



INNOVATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING FUND – ROUND 24

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. The Fund provides one-time allocation of up to \$10,000.

GOALS OF THE FUND

- Help organizations manage change and adapt to new realities.
- Improve organizational health through board development, program evaluation metrics implementation, financial structure enhancement, and similar activities.
- Build bridges by bringing multiple organizations together to share resources and collaboratively deliver a new service or improve the delivery of an existing service.
- Offer one-time educational programs, training initiatives, or professional development opportunities, which aim to increase the capacity of individuals, build trust among 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 and must be the lead applicants in all applications. They are encouraged to partner with other organizations; the secondary (partner) applicant need not be a currently funded organization.

WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Projects that help organizations meet the challenges of the current environment by enabling them to pivot, manage change, and adapt to new realities.
- Projects that improve organizational health through board development, program evaluation metrics implementation, financial structure enhancement, and similar activities.
- Collaborative projects that bring multiple organizations together to coordinate the delivery of a new service or improve the delivery of an existing service.
- One-time educational or training programs aimed at increasing the capacity of individuals or providing solutions to communal challenges.
- Projects that collectively remedy a specific gap in service in the community or enhance community assets.
- Pilot projects.

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 24 are currently being accepted.
- **Applications are due on January 15, 2026.**

HOW TO APPLY?

Apply by completing the online application at <https://jewishottawa.grantplatform.com/>. After logging in with your existing credentials or registering, select "Innovative Capacity Building Fund" under "Funds," enter your application in the online forms. Be sure to save your progress and submit when complete.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Amos Bitzan by emailing abitzan@jewishottawa.com.