

THE NATAN FUND x The Network

Innovation in Human Services



natan

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Introduction

**An Example
in Action**

**What is
Innovation
Really?**

A conversation



Natan inspires young philanthropists to become actively engaged in building the Jewish future by giving collaboratively to cutting-edge initiatives in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world. Natan believes that educated, engaged, and entrepreneurial philanthropy can transform both givers and grant recipients.

Natan is a giving circle - a grantmaking foundation where members pool their charitable contributions, set the group's philanthropic strategy and agenda, and collectively award grants to emerging initiatives, working actively with their leaders to help them grow. We believe that educated, engaged, and entrepreneurial philanthropy can transform both givers and grant recipients.



Natan's Grant Opportunity

Natan's Confronting Poverty committee requests proposals from organizations that are addressing poverty in their communities across the United States. This grant area is primarily focused on new models of direct services focused on Jewish poverty. We understand that most social service organizations serve a diverse audience, but we anticipate that most of the funding will go towards organizations that have a special and particular interest in serving the Jewish community, in addition to other audiences. We are particularly interested in;

- **New models of direct services within existing agencies that address food insecurity, housing, job training, health and older adult care;**
- **New models of education, communications and awareness building around poverty**
- **New organizations and start ups that bring a fresh lens and voice to these matters**

Natan seeks to sponsor or catalyze the creation of innovative, grassroots, and scalable strategies that address poverty and the factors that contribute to these challenges. This RFP targets both early-stage organizations and early-stage projects within larger institutions.

Natan anticipates awarding up to five grants of \$30,000 - \$35,000. The selected programs may be eligible for second year funding. Grant recipients will have the opportunity to work with a consultant to develop measures of success and evaluation plans.

Natan's Confronting Poverty initiative is in partnership with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation with the goal of surfacing new ideas in the Jewish anti-poverty space. Consideration will be given to applicants that incorporate voices of those with lived experience in their program development.





Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford

Established in 1912, JFS provides culturally-responsive basic needs support, mental health counseling, financial counseling, case management, and much more for individuals and families of all races, backgrounds, and abilities.

Comprehensive Community Supports

A holistic client support program that works to increase income and self-sufficiency by

- a) helping clients identify and access resources/reduce barriers to financial independence
- b) tapping into the resources of the Jewish community through the creation of a support network

Background of Program

Resource of Time

For Clients
For Staff

Comprehensive Approach

Building on
what we
already do



Case Management

Meet with clients and identify barriers, troubleshoot & identify possible solutions



Volunteer Time

Volunteer experts will offer one-on-one support & classes



Donated Items

Exactly what the person needs supplied by the community



Measure Impact

Track referrals, track leveraged value to clients, pre and post assessments



Case Study

Background: Mr. Smith is 62 years old, single father of a toddler, recently lost his job

Without the Program

- Food Pantry

With the Program

- Prevented Eviction
- Identified resource for subsidized rent
- Signed up for WIC
- Found subsidized childcare
- Found new employment on bus line
- Food pantry with delivery
- Enrolled child in school starting in fall



Innovation Funding: Landscape and Types

What is Innovation?

Innovation is a mode of operating, of finding new ways to create impact. Innovative organizations and programs are ones that are able to act efficiently, adapt to current demands in the community, and create new models for achieving positive outcomes. The drive for relevancy and impact is built into their DNA. Innovative organizations have a culture of perpetual improvement, where calculated risk is in service of always trying to do better. Innovation can be seen through what the organization does (i.e., the programmatic tactics used to address an unmet need) or how it is done (i.e., the approach used to work with or on behalf of its constituents). Innovation is different at each life stage of an organization. (Slingshot)



Innovation at Every Stage

- Start-up organizations are innovative in why they were created. They are groundbreaking, inventive, pioneering, or creative in their response to the changing needs of the Jewish community and the world around it.
- Mezzanine organizations are innovative because of their culture of constant improvement. As they grow, they continue to find new ways of doing business and maintaining a thrust toward risk-taking.
- Legacy organizations express innovation through projects derived from established structures and a willingness to try operating in new or different ways to best address the changing needs of the Jewish community.

Types of Innovation Funding

- Research and Development
- Pilot Funding
- Incubator



What Innovation could look like for you

- A new model of delivery of pre-existing program
- A combining of resources in a unique way
- Targeting a new demographic
- Bringing new technology into your work
- Identifying a new aspect of support to add into your work

<https://www.natan.org/currentgrantees/confrontingpoverty>





Center for Innovation & Research

Goal: To provide timely and responsive **solutions to challenges** faced by member agencies that enhance service quality, create operational and cost efficiencies, and transform agency cultures.

- Fostering a **culture** of Innovation & Learning
- Identifying **solutions** that are relevant, practical, and actionable
- Focusing on sector wide **challenges**

Questions?