



The Jewish Federations®
OF NORTH AMERICA

Center for Advancing
Holocaust Survivor Care

November 9, 2018

Dear Cohort,

In FY 2018, Congress doubled the funding for Holocaust survivor services, awarding a total of \$5 million to expand JFNA's activities to promote the ability of Holocaust survivors to age in place. With this funding, the JFNA Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care (Center) will continue funding the second year of Charlie subgrantees, as planned, as well as introduce the Delta Cohort to our family of subgrantees. We will expand our efforts to infuse the principles of PCTI care into Holocaust survivor services and all aging services. In addition, we are launching a different program aimed at the prevention and resolution of crises to enable Holocaust survivors to age in place. This new program is called Critical Supports.

What will Critical Supports do?

The Center is working with six invited Federations to coordinate emergency services to help Holocaust survivors prevent or resolve crises that might otherwise result in institutionalization. The Center will fund both the coordination and the distribution of Critical Support services.

For the coordination, Federations will convene community-wide leadership councils that will develop strategies to provide these critical support services in a PCTI way. The leadership councils could involve various stakeholders, such as corporations, doctors, senior centers, AAAs, JCCs, synagogues, nursing homes, hospitals, philanthropists, and others. Leadership councils will develop a strategy to provide support services. The strategy will identify the agencies that will provide services and how these services will be coordinated.

Federations will then distribute funds to direct service agencies based on the strategies developed by the leadership councils. Because of the nature of emergency services, for the Critical Supports program only, agencies will be allowed to spend funds on services such as dental care or emergency home repairs, services not available under the current subgrant framework.

Who will Critical Supports Involve?

The Critical Supports program, as approved by ACL, will begin with six Federation communities that represent areas where large numbers of Holocaust survivors live and areas with the planning experience and structures already in place that are necessary to foster a quick ramp up. The communities are UJA-Federation New York, Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest NJ, Jewish Federation of Broward County, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, JUF of Metropolitan Chicago, and Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. Those Federations will be developing leadership councils and you may feel free to contact the Federations if your agency is in one of those areas. As with all our programs, it is our hope that the leadership council strategies will develop a solid, sustainable foundation for care coordination that can be utilized to help many populations in addition to Holocaust survivors.

How will we learn from Critical Supports?

Representatives from the Critical Supports communities will attend our next Training Workshop in Washington, DC in May 2019. We will encourage the communities to share their work so that other communities beyond the initial six will have the opportunity to benefit from their strategies.

How long will Critical Supports last?

As always, Congress must appropriate funds on an annual basis. Should Congress continue to fund this program, we will expand our plans and help even more survivors.

Who will staff Critical Supports?

We are delighted to welcome to the Center's team Barbara Bedney, Director of Research and Evaluation, and Karen Edell Yoskowitz, Assistant Director for Critical Supports. Barbara Bedney will continue to be your resource for evaluations. If you have specific questions about the Critical Supports program and you are in one of the six identified communities, you are welcome to contact your Federation. This concept is still very new and under development, so there may not be answers to all of the questions at this stage.

How did the government make these funds available in this tough financial climate?

Members of your communities, as well as others who care deeply about Holocaust survivors, successfully advocated to Congress and made the case that your programs are teaching the Aging Services Network how to provide PCTI care to an aging population with a history of trauma. If you would like to get involved in advocacy efforts – strictly using time not paid for by the federal grant – please contact Mindy Brodsky, JFNA's Director of Government Affairs and Washington Representative for the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, at Mindy.Brodsky@JewishFederations.org.

On behalf of JFNA, we are proud of the great work you do to improve the quality of life for Holocaust survivors. The US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging also recognizes your extraordinary contributions to the field of PCTI care for older adults who have experienced trauma.

Sincerely,
Shelley

Shelley Rood Wernick
Director, Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care
The Jewish Federations of North America
202-736-5880 Tel.
Shelley.Wernick@jewishfederations.org