

NATIONAL AFFINITY GROUP ON JEWISH POVERTY

NOTES FROM INAUGURAL MEETING

June 11, 2019

HOSTED BY



JEWISH FUNDERS NETWORK



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

PART 1 CONVERSATION:

Goals related to specific breakout groups

Breakout Group: AGING

What are 1-2 concrete goals the affinity group can achieve in this area over the next 3 years?

1. Use technology to track the journey of each Older Adult client through several different services.
2. Attract and retain social workers (and others employed in the field of Aging) through wages, training, and other means.

What is needed to accomplish these goals?

- **For goal #1:**
 - Map existing technology programs in the field of Aging, both within and outside the Jewish community.
 - Hire a project manager.
- **For goal #2:**
 - Build attractive, compelling workplaces to retain workers.
 - Build pipelines and partnerships that can help agencies find social workers and other direct-service workers.
 - Hire a project manager.

What are the next steps?

- Identify key data points to be measured nationally.
- Complete a scan of best practices in talent retention.
- Conduct a mapping of relevant technology programs in the field of Aging.

Breakout Group: FOOD INSECURITY

What are 1-2 concrete goals the affinity group can achieve in this area over the next 3 years?

1. Bring down the price of food through the development of:
 - A national group purchasing model (for those committed to purchasing food directly); or ◦ A national model for “food cards,” with the ability to negotiate with retail locations.
2. Establish a best practice model around food delivery systems/transportation.

Others goals considered by the group:

- Eliminate food insecurity in the U.S. Jewish community.
- Develop both a common definition of food insecurity and a way to measure it.
- Help people free up personal funds by providing food.
- Create an advocacy agenda, which includes combatting legislation that cuts back on benefits.
- Increase services that screen individuals for eligible benefits.

What is needed to accomplish these goals?

- Understand the demand/need for food within the Jewish community.
- Find an organization to be the fiscal sponsor.
- Understand potential barriers and risks.
- Compile a list of potential partnerships.
- Assess whether to use warehouse vs. drop shipping.
- Establish a common definition of food insecurity. Some thoughts mentioned by the group include:

- On a Wednesday morning, I run out of food.
- Am I able to access the food I need with dignity?
- Is someone able to make up for what SNAP doesn't cover?
- Include personal care and specifics about access to healthy food as well as kosher items, for those who are observant.

What are the next steps?

- Conduct a cost benefit analysis of food vs. gift cards.
- Survey local food banks to understand the need/demand.
- Understand the other services people receive with food.
- Understand the need and desire for communal meals, and how this can combat other challenges such as social isolation.
- Assess transportation and delivery needs.
- Prioritize the various food insecurity issues (i.e., education, access/transportation, ability to pay, etc.) to determine focus.

Breakout Group: HOUSING

What are 1-2 concrete goals the affinity group can achieve in this area over the next 3 years?

1. Bolster public advocacy to increase amount of affordable housing.
2. Establish a database of innovative housing models (including shared housing).

What is needed to accomplish these goals?

- Articulate a compelling narrative around the need for affordable housing, supported by data.
- Prioritize types of housing needs (i.e., subsidized, eviction prevention, middle-income stability).
- Survey communities (Jewish and non-Jewish).

What are the next steps?

- Look at population-specific needs, and highlight best-fit models for each of those sub-groups.
- Use Pew/JFNA poverty indicators to inform planning.
- Develop a coalition to establish a framework to help the group think globally and act locally.

Breakout Group: JOBS

What are 1-2 concrete goals the affinity group can achieve in this area over the next 3 years?

1. Move as many people as possible toward self-sufficiency via employment (and other) services.
2. Identify key barriers for moving to self-sufficiency, and offer potential solutions to these barriers.
3. Provide coordinated care across programs/agencies/services (i.e., complex case model).
4. Develop and scale models for ongoing support of clients.
5. Develop an anti-poverty policy agenda as a community.

What is needed to accomplish these goals?

- **For goal #1:**
 - Meet all of the other goals!

- **For goal #2:**
 - Conduct a field assessment.
 - Understand the future of the work.
 - Conduct a risk analysis based on job trends.
 - Create employer partnerships.
 - Conduct a study of why/how people succeed and move out of poverty.
- **For goal #3:**
 - Find the right partners.
- **For goal #4:**
 - Study other models to find scalable ways to deliver coordinated care.
 - Develop a data-driven approach to the work. ◦ Determine the best metrics.
- **For goal #5:**
 - Focus on government advocacy.
 - Compile data that are able to be communicated.

What are the next steps?

- Review existing data and research, find gaps, and build a research agenda.
- Build coalition/working groups for both policy/advocacy and direct-service models.
- Find champions in the community (Jewish, secular, both), including funding partners.
- Build a shared field assessment tool or adapt an existing tool.
- Look at barriers and successes.

Breakout Group: MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

What are 1-2 concrete goals the affinity group can achieve in this area over the next 3 years?

1. Increase funding for access to care with JFS providers serving as one portal.
2. Change the discourse to a public health model, including:
 - Prevention of stigma;
 - Early identification and intervention; and ◦ Peer-to-peer model.

What is needed to accomplish these goals?

- Develop clear indicators regarding mental health.
- Agree on common terminology.
- Compile online resources.
- Research services that are distributed throughout the community.
- Incorporate a mental health lens into job coaching.
- Provide Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy.

What are the next steps?

- Define an advocacy agenda.

- Vet the best practices.
- Create a process to share national data.
- Invite data providers to the conversation.

