



JFNA Year 1 Cohort Executive Summaries

The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care's issued grants to 23 agencies in the first funding cycle of its grant. Below are the agency names and a brief executive summary of each funded program.

Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia

Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc. (JF&CS) in Atlanta, Georgia, provides innovative, holistic programming and supportive services in such areas as transportation; food and income security; social networking and de-isolation; counseling and mental health; and primary/physical health, safety and welfare utilizing a person-centered, trauma-informed approach for Holocaust survivors and their caregivers in an effort to promote dignity, strength and empowerment. Funding enables JF&CS to expand current program offerings to 150 Holocaust survivors, with an emphasis on serving those living in poverty, survivors from the Former Soviet Union and survivors from the Orthodox Jewish community, to include such activities as:

- 1) Case Management, Information and Referrals;
- 2) Physical, spiritual and emotional wellness; includes workshops and group and individual counseling;
- 3) Food Security Program which provides nutritional counseling and access to the agency's Kosher Food Pantry and "Giving Garden,"
- 4) Safety Evaluations and Home Safety Modifications; and
- 5) Social and Intergenerational Events.

Jewish Community Services Baltimore, Maryland

The JCS program will build a trauma-informed community by increasing professional and community awareness about the issues and needs of Holocaust survivors as a result of their unique traumatic experiences. JCS will enhance the competency and capacity of professionals, institutions and families caring for survivors. In addition to JCS staff, the program targets other key service providers including hospice providers, home care agencies, physicians, and long-term care, assisted living, and rehabilitation facilities, as well as family caregivers.



Components include community-based programs on the long-term effects of Holocaust trauma, its impact on individuals and families, and PCTI concepts; an extensive and ongoing PCTI professional development program for JCS staff who work with the survivor population; and preparation of select JCS professionals to serve as trainers and consultants to external organizations who provide care and services to survivors.

Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland Beachwood, Ohio

Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland will hire a Family Care Advocate to coordinate, oversee, resolve and address any problems that may arise in the delivery of care to Holocaust survivors. Specifically, this position will serve as the primary contact for our clients, their family members or appointed caregiver and the social and health care services the client accesses.

Jewish Family & Children's Services East Bay Berkeley, CA

JFCS East Bay will offer a comprehensive program to address the trauma experienced by survivors from the former Soviet Union. Our holistic approach includes a psycho-educational group, a yoga program, a health and wellness educational program, individual counseling and family support for caregivers, socialization support, training of partner agency staff who interact with survivors, and transportation assistance to and from program activities. The program will be coordinated and facilitated by Russian-speaking staff, including a newly hired clinical social worker. In addition to these direct services, JFCS East Bay will work with the Sanctuary Institute to infuse the Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Sanctuary Model throughout our agency and overall Holocaust Survivor Services program.

Guardians of the Sick, Inc. Brooklyn, NY

Three initiatives grounded in Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed principles will support the mental health, physical health, and social integration of Holocaust survivors in the Jewish Orthodox community.

- 1) Monthly education-training sessions for family caregivers of Holocaust survivors will improve caregiving practices, while addressing the mental health and self-care needs of family caregivers. A list of recommended resources for family caregivers will be created and made available for participants, community members, and online for the wider community.



- 2) PCTI-based training for Home Health Aides providing care to Holocaust survivors will enhance skills in recognizing special issues related to the life experience of Holocaust survivors, and best practices for caregiving responsive to those issues.
- 3) Recruitment, PCTI training, and ongoing support of community volunteers will develop groups of mature volunteers to visit survivors with special needs (those with low vision, and those diagnosed with dementia), and youth volunteers for community and nursing home visitation.

CJE SeniorLife Chicago, IL

Holocaust Community Services' Outreach Program is an innovative community-based program that promotes well-being in physical and emotional/mental health, and increases service accessibility by bringing mental health and support services to survivors in their own language and locations. It includes three primary components:

- 1) Community health education programming using evidence-based models, focusing on survivors' independence and competencies to address chronic health issues and risks;
- 2) In-home and community-based mental health counseling and clinical case-management, sensitive to trauma-related and cultural barriers to traditional psychotherapy models and to survivors' individual triggers, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms;
- 3) Isolation-reduction via a) companionship programs with volunteers receiving PCTI training to best support survivors; and b) community-based computer classes, helping survivors maintain "virtual" family and community connections. The program targets two significantly underserved groups: survivors from the Former Soviet Union who have language- and poverty-related challenges and isolated/home-bound survivors who have accessibility challenges due to age-related declines.

