

Government Affairs Quarterly

JCRC & MAJF Co-Sponsor Senior Lobby Day at State House

On March 26th, the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Massachusetts Association of Jewish Federations cosponsored a lobby day to encourage funding for community based programs for seniors.

Drawing more than 275 seniors, advocates and providers, we advocated for *Home Care First* for seniors needing services.

Citing a lengthy home care waiting list, the group visited their state Senators and Representatives to ask that community-based programs such as Protective Services and Home Care be adequately funded in 2010.

The rally featured many legislators including Senator Pat Jehlen, Representatives Alice Wolf, Kathi-Anne Reinstein, Barbara L'Italien, Denise Provost, Jason Lewis and Gloria Fox.

Sy Friedland, CEO of Jewish Family & Children's Services of Greater Boston, spoke passionately on behalf of JCRC | MAJF about the benefits of community-based care for seniors.

The participants also visited their local legislators to ask them to support Aging in Place/Naturally Occurring Retirement (NORC) programs ([see page 5](#)). Jewish Family Services of Metrowest's Marc Jacobs, Malka Young, Sy Friedland and JCRC | MAJF staff met with Senate Elder Affairs Committee chairs Senator Pat Jehlen and Representative Alice Wolf.

Other Lobby Day sponsors were: Mass Home Care, AARP Massachusetts, Boston Center for Indep. Living, Home Care Alliance of MA, LGBT Aging Project, MA Assoc. of Older Americans, MA Councils on Aging, MA Council for Home Care Aide Services, MA Senior Action Council, MA Silver Legis., Metrowest Council for Indep. Living, & Stavros.



Seniors rally for Home Care First



Sy Friedland, CEO of JF & CS

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JCRC & MAJF Co-Sponsor Disability Legislative Reception & Lobby Day

On March 4 JCRC | MAJF cosponsored a disability-focused legislative reception and lobby day with the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council and the ARC of Massachusetts. At the event, Michael Bloom, Director of MAJF was joined by Sandy Slavet and Sue Stellick of Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Boston, as well as Sandy's daughter and two other who participate in programs run by JF&CS. The agencies highlighted the MAJF budget agenda, CJP Disabilities Trust II, and JF&CS CHAI Residential and Community Service programs.

NORC Funding in Federal Appropriations Act

The 2009 Federal budget contains \$95,000 for the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC/Aging in Place Programs) in Brookline, Malden and Framingham.

Our community thanks the sponsors, Representative Edward Markey, Representative Barney Frank, Senator John Kerry and Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

In this difficult economic time, this funding will help sustain important programs for low-income seniors operated by Jewish Family & Children's Service in Brookline and Malden, and by Jewish Family Service of Metrowest in Framingham.

Securing this type of Federal funding is very difficult and could not have done without the support of these Representatives and Senators. Over 100 communities nationwide applied for NORC funding, and Boston was one of only six communities to successfully secure support in the budget.

These programs, referred to as Aging in Place, connect frail, isolated and low-income seniors with community resources. Programs bring services on-site into an apartment building or neighborhood with a significant population of seniors, fostering an environment in which residents can support one another. Activities address primary causes of preventable hospitalization and institutionalization including isolation, poor management of chronic conditions, poor nutrition, and emotional/cognitive impairment, and do not duplicate existing senior services.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on March 3.

Michael Bloom, Director of MAJF, traveled to Washington D.C. to join other members of United Jewish Communities (UJC) to advocate for many issues in the package, including a temporary increase in the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP), a restoration of needed funds to the Social Services Block Grant, and increased funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

[»Click here for the ARRA resource guide and supplement.](#)

Boston Delegation at JCPA Plenum

Nancy Kaufman, Alan Ronkin, Stuart Rossman, Phil Rosenblatt, Bill Gabovitch and Michael Bloom attended the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) Plenum, which took place from February 28 through March 3 in Washington, D.C. The group heard from esteemed speakers, including the Attorney General Eric Holder and Professor Laurence Tribe of Harvard Law School, who received the Albert D. Chernin Award.

Our delegation to the Plenum also participated in a lively debate to finalize JCPA's 2009 Resolutions. JCPA incorporated the majority of Boston's recommendations. Links to the final JCPA resolutions as adopted by the 2009 Plenum are in the sidebar to the right.

The JCRC contingent also had a very exciting day on Capitol Hill, visiting the office of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation. Members of our team met with Congressman Markey, Frank, Capuano and Tierney, and staffers from Congressmen Lynch and McGovern and Senator Kerry about the funding for social service programs, the threat of Iran, and energy independence.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the united voice of the organized Jewish community. For over half a century, the JCPA has served as an effective mechanism to identify issues, formulate policy, develop strategies and programs, and has given expression to a strongly united Jewish communal voice.

Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav Visits Hub

Mayor Yona Yahav visited the Boston area in February to receive the Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award from the Tufts University Institute for Global Leadership. JCRC organized a day on Beacon Hill for the Mayor. Along with Ruth Kaplan of Combined Jewish Philanthropies' Boston Haifa Connection (BHC), Rony Yedidia, Deputy Consul General of Israel to New England, and Albert Sherman, JCRC staff led Mayor Yahav through a full day of government meetings.

Mayor Yahav met with Treasurer Timothy Cahill to thank him for his investment in the State of Israel. He then met with Speaker DeLeo, House Majority Leader James Vallee, and Representative Ruth Balser. After a welcome by Representative Balser, Speaker DeLeo invited Mayor Yahav to the rostrum, where he addressed a group of legislators during informal session, sharing with them the importance of a strong Boston-Haifa relationship. Mayor Yahav then participated in a reception in his honor that was well-attended by lay leadership and legislators alike.



The group then visited City Hall for a meeting with Mayor Menino and his staff. The Mayors enjoyed conversation about Israel, mayoral politics and elections, and the need for a continuing and stronger relationship between the cities. Mayor Menino accepted an invitation to visit Haifa.

Mayor Yahav also visited City Council President Michael Ross. President Ross shared some of his personal experiences in Israel and Mayor Yahav invited him back to spend time in Haifa.

The day was very successful and will lead to an enhanced commitment by leadership on the state and city levels to work closely with Haifa and further develop the partnership. Mayor Yahav will be expecting many high-level visitors as a result of his brief visit.

Links to Resolutions:

Strengthening the Assets of Low Income Households
Boston co-sponsored

Challenges in Coalition Building
newly introduced

Comprehensive Energy Policy

Criminal Justice Reform

Darfur
Boston co-sponsored

Freedom of Expression/Defamation of Religion
Boston co-sponsored

Supporting Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Education Programs for All
Boston co-sponsored

Muslim Jewish Relations

Alleviating Hunger and Food Insufficiency among Children, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, and other At-Risk Individuals in the U.S. and Internationally
Boston co-sponsored

Reform of the Federal Poverty Measure
Boston co-sponsored



From left to right: Senate President Therese Murray, State Senator Steven Panagiotakos, Richard Musiol Jr., Stan Makovsky and Phil Rosenblatt

JCRC | MAJF Legislative Reception Sets Tone for Coming Year

JCRC | MAJF welcomed a new year and the new state legislative session with its 12th Annual Legislative Reception.

The ceremony honored legislators, administration officials and legislative staff who have played leading roles in the Jewish Community and its political agenda throughout the past year:

Legislative Achievement Awards:

Senator Steven C. Panagiotakos
Representative Daniel E. Bosley

Legislative Staff Achievement Awards:

Richard A. Musiol Jr, Chief of Staff to Senate President Therese Murray
Louis A. Rizoli, House Counsel

Executive Award:

Richard Chacon, Director of the Office of Refugees and Immigrants

Yedid (Friend) Award:

Robert J. Haynes, President, MA AFL-CIO

Senate President Therese Murray and former Speaker of the House, Salvatore F. DiMasi, attended the reception to congratulate the award recipients, along with over 250 other guests including Jewish professionals and lay leaders, and countless members of the state legislature.

Fiscal Year 2010 State Budget Update

The House of Representatives passed their Fiscal Year 2010 budget in early May. The budget raises the sales tax from 5% to 6.25%, which will generate about \$900M. This allowed the House to fund programs including affordable housing, disability services and home care services which were underfunded in the original House budget.

The next step in the process is for the Senate Ways and Means Committee to release their budget. Senate Ways and Means will release its budget proposal in mid-May and begin debating budget amendments shortly after.

JCRC | MAJF is working to ensure the funding secured in the House budget will be incorporated in the Senate. The Senate budget will include many cuts because of lower revenue projections. The Senate will also be considering other revenue proposals.

Through the amendment process, we were successful in securing \$310,000 for the naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs) across the state. Also, an amendment to provide \$2.5M for **Long Term Care Options Counseling** (pre-admission counseling) was adopted and \$15M was added to the Home Care Program, bringing the account to \$103,734,283.

An amendment added language ensuring funding for the Money Management Program within the Protective Services line item and the line item that gives direct care workers a living wage increase (1599-6901) remained unfunded.

The **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program** received \$18M through the amendment process, bringing the total to \$35,797,061. The **Public Housing Operating Subsidy** received an additional \$5M, bringing the line item total to \$71,300,000, and the **Alternative Rental Housing Voucher** was levelly funded at \$4M.

The **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services** received \$1M.

