



2015 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) represents 152 Jewish Federations and over 300 independent Jewish communities across North America. JFNA's Washington office brings the voice of Jewish Federations to Capitol Hill and the White House, advocating for life-saving and humanitarian assistance in the United States and 70 other countries around the world.

1. Empowering older adults to age well with dignity and an enhanced quality of life:

- Funding, tax credits, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities to support Holocaust Survivors.
- Reauthorizing the Older Americans Act and including a preference for specialized (Kosher) food.
- Accessing transportation, affordable housing, supportive services and neighborhoods, home-care, and increased support for family caregivers to promote aging in place.
- Creating new pathways to Baby Boomer retirement and reducing barriers to senior employment.
- Providing funding to research Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.
- Promoting partnerships and coordination with providers to foster improved consumer access.

2. Promoting the international interests of the Jewish Federations:

- Combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy and sovereignty.
- Strengthening US-Israel relationship and safeguarding Israel's defenses, particularly the Iron Dome.
- Opposing Iran's development of a nuclear weapons capability.
- Supporting a viable peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.
- Defending Jews from anti-Semitism and protecting Jewish communities around the world.

3. Maximizing incentives for and supporting interests of charitable organizations:

- Protecting and opposing reductions in the charitable tax deduction.
- Expanding the IRA Charitable Rollover and making it permanent.
- Preventing burdensome new tax requirements for charitable-giving vehicles such as Donor Advised Funds, Supporting Organizations and other charitable endowments.
- Opposing the imposition of any substantive new limitations on the advocacy rights of 501(c)(3)s.
- Ensuring that pension legislation does not adversely impact community programs.

4. Protecting Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, and the health safety net:

- Repelling efforts to turn Medicaid into a block grant or capped entitlement.
- Championing reimbursement rates that balance fairness and fiscal responsibility with additional support for home- and community-based services.
- Offering pragmatic long-term care financing solutions that include affordability and accessibility.
- Promoting health information technology funding for behavioral health and long-term care.
- Implementing new health laws such as state expansion of Medicaid.
- Providing for the uninsured and reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Fostering genetic wellness and awareness, particularly for Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Persian Jews.

5. Safeguarding the Jewish community from terrorism and responding to natural disasters:

- Championing the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program.
- Advocating for resources against emerging threats such as active shooters and cyber-attacks.
- Promoting nonprofits into overall homeland security preparedness and response efforts.
- Leading network of providers to swiftly mobilize, coordinate, and deliver funds, personnel and counseling services to areas affected by disasters.

6. Advocating with and on behalf of individuals with disabilities:

- Promoting full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into society and all aspects of Jewish life, particularly at Jewish communal agencies and in the workplace.
- Advocating affordable and accessible supportive housing, job training and employment opportunities, transportation, and respite care of caregivers for people with disabilities.
- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which empowers individuals with disabilities to save for long-term care needs.
- Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Improving the Supplemental Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Program and enacting the Community First Choice Option.
- Providing adequate funding for developmental disabilities, particularly Autism Spectrum Disorders.

7. Sustaining services for the most vulnerable:

- Leading the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
- Combating domestic violence, human trafficking, and abuse of all vulnerable populations.
- Promoting mental health services including full mental health parity and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Block Grants.
- Ending food insecurity, stocking kosher food banks, securing other food donations, and strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Promoting job training and counseling through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Protecting the Community Development, Social Services, and Community Services Block Grants.

8. Preserving education opportunities:

- Creating new education tax credits.
- Providing full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.
- Safeguarding early childhood education and after-school programs.
- Promoting Holocaust education and remembrance.
- Supporting public education while cultivating healthy, vibrant, and affordable Jewish day schools and other institutions educating our children.

9. Mitigating the effects of Sequestration while securing funding for community programs:

- Modifying and balancing Sequestration (automatic spending cuts of federal programs) to protect the most vulnerable in our communities while collective national interests are preserved.
- Supporting innovative initiatives that allow Federation agencies to serve at-risk clients.
- Promoting transparent Member-directed appropriations, such as Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities Supportive Service Programs and the Family Caregiver Access Network.
- Promoting greater energy efficiency by nonprofits through new competitive grants.

10. Assisting immigrants and refugees:

- Supporting refugees, particularly those fleeing from Iran.
- Funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- Promoting fair and compassionate immigration reform.

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