Coronavirus and American Jewry: The Day After

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Make a bigger difference.
Immediate Realities: Some General Trends

• Next Steps: Moving Beyond Covid-19
• External Threats: Conspiracy, Hate and anti-Semitism
• Technology: The Rise of the Virtual Community
• The Economic Story: Displacement, Mergers, Loss
• “Return” to Community & Religious Revivalism?
  19% indicated their faith “has gotten better” (Gallup)
  24% say their faith has become stronger (Pew)
The Impact of COVID-19 on the Nonprofit Sector

83% of organizations experienced a reduction in revenue

71% have responded with a reduction in services or available operations

47% total reduction in nonprofit jobs reported when comparing April 2020 to prior years

67% have furloughed employees since the start of COVID-19

51% have laid off employees since the start of COVID-19

53% of organizations had a reduction in individual giving

When asked what types of assistance would be the most helpful, 92% suggested additional loan options such as forgivable loans.

About the Survey
Independent Sector partnered with Washington Council Ernst & Young to conduct this online survey of mid-sized nonprofit organizations between May 27 and June 9, 2020. The survey was sent to a broad group of mid-size nonprofit organizations (nonprofits with between 500 and 5000 employees) and responses were generated from 110 organizations, including human services, arts, youth development, workforce development, health, religion, and environmental organizations.

To learn more, please visit independentsector.org/resource/covid19-survey
Moving Beyond

- Civil Unrest: 1918-1932-1968: “All in One Moment”
- “Generation Pandemic”
- The Shifting Economy
- Trust as the Core Measure
- The American Street
- The Election and Beyond
Jewish Funders Network Assessment

• Seventy-six percent of funders increased their spending.

• Fifty-three percent of funders broadened their grantmaking, and 43 percent intend to maintain emergency funding over the next 12 months.

• Seventy-seven percent of funders report changing their grantmaking practices to be more responsive and nimbler during the crisis.

• Ninety-four percent of Jewish funders intend to give at the same level or higher over the next 12 months.

• Seventy-two percent of funders are encouraging collaborations, joint ventures, and mergers among their grantee partners.
Moving the Jewish Story Forward

*Re-Imagining the American Jewish Experience*

- New Modalities of Connectivity & Learning: Relational Judaism
- Redefining “Community” Going Forward? Mergers-Closures-Downsizing
- Virtual Judaism vs. Institutional Judaism:: Greatest Moment in Jewish Learning
- From Individualism to a Collaborative Culture
- Creating the 21st Century Institutional Model
- Institutional Challenges/Personal Loses: **Emotional-Financial-Structural**
Our Times and Beyond

• Understanding our Recovery:-New Beginnings (Stages)
• The Changing Roles of Government
• Drawing from the Past: Learning Curves from the 1918 Pandemic, the Great Depression & 2008
• Managing our Concerns: Emotional and Psychological and Physical Well-Being
• “Hygienic Fascism” & Emergency Powers: The State vs The Individual
• Aging of America and its Jews: 26% over 65 and only 10.5%, 18-24 years
• The End of Big Cities and the Changing Demographics.
Our New Story: Ten Compelling Issues

- Memorializing this Moment: A “Hinge” Moment in History
- Dealing with the Immediate and the Long-Term Realities
- Learning from the Church World and the Larger Marketplace
- Building Connections: Relational Judaism/Collaborative Culture.
- Managing the Emotional, Psychological and Physical Fall-Out
- Mastering Virtual Judaism with Everyone in the Game
- Framing Losses, Identifying “Wins”
- Revisiting “Membership” Dues and Affiliation: Institutional Planning
- Contending with the New Anti-Semitism
- Moving Beyond: 21st Century Judaism
The New American Jewish Realities

- Federations and the Task of Community Building
- Emotional and Physical Health of our Members
- Sustainability and Models of Managing 21st Century Religious Institutions: A Weakened Infrastructure
- Membership Models
- Buildings and Real Estate
- Income Streams: Imagining New Possibilities
- Partnerships and Mergers
- Strategic and Crisis Planning
Social Trends and American Jewry

The Communications Revolution: Social Media

Environmental Challenges: Climate Change-Pandemics

Social Behaviors: “Bowling Alone” and the “New Communalism”

Generational Behaviors and Trends: Gen Z and Millennials
The Leadership Challenges

- Identifying the Types of Leaders We Will Require?
- Managing Both From Inside Out, and Outside In
- Framing an Adaptive Leadership Model
  - Providing Meaning and Hope
  - Offering Context
  - Preparing for Loss
  - Experiencing Chaos
  - Building Vision
  - Advancing Direction
- Living in an Experimentation Moment