



2021 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

JFNA represents 146 Jewish Federations and over 300 independent Jewish communities across North America and works closely with their affiliated agencies. JFNA's Public Affairs Division brings this system's voice to Capitol Hill and the administration. While our full list of issues is detailed below, JFNA's government affairs priorities for 2021 focus on securing **non-profit security funding**; combatting **anti-Semitism**; helping our communities overcome the **COVID-19** pandemic; addressing **economic vulnerability**, including by supporting **stronger healthcare policies**, **Holocaust survivors** and other **older adults**, and individuals with **disabilities**; promoting **justice**; and protecting **charitable deductions**.

Safeguarding the Jewish community from violence & combatting anti-Semitism by:

- Maximizing funding for the DHS Nonprofit Security Grant Program and accessing other public resources that address the security needs of high-risk nonprofits and faith-based organizations.
- Defending and protecting Jews from domestic and global anti-Semitism, including by enacting and promoting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.
- Combating Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) efforts.
- Advocating for and expanding resources to support Holocaust education.
- Supporting legislation and funding to respond to growing security threats such as domestic terrorism, cyber terrorism, and online dissemination of hate, and offering protection from active shooters.
- Promoting reasonable gun violence prevention measures.

Empowering older adults to age with dignity & an enhanced quality of life by:

- Supporting Holocaust survivors through funding, partnerships, and robust home- and community-based services; and promoting person-centered, trauma-informed care for survivors, other older adults with histories of trauma, and their caregivers.
- Advocating for the Older Americans Act, senior transportation, senior nutrition, family caregiver support, and other programs that promote aging-in-place and combat social isolation.

Maximizing incentives for & supporting nonprofit organizations by:

- Preserving the charitable tax deduction; and expanding the "above-the-line" or universal charitable deduction for those who do not itemize and the IRA Charitable Rollover.
- Supporting the Paycheck Protection Program and other COVID-19 resources that help nonprofit institutions and vulnerable community members during the pandemic.
- Opposing any new federal or state regulation of donor-advised funds or supporting organizations.
- Cultivating healthy, vibrant, and affordable Jewish day schools, while supporting public education.
- Creating new tax incentives for primary and secondary education, including scholarship programs.
- Ensuring that FEMA's disaster relief programs are accessible to faith-based organizations, while expanding federal tax incentives and programs to help nonprofits recover from domestic disasters.
- Advocating for public funding to support the physical and technological infrastructure of nonprofits.

Promoting human and civil rights and racial/social justice and equity by:

- Opposing discrimination and enhancing and enforcing civil rights for all.
- Promoting educational, health, housing, nutrition, and transportation equity; providing employment opportunities for communities of color; and accurately using census data.
- Safeguarding voting rights and ending racial and religious profiling.
- Working with LGBTQ communities to promote policies that ensure equity.
- Supporting resources to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, and elder abuse.
- Supporting Jews and other marginalized populations fleeing persecution by extending the Lautenberg Amendment; safeguarding the U.S. refugee program; and supporting compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform.

Sustaining services for those living with the greatest economic vulnerability by:

- Promoting policies to reduce food insecurity and hunger; supporting food banks and pantries; protecting the SNAP Program; and strengthening child nutrition programs.
- Advocating for funding and policies that alleviate poverty for Jews and others with low incomes, including the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, support for childcare, and workforce development.
- Safeguarding and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Caring for those with the greatest health & long-term care needs by:

- Protecting and improving Medicaid and Medicare, the health safety net, essential benefits for consumers, care coordination, and access to coverage for those with preexisting conditions.
- Promoting Medicaid state expansion and increasing the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage during the public health emergency.
- Making telehealth, including audio-only telehealth, a permanent and feasible option for Medicare beneficiaries, while ensuring payment parity for all health plans regulated by HHS and DOL.
- Improving long-term care options that advance accessibility and fiscal responsibility including through public-private partnerships.
- Advancing access to and enhancing mental health and substance use treatment services, including through care coordination, information technology, and mental health parity.
- Expanding health initiatives for underserved populations that focus on prevention and wellness, while reducing the uninsured population through comprehensive health insurance reform.
- Providing new resources for home- and community-based care, hospice, and palliative care.
- Reducing health disparities for communities of color, individuals with disabilities, and those with low incomes.

Advocating with & on behalf of people with physical, intellectual, and psychiatric disabilities by:

- Supporting programs and services and COVID-19 relief that enable people with disabilities to exercise self-determination and achieve maximum independence, including accessible transportation, supportive services, and respite care, and implementing and enhancing the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act.
- Safeguarding and improving the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Supporting job training and integrated employment for people with disabilities while promoting funding and policies to enhance recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion.
- Advocating for students with disabilities to receive educational equality, while supporting robust funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In partnership with JFNA's Israel Office, promoting the Jewish Federations' global interests by:

- Strengthening the US-Israel relationship and safeguarding Israel's defensive capabilities.
- Ensuring Israel's security, including by supporting a two-state solution where Israel lives in peace with a demilitarized Palestinian state.
- Ensuring that Israelis and other Jewish communal workers can access U.S. visas, permitting them to work at Jewish communal institutions.
- Opposing Iran's development of nuclear weapon capabilities and preventing the spread of global terror.

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