

Dear AJFCA Member Agency Executives:

We are pleased to share the great news that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a grant of nearly \$2.5 million to advance innovations in Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Supportive Services for Holocaust Survivors. This grant, which has been awarded to the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) in partnership with AJFCA and other Jewish communal organizations, will help Jewish organizations and the broader Aging Services Network better support the needs of Holocaust survivors, and ultimately, all aging victims of trauma.

The program will allow for the allocation of local grants to agencies through a competitive award process. The local grants will assist with the implementation and expansion of programs serving vulnerable Holocaust survivors, including survivors living in poverty, survivors from the Orthodox Jewish community, and survivors from the countries of the Former Soviet Union. I expect many AJFCA member agencies, including some not currently Claims Conference grantees, to apply for these sub-grants. In addition, the program will allow for the development of a national technical assistance center, housed at JFNA's Washington Office, to facilitate the spread of information about person-centered, trauma-informed approaches to serving Holocaust survivors.

This program is in line with Vice President Biden's three-pronged initiative announced in December 2013 to inspire public-private partnerships to address this need. We appreciate that the Administration for Community Living, under the leadership of Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee, has recognized this particularly vulnerable population. We thank the Senate and House Appropriations Leadership, in particular Senator Mikulski, for supporting this vital program, and we are grateful for the unending bipartisan leadership of Senator Cardin, Senator Kirk, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen for calling attention to the needs of Holocaust survivors.

The Jewish community has been working very hard on this highly collaborative effort for many months. JFNA will take the lead in implementing this program together with the support and assistance of AJFCA, as well as the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and other partners including UJA-Federation of New York, Selfhelp Community Services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, The Blue Card, Agudath Israel of America, the Orthodox Union of America, LeadingAge, Meals on Wheels America, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), and the National Council on Aging (NCOA).

JFNA's National Holocaust Survivor Initiative links support from foundations, private citizens, and federal, state and local governments to help aging Holocaust survivors live their final years with dignity and security in the comfort of their communities. Veteran philanthropist Mark Wilf chairs this initiative and is leading a \$45 million fundraising campaign to help more survivors. We are honored to partner with JFNA and the federal government to carry out this important work.

Additional information will be forthcoming in the next several weeks. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me or Shelley Rood, AJFCA's Washington Director, at Shelley.Rood@JewishFederations.org with any questions.

Best,
Lee