The **Family Support Services Program**, which the Governor cut entirely, was restored. The line item is now funded at \$55,454,715. **Mental Health Services for Children** was funded at \$73,138,409. The **Turning 22 Program** was not cut, and receiving \$7.7M **Mental Health Services for Adults** was funded at \$313M.

The **Workforce Competitive Trust Fund** was eliminated in the House budget. However, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne Bump has recommended the use of funds from the stimulus package to replenish the fund. The **Adult Basic Education** program was funded at \$1.1M less than the Governor's budget proposed and the **Citizenship for New Americans** program was funded at \$500,000. The **Employment Services Program** was funded at \$24.5M.

JCRC | MAJF will be sending information on the Senate budget in the coming days.

JCRC Annual Meeting

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, EMBRACING OUR FUTURE.

Please join us on June 10 at JCRC's 65th Annual Meeting as we unveil our Strategic Plan and vision for our future.

Registration at 11:30, meeting begins at 12:00. [RSVP here.](#)

Special Supplement

The Recovery Act: What's in it for me?

The Recovery Act provides many potential sources of funding for Federations and agencies. In this supplement you will find a list of provisions that may be sources of funding for your agencies. Visit www.recovery.gov for information on how the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act is being implemented.

Visit mass.gov/recovery to see how Massachusetts is using funds from the legislation.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

The program was created by Congress to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter. The program is governed by a **national board** composed of representatives of the **American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America.** The Board is chaired by a representative of the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).** When a jurisdiction is funded, the local board must advertise the availability of funds. Local organizations, whether nonprofit or governmental, may apply. The local board is responsible for considering all applications, and for determining which organizations will receive funds. They also determine which services are funded. **Contact the National Board staff** for specific local contacts. For more detailed information on the EFSP program and the eligible programs and services that can receive supplemental funding through the program, [click here.](#)

Social Service Block Grant

The purpose of the Title XX Social Services Block Grant Program is to provide assistance directly to states to enable them to furnish services to people and families to help them achieve or maintain economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency. Each state has the flexibility to determine what services will be provided, who is eligible to receive services, and how funds are distributed. For more information on SSBG Massachusetts Officials and Program Contacts, [click here.](#)

Community Service Block Grant

As a part of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Office of Community Services awards Federal grants to state, local, and tribal governments, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations which, in turn, assist people who need assistance to become self-sufficient. The CSBG is a mandatory block grant program that provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. A list of Community Action

Agencies (by state) that provide services in your area and State Action Agency Associations is available online [here](#) and [here](#). You may wish to contact one of these agencies and explore opportunities for assistance and/or partnership to help meet the needs of the individuals and families in your community.

Workforce Development and Job Training

\$4 billion has been set aside for Workforce Development and Job Training Programs which are desperately needed with unemployment climbing higher everyday. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) will issue formal guidance to all states within 30 days of enactment for implementation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Wagner-Peyser funding under the Recovery Act. This notice describes the initial plans ETA has developed for implementing these programs under the Recovery Act. Formal guidance is forthcoming. Inquiries should be addressed to the appropriate regional office or to the Employment and Training Administration through a special email address established for this purpose: eta.economicrecovery@dol.gov.

Visit the **Department of Labor** which spells out programs they oversee which are included in the Economic Stimulus Package.

Education

\$280 million in federal education recovery funds will go to school districts to assist with costs for special education, care and support. In addition, \$10 million will be available for preschool special education services. Funding will be available to **all school districts** across the Commonwealth over the next 27 months. Districts will receive half of the funding by the end of the month – \$140 million through the

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), with \$5 million **dedicated to preschool programs**

This Fall, the remaining \$140 million will be allocated to districts with another \$5 million for preschool programs.

Finally, finding Federal program benefits and understanding the eligibility requirements can be difficult. To make the search for benefits easier, the Federal government created the **GovBenefits.gov** website.

GovBenefits.gov connects citizens to government program eligibility information. After answering a series of questions about yourself, **GovBenefits.gov** returns a list of programs for which you may qualify.

To get started, go to the **homepage**, choose either Locate Federal or State Benefits or Browse by Category or Get Results by Questionnaire. After you find an assistance program that interests you, Am I Eligible? will explain the program requirements. This information may be of particular interest to your community members. To find your Massachusetts contact, [click here.](#)

In addition, the **Grants Opportunity webpage** provides information on Administration on Children and Families program announcements and open funding opportunities. You may also find information on grants.gov helpful.

Funding for Nonprofits In The Stimulus Package

Below is a link to a free, special bulletin, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Act Appropriations Beneficial to the Nonprofit Sector and Key Resources for Organizations to Approach and Access Funding Sources which lists other places in the ARRA which your non-profit may be able to obtain.

Download the Special Bulletin

JCRC | MAJF will continue to update this list as we become aware of other potential resources in the Act that can benefit your community.