



RUDERMAN SYNAGOGUE INCLUSION PROJECT



“Synagogues should be inclusive because they are the central institution in Jewish life – everyone should be welcomed there. Synagogues are a place where we can gather strength as a community. By partnering with CJP, we are able to take our vision of inclusion and really have a tremendous impact.”

*- Jay Ruderman
President, Ruderman Family Foundation*

AN OVERVIEW OF THE RUDERMAN SYNAGOGUE INCLUSION PROJECT

The Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP) is a partnership between CJP and the Ruderman Family Foundation to support synagogues in creating communities where people of all abilities are valued equally and participate fully.

Why is Inclusion Important in the Jewish Faith?

The moral imperative for creating inclusive synagogue communities is at the very center of both the Torah and the Prophetic tradition of Judaism. At the very center of the Torah we find, *Kedoshim*, the Holiness Code, which has as its central message the charge to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” We are told, “You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

In the book of *Beresheit*, it is written that we that we are *all* created *B'tzelem Elohim* – in the image of God. From the book of *Shemot*, we understand that we all stood at Sinai. We were *all* given the Torah. And in the Book of *BaMidbar*, the Israelites are told to “be a light unto the nations.” The Prophet Isaiah pleads “Our house shall be called a house of prayer for *all* people.”

For Jews, being inclusive is a sacred and holy imperative.

How Can Your Congregation Participate in RSIP?

Synagogues can participate in RSIP in many ways. We welcome your attendance at local community events we host to educate and to inspire congregations to promote inclusion in all their activities. Additionally, we offer online educational resources at cjp.org/rsip. We are also happy to provide single-session consultations to help congregations advance their inclusion agendas.

For those congregations who are ready to take further steps towards inclusion, we welcome applications to become either an RSIP Affiliate or Partner Congregation.



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All Congregations Can Receive

- Online resources you can use to get started on the road to inclusion
- Single session with CJP staff to discuss inclusion challenges (one of the following):
 - Board meeting presentation on synagogue inclusion
 - Shabbat speaker on inclusion
 - Focus group on inclusion

RSIP Affiliate Congregations Receive:

- Access to CJP Consultants who can advise your congregation on inclusion issues.
- Invitations to private events and workshops specifically for Affiliate and Partners Congregations
- Opportunities to share your inclusion successes on JewishBoston.com and on the [RSIP Facebook page](#)

RSIP Partner Congregations Receive:

- Access to ongoing consultation to help your congregation realize its vision of inclusion
- Grants of up to \$5000 to help realize a synagogue's unique vision of inclusion
- Invitations to private events and workshops specifically for Affiliate and Partner Congregations
- The ability to share your congregation's inclusion successes on JewishBoston.com and on the [RSIP Facebook page](#)

To learn more about working with the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project, visit cjp.org/rsip or contact Molly Silver at mollys@cjp.org or 617-617-8862.