

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

NJHSA Conference

April 30, 2018



SKILLS . JOBS . CAREERS

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

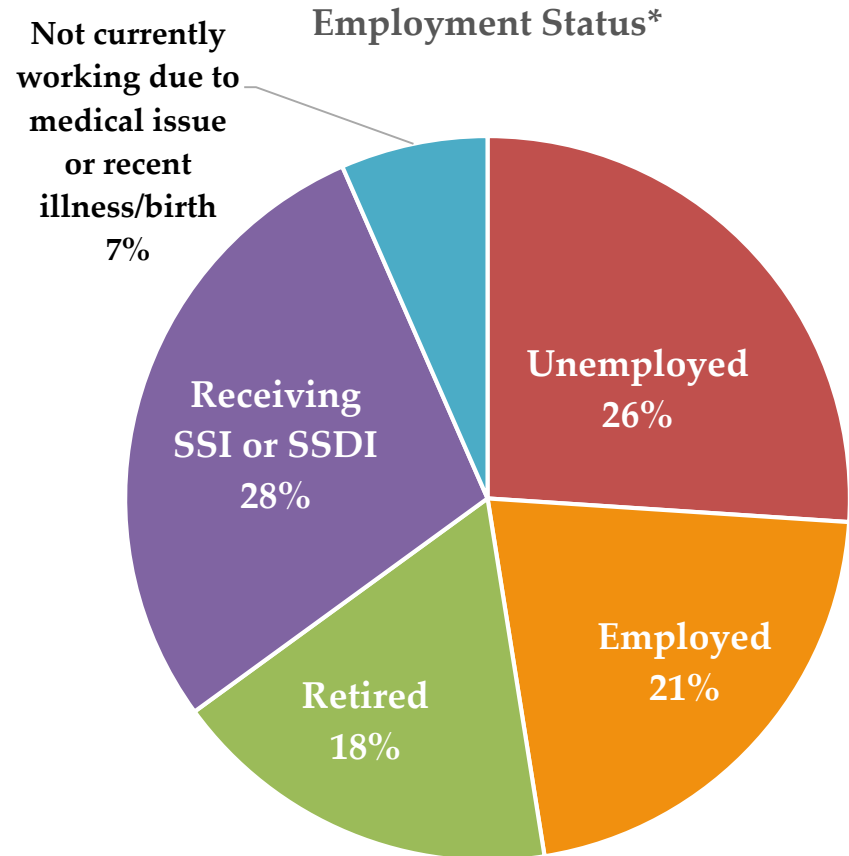
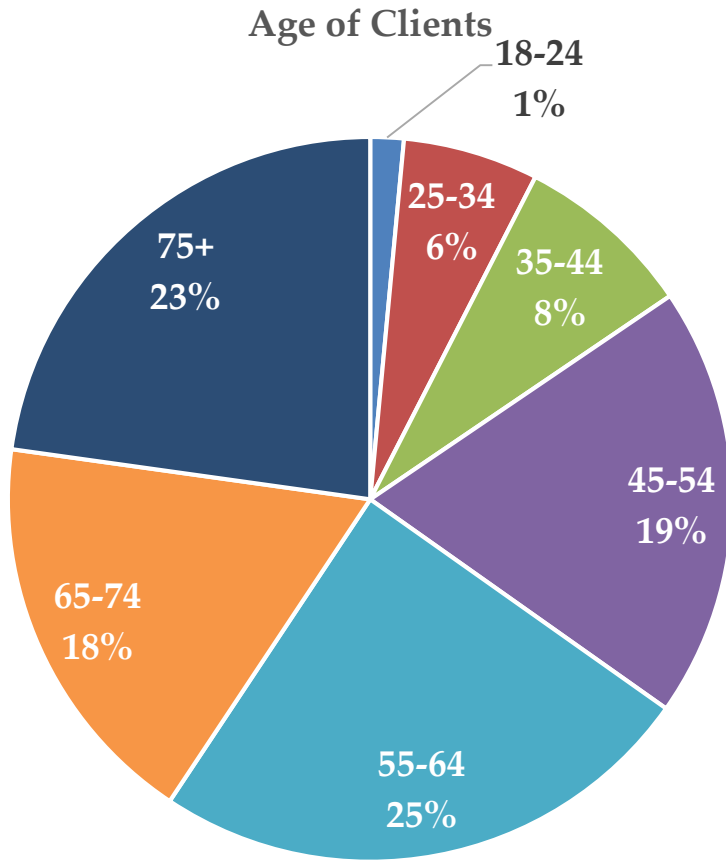
Structure to Support Collaboration

- Dedicated staff
- Leadership team
- Direct service team
- Data sharing mechanisms
- Referral protocols

Role of CJP (the Federation)

