

Responses to Poverty Program Showcase

May 15, 2022

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GROUP
ON JEWISH POVERTY

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Presenter #1

Name of Program & Contact Information

NATIONAL
AFFINITY
GROUP
ON JEWISH POVERTY

May 15, 2022

Presented by: Jon Hornstein & Cassie Malane

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Background and Program Description

- The National Affinity Group on Jewish Poverty is a collaborative of funders, Jewish Federations, direct service providers, researchers, media outlets, and advocates dedicated to fighting poverty in the American Jewish community.
- Timeline: Founded in 2019, it is coordinated by Jewish Funders Network and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.
- The Affinity Group's goal is to develop a national agenda that can help to reduce and alleviate poverty in the U.S. Jewish Community.

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Key Highlights

- **Creating a shared platform where a diverse group of professionals can work side by side**
 - 38 Jewish Federations developed community Action plans at 2020 Fedlab.
 - 3 major convenings with 200+ attendees, including 2 at JFNA which hadn't highlighted poverty in decades.
- **Engaging funders in this work**
 - 700+ receive affinity group newsletter with 50% open rate, including 250+ funders engaged in the affinity group work.

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Main Takeaways

- **Which best practices can communities leverage in building an anti-poverty programs?**
- **How is the knowledge base growing on poverty in the U.S. Jewish Community?**

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Presenter #2

Name of Program & Contact Information

Project Cobalt

Ester Moher, UJA Federation of Toronto

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In partnership with:

Jewish Family and Child Services Toronto

Jewish Vocational Services of Toronto

JACS Toronto (Addiction and Counselling)

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Toronto

Program Description

- As part of UJA's 2020 Campaign for community resilience, raised \$7m for human services to specifically aid in pandemic care and recovery
 - \$5m allocated to supporting the “newly vulnerable” → “Cobalt”
- Agencies collaboratively decided on how to prioritize fund allocations
 - Facilitated quarterly meetings with EDs to adjust as needed
- Resilience Coordinator embedded in each agency:
 - Referral coordination – program and service familiarity for all 4 agencies
 - Work collaboratively to troubleshoot and support
 - Data collection responsibilities: program numbers, wait list size, referrals
 - Client service responsibilities
- Quarterly interviews with EDs to:
 - Monitor changes in complexity of cases
 - Programmatic changes, new needs

Program Need

- Pandemic
 - Significant increase in immediate needs in community
 - Increased calls, website traffic
 - Agency partners were either overwhelmed with demand, or knew past clients would be in need soon
 - E.g., recent immigrants; financial assistance
- “Newly vulnerable”
 - New presentation of needs (e.g., financial subsidies for small business owners)
 - Fewer historical touchpoints with agencies; less awareness of system
 - Increased case complexity (?)

Implementation & Funding

- Implementation
 - External lawyer drafted our Data Sharing Agreement
 - Heavy collaboration between all 5 parties
 - Regular meetings with EDs to re-allocate funds and re-prioritize
 - Regular 1-on-1 meetings with EDs to monitor changes in need
 - RCs met monthly to manage data and client referral needs
- Funding was fixed at \$5m and is set to expire in Sept 2022
 - Initial allocation plans adjusted based on use and need changes
 - E.g., Less initial housing need because of government financial supports for job loss

Outcomes

Outcomes

- Trends in need helped to create 3 pilot programs:
 - “Food&” (food insecurity rarely lives in a vacuum)
 - Mental health first aid training
 - Comprehensive program mapping
- Rolling subset of data process into our annual reporting
- Unique management of “newly vulnerable”

Lessons learned

- Planned in Spring 2020 – we had no idea...
- Dynamic, unrestricted funding was critical to success
 - Funds were reallocated if not needed, used for clients who didn't fit definitions, allowed agencies to pivot fast
- Our data sharing relationship with partners was not strong; implementation was arduous
 - Given the data we ended up collecting, our DSA is out of scope
- More data share outs (in presentations/conversations)!

