



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 support community partners in thoughtful and purposeful engagement of 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 recent Community Study revealed that: “The individual intermarriage rate (i.e., the proportion of Jewish adults with a non-Jewish spouse) is 53%, higher than the national average of 42%.”⁴ 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

⁴[2024 Greater St. Louis Jewish Community Study](#) - Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and NORC at the University of Chicago for the Jewish Federation of St. Louis

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 \$7,500.
- 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 2024 mini grant must have completed and submitted the required post-program/initiative evaluation information to be eligible for 2025 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 must do at least one of the following:

- Help create a welcoming community (or organization) to interfaith couples and/or families
- Engage interfaith couples and/or families
- 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.

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 couples and/or families
- 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 are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Payments will be disbursed on a rolling basis.
- The total available funds may be exhausted before the calendar year runs out.

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 Devorah Stein at DStein@JFedSTL.org.