# **Next Steps to Participation**

# **Become a RSIP Congregational Affiliate**

Congregations with a strong interest in expanding their inclusion efforts are encouraged to become Affiliates of the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project. Congregations can apply for this designation **at any time** and CJP has no limit to how many congregations are affiliated.

RSIP Project Affiliate entitles the congregation to:

* Access to CJP funded consultants to help with a specific inclusion challenge.

* Invitations to events for Affiliate and Partner Congregations.
* The ability to share your congregation’s inclusion successes on JewishBoston.com and on the RSIP Facebook page.

In order to become a project affiliate, please submit the following:

* The Affiliate application
* The Synagogue Inclusion Inventory

Materials can be submitted by email/fax/mail to:

**Molly Silver**

Project Manager, RSIP

Combined Jewish Philanthropies

126 High Street

Boston MA 02110

Fax: 617-988-6262

mollys@cjp.org

# **Become a RSIP Congregational Partner**

After becoming a **Project Affiliate**, congregations who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to multi-generational inclusion can apply to become **a Partner Congregation.** Decisions will be made by March 6, 2017. It is anticipated that a group of five Congregational Partners will be chosen for this next phase of our project.

RSIP Partner Congregations Receive:

* Grants of $5000 to help realize a synagogue’s unique vision of inclusion, which includes access to CJP funded consultants to provide ongoing assistance in realizing your inclusion vision.
* Invitations to events for Affiliate and Partner Congregations.
* The ability to share your congregation’s inclusion successes on JewishBoston.com and on the RSIP Facebook page.

In order to become a Partner Congregation, please complete the following:

* Promptly submit your Project Affiliate application by January 4, 2017.
* Contact Molly Silver, mollys@cjp.org or 617-457-8862, to schedule a phone or in person meeting no later than January 16. This meeting will help congregations decide if they want to apply for Partner status.
* Congregations that apply will need to submit a Partner Application and Inclusion Action Plan by February 15, 2016. Decisions will be made by March 6.

Note: Partner Congregations must demonstrate completion of **at least 5** of the following benchmarks:

1. Congregational staff (including support staff) is trained in disability etiquette and resources.
2. Welcoming language and disability inclusion efforts are prominently stated on website, membership, and religious school enrollment forms.
3. Exterior signage clearly displays accessible features of the congregation.
4. Mission statements include commitment to disability inclusion.
5. There is a standard way to make accommodation needs known and this is publicized on website, bulletins, email announcements.
6. Inclusive language is routinely used during worship.
7. Assistive Listening Devices are readily available, operable, and appropriately used. If yes, how often are batteries checked? Who knows about this availability? Do worship leaders, if permitted in your synagogue on Shabbat and holidays, consistently use microphones?
8. Large print siddurim are readily available.
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?
11. People with disabilities are in leadership roles in the congregation.
12. Congregational funds are available to promote inclusion*.*
13. There is an active inclusion committee whose membership includes adults with disabilities and their families.
14. Special dietary needs are considered for food served at all synagogue events, including Kiddush, Oneg Shabbats, and community dinners.
15. Other evidence that disability inclusion is a key priority as evidenced by involvement by board as well as clergy/other professional leadership.
16. There is substantial building accessibility.