Presenter #3

Name of Program & Contact Information

San Diego for Every Child Guaranteed Income Project

A project of Jewish Family Service of San Diego



- Chris Olsen, Chief of Staff, JFS San Diego

- chriso@jfssd.org

Additional Contact:

- Khea Pollard, Director, San Diego for Every Child

- khea@sandiegoforeverychild.org

Program Description

- Guaranteed Income Pilot Program to address COVID-19 recovery, racial and gender equity
- Monthly \$500 cash payments to 150 families for 24 months
- Targeted geographic areas are ZIP codes with high rates of children experiencing poverty and disproportionately affected by COVID-19
- Payments have “no strings” attached, however participants have the option to participate in coaching and other community-based programming as desired

Program Need

- People are in poverty because they don't have money
- Direct cash addresses complexities with a simple solution
 - Needs are different from person to person, and even from year to year
 - Cash is a solution that recognizes this complexity and uses the most direct mechanism of our economy to address the needs of our society members
- Direct cash is an opportunity for cultural and narrative shift
 - There is inherent dignity and trust built into delivering no-strings-attached cash
 - Each of us deserves to have our basic needs met

Implementation & Funding

- Community Engagement partnership with Income Movement to design and facilitate workshops and events with key stakeholders in the San Diego area
- Payment Platform partner: Community Financial Resources
- Research and Evaluation partner: University of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR)
- Funding from private philanthropy, institutional partners, and government partners
- Families began receiving their first deposits March 2022

Outcomes

- The San Diego for Every Child Guaranteed Income Project seeks to answer:
 - How does guaranteed income impact the adverse effects of poverty and individual-level outcomes, including mental health, housing stability, employment, parenting, and more?
 - How can human services agencies shift their service delivery models to have greater impact?
 - How can guaranteed income be paired with other policy initiatives to generate structural change within programs such as benefit payments?

Presenter #4

Name of Program & Contact Information

Nutrition 101

JFS Houston



Morgan Zeringue,

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Adele Croft

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Program Description

- The **goal** of this program was to provide **healthy eating** on a **budget** and tools and strategies that can be used daily
- **Curriculum:**
 - **Class 1:** Grocery Store Tour
 - **Class 2:** Budgeting Basics and Grocery Shopping on a Budget
 - **Class 3:** Mindful/Emotional Eating and Meal Planning for Wellness
 - **Class 4:** Cooking Demonstration – Provided recipes and all ingredients
- **Program Components:**
 - ⑩ Participant **Incentives**
 - ⑩ Participant **Course Packet**
 - ⑩ **Partnerships**
 - ⑩ Individualized **1:1 Visit** with JFS staff



Program Need

- Food insecurity affects **all age groups** in our community
- Food is typically an individual or family's **3rd largest expense**
- **16.3%** of Houstonians are food insecure compared to **12.5%** nationally
- **23.2%** of children in Houston are food insecure compared to **14.3%** of children in the U.S.
- **85%** of low-income families consider eating healthy meals important
- **Kosher** households face unique **challenges**



Implementation & Funding

IMPLEMENTATION

- JFS & partners transitioned to **virtual format**
- Participant **Recruitment**: ALICE, internal caseload and associated programs, referrals from rabbis and Jewish day schools
- Course **Packet** (meal planners, budget planners, apps, etc.)
- **Community Partners**
 - H-E-B
 - The Women's Resource of Greater Houston
 - Kosher community chefs
- Individualized Contact with Participant
- Ongoing **participant feedback**

FUNDING

- Grant from the **Houston Jewish Community Foundation**
 - **Total budget**: \$12,500 (nutrition classes, materials, staff)



Outcomes

- 45 Participants, 33 (73.3%) completed a pre & post-participation survey
- Ages 20s-60s

Item	Pre-test	Post-test
1. My family uses fresh fruits and vegetables	60% (agree or strongly agree)	75% (agree or strongly agree)
2. I am confident in my family's ability to stay within my monthly budget for groceries	31% (agree or strongly agree)	63% (agree or strongly agree)
3. I understand the meaning of nutrition labels at the grocery store	85% (agree or strongly agree)	89% (agree or strongly agree)
4. I know how to meal plan for myself or my family	52% (agree or strongly agree)	77% (agree or strongly agree)

Participation in the Nutrition 101 program improved healthy eating, meal planning and grocery shopping on a budget.



Presenter #5

Name of Program & Contact Information

Setting the Table with Community Partners

Amy Weiss

Community Services Director

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952-542-4809

Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis

5905 Golden Valley Rd

Golden Valley, MN 55422

Program Description

JFCS Minneapolis historically supported clients with food security needs through Kosher Meals on Wheels and financial assistance for groceries.

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive Jewish response to existing and growing food insecurity for those in the broad community, JFCS entered into a partnership with PRISM, a social service agency operating a food shelf and thrift shop. Through this collaboration, the JFCS Food and Basic Needs Program was created.

