



JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

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jewishrelief.org

Jewish Relief Agency's Proposal to Friends Foundation For The Aging

Date:

March 11, 2025

Organization:

Jewish Relief Agency

TIN & Formal organization name:

26-2578017, Jewish Relief Agency

Contact name, phone, email:

Gadi Aronson, Development Manager

(484) 798-9252

gadi@jewishrelief.org

Amount requested:

\$20,000

Project title:

Reducing food insecurity, providing basic health essentials, and fostering connections with aging adults in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties.

Summary Description:

JRA will address the food and resource insecurity of 3,300 seniors in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties through its Monthly Food Distribution program and additional case management services.

1. What is the problem you have identified?

Rising costs of food and essential household items, coupled with cuts to the public safety net have increased resource insecurity within Philadelphia and its surrounding counties. Currently, 22.8% of Philadelphia residents live in poverty, which is twice the U.S. average. Since 2023, Philadelphia has experienced the largest increase in grocery prices in the nation, largely due to the rise in prices of staple foods (Consumer Affairs Report, 11/2023). These troubling statistics are heightened among the city's aging population, who must overcome rising costs of living

even though approximately 74% are no longer in the labor force, and nearly 30% do not receive Social Security benefits (Philadelphia Corporation on Aging, 01/2024). Further, approximately one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are socially isolated, which is linked to increased health risks such as dementia, heart disease, and stroke (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2023).

Our clients may struggle to obtain adequate resources for a variety of reasons. The population served by JRA includes vulnerable, low-income individuals including the frail elderly; Holocaust survivors; people with disabilities; homebound individuals suffering from illness or injury; immigrants from countries of distress; and people who are experiencing housing instability. JRA's delivery model eliminates potential barriers to acquiring basic resources, e.g. food and hygiene products, as our clients do not need to speak fluent English; do not possess reliable transportation; and do not have to leave their homes to receive our safe, consistent, quality support items.

2. What is the solution you propose to address the problem?

JRA addresses food insecurity and isolation among seniors in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties through our mission, which is to bring together individuals of all backgrounds to relieve the pangs of hunger, bring meaning to our recipients and volunteers, and build a caring and connected community. As a 501 C 3 organization, our services are open to anyone who is at or below 185% of the federal poverty limit - regardless of race, religion or background. In fact, nearly 50% of JRA's clients are not of the Jewish faith. Monthly, our army of volunteers pack food items and household supplies and conduct direct home deliveries through 410 delivery routes throughout the region. Our volunteers reflect the rich diversity of the community in which we live.

Our programs and the unique ways in which they fulfill our mission include:

- Monthly Food Distribution Program: Deliveries of 15 lb. boxes of nutritious food items to approximately 3,300 low-income seniors throughout the year.
- Monthly Everyday Essentials Bags Program: Deliveries of hygiene products and household supplies, e.g. Incontinence products, soap, deodorant, shampoo, and oral needs; and cleaning products.
- Route Owners Program, in which JRA volunteers commit to deliver and visit with a specific set of clients every month. This ensures ongoing, warm human interaction between clients and volunteers. For homebound clients, particularly around holiday times, these visits maintain dignity through fraternization, connecting people to their heritages and traditions.
- Crisis Fund Program: Providing one-time assistance for urgent and immediate needs, such as paying rent for a client facing eviction, assisting with a utility bill, or purchasing necessary items that support mobility challenges and allow seniors to age in place, such as the installation of grab bars in the shower, or the maintenance of a chair lift.
- Supportive Services: Providing more comprehensive support to seniors' services in the community, such as helping clients navigate government benefits such as SNAP or healthcare.

JRA has successfully planned and implemented 294 Monthly Food Distributions since its founding in 2000. We are proud of the fact that, even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we never missed a food distribution or placed anyone on a waitlist. Our track record of success belies our small but mighty staff team. We have provided increasing client support each year thanks to our large base of approximately 8,000 volunteers, our committed and engaged Board of Directors, and the many organizational and funding partners who share our determination to meet the needs of resource-insecure individuals in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties.

3. What actions will you take?

Through our Monthly Food Distribution Program, JRA will deliver boxes of nutritious, pantry-stable food to clients. We will also include produce in each food assistance box from October to May, when it is cool enough to safely store produce in our warehouse without refrigeration.

4. Describe the population to be served.

Among the 6,500 individuals served by JRA, including the 3,300 senior clients, most have a household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. Many are either unemployed, individuals with disabilities, Holocaust survivors, persons suffering from illnesses or injury, immigrants, or persons experiencing housing instability. Nearly 50% are not of the Jewish faith. Our clients live within 85 zip codes throughout the greater Philadelphia area. Approximately 79% live in Philadelphia County; 12% in Bucks County; 4% in Montgomery County; 2% in Delaware County; 1% in Chester County; and 1% in Southern New Jersey.

5. Are there partners/collaborators for implementation or funding-who? Has the solution been tried by other organizations?