Jewish Family Service of the Cincinnati Area Cincinnati, OH

Jewish Family Service (JFS) will draw on its knowledge and history of providing PCTI care to pilot and implement its program, "Tablets and Technology: Alleviating Isolation in Holocaust Survivors." Through this program, JFS staff and volunteers will teach survivors to use tablet



technology that will provide socialization opportunities and improve their quality of life. JFS's trauma-informed program will ensure that survivors stay connected to the community, while also respecting their need for independence by teaching them how to communicate and interact with the world electronically.

JFS's Tablets and Technology program will teach at least 20 Russian- and English-speaking Holocaust survivors, many of whom live below 150% of the federal poverty line, how to use a variety of programs to stay connected to friends and family. JFS will use the Generations Online curriculum, which was developed especially to help seniors for whom English is not their first language, become comfortable using new technology. The curriculum will help survivors learn how to use FaceTime and Skype to connect with friends and family locally and internationally, email for written communication, internet searches for social and intellectual games, and YouTube for entertainment. JFS's experienced staff will adapt the curriculum to include trauma-informed approaches that address the unique needs of Holocaust survivors.

Jewish Family Services of Columbus Columbus, Ohio

Project ARIEL is, in part, modeled after the Supportive Communities— Aging in Place in Israel (JDC-Eshel) of the Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel. The model is both functional and integrative. It is functional because it acts as an umbrella over a vast array of activities of daily living. It is integrative because each component is connected to the others. Components of ARIEL include:

- 1) Access of transportation to life-enriching destinations with Companion Care and
- 2) Person-Centered, Trauma Informed Expressive Arts Programming to help heal from trauma.

The overarching goal of ARIEL is to improve quality of life by reducing feelings of isolation, increasing independence and engagement, creating a sense of safety and belonging, and improving overall mental health and life satisfaction. Jewish Family Services of Columbus hypothesizes that ARIEL will improve self-reported measures of quality of life among participants after one year.

Jewish Family Service Agency of Central New Jersey Elizabeth, NJ

This grant will allow JFS of Central NJ to develop innovative methods using Person-Centered Trauma-Informed (PCTI) care to identify and serve Holocaust survivors from the Former Soviet Union, within the Orthodox community, and other Holocaust Survivors through a nurse/social



worker collaborative team. Our new Crossroads Caregivers Support Program will provide individual support to caregivers, Caregiver support groups, and Caregiver conferences. We will offer tools for Caregivers including a website, webinars, Tip Sheets for Caregivers, and Guidelines for Healthcare Providers to ensure survivors receive PCTI care from healthcare professionals. Working closely with Holocaust survivors, Caregivers, and a wide range of stakeholders will ensure that the project addresses the specific needs of Holocaust survivors and their Caregivers in Union County. The lessons learned and products developed will be made available nationally to other organizations working with Holocaust Survivors as well as those working with other older populations who have survived life-changing trauma.

Jewish Family Services Indianapolis, IN

JFS will expand its services and outreach to survivors in the Indianapolis area and surrounding communities through the KAVOD program. Survivors from the FSU in particular are an underserved population and this grant will allow for greater outreach to that population to reduce barriers to service and reduce the social isolation currently plaguing that community. In addition, this grant will allow JFS to hire a Russian-speaking staff member and train our staff to better recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma in survivors and their family members and respond with knowledge of best practices of treating trauma. The goals of KAVOD include making services currently offered by JFS more accessible to survivors by removing barriers to service and to initiate group activities for the large population of survivors from the FSU to provide an opportunity for socialization and present coping strategies that prevent re-traumatization.

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA

JFSLA will use this funding to increase awareness among its staff, clients and other stakeholders of the impact of trauma, and will support the growth of a trauma-informed culture throughout the agency. A foundation of trauma-informed practices will enable JFS to create an atmosphere of trust and healing in which effective new programs and services can be developed to meet the needs of our survivor population. All JFS programs adhere to principles of client-centered service delivery and client empowerment, and these principles are easily extended to a more robust adoption of a trauma-informed cultural framework. This framework will direct the creation of new services for survivors and family caregivers which will decrease the incidence of depression and anxiety among survivors, increase caregiver awareness of the impact of trauma, and will allow for innovative programming that can lead to systemic change in the agency and in the larger community.