Breakout Group: SYSTEMIC ISSUES (Bigger Picture)

What are 1-2 concrete goals the affinity group can achieve in this area over the next 3 years?

1. Establish uniform data on Jewish Poverty, by aligning questions in surveys.
2. Identify resources outside of the Jewish community to collaborate.
3. Change the narrative around Jewish Poverty.

What is needed to accomplish these goals?

- **For goal #1:**
 - Convene the right people to agree on a standard set of questions in a timely manner.
 - Create philanthropic incentives so that communities will use these questions.
- **For goal #2:**
 - Map issues and resources based on the affinity group's top priorities.
- **For goal #3:**
 - Convene public relations and communications experts. ◦ Make the changes "bite-sized" so as to not overwhelm.

What are the next steps?

- Form a "coalition of the willing" for each goal.

PART 2 CONVERSATION:

Where do we go from here as an affinity group?

AGING

- Organize around the solutions rather than the topics.
- Use video conferencing, and allow others to join.
- Conduct small-group meetings in between large-group meetings.
- Explore the Teen Funder Collaborative model as a case study.
- Bring advocacy representatives, as well as community leaders in Florida, to the affinity group table.
- Include others beyond CEOs.
- Churn the ideas from today and narrow the group's focus.
- Efficiently direct the limited available resources.
- Consider the issue of health care.
- Go beyond philanthropic money; capture reimbursements and other forms of funding.

FOOD INSECURITY

- Figure out how to maintain the traction and energy felt in the room today.
- Weigh breaking into smaller groups vs. remaining one large group.

- To maintain this level of energy, it may be too early to move into smaller groups. ◦ To tackle specific topics, smaller groups may be more efficient.
- Formulate best practices.
 - Know who is doing the groundbreaking work.
 - Gather evidence and best practices in various areas.
- Conduct research and gather data.
 - Compile research to start on a higher plane at the next meeting.
 - Look into community mapping initiatives (i.e., tags by rural vs. urban, types of services, who is served, etc.).
- Continue to agree on common terms.
- Increase media presence, including local media.
- Develop a structure for meetings moving forward. Possible ideas:
 - Host a cocktail hour and invite the media.
 - Provide materials to the core group on a quarterly basis; the core group will then share with others.
 - Schedule meetings for the year (some with travel, some without) so that organizations can budget accordingly.
- Invite smaller communities to be represented at the table.
- Consider organizing by strategy (i.e., service delivery, policy, etc.).
- Sharpen the group's focus to "get smarter quickly."

HOUSING

- Convene Jewish agencies that are active in the housing space across the country in a working group or "accelerator" of housing model solutions. This would be comprised of providers, funders, researchers, people with lived experience in facing a housing crisis, etc.
- Hold 3-4 meetings in Year 1 with specific goals and learning objectives.
- Ask working groups to articulate the messaging plan as well.

JOBS

- Develop an agreed-upon agenda with specific goals/targets.
- Break into smaller working groups with the larger group still representing each issue area.
- Determine the necessary deliverables.
- Create buy-in from organizations and the local community.
- Consider the following:
 - Who runs? (project manager)
 - Who pays? (expenses in terms of time and financial resources) ◦ Who else should be here? (e.g, day schools, JCRCs, etc.) ◦ Is the agenda national or communal? Top-down or bottom-up?
 - Is this the best approach? (Look at case studies, model sharing, evaluations, leverage academic networks for research, etc.) ◦ How big should this be?

MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Consider the Network (NJHSA) to provide structure for the affinity group.
- Invite JFNA to the conversation.
- Explore tagging existing Network (NJHSA) or other organizational meetings.

- Identify funders.
- Hire full-time staffing to hold participants accountable.
- Assemble a workplan.
- Consider the question: What are we not asking? (e.g., what is the relationship between ending Jewish poverty and ending poverty in America?) **SYSTEMIC ISSUES (Bigger Picture)**
- Tackle funding issues.
- Develop a structure.
- Hold 2-3 meetings per year, depending on costs.
- Explore separate breakout groups.

THE FOLLOWING THEMES EMERGED ACROSS THE VARIOUS BREAKOUT GROUPS:

Where should the group go from here?

- Develop better data/metrics related to Jewish poverty.
 - Develop a common set of questions to measure poverty in the Jewish community.
 - Map success stories (i.e., how people moved out of poverty).
 - Evaluate programs with data specific to subject matter.
 - Compile data focused on specific aspects of Jewish Poverty to underpin an advocacy/ public relations message.
- Aggregate replicable models and best practices.
 - Map the programs or vet best practices within fields of interest (e.g., technology/aging, innovative housing models, etc.).
 - Look outside of the Jewish community.
- Build awareness related to Jewish Poverty.
 - Convene public relations and communications experts to establish a media campaign. ◦ Determine ways to better engage local media.
- Develop an advocacy agenda focused on Jewish Poverty (e.g., public benefits, affordable housing, EITC, mental health).
- Develop common terminology within each focus area of interest.
- Identify more funders.

How should the affinity group be structured?

- Collect new information/deliverables to share with the group at the next meeting.
- Consider organizing around the solutions/strategies rather than the topics.
- Tap into other conferences/meetings (e.g., NJHSA, CLAIMS, JFNA, JFN, etc.).
- Plan a mix of in-person and Zoom meetings, being mindful of cost/time to attend. Suggestions include:
 - Schedule one in-person and several Zoom meetings.
 - Offer stipends for travel.
 - Plan schedule in advance so that folks can budget.
- Determine the mix of larger group meetings vs. work in smaller breakout groups.
- Consider what the staffing model should look like.
- Discuss who is currently not at the table and should be.