


Responding with care to those in need

A resource to help Jewish leaders and advocates identify community members in need and guide them toward help.



What comes next?

Once a family or individual is connected to the resources they need to get back on their feet, there are still a number of ways to provide support and help them through a time of financial crisis.

Moving forward together

- Check in periodically to see if the family or individual needs additional financial or emotional support. Many social service agencies provide long-term services.
- Help them create a plan to pay synagogue dues or tuition and offer to forgive past bills so that they can continue to be a member of your supportive community.
- Connect them to members of your community who offer counseling in times of crisis.

Combating poverty organization-wide

In order for families to come forward and seek help early, Jewish poverty must be destigmatized for all members of the community, regardless of financial status.

How can you support this process?

- Begin a dialogue within your organization on poverty in our community and the supports that exist to combat it.
- Make fighting poverty the theme of a sermon or the focus of your Chessed committee.
- Keep information for people in need posted in places of prominence around your building.
- Provide training for staff and lay leadership on how to recognize when someone is in need and how to offer assistance

The more people realize that poverty is an issue in our community, the more likely they will be to reach out for support without feeling shame or stigma.

If you or someone you know needs help, CJP's Warmline will connect you with compassionate resources and support.