

Jim Joseph Foundation Theory of Change Overview

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Jim Joseph Foundation is to engage in philanthropy that increases the number of young Jews who choose to engage in compelling and effective Jewish learning experiences.

PROBLEMS

Youth & Young Adults

- Many young Jews do not choose to engage in Jewish life and learning
- Not all young Jews have access to Jewish learning
- Israel is not an integral part of many young Jews' lives

Jewish Educators

- Judaism is not always presented meaningfully and relevantly to young people
- Jewish educators and education vary in quality
- Many Jewish educators lack the right skills and training
- Jewish educators do not receive adequate incentives to stay in the field
- Jewish education is often fragmented

Field of Jewish Education

- Jewish education organizations need reliable data to enhance capacity
- Little is known about the relationship between Jewish education and future involvement in Jewish life

STRATEGIES

Strategic Grantmaking

- Provide significant multi-year grants
- Support proven models and incubate innovative ideas
- Solicit grants for long-term, large-scale effectiveness
- Work with applicants for grants on mission for the Foundation and grantees
- Invest in organizational support and capacity

Philanthropic Partnerships

- Leverage impact by co-investing with funding peers

Convening

- Broaden reach by working with funding peers, intermediaries, researchers and field experts

Field Building

- Facilitate grantee and Foundation learning through evaluation and research
- Serve as a model of effective philanthropy by demonstrating strategies of multi-year grantmaking, mission alignment with grantees and emphasizing evaluation and data

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

- Increasing the number and quality of Jewish educators
- Expanding effective Jewish learning for youth and young adults
- Building a strong field of Jewish education

TARGET CONSTITUENCIES

- Jewish youth and young adults, ages 13 to 30, with a special interest in areas where the Foundation Board of Directors reside
- Professional and peer Jewish educators
- Funding peers and other organizations that serve the field

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

Youth & Young Adults

- More Jewish youth and young adults engaged in Jewish life and learning
- Increased quality of Jewish learning experiences
- Increased Jewish peer networks that provide high-quality Jewish learning
- Smoother continuum of Jewish learning opportunities

Jewish Educators

- Increased number and quality of professional Jewish educators
- Increased retention of professional Jewish educators in the field of Jewish education

Field of Jewish Education

- Strengthened organizations working within the field of Jewish education
- Better collaboration between the Foundation and funding peers
- Increased focus on the Foundation's non-grantmaking activities

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Youth & Young Adults

- More engagement of Jewish youth and young adults in Jewish life and learning
- Ongoing engagement in Jewish life and learning and increased Jewish peer networks among youth who move on from Foundation-supported programs

Jewish Educators

- Increased number of high-quality Jewish educators who continue to work in the field of Jewish education
- Increased status of professional Jewish educators

Field of Jewish Education

- Better alignment and integration between the work of the Foundation and funding peers
- Sustained grantee organizations and programs after Foundation grants are complete
- Strengthened field of Jewish education
- Strengthened use of research and evaluation in the field of Jewish philanthropy

IMPACT: There is an ever-increasing number of Jewish Americans choosing to live Jewishly.