Jewish Family Service of Orange County Middletown, NY

We will incorporate elements of the PCTI approach to offer case management and a variety of in-home services to Holocaust survivors and their caregivers living in the village of Kyrias Joel and in the general Orange County community. Case managers will assist in coordinating a variety of services, some of which will be provided by trained volunteers. These include supportive visits, grocery shopping, transportation, reassurance telephone calls, and social model day programs. We will expand our volunteer recruitment to enlist volunteers who will receive additional training in the PCTI approach and the culture of the Kyrias Joel community. Counselors will visit caregivers to provide education and training in order to enhance their coping skills. We will develop a PCTI informed and culturally sensitive outreach program to inform the community of the increased services available to Holocaust survivors and their caregivers.

Selfhelp Community Services, Inc. New York, NY

Founded in 1936 by refugees from Germany escaping Nazi persecution, Selfhelp is the largest provider of comprehensive services to Nazi victims in North America, with seven community-based offices in New York City and Nassau County. JFNA funding will be used to increase the capacity of Selfhelp's Nazi Victim Services Program by hiring seven new culturally competent staff to deliver enhanced case management services to 300 new clients, including 240 from the Former Soviet Union, and to expand outreach to Russian-speaking clients throughout New York City.

The funds will also support social programs, Virtual Senior Center, legal services, and an agency-wide staff training initiative that intensifies Selfhelp's commitment to PCTI care. Funds will be used to support Selfhelp's fifth Conference for Professionals Working with Holocaust Survivors, which will focus on PCTI and will take place in collaboration with JFNA, the Claims Conference, and UJA-Federation of New York.

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty New York, NY

This Holocaust Survivor Innovations grant will provide socialization programs and case work to Holocaust survivors using person-centered, trauma-informed care principles. Together with several Jewish Community Councils, services will be focused on low-income survivors from Orthodox and/or Russian backgrounds.



The monthly socialization programs will provide a kosher meal and fun cultural programming to lift the spirits of this increasingly homebound population. One major focus will be providing appropriate transportation to aging and less mobile survivors.

The socialization programs are both a recruitment tool to build a client list and an opportunity for clients to have an informal check-in with their social worker. Each client will receive an initial assessment and be provided services as needed from the ongoing services of Met Council, (including benefits enrollment, food pantry access and crisis intervention) and referrals to other agencies.

Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. North Miami, Florida

Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) proposes to expand its Holocaust Survivor Assistance program through the provision of case management services for a maximum of 35 hard to serve Survivors who are residing in nursing homes or assisted living facilities (ALF) in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Services provided via JCS' Holocaust Survivor Assistance program allow for Survivors in need to receive consistent, community-based continuity of care. In an effort to reduce the risk of re-traumatization, JCS will extend its case management services to residents transitioning into nursing homes and/or assisted living facilities.

Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City Overland Park, KS

Our project will incorporate Person Centered Trauma Informed (PCTI) care into our Older Adult Care Management Program (and the broader agency and service community) and expand our capacity to serve and support Holocaust survivors using PCTI-based principles. We will accomplish these in two ways:

1. Expand our capacity to directly serve the survivor population by adding a part-time, bi-lingual, PCTI trained care manager to serve 50 or more low income, Holocaust survivors from the former Soviet Union.
2. Provide PCTI training and consultation to those who serve and interact with survivors: other program staff, agency staff, private homecare providers who work with survivors, caregivers (formal and informal), other Jewish organization staff (e.g. Jewish Community Center, congregations), volunteer drivers, and food pantry volunteers.



Jewish Family Service of Rochester Inc. Rochester, NY

Our proposed program for Holocaust Survivors will provide expanded and enhanced services to the residents of our Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) located at the Ellison Park Apartments. Sixty survivors from the former Soviet Union currently reside at the NORC. They are all living at or near the poverty level. PCTI principles will be used in all facets of program delivery.

Program Components:

Wellness – the NORC will host a low impact exercise class on site.

Accessibility/Transportation – we will expand out group transportation services to NORC residents and provide individual and small group rides at no cost to survivors through an expansion of the JFS Express transportation program.

Socialization – new opportunities for survivors to take part in spiritual and cultural programs in the community and on-site Jewish Holiday celebrations.

Family Caregiving –we will provide up to 3 hours per week of individual support and assistance to caregivers of NORC residents focused on their questions and concerns about their elderly loved one and counseling regarding caregiver stress.

