



Make a bigger difference.

## The Impact of Your Gift CJP's Anti-Poverty Initiative Report on Fiscal Year 2019

Your generous support of CJP's Anti-Poverty Initiative (API) advances our Jewish community's long-standing commitment to caring (*chesed*) for one another and ensures access to equity and dignity for all. Over the past four years, thousands of people in economic need have benefitted from this community-wide effort. Thanks to your investment and partnership, you've helped to build and strengthen this critical system of support and ensure a brighter future for community members throughout Greater Boston.

### Increasing Access to Help



**5,300** people in our Greater Boston Jewish community have received assistance through CJP's Anti-Poverty Initiative



**2,380** people have received emergency financial support to help pay for necessities, such as rent, utilities, and medical care



**850** callers have reached out for help through the CJP Warmline (1-800-CJP-9500)

The API continues to leverage the power of our network of partners—Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Family Service of Metrowest, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), and Yad Chessed—to increase ease of access to their services while decreasing the burden on those seeking help. The basic resources provided by this initiative, such as food, emergency shelter, and financial assistance are just as important now as ever before. Yet, while these resources are often a critical first step in providing stability, CJP's data-driven approach enables us to address the known causes of vulnerability among those who are at-risk, nearly in crisis, or previously financially stable but are now struggling to get by.



*Boston's anti-poverty work was highlighted on the keynote panel at the first National Convening on Jewish Poverty hosted by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation in March. During the convening, CJP and our partners shared key learnings about cross-agency collaboration, measurement, and evaluation. (Pictured here are CJP's Sarah Abramson and Wes Moore, CEO of the Robin Hood Foundation.)*

## Addressing Root Causes

Beyond crisis management, we seek to provide a pathway for people to gain stability over the long-term. This year we launched pilots to address key drivers of financial vulnerability—housing instability and mental health needs as a barrier to employment. As an example, one of the pilots, the Housing Stability Fund, provides three to eight months of rental assistance to clients while they work with a case manager to reduce their debt, budget resources, and increase their income.

### Housing Instability



**40%** of people who seek assistance through CJP's Anti-Poverty Initiative cite housing as their most urgent need. Families who face housing instability receive assistance with comprehensive case management, housing assistance, and other interventions.



**More than \$83,700** was given last year to assist members of our community with housing-related expenses. This support was used to help people avoid evictions, make essential safety and structural repairs, and to pay for moving and other miscellaneous expenses.



*Talia and Isaac\* have two sons and live in rental housing. The couple had owned their own company; however, Talia was diagnosed with cancer and has been unable to work. The Housing Stability Fund pilot provided a way for this couple to pay rental arrears and a descending portion of the current rent for the three months while Talia has been recovering from treatments. With rental arrears paid, the family was able to renew their lease, thus stabilizing their housing.*

*\*Names changed for privacy*

### An Integrated Approach to Employment



**A new career coach** was recently hired at JVS to work intensively with clients who have mental health challenges or other disabilities, helping them secure employment and providing follow-up support.



Those who are engaged in a combination of career services are:

- 10x** more likely to improve their income
- 5x** more likely to improve their net worth
- 3x** more likely to improve their credit

### Looking Ahead

We continue to look for strategies that reduce financial vulnerability and ensure the best-possible long-term outcomes for members of our community. In an effort to reach financially vulnerable people before their situation turns to crisis, CJP is expanding our community's current offering of no-interest loans, increasing the size of loans, and conducting a marketing effort to expand awareness of their availability.