

Food Insecurity Capital Grants

Funder: Legacy Heritage Fund

Award Year: 2020

Award Amount: \$860,023 for capital projects

Grant Purpose: Support for capacity building and capital improvement projects to address the needs of those struggling with issues of food insecurity related to the impact of COVID-19.

Agencies Receiving Awards:

Jewish Community Services of South Florida (Miami, FL)	Jewish Family Service of Northeastern New York (Albany, NY)
Jewish Family & Career Services, Atlanta (GA)	Jewish Family Service of Rochester (NY)
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Boston (MA)	Jewish Family Services of Atlantic and Cape May Counties (NJ)
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Mercer County (Princeton, NJ)	Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor, MI)
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Northern New Jersey (Teaneck, NJ)	Kramer Senior Services Agency (West Palm Beach, FL)
Jewish Family & Children's Service of the Suncoast (Sarasota, FL)	Samost Jewish Family & Children's Service of Southern New Jersey (Cherry Hill, NJ)
Jewish Family Service Agency (Las Vegas, NV)	Schoke Jewish Family Services of Fairfield County (Stamford, CT)
Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati (OH)	Yad Ezra – Detroit Kosher Food Pantry (Berkeley, MI)
Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas (TX)	

Key Learnings:

Due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, all the recipient agencies experienced increased demand for food assistance which put pressure on their food pantries. The pantries required upgrades and increased capacity to address the immediate need, which due to the continuing vagaries of the pandemic, became an ongoing need. Although each agency experienced different individual impact from the grants, many similarities were identified. These include:

- An increase in the number of individual clients and families who could now be served by the food pantries and/or nutrition sites.²⁰
- A better and more enhanced client experience.
- Increased client satisfaction with food distribution processes and offerings.
- More capacity to store food, resulting in the ability to receive additional donations, purchase in bulk and increase the type and variety of food offerings.

- Improved operational efficiency and more inviting workspaces, leading to better food collection and distribution processes, and increased productivity and satisfaction of staff and volunteers.
- Improved database systems for inventorying, purchasing and distribution of food and gathering of necessary client data.