To respond to the varied needs of JRA's recipients, we maintain a strong network of community partners. When a given client's needs exceed the scope of our services, we refer them to other human service agencies that may offer more appropriate individualized support. Similarly, we frequently receive client referrals from approximately 60 partner agencies and hospitals for individuals who need JRA's assistance.

To strengthen JRA's pool of volunteers, we often collaborate with students and interns from schools of higher education such as Drexel, Temple, the University of Pennsylvania, Arcadia, West Chester, and Community College of Philadelphia. We have established partnering relationships with local corporations, including banks, insurance companies, food manufacturers, and big box retail stores. JRA is proud of the relationships it maintains with local synagogues, churches, and mosques.

JRA partners with a variety of individual donors and institutional funders to ensure the success of the Monthly Food Distribution Program. In the current 2024/25 Fiscal Year, among our stakeholders and donors are: the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Seed The Dream Foundation, WSFS Foundation, Leo and Peggy Pierce Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation, W.W. Smith Charitable, and additional corporations and foundations which are pending award

decisions. In the Fall, we conduct a fundraising appeal to our base of annual donors, who represent gift-giving spanning all levels of monetary contributions.

Although there are many organizations providing food and supplies to under-resourced individuals in greater Philadelphia, very few deliver directly to the homes in need. Home delivery is especially important to seniors, for it alleviates barriers to access due to unreliable transportation or lack of grocery stores or markets within walking distance. JRA's delivery model is replicable and scalable by other organizations seeking to enhance access to food and other basic home resources. JRA has assisted other organizations seeking to set up similar programs in community pantries and faith-based organizations throughout the region.

6. How will you know your actions are having an impact? How will you measure outputs and outcomes?

We measure JRA's success by the number of clients and households we serve, their satisfaction with the distribution process and our constituents' feelings of food security compared to previous years. To do so we use the following tools:

- Monthly Data Collection to track the number of households served each month, boxes, pounds of food, volunteer participation and delivery routes in our database.
- Recipient intake and Self Declaration of Need Forms to collect demographic information on the recipients we provide food assistance to upon initial inquiry; clients are recertified every two years by completing similar forms.
- Recipient Impact & Satisfaction Survey sent to clients every 20 - 24 months to assess their satisfaction and to inform our programs and services.
- Ongoing Recipient / Volunteer Feedback solicitation to receive both formal and informal feedback.

Enclosed Attachments:

- JRA Program Budget FY 2024/25
- JRA IRS Determination Letter

Jewish Relief Agency Program Budget FY 2024-2025		
		Program Budget
		2024-2025
REVENUE		
Individual Contributions		\$ 1,235,200
Grant Income		\$ 389,692
Corporate Contributions		\$ 100,000
Restricted Grants Received and Released		\$ 95,000
In-Kind Donations		\$ 17,500
Other Income/ Return on Investments		\$ 0
Total Revenue		\$ 1,837,392
EXPENSE		
Personnel		
Full Time Employees		\$ 368,923
Part-Time Employees		\$ 48,195
Employee Benefits		\$ 41,548
Payroll Taxes		\$ 26,784
Total Personnel & Fringe		\$ 485,450
Distribution Program Expense		
Food for Distribution		\$ 849,000
Everyday Essentials (Toiletries and Diapers)		\$ 110,000
Boxes and Bags		\$ 20,000
Warehouse Cleaning		\$ 5,000
Warehouse Supplies		\$ 12,000
Other Direct Program Expenses		\$ 15,500
Waste management		\$ 2,500
Box Inserts/Route Printing		\$ 4,000
Volunteer Program Expense		\$ 1,000
Volunteer Refreshments		\$ 4,000
Total Distribution Program Expense		\$ 1,023,000
Client Services Program Expense		
Crisis Fund Expense		\$ 40,000
Client Supplies and Services		\$ 9,000
Total Client Services Program Expense		\$ 49,000
Building and Occupancy		
Warehouse Lease		\$ 101,670
Office Lease		\$ 31,968
Warehouse Utilities		\$ 16,500
Office Utilities		\$ 9,360
Use and Occupancy Expense		\$ 720
Total Building and Occupancy		\$ 160,218
General and Admin. Expense		
Insurance		\$ 14,110
Office Supplies		\$ 4,680

Fees for Subscription/Tech Svcs	\$ 10,080
Postage	\$ 3,200
Printing and Reproduction	\$ 2,970
Equipment Purchase - Office	\$ 2,000
Payroll Processing Fees	\$ 3285
Travel	\$ 600
Total General and Admin. Expense	\$ 40,925
Other Operating Expenses	
Grant Writing Consulting	\$ 18,000
Marketing Expense	\$ 10,799
Security Services	\$ 40,000
Equipment Repair	\$ 2,000
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	\$ 8,000
Total Other Operating Expenses	\$ 78,799
Total Expense	\$ 1,837,392
Net Income/Loss	\$ 0

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: OCT 13 2009

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY
C/O JEFFREY I PASEK
1900 MARKET ST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Employer Identification Number:
26-2578017
DLN:
17053251326029
Contact Person:
ROGER W VANCE ID# 31173
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
August 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
April 14, 2008
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Choi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert Choi
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC