Family JCC

**21**  
organizations supported  
**1,200+**  
staff members reached

*"Our staff are grateful for access to the Calm app. Some like the meditations, others prefer the music. I just discovered a 5 minute yoga-inspired movement experience. Everyone that has used the app has found it beneficial and encourages others to give it a try."*

Ohr Ami, the Jewish Hospice Program at Lightbridge Hospice

**As the pandemic continues, if you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, contact:**

**G'mach: [sandiegogmach@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegogmach@gmail.com) or [www.sandiegogmach.com](http://www.sandiegogmach.com)**

**Hebrew Free Loan: [info@hflsd.org](mailto:info@hflsd.org) or [www.hflsd.org](http://www.hflsd.org)**

**Jewish Family Service: (858) 637-3210 or [www.jfssd.org/find-help-during-covid-19](http://www.jfssd.org/find-help-during-covid-19)**

**Kindness Initiative: [info@kindnesssd.org](mailto:info@kindnesssd.org), 858-216-1666 or [www.kindnesssd.org](http://www.kindnesssd.org)**



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**[jcfsandiego.org/covid19](http://jcfsandiego.org/covid19)**