A Framework for Working with Orthodox Communities

January 14, 2021
Dini Peterson, LMSW
Rabbi David M. Rosenberg
How ready is your agency to engage Orthodox communities?
Context

Responsibility to Serve Full Jewish Community

Growing Population

Perception of J-Agencies

Cultural Understanding
Approach

Start from a place of mutual respect.

Flexibility will help lead to success.
Relationships

Relationships are living things in need of nurturing and effort.

One interaction will not make it or break it.
Relationships

Understand the nature of your local communities

- Synagogues
- Schools
- Organizations
- Lay Leadership
- Rabbinic Leadership
- Religious & Ideological Diversity
- History
Relationships

- Relationships with Rabbis
- Relationships with Schools
- Other Community Connections
Staff Education

- Orthodox 101: What is Orthodox Judaism?
- Understanding Daily Life & Norms
- Demographics & Makeup
- History
- Community Structures
Programming

ONE

Needs specifically found in Orthodox communities

TWO

Needs require Orthodox lens to respond appropriately within the community

THREE

Universal needs that resonate within Orthodox communities
Staffing

Orthodox Staff

Point of Contact

Agency Committee

Orthodox Network
Poll

What does your agency need to improve engagement with Orthodox communities?
Dini Peterson, LMSW
Chief Program Officer, Family & Community Services
Jewish Family Service of Metro Detroit
248.592.2332
dpeterson@jfsdetroit.org

Rabbi David M. Rosenberg
Orthodox Community Liaison & Coordinator of Jewish Educational Services
JCFS Chicago
773.467.3926
davidrosenberg@jcfs.org