Collaborative approach to provide a broad response to:

- Meet emergency needs.
- Provide holistic services critical to ensure stability, self-sufficiency and food security for individuals and families.
- In 2018 JFCS and PRISM co-located to enhance cooperation and collaboration.

Program Need

Opportunities:

- PRISM can access JFCS services for current and potential clients, expanding their ability to provide assistance to those in need.
- JFCS can expand access to food resources for clients.
- Engage Jewish and JFCS community more deeply in issue of food security as volunteers and donors.
- Collaborate to provide comprehensive services and support essential to ensuring long-term stability, self-sufficiency and food security.
- Work together on advocacy to affect systems change for long-term impact.

Implementation & Funding

How Did We Get Here?

- The two agencies selected one another only after extensive exploration and confirmation of shared values along with complementary rather than duplicative services.
- Early focus was on building relationships among staff from both agencies, sharing knowledge and resources, and identifying and implementing practical collaborative activities addressing issues of food insecurities within the community.
- Initial funding was from an individual donor, followed by an 11-month grant through MAZON, A Jewish Response to Hunger. This grant was designed to reduce barriers that keep vulnerable seniors from enrolling in SNAP.
- JFCS and PRISM entered into an agreement to move together to a new location in Golden Valley; planned the space together and moved in within a month of one another in 2018.
- JFCS funds a part-time staff position from general operating funds. PRISM is a separate, independent non-profit, responsible for its funding and budget.

Outcomes

Collaborate to eliminate barriers to food security at all levels.

- Provide a home for PRISM including their onsite food shelf (pantry) and Shop for Change Thrift Store.
- JFCS has loaned the Food Security Program Coordinator to provide intake support at PRISM.
- Collaborated on food distribution program providing donated food to community organizations throughout the Twin Cities.
- Integrated members of PRISM staff and board into the JFCS Advocacy Committee.
- Supported clients with at-home food deliveries during the pandemic.
- Synergy in client referrals between agencies.
- Opportunity for hands-on involvement from volunteers through financial contributions, food, clothing and household good donations to support the food self and Shop for Change Thrift Shop.
- Actively engage PRISM clients through census and voter engagement and outreach efforts.

Presenter #6

Name of Program & Contact Information

Caregiver Homeless Initiative

Program Lead:

- Steve Barlam, CEO JFS Care
- SBarlam@jfscare.org
- 213.383.2273

Program Description

The Caregiver Homeless Initiative (CHI) program provides homecare for recently-housed formerly homeless older adults.

- Two-year demonstration project, a partnership between Jewish Family Service LA and the Los Angeles County Dept of Health Services.
- The program is funded to serve a census of between 70 and 100 clients, providing up to 5,000 hours of care monthly.
- DHS nurses assess individuals in Permanent Supportive Housing settings and make appropriate referrals.
- All clients already have an assigned Intensive Case Manager, addressing housing care management issues.
- JFS provides “Care Managed Homecare” – with the Care Manager focused on supporting the Caregiver-Recipient relationship. This is critical to ensuring the success and longevity of homecare services.

Program Need

- The older adult homeless population in LA County increased 20% from 2017 to 2020. On any given night in LA County, there are between 3,000 and 4,000 homeless older adults.
- Many homeless/formerly homeless older adults have significant ADL/IADL needs, complicated by the impact of trauma, behavioral health and/or cognitive issues.
- As individuals are placed in permanent supportive housing, their personal care needs may remain unaddressed, leading to premature institutionalization or a return to homelessness.
- In California, traditional IHSS (MediCal-funded) homecare requires the recipient to self-manage their care and “employment” of the caregiver. Individuals in this population are frequently unable to do so.

Implementation & Funding

- The CHI Program is a three-way partnership between the LA County Department of Health Services, Jewish Family Service LA and Cedars-Sinai Community Benefit Program.
- Cedars-Sinai is funding the two-year demonstration project, along with a research and evaluation component to assess the impact of home care services on housing and health stability for the individuals served.
- Implementation has been slow. Referral bottlenecks due to County nurse shortage. Dwelling sanitation issues have also slowed commencement of services.
- Actual hours of service/client below expectations.

Outcomes

Intended client outcomes include:

- Increased prevention and/or early identification of medical concerns, ultimately reducing the need for higher level care outside of permanent housing settings.
- Clients remain in Permanent Supportive Housing in communities of their choosing, avoiding more costly, institutional care.
- Clients remain in Permanent Supportive Housing, avoiding a return to homelessness.