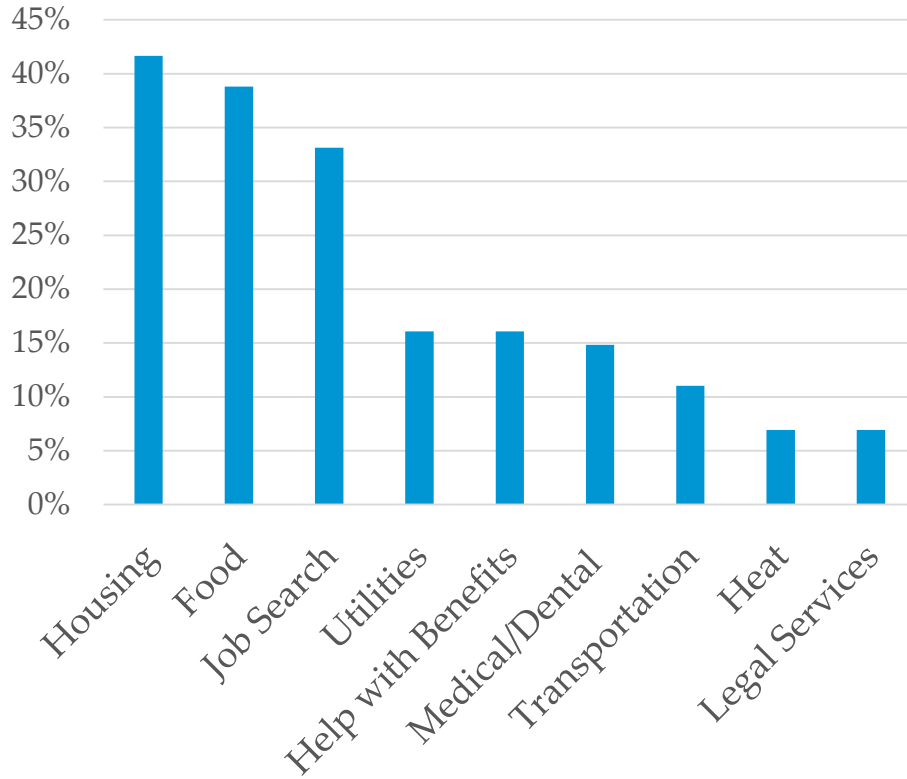
- Project Initiator
- Project Manager
- Create structure to support collaboration
- Fundraising and donor reporting
- Receiving, compiling and sharing data
- Seek input and oversee adjustments
- Community outreach

Demographic Data



Demographic Data

Presenting Needs of Clients



| % of Federal Poverty Level | Percent |
|----------------------------|---------|
| <100% | 60.8% |
| 100% up to 150% | 19.2% |
| 150% up to 200% | 8.5% |
| 200% up to 300% | 8.1% |
| 300% or more | 3.3% |

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

BARRIERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age• Basic Computer Skills• Child Care• Elder Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health• Mental Health• Housing• Transportation |
|---|---|

JOB READINESS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Focus• Motivation• Realistic Expectations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resume/ Cover Letter• Interviewing• LinkedIn Profile |
|--|--|

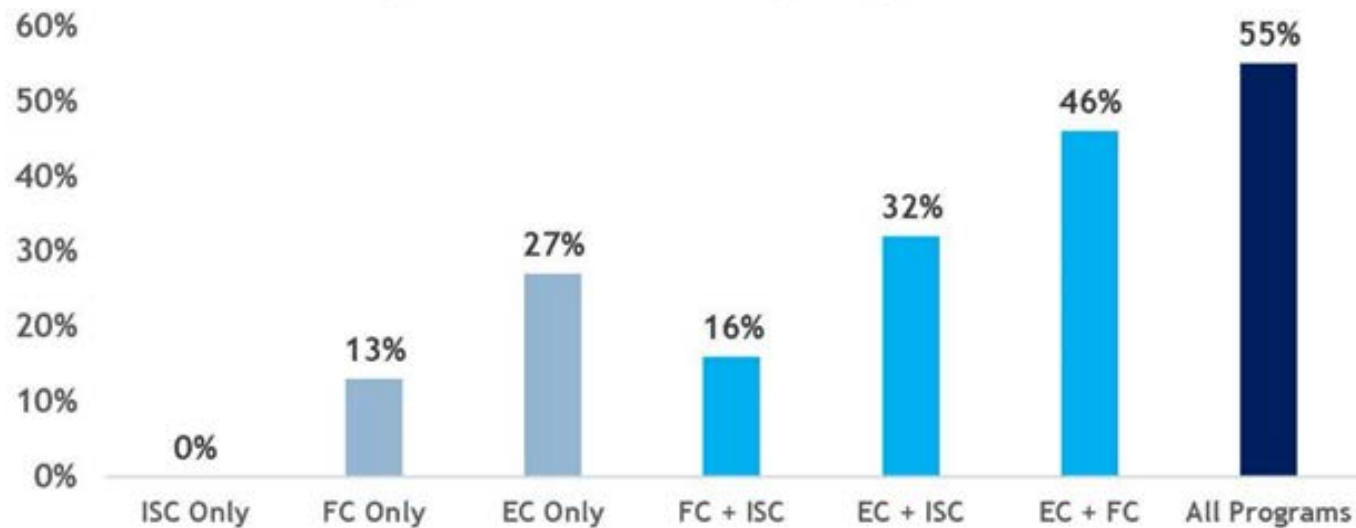
- “Job readiness” not a pre-requisite
- 50% + placement rate across all barriers.
- On-going communication, troubleshooting, and support offered by our partners helps get clients working.
- Ever-increasing number of clients with serious mental health challenges.
- Hardest-to-place clients in terms of 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

