

2025 U.S. Jewish Human Service Sector Public Policy Agenda

The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (The Network) is the membership association for more than 170 nonprofit organizations, with more than 127 in the United States, that provide a full range of human services for approximately 2 million clients of all faiths and backgrounds across the country, half of whom are not Jewish. These services include health care, mental health services, employment, and residential, as well as programs for youth, families, older adults, Holocaust survivors, newcomers, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and domestic violence survivors. The following policy priorities are rooted in our collective mission to improve the health and well-being of all members of our communities.

Health:

The Network is committed to protecting and strengthening the social service and health supports needed by individuals in our communities, as well as promoting affordable, accessible, and high-quality care by:

- Preserving and supporting the mental health, health, long-term care, and maternal health safety net of Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance coverage, including by advocating for adequate federal funding for these programs.
- Reducing barriers to address the increased need for mental health care, particularly among children and youth, and those experiencing loneliness, while promoting access to high quality services, including through telehealth and supporting parity.
- Empowering older adults and people with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and inclusion in the community.
- Promoting person-centered, trauma-informed care to ensure that Holocaust survivors and others aging with a history of trauma can live with dignity and an enhanced quality of life.
- Ensuring equal access to care regardless of identity, economic standing, or personal differences.

Economic Stability:

The Network is committed to ensuring all individuals and families have access to food, shelter, and other vital benefits and supports that help them achieve a decent quality of life by:

- Advocating to end hunger and food insecurity, ensuring food access and affordability (including kosher and other religious or medically tailored meal options in food banks and pantries), and protecting access to SNAP, WIC, both school and senior meals, and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
- Promoting federal and state government support for immigrants, refugees, parolees, and asylees, including adequate funding for resettlement agencies and opposing efforts to curtail rights and protections for the aforementioned populations and their families.
- Advocating for expanded employment opportunities and job readiness skills for individuals seeking employment, including integrated, competitive employment for persons with disabilities while allowing for choice.
- Promoting the expansion of affordable, accessible, and safe housing.
- Advocating to alleviate poverty by supporting the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits and modernizing the SSI and SSDI programs.

Safety & Security:

The Network is committed to addressing threats to communal and individual safety in our communities by:

- Combatting antisemitism and other forms of hate and bigotry, including by increasing funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and for the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program, as well as by addressing the impacts of antisemitism and other forms of hate on mental health, particularly among students and children.
- Promoting increased funding and other measures to reduce gender-based violence and provide education about its prevalence and traumatic impact, including mental and physical effects.
- Protecting human service agencies and their clients from threats, including varying attempts to target these agencies, their funding, and their clients.
- Advocating for increased funding to train mental health professionals, law enforcement, and communities on the traumatic impact of gun violence, particularly for children and the underserved, to ensure safer communities.
- Bolstering funding and strengthening flexibilities to support human service agencies as they lead emergency local responses to natural disasters and support the economic recovery of communities impacted by the extreme effects of climate change.

This agenda was approved by The Network Board on January 6, 2025, and does not preclude The Network from responding to or pursuing other timely policies related to core services or client-base as necessary.