Strategic benefits for JFSLA include:

- The program provides JFSLA an opportunity to help address Los Angeles County's homeless crisis through our core competencies.
- It provides JFSLA an opportunity to leverage our homecare and care management expertise and capacity to serve a new population, and open up new avenues for funding and growing our services.
- This program provides JFSLA with direct experience providing homecare to a population soon-to-be served through the Medi-Cal system's CalAIM initiative.
- Deepen our strategic relationship with Cedars-Sinai and with the County DHS.

Presenter #7

Name of Program & Contact Information

Financial Wellness

Jewish Community Services (JCS) Baltimore

Benjamin Temin, M.Ed., CRC, Certified Financial Social Work Coach

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- (410)843-7433

Presenter:

Joan Grayson Cohen, Esq., LCSW-C

- Executive Director
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Program Description

The Financial Wellness program at JCS is an agency-wide multidisciplinary approach to addressing financial issues head on in the human service setting. It assumes that the greatest determinant of a person's financial situation is their behavior, and relationship with money. It moves beyond an information based financial literacy model to a psychosocial behavioral change model.

Staff Training:

- ✓ Several agency staff received certification in financial social work.
- ✓ Staff across the agency have been trained.
- ✓ Area specific (mental health, career, case management) trainings have been conducted, and more are planned.

Financial Wellness Coaching:

- ✓ Individual referrals from across the agency are made to Program Coordinator for one-time consultations and ongoing coaching for clients.
- ✓ Consultation is provided to staff on challenging cases.

Financial Wellness "Toolbox":

- ✓ Curated set of assessments, worksheets, and tools utilized by program coordinator or individual staff to help address client's needs.

Public Benefits Screening:

- ✓ Seedco Earned Benefits Online (EBO).

Program Need

- Within the community we serve, Jewish Community Services' professionals have observed multiple generations of families coming to our agency for assistance.
- Economic recession was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but even prior to the pandemic, individuals and families young and old faced financial stressors they were not prepared for.
- These financial stressors impact mental health and well-being. Challenges to overall wellness create barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment, healthy relationships, and physical health.
- All these factors created a need to develop new ways of training staff, and working with clients to affect long lasting change, and financial stability in our community.

Implementation & Funding

- February 2019: As a result of a grant from the Weinberg Foundation, JCS was able to fund 4 professionals to attend the University of Maryland, School of Social Work's Financial Social Work Certification class. Concluded September 2019.
- June 2019: JCS attended the inaugural meeting of the National Affinity Group on Jewish Poverty in Chicago.
- July 2019: Through the NJHSA Jewish Poverty Challenge JCS was awarded individual consulting sessions, access to a virtual toolkit, and periodic check-in meetings with Start Co.
- August 2020: JCS was accepted into the NJHSA Jewish Poverty Challenge II program which included monthly meetings with Start Co. to plan and strategize program design, implementation, and outcome measurements.
- July 2021: Received 2-year grant totaling \$300,000 to implement our Financial Wellness program.
- August 2021 – December 2021: Pilot program model was created. Trainings with staff took place and consultation began with staff and clients.
- January 2022 to present: Our Economic Sufficiency Department staff received additional training in Money Habitudes and Earned Benefits online screening. Screening have begun with clients.

Outcomes

- Financial independence for 6 months after receiving JCS financial assistance for some period within last 18 months.
 - Increased from 58% FY20 to 70% in FY22 Q1*
- Length of time receiving financial assistance.
 - From FY21- FY22 reduced from 5.25 months to 4.5 months
- Total amount of financial assistance received.
 - FY21 - \$875
 - Economic Advancement FY22 \$1,200
 - Successful Aging FY22 reduced to 700*
- CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale pre and post measurement.
 - Benchmark data shows average score of 43, corresponding to “medium-low” levels nation-wide.*
- Public benefits screening
 - Newest tool. We are tracking number of new benefits attained and estimated value.*

*between FY21- FY22 the economic services department underwent restructuring

CFPB FINANCIAL WELL-BEING SCALE
Questionnaire

NAME OR NUMBER

Part 1: How well does this statement describe you or your situation?

This statement describes me	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all
1. Because of my money situation, I feel like I will never have the things I want in life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I am just getting by financially	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2: How often does this statement apply to you?

This statement applies to me	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
4. I have money left over at the end of the month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. My finances control my life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 3: Tell us about yourself.

6. How old are you?	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-61	<input type="checkbox"/> 62+
7. How did you take the questionnaire?	<input type="checkbox"/> I read the questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Someone read the questions to me

Q & A

(at tables)