



FAQ for Human Services Agencies

Updated September 11, 2020

What is the Human Services Matching Fund?

The goal of the Human Services Relief Matching Fund is to support Jewish Federations across North America to increase their funding necessary to support Jews in need through local human services agencies and programs. By creating a national fund that can be accessed at 1:2 basis (50 cents on the dollar), we can collectively drive significant additional resources to support these critical needs. This \$18 million will help stimulate \$36 million in additional local gifts, creating a \$54 million dollar increase in funding for human services.

How does the process work?

Jewish Federations will receive 1:2 matching funds for new, human service focused, funding they are able to raise during the September to December timeline. During the initial sign up process, Federations will be asked to name and briefly describe the agencies and programs they intend to fund so that we can ensure they meet the criteria set by the funders. Money will be disbursed to individual Federations and then it is their responsibility to allocate the dollars to local agencies and/or local programs.

Can agencies apply directly?

No, funds will only be distributed to individual Federations who may then allocate dollars to their partner agencies and programs. Please contact your local Federation if you have any questions about their potential allocation approach.

Are agencies responsible for fundraising?

No, Federations are responsible for the fundraising aspect

What defines human services agencies or programs?

Local service agencies that serve primarily Jewish community members with:

- Emergency financial aid, including cash grants for housing, food, medical care and other essentials for individuals and families.
- Increased food assistance, including expansion of pantries, grocery gift cards and meal programs.

- Mental and physical health and safety, including enhanced staffing, trauma counseling and personal protective equipment in residential programs and other caregivers serving seniors and people with disabilities.
- Community stability, including emergency operating support and professional expertise for local Jewish human service and educational agencies, as well as job/professional skill training services.
- Services and resources for Jewish community members who have been laid off or furloughed.

Can Funds be used over multiple years?

Funds are intended to be used during 2020/2021 to address immediate human service needs.

What are the “Reserve Amounts”

To help ensure that each Federation can participate, we have created a preliminary assigned reserved amount, based on the size of their community and assuming the participation of 146 Federations. The allocations will be adjusted based on both the total number of participants as well as each Federation’s analysis of their community needs and fundraising capacity. If communities indicate at any point in the process that they are unable to use their final reserved amount, those remaining funds will be further allocated.

The specific reserved fund amounts for each Federation size community can be found here: https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-42/2/Human_Service_Matching_Fund_Reserved_Amounts.pdf

Is this just for COVID-19 related needs?

No, while COVID-19 has had an immense impact on community and individual service needs, this fund is for all human service needs regardless of whether they were caused by the impact of Coronavirus.

What is the timeline?

The Fund will match gifts raised between September 1 and December 31, 2020.

When and how will money be disbursed from JFNA to Federations?

We anticipate disbursing funds from JFNA monthly. Disbursements will be made directly to Federations and not to their partner agencies.

When do Federations need to allocate dollars to agencies or programs?

Federations are expected to allocate the funds to community agencies/programs as soon as possible unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Are Canadian Federations participating?

Yes, this program is open to all North American Federations and we encourage their participation. Funds raised via Canadian Federations will be used to support Canadian Jewish human service agencies and programs.

What kind of reporting will agencies be asked to do regarding the acceptance of funds?

This will be an individual Federation decision and will vary from Federation to Federation. Any reporting agencies can do to show the impact of the HSMF dollars would be helpful and greatly appreciated.