



2022 Canadian Jewish Human Service Sector Public Policy Agenda

Canadian member agencies of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) serve as a critical safety net for communities throughout Canada, providing assistance to hungry families and the recently unemployed, care for isolated older adults and persons with disabilities, mental health services for those in distress, and resources for resettled immigrants and those fleeing persecution. NJHSA has established the following as its 2022 Canadian Jewish Human Service Sector Public Policy Agenda and in doing so seeks to address the most pressing needs of member agencies and the clients they serve and as they continue to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its health and economic impact.

Food Insecurity, Housing, Economic Mobility: NJHSA is committed to reducing food insecurity and related struggles with economic insecurity by ensuring that all individuals have access to food and shelter by:

- Ensuring food security for Canadians by promoting continuation of COVID-19 levels of food bank funding and requirements that food security funding programs acknowledge and protect access for ethnocultural communities with religiously mandated dietary requirements.
- Supporting the continued implementation of the National Housing Strategy to increase capital and operating funding for ethnocultural housing through both new builds and refurbishment of old units.
- Encouraging the building of more affordable housing by advocating for reforms of Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) program eligibility for social service and non-profit housing to make it easier to convert existing units into affordable housing.
- Pressing government agencies to reduce the backlogs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially applications for new immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers that are pending processing by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Mental Health, Healthcare, and Long-Term Care: NJHSA is committed to promoting affordable, accessible care by:

- Supporting the training, hiring, and retention of DSW and PSW workers to address the staff shortage and ensure that seniors, including Holocaust Survivors, new immigrants and refugees, especially those with young children hit hardest by the pandemic, and others in need get the care they deserve.
- In partnership with provincial and municipal governments, advocate for the investment in ethnoculturally appropriate care for mental health initiatives as a cornerstone of Canada's COVID-19 recovery.

Skills Training & Newcomer Support: NJHSA is committed to expanding employment opportunities and job readiness skills for all who are seeking employment including those recently out of work, first-time job seekers, individuals with disabilities, older adults, immigrants, refugees, asylees, and veterans by:

- Advocating for increased funding to help address adult education, skills training, and technology disparities so that all individuals are able to successfully enter and succeed in the job market, including integrated, competitive employment for persons with disabilities, while allowing for choice; and
- Promoting opportunities for nonprofit employee recruitment and retention including tax credits and grants.

The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) is the membership association for 150 non-profit organizations that provide a full range of human services for over 980,000 clients each year, including healthcare, employment, residential, and mental health services, as well as programs for youth, families, older adults, Holocaust survivors, immigrants, refugees, asylees, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and domestic violence survivors. NJHSA acknowledges that Canadian member agencies are situated on treaty lands, the traditional lands of the many indigenous nations and peoples within and across Canada. This document was approved by the NJHSA Board on February 14, 2022 and does not preclude NJHSA from responding to or pursuing other timely policies related to core services or client-base as necessary.