

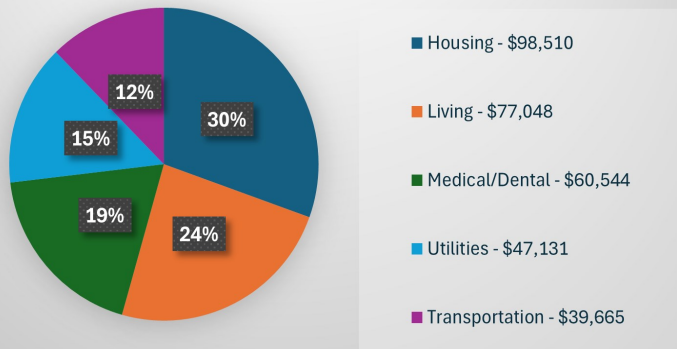


Since 1985, JAF has been a pivotal source of financial help for the Western PA Jewish community. Access to economic stability and financial well-being inspires our work. Through no repay grants, we are a way to live the Jewish tradition of helping neighbors. We take action, directly and confidentially, helping the Jewish community confront economic insecurity one person, one family, one household at a time.

“Every time I think of your generosity I cry in appreciation and relief. I’ve never been on the receiving end of something so powerful and impactful. Thank you from the depths of my soul and from my bank account. You reminded me that there are good people in the world. That’s a lesson I will take with me the rest of my life.”

Quote from a Grant Recipient

\$322,898 in Direct Financial Help for the Western PA Jewish Community in 2023



We are a warm embrace from a caring Jewish community. We respond quickly, usually meeting with applicants within a week of initial contact. We are caring, compassionate, nimble, responsive, streamlined and collaborative. JAF respects and honors the privacy of our Jewish community members and we help them pay their bills with dignity. Grant recipients have shared that we “are a comforting presence in what can feel like an overwhelming world.”

ECONOMIC TRENDS

IN THE

WESTERN PA JEWISH COMMUNITY

- ◆ Many people are finding they need financial help for the first time, and aren’t sure where to turn
- ◆ During the pandemic they depleted their savings and became weighed down by credit card debt
- ◆ When emergency supports ended, people had large bills they had to pay
- ◆ Helping others, including older parents and adult children, had a negative financial impact

“I have never needed financial help before. I’ve always been someone who helped others.”

Words shared by a Grant Recipient

“In urgent need of help. My spouse left and stopped paying all bills. My son’s bar mitzvah is coming up. I need to pay my utility bills and have received disconnect notices. I need help.”

Quote from a Neighbor in Need

With support from foundations and individual donors, JAF is able to provide financial assistance in amounts that truly make an impact on pressing expenses. We thank our foundation partners for their generous support in 2023 and 2024, including:

THE PHILIP CHOSKY FOUNDATION

GIANT EAGLE FOUNDATION

SIMON HAFNER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

JEWISH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

LADIES HOSPITAL AID SOCIETY (LHAS)

CHARLES M. MORRIS CHARITABLE TRUST

OPPORTUNITY FUND

DONALD & SYLVIA ROBINSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

THE SYLVIA AND MARTIN SNOW FAMILY FUND

JAF'S IMPACT ON ECONOMIC INSECURITY

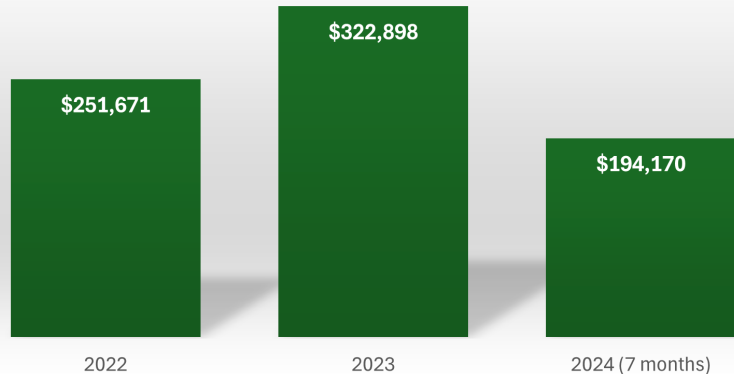
- ◆ Financial help with no repayment for households in 48 zip codes throughout Western PA
- ◆ Impact felt well beyond those living in the households
- ◆ Support during high stress and challenging times for over 350 people in 2023
- ◆ Household sizes ranged from 1 to 13 and were single person, couples, families with children, and multi-generational
- ◆ Ages ranged from young adult through seniors
- ◆ Warm and supportive in person appointments usually within 1 week from initial inquiry
- ◆ Connection to other helpful resources and services, including food and financial coaching
- ◆ Increase ability to pay bills with dignity and opportunity to re-apply

Economic insecurity creates great stress. In these chaotic times, with a rise in antisemitism and real experiences of being attacked and isolated, JAF's warm and caring support is timely and helpful. When we asked some recipients what comes to mind when they think about their experience with JAF, they shared the following words - kind, caring, respectful, compassionate, inclusive, helpful, thoughtful, life saver, understanding, empathetic, generous and impactful.

"For the first time in a long time I felt heard."

Shared by a Grant Recipient

Need for financial help is increasing



"I am living less than paycheck to paycheck. I am behind on two car insurance payments. I'm struggling to put gas in my car and have problems buying food for myself. I am just barely covering my rent and need four new tires to pass inspection."

Message received from an applicant

JAF is the Western PA Jewish Community's emergency financial assistance fund. We receive referrals from schools, synagogues, organizations, medical providers, and individuals throughout the region. We directly provide a financial safety net so people can pay their bills.

SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING WHEN THEY TURN TO JAF FOR HELP . . .

- A recently widowed older woman whose husband took care of the finances literally opened a desk drawer and found a pile of unpaid and overdue bills
- A man was looking forward to his retirement but it is "not working out as planned." He developed significant medical issues and needed help with medical bills and living expenses
- A single parent of two young children was referred by her synagogue. She was navigating childcare expenses for preschool and for home care. Her infant had significant medical challenges and needed care at home so she could work remotely.

These are just a few stories, there are so many more...

WE ARE EACH THERE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY IS THERE FOR US

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR IMPACT ON ECONOMIC INSECURITY



PO Box 8197
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217
412.521.3237

WWW.JEWISHASSISTANCEFUND.ORG

