MYTH #1:
Jewish poverty in the United States is declining.

FACTS:

Based on two national studies, 
16%–20% of Jewish households earn less than $30,000 per year

From 1991 to 2011, the number of people living in low-income Jewish households in New York City, defined as less than 150% of the federal poverty guideline or $33,000 for a family of four, 
Doubled
from 179,500 to 361,100

Sources: (1) A Portrait of Jewish Americans, Pew Research Center and (2) Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, American Jewish Committee

The data included below, referencing national studies as well as local research commissioned by the Jewish community, reveal significant challenges related to poverty within the Jewish community.

Compared to the volume of data on overall poverty in the US, data on Jewish poverty is extremely limited. As such, in certain cases below, local data is included where national data would be preferable to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The Jewish Poverty Affinity Group and its partners are committed to improving the data available, with the goal of better serving low-income Jewish individuals and families around the country.

MYTHS AND FACTS
about Jewish poverty in the United States

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT https://www.jfunders.org/poverty-affinity-group
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

TO REVIEW THE FULL REPORT ON JEWISH POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES, VISIT https://hjweinbergfoundation.org/jewish-poverty-in-the-us
MYTH #2:
Sadly, with the passage of time, the number of Holocaust survivors is diminishing. Therefore, so are the needs of survivors living in poverty.

FACTS:
There are 80,000 survivors living in the US, and 28,000 are low-income—defined as below the federal poverty guideline or $12,140 for an individual.
While the overall number of survivors will steadily decline as survivors age, the number of survivors in poverty is expected to decline at a slower pace.

Source: Claims Conference

MYTH #3:
Jewish poverty exists almost exclusively in the Ultra-orthodox community.

FACTS:
There are 196,100 low-income* Jewish households in New York City, consisting of

- 16% Ultra-orthodox households
- 32% Russian speaking households (includes older adults)
- 52% Neither ultra-orthodox nor Russian speaking

Of those 196,100 households, these sub-populations have particularly high rates of poverty:

- 67% of households that include a person with a disability
- 38% of single-parent households
- 30% of households that include an unemployed or underemployed individual
- 18% of older adult households

*Here, low-income is defined as less than 250% of the federal poverty guideline or $55,000 for a family of four