

Tucson Jewish Free Loan



Since 1947, Tucson Jewish Free Loan (TJFL) has been offering interest-free loans to Southern Arizonans in need, both in the Jewish and broader communities. Through a lens of Jewish values, they envision a community where everyone has equitable access to wealth and opportunity.

TJFL loans qualified applicants up to \$5,000 to help with unexpected expenses, high-interest debt reduction, pandemic relief, and much more. The impact of this organization has grown significantly in recent years. Currently in our community, 75 borrowers account for approximately \$100,000 in the form of interest-free loans. As borrowers repay their loans, the funds are recycled into new loans.

In 2020, TJFL partnered with Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona to provide pandemic relief loans. In the past two years, they leveraged a \$20,000 grant to be able to loan more than \$45,000 to help people keep a roof over their heads, food on the table, and protect them from predatory loans during the financial crisis caused by the pandemic.

Through the "Employee Financial Assistance" program, loan payments are made through payroll deductions. Participating employers provide employees access to larger loans than they would otherwise qualify for. There is no cost to the employers to extend this benefit to their employees. TJFL is always seeking new businesses and organizations to participate in this innovative program.

Historically, about 30% of borrowers identify as Jewish. TJFL would like to increase that percentage and need help identifying Jewish individuals who need the kind of helping hand they provide. Brochures are available and presentations can be scheduled to help increase awareness and engagement with Tucson Jewish Free Loan.

Tucson Jewish Free Loan enthusiastically embraces the Jewish Community Ecosystem as an opportunity to connect with other Jewish organizations, facilitate collaboration, and work together to improve the lives of the individuals we all serve. Consider mentioning Tucson Jewish Free Loan during Parashat Mishpatim (Feb 18, 2023). This Torah portion reminds us of the importance of interest-free lending. Members of the Jewish Ecosystem are invited to schedule a call with our Executive Director, Allison Wexler (awexler@thefreeloan.org), to discuss additional engagement opportunities and collaborative efforts.