

Federation Impact Grants for 2019 FAQ's for Donors

1. What are Impact Grants?

Impact Grants are Federation's new donor-driven, transparent way of raising funds for the community. Grant applications will be for new programs that will benefit the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish communities.

2. Why did Federation change its funding model?

Over the past 20 years, many local organizations have developed a strong philanthropic base in our community. Their success allows UJF to focus on community needs not currently being addressed and will allow donors to select programs that are most important to them. This will enable new, exciting and innovative programs to be funded which will strengthen our Jewish community.

3. What is different about the new Impact Grant Model?

The new model will be open to any program that will benefit members of the Jewish community of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. Agencies, synagogues, and individuals may propose a program. The program will need to be housed within a 501c3 or synagogue designation.

4. What is the application process?

Applications and FAQs for applicants can be found on the UJF website (www.ujf.org). Applications are due May 30th. A committee representing the community will meet to review the applications, and those meeting the criteria will become part of a fundraising "menu." You, as a donor, can choose an item, or several, from the menu. This donor-driven transparent model will allow you to invest your gift in needed areas that are not currently supported.

5. When and how will I know the available menu choices?

The menu items will be shared on or before July 1, 2019. Donors may choose an item or items on the menu or select to have their gift directed where it is needed most.

6. If I choose to make a donation to where it is needed most, how does it get distributed?

All donations not specifically directed will fill the unfilled menu items. A committee will use a prioritization tool to fairly distribute the undesignated dollars.

7. How will Federation receive financial support?

There are programs unique to Federation that benefit the entire community such as the New Jewish Voice, Yom Hashoah, Jewish Community Relations Council, PJ Library Programming, Affinity Group Events and more. In addition, a communal security fund and a Life and Legacy program for all institutions will be part of the menu. These items will be on the "menu" with the other community programs. If these items do not receive adequate funding, they may not have the opportunity to continue.

8. What will happen to Federation's support of Israel and Overseas?

There will be a menu opportunity for Israel and Overseas giving.

8. Do I have to direct my gift, and if I don't direct it what other options do I have ?

There will be an option to give your gift "where it is needed most". These gifts will support those "menu" items which may not have reached their target goals at the completion of the Campaign. Representatives of the community will meet to decide the allocation of these funds.

10. What if I donate to an item that doesn't receive its full funding, can I receive a refund?

You will be notified if any of your gifts have been made to a program that may not move forward due to insufficient funding. You will then have the opportunity to redirect your gift.

11. What is the potential impact of this new model on the local organizations?

Local organizations will now have the opportunity to receive funding for new and innovative programs which they may not have had previous financial support to implement.