Jewish Social Service Agency Rockville, MD

JSSA plans to expand PCTI-infused direct services to address the most critical unmet needs among survivors already on the caseload, and those waiting to enroll. Our goal is to minimize the trauma associated with “waiting for help” and to honor survivors’ need for home-based services that enable them to remain safely in their homes, avoiding institutionalization. JSSA is offering new services to our survivors that aim to improve their experience in their communities.

In addition to homecare work, JSSA will provide a new robust Russian-language lending library, small socialization events, a Holocaust Survivor Advisory group that explores innovative care ideas, PCTI training for staff and outside agencies, and a volunteer food delivery program. Through this work, JSSA will become even stronger in its trauma-informed approach to serving our survivor caseload.



Jewish Family Service of San Diego San Diego, California

Since the 1940s, Jewish Family Service of San Diego has been addressing the needs of Holocaust Survivors. For years, survivors cared for by JFS, have expressed a desire to experience the world beyond doctor's appointments, grocery stores, and other errands. They want to be with people from similar backgrounds, who have endured similar traumas. Through funding from the JFNA Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care, JFS's Serving Older Survivors Program will enhance its Person Centered, Trauma-Informed services with activities that improve our survivors' physical and mental health. Survivors from the Former Soviet Union in particular, live on limited finances and as a result, cultural stimulation specific to their Jewish and Russian heritage is virtually non-existent. JFS will offer regularly scheduled social-cultural opportunities for 40 unduplicated isolated Holocaust survivors to improve their emotional and mental well-being and will also provide crucial JFS Foodmobile home-delivered kosher meals to 23 low-income, frail survivors.

Jewish Family and Children's Services San Francisco, CA

This funding allows Jewish Family and Children's Services to expand and enhance our Center for Dementia Care and counseling programs in order to address the unmet needs of dementia and depression among low income Holocaust survivors. JFCS's Center for Dementia Care will utilize PCTI approaches to provide consultations and practical and emotional support to families and caregivers of low income Holocaust Survivors, as well as provide personalized care to survivors with dementia-related conditions. The Center will conduct outreach to survivors from the FSU with dementia related conditions in order to provide them with bilingual and bicultural services. JFCS will also advance treatment of depression among low income survivors using a PCTI approach through the expansion of individual counseling services for survivors.

Jewish Family & Children's Service Waltham, MA

The proposed project offers an innovative combination of social programming and PCTI case management to reach underserved Russian-speaking survivors living in Greater Boston's North Shore communities. Program components include:

- 1) conducting intensive outreach on the North Shore;



2) sponsoring a monthly social/cultural program for North Shore survivors modeled after JF&CS's Café Hakalah in Brookline; and

3) "embedding" a Russian-speaking case manager at the monthly gatherings to support PCTI service delivery.

The monthly social events will alleviate the social isolation that so many aging survivors are experiencing, particularly those with limited English proficiency. Through her regular presence at these events, the bilingual social worker will build trusting relationships with participants that facilitate PCTI service delivery when they are facing health crises, stressful transitions, or emergency situations.

Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit West Bloomfield, MI

The project will focus on developing a better collective understanding of trauma and the effects of trauma throughout the life cycle, ensuring that more survivors find their path to healing and emotional wellness. JFS Detroit will collaborate with subject matter experts to develop a training curriculum based on best and promising practices applied specifically to this population. The project's innovation will be in developing a training curriculum incorporating educational materials on Holocaust history and specific PTSD triggers in Holocaust survivors with the promising and best practices on trauma informed practice and communities. Project staff will also become members of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, complete the Advanced Training Certificate program, and engage with the Aging, Trauma, and the Lifecourse Special Interest Group. The project will serve 400 survivors and 130 professionals and family caregivers through additional expanded programs/services, representing our joint response to the array of needs and gaps in services in Flint, Ann Arbor, and Detroit area communities.

Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's West Palm Beach, FL

AJFCS proposes to enhance its outreach and innovative Holocaust survivor cultural competence training for healthcare, financial, legal and mental health professionals to ensure a better understanding and improved community-wide service network to Holocaust survivors and their families. The goal is to advance the provision of care to survivors and their families, through a focused person-centered, trauma-informed (PCTI) approach. Proposed enhancement of direct services to Holocaust survivors and their families will result in increasingly sensitive PCTI care by providing unique mental health trauma interventions and specific outreach and services to caregivers of survivors and assistance to survivors from the Former Soviet Union (FSU).