



**Memphis Jewish Federation – Lemsky Endowment Fund**  
**Application Guidelines for 2023**  
**Memphis-based Israel Engagement Projects**  
**(July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)**

**Mission Statement:** Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund, established through the generosity of the late Abe Lemsky, OBM, strengthens bonds between the Memphis Jewish community and Israel by awarding vital funding to **Projects in Israel** that care for the vulnerable and/or strengthen Jewish identity and **Programs in Memphis** including: (a) Grants for high school teens and young adults to participate in educational or volunteer programs in Israel; (b) Grants to Jewish schools for organized school trips to Israel; (c) Needs-based flight grants for first-time adult visitors to Israel participating on organized Memphis trips; (d) Support of local Israel engagement programs for all Memphis Jewish demographics.

Projects affiliated with our overseas partners The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and World ORT receive grant award preference.

The guidelines described below apply to Memphis-based organizations seeking funding for Israel engagement programs taking place in Memphis.

**Note:** If you are applying for a new program, please do not hesitate to reach out to [lemskygrants@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:lemskygrants@jcpmemphis.org) to discuss whether your program idea aligns with the Lemsky Fund Mission & Funding Criteria (below).

### **Funding Criteria**

Proposals for local Israel engagement programs will be considered for funding if they:

- Address the Lemsky Fund’s mission of strengthening the bonds between the Memphis Jewish community and Israel;
- Fulfill an unmet Israel engagement need in the Memphis Jewish community;
- Meet desired program outcomes (see below);
- Fulfill scoring criteria (see below).

### **Eligibility Requirements**



1. An applicant must be a non-profit organization based in Shelby County, Tennessee.
2. Applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and "not a private Fund" under section 509(a) of the Code. An applicant may use a fiscal sponsor if the fiscal sponsor meets these requirements and submits a letter to the Lemsky Fund accepting expenditure responsibility.
3. Previously funded applicants must complete the required reports as described below. A new application will not be accepted if applicant is not in "good standing."
4. Fund restrictions - The Lemsky Fund does not make grants to: an educational institution for its regular, educational operations or capital programs; congregational trips to Israel; programs of a fundraising nature, including capital campaigns. The fund does not support general agency overhead costs beyond the pro-rated salaries of staff needed to manage the specific program to be supported by the Lemsky Fund. At this time, the Fund is not accepting proposals for speakers/speaking engagements.

### **Lemsky Fund Support**

1. Lemsky Fund grants are one-year awards ranging from **\$2,000-\$40,000** and are designated only for approved programs that support the mission of strengthening the connection between the Memphis Jewish community and Israel.
2. Grant Requests:
  - a. **There is a maximum grant request and maximum award of \$40,000.** However, in order to receive the maximum award, an applicant must score a 100 (See "Grant Review Criteria and Scoring" below).
  - b. Lemsky Fund grants will fund a maximum of 75% of the total program budget for a new program.
  - c. Grant applications must be submitted annually. Funding during one year does not create any guarantee for funding for any subsequent year.
  - d. A returning program may reapply and is eligible for up to 50% of its total program budget. Returning programs must meet all outcome and reporting requirements and are subject to the same annual grant review process and scoring as first year programs.
  - e. For purposes of Lemsky grant review, "total program budget" may include salaries and related expenses (pro-rated to time spent on program) but not general, regular overhead costs that pertain to the daily operation of the agency.



## **Lemsky Fund Desired Program Outcomes**

Awards will be given to programs that seem likely to result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- Program participants deepen their understanding of Israel-related issues;
- Program participants increase their solidarity with, concern for, and connection to the people and State of Israel;
- Program participants increase their connection to the people and State of Israel as evidenced by taking more trips to Israel, increasing charitable giving to Israel, becoming involved in Israel education, programming and advocacy, and increasing attendance at Israel-related programs in Memphis and elsewhere;
- Program participants increase their general involvement in Jewish communal life.

## **Lemsky Fund Funding Preferences**

In addition to the basic funding requirements and desired program outcomes, the Lemsky Fund strongly encourages programs that a) have a connection to JAFI, JDC, and/or World ORT; b) are structured with significant collaboration with other agencies. The committee is also interested, where applicable, in potential program revenues and clear plans for program sustainability after the Lemsky Fund grant. These preferences will be reflected in the committee scoring of the application (see score sheet below).

## **Application Process/Timeline for 2023**

- Applications must be submitted via MJF's online portal by the close of business on **Monday, March 13, 2023**. To apply, please click here:
- Every applicant will present its agency's application before the entire Lemsky Endowment Fund committee on **Wednesday evening March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Time slots will be assigned to each applicant.
- Grantees will be notified of awards following approval by the Memphis Jewish Federation Board of Directors in June 2023.

## **Grantee Responsibilities**



- Grantees are to acknowledge Memphis Jewish Federation in all marketing and publicity surrounding the program funded by the Lemsky grant with the following tagline: "This program is funded ("in part", when applicable) by a generous grant from Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund.
- Grant recipients will submit mid-year progress and final impact reports.
- Applicants for FY 2023-2024 who received a grant for a previous year must be in good standing, having submitted a mid-year and final report for their program.
- Grants are draw-down reimbursement grants. Documented expenses will be submitted for reimbursement two times per year, by December 30 and June 30 of the relevant fiscal year.

Please direct all inquiries to [lemskygrants@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:lemskygrants@jcpmemphis.org).



## Lemsky Grant Review Criteria and Scoring

Point value	Criteria
20	<b>Appropriate Program/Aligns with Lemsky Mission</b> Activities/Programs of project fulfil and promote the Fund's mission of strengthening the bonds between the Memphis Jewish community and Israel.
10	<b>Program Need:</b> Demonstrated need for program in the community/Fulfils an unmet Israel engagement need/Program not duplicative.
10	<b>Program Approach and Timeline:</b> Activities are organized, well-planned, timeline for activities & marketing is clear and reasonable and target populations are clearly delineated.
10	<b>Program Goals &amp; Outcomes:</b> Goals and outcomes are set and clear; Program seems likely to have desired impact. Returning program has proven track record.
10	<b>Evaluation/Outcomes Measurement:</b> Goals are measureable. Proposal includes a plan for evaluating and measuring outcomes. Evaluation plan integrated into program.
10	<b>Budget:</b> Budget is clear and provides detailed justification for the amount requested. Project costs are appropriate and reasonable. Expenses and revenue/income are clearly delineated.
10	<b>Funding Sources:</b> Other funding sources are clearly identified and are marked as planned, pending, or committed.
10	<b>Collaboration:</b> Collaboration with other Jewish agencies, congregations and/or schools is clearly demonstrated.
10	<b>Program demonstrates tie to either JAFI, JDC or World ORT</b>