

Resilience & Compassion

A Portrait of Jewish Greater Washington

Responding to the
COVID-19 Pandemic

as of December 2020



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

CONNECT
WITH
PURPOSE



Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Every member of our community has felt the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. In the face of an unprecedented set of challenges, Federation rapidly convened and mobilized leaders, organizations, and resources in the nation's capital to identify and address the most critical issues for our community. By bringing together diverse voices from across the region, Federation continues to lead our community in collaborative discussion, strategic thinking, and data-based decision making.

Together with generous and compassionate community leaders, we are raising and allocating critical resources, caring for the vulnerable, and bolstering our vital institutions so they can continue to meet communal needs.

Timeline of a *Swift & Efficient* Response

When schools, offices, and public spaces across our region and around the country began closing due to COVID-19, Federation took immediate and decisive action. In partnership with generous and forward-thinking local leaders, Federation worked swiftly to address our community's most immediate and urgent concerns, while remaining focused on sustaining the foundations of vibrant Jewish life for the future.



A Community Shuts Down—and Reboots

March 13, 2020 Jewish schools, synagogues, agencies, and organizations across DC, MD, and Northern VA announce immediate building closures and begin transitioning to online platforms.

Responding Immediately

March 16, 2020 Anticipating an economic downturn and an increase in communal needs, Federation's Executive Committee commits \$500,000 from emergency reserves to support individuals and agencies impacted by the pandemic.



Connecting During Crisis

March 17, 2020 Federation launches the **Connect with Purpose During COVID-19 Resource Center**. The site showcases online Jewish experiences and virtual opportunities from across the region, keeping our community connected even while physically distanced.



Unparalleled Leadership & Generosity

March 25, 2020 Federation opens the Jewish Community Coronavirus Response Fund, and Susie & Michael Gelman and Melanie & Larry Nussdorf co-chair the Emergency Response Committee to oversee the funds. By July, 500 donors give **\$4.4 million**.



Securing Federal Support

April 2020 Federation assists local Jewish organizations in securing Federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, infusing our community with a total of **\$25 million** at a critical time.



Caring for Our Community

June 2020 Federation convenes JSSA and six other human service organizations to launch **703-J-CARING: The Jewish Community Support Line**, the first comprehensive platform connecting individuals in need to resources from across the region with a single call.



Connecting Volunteers

July 2020 Federation launches **Jconnections**, an online platform to connect those in need of support with volunteers looking to provide it.



Meeting Urgent Needs

August 31, 2020 Federation's Executive Committee approves **\$2,754,054** in grants and loans to be allocated for immediate needs, as recommended by the Emergency Response Committee.



Seeing Our Community Through Crisis

Together, we are helping people in need, stabilizing our community during the immediate crisis, and sustaining vibrant Jewish life in our region now and for the future.

We are leading our community through this pandemic



The Jewish Federation has distributed more than **\$2.9 million** to help those impacted by the pandemic

More than **1/3** of all recipients have requested funds for food assistance



Of all dollars granted to individuals in need of COVID-19 relief, **40%** has been put towards rent and mortgage payments

Nearly **10%** of all aid has helped individuals with medical challenges



703-J-CARING: the Jewish Community Support Line is warmly connecting people seeking support with resources available across the region

The needs continue to grow

45% of those living in an unstable financial situation prior to the pandemic have experienced a worsening situation, and are more likely to feel isolated and lonely*



Of the **220,316** unemployed individuals across the region, **131,148** are newly unemployed from this time last year, a change of **175%** over a 12-month period**

199,850 children face food insecurity in our region, a **92%** increase from 2018***



Local Jewish organizations anticipate the loss of **\$17.5 million** in revenue and donations

Our community has seen a **600%** increase in applications for interest-free loans



Your generosity is helping people access critical resources



Emergency cash and food assistance



Safe places to live



Treatment for physical and mental health concerns



Water, gas, and electricity

*Data from Brandeis University Jewish Community COVID-19 Impact Survey for Greater Washington, in collaboration with Federation

**As reported by The US Bureau of Labor Statistics

***Data from Feeding America's Insecurity Study

A Snapshot: Caring for a Community in Crisis



\$1,097,050*

in grants are addressing the most immediate needs across our community, in partnership with these human service agencies and initiatives:



- The Adel Fund
- Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington
- Federation's Rabbis' Emergency Fund, supporting 27 synagogues
- Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Washington**
- JSSA
- Yad Yehuda of Greater Washington



“I have never seen this level of desperation... It is through our partnership that you are assisting the most vulnerable in this hour of greatest need.”

—Rabbi Mendel Bluming
The Adel Fund

Investing in Vital Organizations

Greater Washington's Jewish community-building organizations pivoted during the pandemic to support their members in new and innovative ways—sometimes at extensive increased cost. Simultaneously, significant losses in revenue and fundraising shortfalls led to staffing furloughs and layoffs.

These agencies are critical to the success of our Jewish community. The essential, Jewish-identity building programs and experiences they provide are irreplaceable. And yet, without immediate support, these agencies faced the real possibility of shuttering their doors.

In partnership with generous community members and thoughtful, forward-thinking leaders, Federation provided initial loans and, in the longer term, grants totaling \$1.86 million to ensure these agencies will survive the pandemic and continue to serve our community today and well into the future.

\$1.86 million invested in:

- Bender JCC of Greater Washington
- Capital Camps & Retreat Center
- Edlavitch JCC of Washington DC
- Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia

*An additional \$165,000 has been approved by Federation's Executive Committee to be allocated as future needs arise

**Federation has allocated \$200,000 to Hebrew Free Loan, and the Norman R. Rales and Ruth Rales Foundation has committed a matching grant of \$50,000

A Snapshot: Meeting Essential Needs

Generous Federation donors, coupled with local Jewish human service agencies, are ensuring that 1300+ individuals in our community receive help for pandemic-related financial distress, housing payments, food insecurity, and physical and mental health challenges.

You are sustaining our community during a time of unprecedented need.



\$500,000 from Annual Campaign Emergency Reserves was designated for COVID-19 relief early in the pandemic



\$2.9 million is helping vulnerable individuals and vital organizations through the pandemic



\$5.5 million collected for the Jewish Community COVID-19 Relief Fund



703-J-CARING: The Jewish Community Support Line is connecting community members in need with the resources right for them

You are supporting people across 75 unique zip codes.



25 zip codes in Northern Virginia



34 zip codes in Suburban Maryland



16 zip codes in Washington, DC

“Having this financial aid helped me keep my housing for at least a couple more months as I convalesced from medical issues. I am so grateful to my community for helping me.”

—A thankful community member

You are ensuring grant assistance is available to help cover necessary expenses.

