

# Building Inclusive Congregations

## A Professional Development Series for Synagogue Professionals and Lay Leaders

### Doors of Community Open to All

Synagogues are much more than houses of worship. They are centers of community.

How can we make every Jewish person who comes through our congregations' doors feel welcome in the physical and communal spaces?

Through the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP), many synagogues are making great strides toward making their communities more inclusive.

**Gateways: Access to Jewish Education** has partnered with RSIP to help your congregation on its inclusion journey.

Gateways works to ensure that every student, regardless of learning needs, can access Jewish life and a meaningful Jewish education.

Schedule an inclusion-focused workshop or coaching session for your synagogue professionals and lay leaders.



*Turn page over to learn more.*

## Professional Development Workshops

*Each synagogue community is unique. Choose a workshop from the list below or work with Gateways to customize your learning to meet your congregation's needs.*

**Why Inclusion?** – A discussion session about how including individuals with diverse abilities within the synagogue community can benefit all congregants.

**Strategies for Synagogue Inclusion** – Intended for lay leaders, this session offers dozens of strategies and activities to make your synagogue environment more inclusive.

**Inclusive Classrooms** – A workshop designed for lay leaders and synagogue educators to learn how to design classroom experiences that allow all students to thrive.

**Usher/Greeter Training** – This interactive training focuses on the “first impression specialists” who greet congregants. Presenters offer practical tools to help ushers/greeters feel more comfortable interacting with all congregants by learning to ask the right questions and anticipate accommodations individuals may need.

**Supporting Individuals with Autism** – Learn how living on the autism spectrum affects individuals' communication and interaction with others and how all synagogue members can create a supportive congregational environment.

**Engaging All Teens** – Designed for youth engagement professionals, this workshop offers strategies to make teen programming more inclusive and engaging.

**Mental Health Awareness** – A facilitated conversation that focuses on creating a welcoming atmosphere for all congregants. Group leaders address how to approach congregants facing mental illness or other

## Schedule a Workshop

Workshops are 90 - 120 minutes in length.

In addition to the topics described above, Gateways can design a custom workshop or facilitated discussion to best meet your synagogue's needs.

Each session is facilitated by two expert coaches.

Contact Rochelle Kelman at [cpl@jgateways.org](mailto:cpl@jgateways.org) or (617) 630-9010, ext. 105 to schedule a workshop or consultation.

### Fees

\$500 (90 minutes)

\$650 (120 minutes)

*Gateways offers discounted pricing to synagogues that schedule at least two workshops in a calendar year.*

