The Anti-Poverty Initiative: A Collaborative Response to Addressing Poverty within the Greater Boston Jewish Community

NJHSA Conference
April 30, 2018
 Agenda for Today

1. Overview of project model
2. Structures to support collaboration, including the role of the federation
3. Data and outcomes
4. Role of JVS in supporting long-term stability of clients
5. Challenges and learnings
Key Components

1. Focused on Jewish households living in financial distress (generally under 300% of the federal poverty level)
2. Central, streamlined entry point
3. Robust financial and food assistance
4. Focus on long-term stability through:
   • Comprehensive employment services and financial coaching
   • Case Management
   • Access to Public Benefits
5. Comprehensive measurement and data collection
6. Targeted community outreach
Services

- Case Management
- Geriatric Case Management
- Financial Assistance
- Food Pantry
- SNAP Advocacy/SNAP enrollment
- Comprehensive Employment Services
- Financial Empowerment Coaching
- Connection to applicable outside benefits/services
- Mentoring for children
Project Scope

- 6 partner organizations
- 6 new case workers
- Over 2,600 households served
- Over 1,200 new clients
- Reaches 45 towns and cities in the Greater Boston area
Structure to Support Collaboration

• Dedicated staff
• Leadership team
• Direct service team
• Data sharing mechanisms
• Referral protocols
Role of CJP (the Federation)

- Project Initiator
- Project Manager
- Create structure to support collaboration
- Fundraising and donor reporting
- Receiving, compiling and sharing data
- Seek input and oversee adjustments
- Community outreach
Demographic Data

Age of Clients
- 18-24: 1%
- 25-34: 6%
- 35-44: 8%
- 45-54: 19%
- 55-64: 25%
- 65-74: 18%
- 75+: 23%

Employment Status*
- Unemployed: 26%
- Employed: 21%
- Retired: 18%
- Receiving SSI or SSDI: 28%
- Not currently working due to medical issue or recent illness/birth: 7%

*Employment Status data sourced from the CJP report.
Demographic Data

Presenting Needs of Clients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Federal Poverty Level</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;100%</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% up to 150%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150% up to 200%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200% up to 300%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300% or more</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anti-Poverty Initiative: Intended Impact

- Increased number of Jewish families and individuals accessing help for first time
- Coordinated service delivery, represented by increase in clients receiving services from multiple agency partners
- Demonstrated progress of clients from crisis towards stability
Impact to Date

- Over 2,600 households supported through the Anti-Poverty Initiative within the past 24 months, including over 1,200 households who accessed support for the first time – representing a doubling in the number of first-time clients.

- Number of clients served by multiple agencies increased by 97%

- Measurable impact on clients achieving stability, including 72% of clients receiving employment support placed in jobs.
Pathways to Long-Term Stability through Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BARRIERS</th>
<th>JOB READINESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>• Career Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Computer</td>
<td>• Motivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>• Realistic Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>• Resume/ Cover Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Care</td>
<td>• Interviewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• LinkedIn Profile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>• Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>• Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>• Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• “Job readiness” not a pre-requisite
• 50% + placement rate across all barriers.
• On-going communication, troubleshooting, and support offered by our partners helps get clients working.
• Ever-increasing number of clients with serious mental health challenges.
• Hardest-to-place clients in terms of job-readiness are those with very low or no job target focus.
• Needed better strategies/tool/protocols to help clients establish a clearer job focus.
Pathways to Long-Term Stability through Financial Empowerment

Clients engaged in two or more services are:

- 10 times more likely to improve net income
- 3 times more likely to improve credit
- 5 times more likely to improve net worth

Any Positive Outcome by Program Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Mix</th>
<th>Positive Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISC Only</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC Only</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC Only</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC + ISC</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC + ISC</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC + FC</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Programs</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pathways to Long-Term Stability through Financial Empowerment

Job Placement by Program Mix

- EC Only: 26%
- EC + ISC: 32%
- EC + FC: 39%
- All Programs: 46%
Challenges and Learning

• Shift in mindset
• Communication
• Different operational structure across agencies
• Data collection and sharing
• Mental health
• Systems that impact clients beyond our control
• Federation’s learnings
Collaborating Organizations

- Combined Jewish Philanthropies
  www.cjp.org
- Jewish Vocational Service of Boston
  www.jvs-boston.org
- Jewish Family & Children Services of Greater Boston
  www.Jfcsboston.org
- Jewish Family Services of Metrowest
  www.jfsmw.org
- Yad Chessed
  www.yadchessed.org
- Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
  www.jbbbs.org
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