



RUDERMAN SYNAGOGUE INCLUSION PROJECT



Congregational Partner Application

Thank you for all of your efforts to promote inclusion for people with disabilities. When completing this application, please answer each question thoroughly as we anticipate more applications from committed congregations, yet this year, we will only be able to 5 Congregational Partners. In addition to this application, congregations will also need to submit an inclusion action plan. The deadline for submission of both documents is February 15, 2017.

Congregation name: _____

Town: _____

How many households belong to your congregation?

Applicant name and contact information:

Your role/title: (ex. chair of inclusion committee, executive director, etc.)

1. Why is your congregation interested in partnering with the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project?

2. How are your professional and volunteer leaders currently working on issues of inclusion?

3. Describe your recent successes in becoming more inclusive.

4. What challenges are you facing in your efforts to become more inclusive?

5. Describe how you will educate and engage all members of your congregation in the process of becoming fully inclusive.

Please indicate which of the following benchmarks your congregation has accomplished. (A minimum of 5 benchmarks must be selected)

- 1) Congregational staff, including support staff, is trained in disability etiquette and resources. If yes, please describe: who did the training, when it occurred, and who attended the training.
- 2) Welcoming language and disability inclusion efforts are prominently stated on website, membership and religious school enrollment forms. If yes, please include sample copies.
- 3) Exterior signage clearly indicates accessible features of the congregation. If yes, please send a photo.
- 4) Mission statements include a commitment to disability inclusion. If yes, please send sample copy.
- 5) There is a standard way to make accommodation needs known, and it is publicized on the website, bulletins, and/or email announcements. If yes, please send copy.
- 6) Inclusive language is routinely used during worship (such as modifications for Please Rise). If yes, what wording is typically used?
- 7) Assistive Listening Devices are readily available, operable, and appropriately used. If yes, how often are batteries checked? Who knows about its availability? Do worship leaders, if permitted in your synagogue on Shabbat and holidays, consistently use microphones?
- 8) Large print siddurim are readily available. If yes, where are they stored?
- 9) Accommodations for congregants who need to stand or move about are available. If yes, what is available?
- 10) Sign language interpretation is made available and publicized. If yes, how often in the past 12 months has it been available, please describe the circumstances.
- 11) People with disabilities are in leadership roles in the congregation. If yes, in what

roles?

- 12) Congregational funds are available to promote inclusion. If yes, how have these funds been used?
- 13) There is an active inclusion committee whose membership includes adults with disabilities and their families. If yes, please include committee membership list.
- 14) Special dietary needs are considered for food served at all synagogue events, including Kiddush, Oneg Shabbats and community dinners. If yes, what is provided?
- 15) Other evidence that disability inclusion is a key priority including involvement by board as well as clergy/other professional leadership. If yes, please describe.
- 16) There is substantial building accessibility. If yes, please describe.

Please submit a completed application by email/fax/mail to:

Molly Silver

Project Manager, RSIP

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