



INNOVATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

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This donor-directed fund aims to ensure local Jewish organizations have sound organizational health and a broad capacity to manage change. Funded projects help organizations innovate and adapt to new realities, offer professional development initiatives, and engage in re-visioning or strategic planning processes.

This fund provides one-time allocation of funds of up to \$10,000.

GOALS OF THE FUND:

- Help organizations manage change, and adapt to new realities
- Improves organizational health (board development, implement program evaluation metrics, improve financial structure, etc.)
- Builds bridges; brings multiple organizations together to share resources and collaboratively deliver a service, or improve the delivery of an existing service
- Offers one-time educational programs, training initiatives, or professional development opportunities, which aim to increase the capacity of individuals, build trust between organizations, or provide solutions to current communal challenges

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Who is eligible to apply?

- Agencies currently funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and local synagogues are eligible to apply.
- Agencies are encouraged to partner with other organizations (partners need not be currently funded organizations, as long as the lead organization is).

What kinds of activities are eligible?

- Projects that improve organizational health (board development, evaluation of programming, improved financial structure, etc.)
- Projects that help organizations meet the challenges of the current environment (help organizations pivot, manage change, adapt to new realities)
- Pilot projects
- Collaborative projects that bring multiple organizations together to coordinate the delivery of a service or improve the delivery of an existing service
- Projects that collectively address a specific problem or enhance community assets
- One-time educational programs, training, aimed at increasing the capacity of individuals, or providing solutions to communal challenges

What kinds of activities are ineligible?

- Regular maintenance, upkeep and upgrades of facilities
- Capital projects
- Fundraising events
- Purchase of tech hardware (unless part of a larger initiative)



EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- **Project fit:** Does the proposal meet the Fund's criteria and help further the core Jewish offerings of the organization?
- **Innovation:** Does the project introduce something new to the agency? Does the innovation fill a void or improve a process?
- **Scope:** Is there a clear start and end date to the project, if applicable?
- **Collaboration:** Does the project involve the creation of strong working relationships among agencies and organizations?
- **Project Plan:** Are the goals and intended outcomes of the project clear? Does the project have a clear work plan and timeline for completion?
- **Project Budget:** Does the project have a realistic budget?
- **Project Evaluation:** Does the project outline the processes and measures to monitor the project and evaluate the outcomes?

Maximum length of grant

- Projects or initiatives are eligible for a one-time grant, up to a maximum of \$10,000, to be used within eight months of receiving the funding agreement.

When can organizations apply?

- **Applications for Round 20 are currently being accepted.**
- **Applications are due by December 11, 2023.**

How to apply?

- Apply by completing the online application at <https://jewishottawa.grantplatform.com/>. To get started, create a user id & login; under "Funds" select Innovative Capacity Building Fund, read through the application, and be sure to save your progress.

For more information, please contact Anne Read,
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