There are approximately 80,000 Holocaust survivors in the United States. Many are aged 85 or older, and one in three lives in poverty. Many live alone and are at risk for social isolation, depression, and other physical and mental health conditions stemming from periods of starvation, disease, and torture.

The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care is changing the lives of this vulnerable population.

The Center promotes person-centered, trauma-informed (PCTI) services for Holocaust survivors. PCTI care incorporates awareness about the impact of trauma into agency programs and procedures as a way to avoid re-traumatizing survivors and promote their dignity, strength, and empowerment.

For Holocaust survivors, any emergency that threatens one’s sense of safety, security, or control – such as a fall in the home or broken heating system – can pose a risk for re-traumatization. On top of this, many typical events that occur as survivors age, such as hearing loss or a hospital stay, can trigger memories of times during the Holocaust when they lost control over their lives. Exacerbating the problem, many survivors live in poverty, resulting in food insecurity, insufficient housing and utilities, lack of transportation and social isolation.

Raising the Bar for Care

We support a selective cohort of organizations that create and implement innovative PCTI services in their communities. CJE SeniorLife has been a multi-year participant in this program.

Our Critical Supports program helps prevent and resolve crises that could be devastating to Holocaust survivors’ wellbeing. JUF is pioneering this work as a model for other communities.

We grow the capacity of the Aging Services Network to implement PCTI services for Holocaust survivors and other victims of trauma. We offer training opportunities and resources to this nationwide network of state agencies on aging, area agencies on aging, and local service providers. We also empower our subgrantees to share their groundbreaking PCTI advances within strong peer networks.

Together, We Achieve More

The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care promotes excellence in service delivery together with the expertise of partner organizations including the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies and the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The grant money is a combination of federal funds and philanthropy raised by Jewish Federations as part of JFNA’s National Holocaust Survivor Initiative.

To learn more, visit HolocaustSurvivorCare.org or email HolocaustCenter@JewishFederations.org.