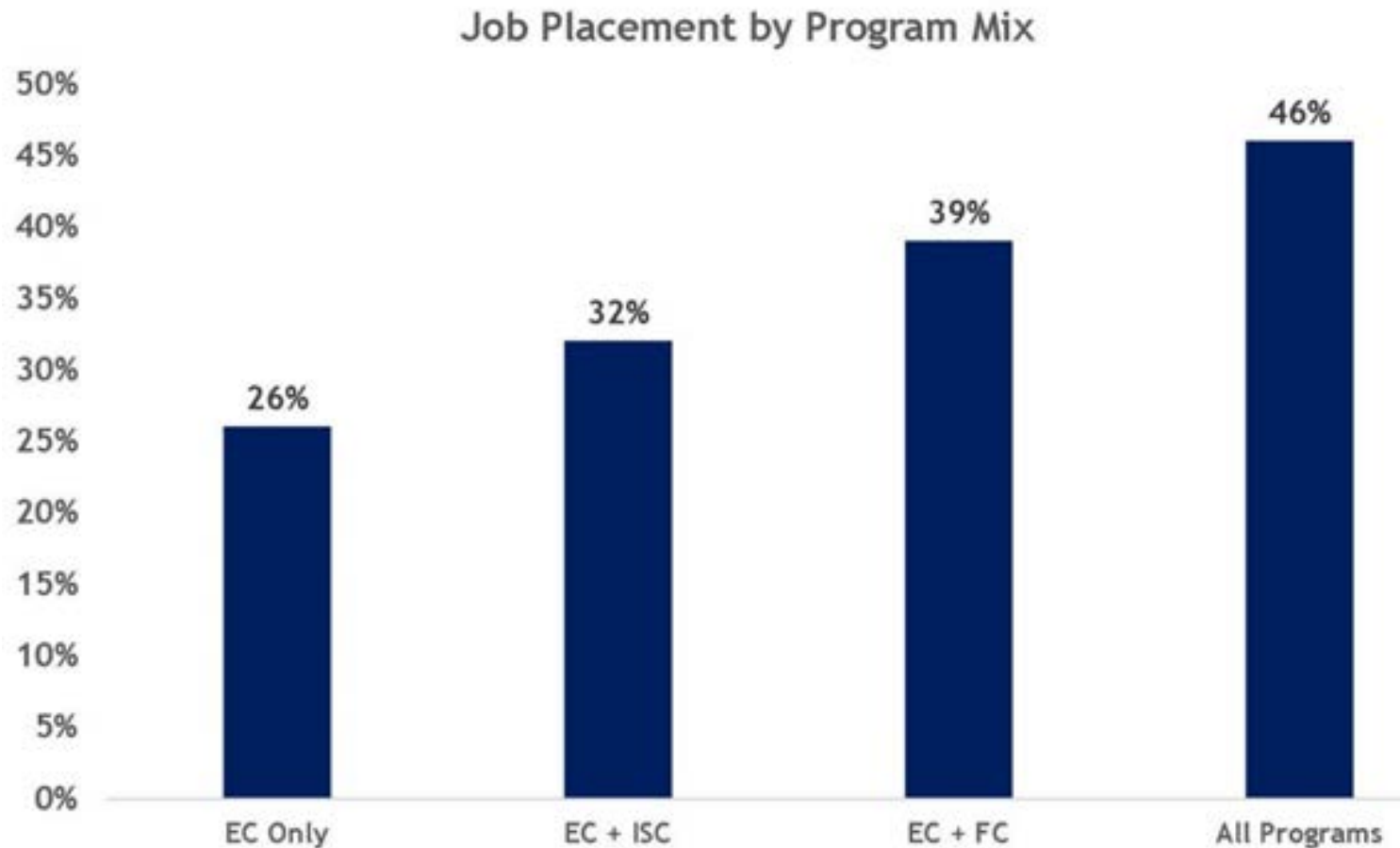
Clients engaged in two or more services are:

- 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



Pathways to Long-Term Stability through Financial Empowerment



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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Related Articles

- “Using Brain Science to Design New Pathways out of Poverty” EMPATH (formerly Crittenton’s Women Union, 2014. <http://s3.amazonaws.com/empath-website/pdf/Research-UsingBrainScienceDesignPathwaysPoverty-0114.pdf>
- LISC: “Building Sustainable Communities: Integrated Services and Improved Financial Outcomes for Low-Income Households by Sara Rankin, 2015.” http://www.lisc.org/media/filer_public/e5/5e/e55ec07e-61c1-40df-9940-d2add976d774/110317_sranking_foc_report_april_2015.pdf