Jewish Federation of St. Louis conducted a third COVID-19 needs assessment in order to **update our understanding of the pandemic’s impact on local Jewish community members and organizations.**

The main source of information for this needs assessment was a survey of the leadership of Jewish community organizations conducted by Federation in June and July of 2021 – just before the delta variant surge. We received responses from 44 unique organizations, a 67% response rate.

**In analyzing the data, we took into account the following factors:**

- How **widespread** a need/challenge or strength is throughout the community
- How **severe** a need/challenge is among those experiencing it
- How much a need/challenge has **improved over time** compared with June 2020
- Whether a need/challenge is **expected to last** through the end of 2021

The following pages offer a snapshot of the top areas in which our community’s organizations and their constituents have been doing well and the top areas in which they have been struggling at this mid-2021 moment in the pandemic.
TOP ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHS

The majority of respondents’ ability to deliver programs & services has improved
Respondents’ indication of overall organization functioning as compared to June 2020

- **Significantly better**: 27% (Source: 2021 COVID-19 Community Leadership Survey)
- **Slightly better**: 42%
- **Stable/no change**: 16%
- **Slightly worse**: 13%
- **Significantly worse**: 2%

**89%** of respondents said that **protecting the health and safety of staff** is not a significant challenge for their organization.

**87%** of respondents said that **staff not wanting to return to in-person work** is not a significant challenge for their organization.

TOP CONSTITUENT STRENGTHS

- **20%** of respondents reported a need for prepared meals in the community, making it one of the least prevalent needs. This may suggest that the prepared meals programs operating in our community have been successfully addressing this need.

No respondents indicated that they are aware of any specific populations among their constituents that were having trouble accessing COVID-19 vaccinations.

Jewish Federation of St. Louis
For our community – now and in the future
120 Year Anniversary
of respondents reported that **staff morale and burnout** is an issue at their organizations, and this was the most requested topic for training/consultation for Jewish professionals. We know from another recent survey of our community that many employees do not feel that their organizations prioritize employee well-being:

**Over one-third of employee respondents feel neutral or negatively about whether employee well-being is a priority at their place of work.**

*Responses to the statement “I believe that employee well-being is a priority at my organization.”*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59 PERCENT</td>
<td>22 PERCENT</td>
<td>19 PERCENT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: 2021 Leading Edge Employee Engagement Survey St. Louis Report.)

of respondents are concerned about their organizations’ **ability to meet fundraising goals** this year.

**Half of respondents are uncertain whether they will meet/exceed fundraising goals**

*Respondents’ indication of their anticipated fundraising results at the end of their current fiscal year*

| We will exceed our fundraising goals | 5 PERCENT |
| We will meet our fundraising goals | 42 PERCENT |
| We will not meet our fundraising goals | 26 PERCENT |
| Not sure | 28 PERCENT |

(Source: 2021 COVID-19 Community Leadership Survey.)
Mentorship for board and committee members was the top area of interest for lay leadership support.

- Of respondents reported that mental health challenges among their constituents, across many age groups and populations.
- Of respondents reported inadequate cybersecurity is a challenge at their organizations and anticipate this challenge to continue for the foreseeable future.
- Of respondents’ organizations are experiencing burdensome pandemic-related costs. This is less prevalent than other challenge areas - but those who are experiencing this issue gave it the highest severity rating of any organizational issue area.
- Of respondents reported that inadequate cybersecurity is a challenge at their organizations and anticipate this challenge to continue for the foreseeable future.
- Of respondents reported they are experiencing a need for additional staff - the #1 most frequently reported organizational need. This need is especially prevalent in educational settings.

For our community – now and in the future:

Federation will use these findings to guide its approach to funding, communicating, and convening. For detailed findings and next steps, please review the full COVID-19 Phase III Needs Assessment report, available at JFedSTL.org/community-impact/assess-needs.

Overseen by the Jewish Federation of St. Louis’ Assessment & Planning Subcommittee
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