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Jewish Federations Announce Award Funding for Innovative Holocaust Survivor Care *Awards will result in \$4.5 million in new programming*

New York – The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is proud to announce the distribution of \$2.8 million in grants to 23 organizations through its Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care. This inaugural cohort of grantees will provide innovative person-centered, trauma-informed (PCTI) supportive services to Holocaust survivors in the United States. When combined with matching funds required by the grant, these initial awards will result in over \$4.5 million in new programming for Holocaust survivor services. These grants mark the first time in history that the United States federal government has directed funding to agencies for social services for aging Holocaust survivors.

Jewish Federations launched the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care in the fall of 2015, following an award from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living for up to \$12 million over 5 years. In collaboration with the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies (AJFCA) and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), the award advances innovations in PCTI services for Holocaust survivors in the United States.

Jewish Federations' National Holocaust Survivor Initiative links support from Federations, foundations, private citizens and federal, state and local governments to help aging Holocaust survivors live with dignity and security in the comfort of their communities. The initiative includes a \$45 million fundraising campaign, and the local funding awarded today comes from the federal funding plus philanthropic dollars raised through the Federations' campaign.

The grant recipients by state include: Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco; Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay; Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles; Jewish Family Service of San Diego; Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service of Palm Beach County; Jewish Community Services of South Florida; Jewish Family & Career Services of Atlanta; CJE SeniorLife, Chicago; Jewish Family Services of Indianapolis; Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City; Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Boston; Jewish Social Service Agency, Greater Washington; Jewish Community Services of Baltimore; Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Family Service Agency of Central New Jersey; Selfhelp Community Services, New York; Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, New York; Guardians of the Sick, Brooklyn; Jewish Family Service of Orange County, NY; Jewish Family Service of Rochester; Jewish Family Services of Columbus; Jewish Family Service of the Cincinnati Area; and Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland.

Of the more than 100,000 Holocaust survivors in the United States, nearly one quarter are eighty-five years of age or older, and one in four lives in poverty. Many live alone and are at risk for social isolation, depression, and other physical and mental health conditions stemming from periods of starvation, disease and torture.

“Taking care of Holocaust survivors, ensuring that they have their physical and emotional needs met, is of the utmost importance and a fully attainable goal if we continue to work together.” said Mark Wilf, chair of Federations’ Fund for Holocaust Survivors.

“Grantees of the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care will lead the charge and help prepare the nation’s Aging Services Network to ensure all Holocaust survivors living below the poverty line have their basic needs met.” said Todd Morgan, vice chair of Federations’ Fund for Holocaust Survivors.

PCTI care is a holistic approach to service provision that promotes the dignity, strength, and empowerment of trauma victims by incorporating knowledge about the role of trauma in victims' lives into agency programs, policies and procedures.

“Jewish family and children’s service agencies are deeply appreciative of the federal and philanthropic support for Holocaust survivor services,” said Larry Reader, AJFCA board chair. “We look forward to showcasing the innovative care models developed through this funding.”

“The federal funding being awarded to these organizations will support increased efforts to provide victims of the Holocaust with the care they need and deserve,” said Julius Berman, President of the Claims Conference. “Many of these organizations are funded by the Claims Conference to provide homecare and other essential services to Holocaust survivors, and we are proud to work with JFNA to enhance their ability to provide more support to them.”

The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care promotes these innovative service delivery models together with the expertise of partner organizations including AJFCA and the Claims Conference. Jewish family and children’s agencies provide direct services to Holocaust survivors across the continent, and the Claims Conference negotiates compensation and restitution and allocates funds to institutions that provide social welfare services to Holocaust victims.

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The Jewish Federations, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning).