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New Consortium of Jewish Philanthropies Announces \$80 Million Fund to Provide Relief to Jewish Organizations During COVID-19 Pandemic

Jewish Community Response and Impact Fund formed by seven foundations will provide interest-free loans and grants

April 20, 2020 - Today, seven Jewish foundations joined together to announce the launch of the Jewish Community Response and Impact Fund (JCRIF), which will provide more than \$80 million in interest-free loans and grants to help maintain the infrastructure of Jewish life that advances Jewish education, engagement and leadership.

The launch of JCRIF, in coordination with The Jewish Federations of North America, comes as thousands of Jewish nonprofit organizations are experiencing unprecedented needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges span every sector of Jewish communal life. Organizations have had to close their doors, lay off staff, cancel programs, pivot to online education, anticipate an increase in financial aid needs and a decrease in fundraising, and face a host of other operational interruptions.

“We recognize the dire health and economic needs that the pandemic has created and applaud the heroic efforts by so many to address them. We have also seen firsthand the acute challenges Jewish organizations across the country are facing. While this fund alone cannot address all of those challenges, we believe that investing together in these vital pillars of Jewish life will help ensure a stronger future for American Jewry in the months and years to come,” said JCRIF’s funders, which include the Aviv Foundation, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, the Jim Joseph Foundation, Maimonides Fund, the Paul E. Singer Foundation, and the Wilf Family Foundation.

JCRIF includes two components: a loan program and an aligned grant program. The loan program will provide short-term unsecured loans to alleviate cash flow challenges and to enable organizations to maintain services and/or make payroll in the coming 3-6 months. The loan program will be based at the [Nonprofit Finance Fund](#) (NFF), which will act as the loan fund administrator and lender of record. It will also partner with the [Jewish Federations of North America](#) (JFNA), which will source and recommend loan applications. Shira Hutt, JFNA Chief of Staff and an experienced nonprofit and philanthropic professional, is serving as JFNA's liaison to the program. JFNA will work with key national Jewish networks, including members of the [National Emergency Coalition](#), as well as independent Jewish nonprofits, to source loan applicants.

The aligned grant program will provide a combination of emergency funding for immediate needs and strategic funding to address organizational and sector-wide shifts catalyzed by the crisis. The program will provide an efficient, simplified and accelerated application and reporting system for applicants and grant recipients. The grant program will be directed by Felicia Herman, an experienced Jewish philanthropic leader, who will be temporarily seconded from her role as Executive Director of The Natan Fund. The grants will supplement each foundation’s current grantmaking to Jewish organizations.

To create an efficient process that respects the time of applicants and ensures quick turnaround and deployment of resources, both programs will proactively source funding opportunities rather than accept unsolicited proposals.

The fund welcomes additional investors into either or both funding programs.

More information on the Jewish Community Response and Impact Fund is available at <https://www.jewishtgether.org/responseimpactfund>.

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The Aviv Foundation is a private family philanthropy founded in 2016. It is committed to promoting deep Jewish engagement in an inclusive framework, expanding peace between Israelis and Palestinians, strengthening a shared identity among Israeli Jews, promoting civic engagement in the United States, and empowering disadvantaged children with opportunities to better their lives.

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation is a global organization that seeks to improve lives, strengthen communities and advance equity. Our philanthropic vision is grounded in a commitment to pursue justice, repair the world and treat all people with dignity and civility. We invest in efforts to improve public education in the United States, strengthen the Jewish people and Israel, and address the needs of marginalized individuals and communities.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) represents 146 Jewish Federations and over 300 Network communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually and through planned giving and endowment programs to support social welfare, social services and educational needs. The Federation movement, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning).

The Jim Joseph Foundation seeks to foster compelling, effective Jewish learning experiences for young Jews in the United States. Established in 2006, the Jim Joseph Foundation has awarded grants with the aspiration that all Jews, their families, and their friends will be inspired by Jewish learning experiences to lead connected, meaningful, and purpose-filled lives and make positive contributions to their communities and the world.

Maimonides Fund is a private grantmaking organization that aims to connect Jews to their people and their heritage, and to contribute to the vitality of the State of Israel. We are passionate about supporting projects that help the Jewish people grasp our common past, and encourage them to play a role in shaping our shared future.

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel founded the Mandel Foundation in 1953 in their hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. The work of the Foundation is grounded in the belief that exceptional leaders, inspired by powerful ideas, are key to improving society and the lives of people around the world. The Mandel Foundation has identified five areas of engagement that influence its decisions for giving, which include: leadership development, management of nonprofits, humanities, Jewish life and urban engagement.

Nonprofit Finance Fund® (NFF®) works toward a more equitable, responsive, and valued social sector. We provide financing and consulting to help nonprofits and their funders better connect money to mission results. We are a community development financial institution (CDFI) applying 40 years of experience to today's toughest social challenges, and we share what we learn to speed progress. NFF manages over \$338 million. Since 1980, we have provided almost \$937 million in financing and access to additional capital in support of over \$2.7 billion in projects for thousands of organizations nationwide.

The mission of The Paul E. Singer Foundation is to support and create innovative and effective organizations and initiatives that strengthen American democracy, the future of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, and Jewish continuity.

The Wilf Family Foundation was formed by Harry and Judith Wilf and Joseph and Elizabeth Wilf more than sixty years ago, and has made more than \$250 million in grants to support Jewish and general philanthropy. Some of our highest priorities include Jewish community, Holocaust remembrance, a strong state of Israel, education, and health care. The list of recipient organizations is diverse and includes Jewish federations and organizations both here and in Israel, schools, hospitals, Holocaust remembrance programs, human rights organizations, centers for theater, film and music, museums, programs supporting children through day camps, athletics and art, support for our veterans, and many more.