



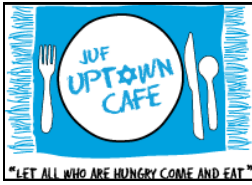
Federal Policy Agenda



The Jewish United Fund/ Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

Established in 1900, the **Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago (JUF/JF)** supports a network of more than 120 health and social service agencies, serving more than 300,000 Chicagoans of all faiths, and hundreds of thousands in 70 countries. JUF/JF is the central planning and fundraising arm of the Chicago Jewish community, allocating a total of \$174.73 million in FY '14 for programs. Many key safety-net, services provided by our network represent the best of what a public-private partnership can deliver for the most vulnerable. In 2014, the Jewish Federation's local network received \$503.5 million from local, state and federal agencies to address our shared priorities for individuals and families.

Safeguarding Key Public Initiatives for the Most Vulnerable



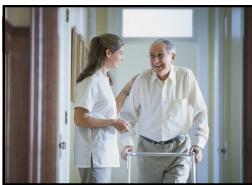
JUF/JF advocates for the social service needs of the vulnerable members in our community. JUF/JF urges Congress and the Administration to maintain critical programs such as the Social Services Block Grant, the Workforce Investment Act, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. JUF/JF promotes efforts to combat domestic hunger, through critical feeding programs such as: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Meals on Wheels.

Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, and the Health Safety Net



JUF/JF supports improving the quality and delivery of Medicaid and Medicare. This includes promoting home and community-based services, supporting updates in Skilled Nursing Facility and Market Basket rates, protecting the hospital assessment program, addressing long term care needs, maintaining Medicaid waiver services, preserving federal funding for Medicaid as an entitlement, and ensuring the vulnerable patients served by these programs are protected as the new health care law is implemented. JUF/JF supports enhanced access to healthcare for the uninsured, creative solutions for uncompensated care at health and long-term care facilities, breast cancer awareness, and additional health information technology funding for non-profits.

Empowering Older Adults to Live Healthier and More Independent Lives



JUF/JF promotes initiatives serving older adults including: reauthorization of the Older Americans Act; Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities; innovative home and community-based services; employment programs; access to quality transportation and affordable housing for older adults; targeting services and support systems for Holocaust survivors; strengthening our nation’s long-term services and supports infrastructure; adequate research and funding to combat and understand Alzheimer’s disease and developmental disabilities; and maintain relief and services for family caregivers.

Enabling Those with Disabilities Including Mental Illness to Engage Fully in Community Life



JUF/JF supports full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, affordable and accessible supportive housing, respite care, community based care, and job training for persons with disabilities, and the expansion of electronic health records for mental health professionals. JUF/JF promotes the Mental Health Services Block Grant, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Reauthorization, a reallocation of funds ensuring the solvency of the Social Security Disability Insurance fund, maintaining community mental health programs, and particularly the Autism Spectrum Disorders, in children and young adults.

Protecting and Caring for Children, Families, and Vulnerable People



JUF/JF raises awareness on a range of children and family issues including, child care, Head Start, after-school programs, youth violence prevention, child protective services, and childhood obesity. JUF/JF works to combat child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse and human trafficking.

Strengthening Jewish Education and Engagement



JUF/JF supports formal and informal Jewish education at a variety of venues including: Jewish day schools and early childhood education programs, the incorporation of Hebrew language classes in public schools, and the vibrant role of Hillel and other college programs on campus.

Safeguarding the Jewish Community From Terrorism



JUF/JF supports efforts to increase preparedness and mitigate the constant threats to the Jewish community. JUF/JF supports the Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which has provided 78 Jewish agency sites in Cook County a total of \$11.5 million over the last nine grant cycles to purchase and install equipment to deter potential attackers and harden their physical sites.

Maximizing Incentives for Charitable Giving and Supporting the Work of Nonprofits



JUF/JF supports efforts to protect the charitable deduction and the permanent expansion of the IRA Charitable Rollover. JUF/JF has raised approximately \$12.038M from 1,043 gifts from the rollover since 2006. JUF/JF opposes efforts to limit or eliminate the charitable deduction. JUF/JF opposes restrictions on the definition of what constitutes a charity, burdensome new tax requirements, anti-lobbying restrictions on nonprofits, and impediments to nonprofit governance, operations and fundraising; particularly those relating to Donor Advised Funds and Supporting Organizations.

Strengthening the US-Israel Relationship and the Security of Jews Worldwide



JUF/JF supports strong US-Israel relations, as part of its larger goal of assisting Israel achieve peace and security, combats assaults on Israel’s legitimacy, advocates for the rights and security of Jews around the world, and works to help prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

Supporting Integration of Immigrants and Refugees



JUF/JF supports efforts to extend Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to elderly or disabled refugees and asylees, the Lautenberg Amendment (which facilitates the processing of refugee status for certain persecuted religious minorities), advocates for a more stream lined citizenship and green card process, supports efforts to reduce citizenship related fees, and safeguard funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement. In addition, JUF/JF supports a coordinated effort in providing assistance to refugees and asylees escaping persecution. This includes additional resources that are critical for the Syrian people, given the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis.



Protecting our Civil Rights and Religious Freedom

In partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), JUF/JF advocates for hate crimes legislation; religious accommodation in the workplaces, and efforts to protect individual and voluntary prayer in school while protecting students from inappropriate school sponsored prayer sessions, including military academies.



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