

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Jewish Federation of St. Louis seeks mini-grant proposals for interfaith family inclusion and engagement. Interfaith families are groups of people connected by ties of relationship who share resources and responsibilities and whose members follow or have heritage in different faith or spiritual traditions. As of 2020, 61% of all Jews married over the past 10 years have a spouse who does not identify as Jewish¹. Through this grant process, we hope to encourage community partners to be more thoughtful and purposeful in engaging Jewish Adjacent² individuals (i.e., members of Jewish families who do not identify as Jewish) and Jewish+ families³ (i.e., Jewish families with at least one family member who is Jewish Adjacent). Our goal is to create a more welcoming and inclusive St. Louis Jewish community for Jewish Adjacent family members.

This mini-grant process is supported by the Jonas & Herschel Weil Fund of Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

References:

¹[Jewish Americans in 2020](#) – Pew Research Center

^{2,3}[Expanding not Diluting: Embracing Jewish+ families](#) - Alison Weikel and Rachel Weinstein White

Eligibility

- The application should be for an initiative in the St. Louis Jewish community.
- The organization receiving funding must be a Jewish tax-exempt organization.
- Organizations can receive more than one mini grant each year; the total in mini grants per organization per year cannot exceed \$3,000.
- Larger grants may be considered for collaborative programs. Collaboration is defined as two or more organizations working together to achieve greater impact. This excludes programs that have multiple sponsors and only one partner implementing the program.
- Interfaith couples/families may be the main audience for the project or may be a part of a larger audience. If interfaith couples/families are part of a larger audience, and not the main target, there must be a clear explanation for how the project will engage interfaith couples/families.
- Organizations that received a 2022 mini grant must have completed and submitted the required post-program/initiative evaluation information to be eligible for 2023 funds.

Guidelines:

Mini-grants can support:

- Existing or new programs
- One-off program
- A series of programs
- Other initiatives (for example: organization consultations/audits related to interfaith inclusion, constituent surveys related to interfaith inclusion, etc.)
- Program expenses, marketing and advertising, staffing, etc.

Programs/Initiatives must meet at least one of the following outcomes:

- Interfaith couples and/or families feel more welcome in the organization/Jewish community
- Interfaith couples and/or families increase their Jewish engagement
- Interfaith couples and/or families feel more connected to a Jewish community
- Jewish organizations increase awareness of opportunities/best practices for interfaith inclusion
- Jewish organizations become more inclusive/welcoming to interfaith couples and/or families

Mini-grant funding must be used within one year of receiving the funds. Organizations awarded a grant through this RFP will be required to complete a basic evaluation of the program with support from Federation within 3 months of completion of the program/initiative. Common metrics for selected outcomes will be provided.

Timeline for Applications & Review

- Applications will open January 3, 2023.
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- Note: the limited funds are dispersed quarterly, but the total available funds may be exhausted before the calendar year runs out.
- Applications will be reviewed, and decisions made once a quarter, beginning in Q2
 - To be included in Q2 reviews, applications must be submitted by March 16, 2023 (decisions by April 13)
 - For Q3 reviews, applications must be submitted by June 15, 2023 (decisions by July 13)
 - For Q4 reviews, applications must be submitted by September 14, 2022 (decisions by October 26)

Application Process

Organizations should submit an application online at JFedSTL.SpectrumPortal.net.

The application will include:

1. Who is the target population for the program? Include a description of the population and how many individuals you aim to reach.
2. Describe your program. Please include whether this is an existing program or a new program.
3. Select the outcomes for which your program aims to achieve.
4. Share your plan of action explaining how and when you will implement this program. Include your timeline and staffing (and if relevant, what role each partner organization will play).
5. Requested dollar amount.
6. Written summary of how those funds will be used.

If you have any questions, please contact Marla Guggenheimer at MGuggenheimer@JFedSTL.org.