

SAN DIEGO

# Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund

*Making a Difference in our Community*

MAY 1, 2020



**200+**



**\$2.1 million**



**\$537,000**

**Thank you generous donors!**

## Key Learnings

- The speed and velocity of COVID-19 caused generally healthy organizations to become cash-strapped overnight. The Fund's bridge loans have been critical in enabling these Jewish nonprofits to continue functioning.
- Thousands of people who were self-sufficient just weeks ago are now struggling to put food on the table.
- Though foreclosures and evictions are temporarily prohibited, housing assistance is still critical to forestall mounting debt that could cripple people even as jobs return.
- The rippling effects of isolation across our entire community, especially among our elders, are already traumatic.
- Domestic violence is on the rise and severely under reported.



## The Process

A task force comprised of senior staff at the three organizations, along with long-time philanthropists and board representatives, is governing the Fund. The Task Force meets frequently to consider distributions promptly, always seeking to bridge and add to, rather than duplicate, government or other support.

*“In my family of 4 both of us got laid off. I worked at a school and my husband worked at a hotel and thanks to the quick response and support from G’Mach, my family could get food, toiletries, house supplies and pay our utilities.”*

— Mother of Two

# The Fund is being implemented in a multi-phase approach as needs evolve.

## Phase I - The Fund is addressing two critical needs:

**Rapid emergency support** for the most vulnerable in our community to access their most basic needs. The Fund awarded emergency grants to two organizations working directly with those in need:

- Jewish Family Service
- The Jewish Gift Closet (G'mach)

**The Fund** is also reaching out to San Diego's congregational rabbis to channel assistance, knowing they are often the trusted leaders that individuals in need turn to for support.

**Supporting payroll assistance** for Jewish organizations to keep staff employed and avoid crisis decisions in the face of significant revenue loss.

**The Fund** aims to support needs that cannot be met by other sources. Given the uncertainty of government assistance, the Fund made interest-free bridge loans to:

- Camp Mountain Chai
- Congregation Adat Yeshurun
- Hillel of San Diego
- Hope Village (Chesed House)
- Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS
- Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School
- Temple Adat Shalom
- Torah High School

Staff also provided technical assistance to enable organizations to access government aid.

## Phase II – Moving Forward

**The Fund** is working to ensure that Jews in need weather this storm and organizations that are the backbone of our Jewish community emerge able to continue serving us.

As the longer-term impacts of the pandemic are becoming clearer, the Fund is working to identify the best approaches to looming community needs—continued food and housing insecurity, isolation and its psychological effects, employment assistance and more.



*“Because of the swift and thoughtful action of our collaborative community funders, the Lawrence Family JCC was able to make meaningful, values driven decisions about the future of our JCC during crisis. Knowing that we had the safety net of the community collaborative interest free loan, we were able to prevent economic hardship for nearly 300 JCC staff and their families.”*

— Betzy Lynch, JCC Chief Executive Officer

