



Memphis Jewish Federation – Lemsky Endowment Fund
Application Guidelines for FY2021-2022
(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)
Memphis-based Israel Engagement Projects

Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund established through the generosity of the late Abe Lemsky z'l, further enables Federation to strengthen the bonds between Memphis Jews and Israel through a variety of programs. ¹ 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 to discuss whether your program idea aligns with the Lemsky Fund.

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 Memphis Jews 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 accepts 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.”

¹ The Memphis Jewish Federation Board of Directors has the founding documents governing the bequest, and has ultimate authority to determine the appropriateness of any proposed gift from the Lemsky Fund.



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 range from \$2,000-\$50,000 and are one-year awards designated only for approved programs that support the mission of strengthening the connection between Memphis Jews and Israel.
2. Maximum grant request and maximum award is \$50,000. **Do not submit a request in excess of \$50,000.**
3. For new programs, the Fund will consider support of up to 75% of a program's budget (up to \$50,000).
4. For returning programs, the Fund will consider support of up to 50% of a program's budget.
5. Prospective changes to the program grant must be pre-approved by the Lemsky Fund Committee and Memphis Jewish Federation.

Lemsky Fund Desired Program Outcomes

Awards will be considered 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 through concrete steps like taking more trips to Israel, increasing charitable giving to Israel, becoming involved in Israel education 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

The Fund encourages programs that:

- Have a connection to JAFI, JDC, and/or World ORT;
- Are structured with significant collaboration with other agencies;
- Are ongoing, part of a series, and/or include multiple layers or components (as opposed to single, one-off programs);
- Are interactive.

Application Process/Timeline for 2021

Applications must be submitted via MJF's new online portal- Foundant Technologies.

[CLICK HERE](#)

- **Applications are due by March 18th, 2021.**
- Applicants for local Israel engagement programs will present their programs to the Lemsky Endowment Fund committee on **Tuesday evening, April 6, 2021.** 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 Spring 2021.

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 2021-2022 who received a grant for FY 2020-2021 must be in good standing, having submitted a mid-year and final report for their FY 20-21 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.



Lemsky Grant Review Criteria and Scoring

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