Jewish Federations of North America | Center on Aging, Trauma, and Holocaust Survivor Care

Questions and Answers

Innovations Program RFP, 2026

Eligibility Questions

Updated 4/15/2026

1. Where are the eligibility requirements?
You can find the eligibility requirements in section 2.1 of the RFP.

2. Are AAA's and ADRC's eligible to apply for this grant?
Yes, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) are eligible if they meet all eligibility requirements in section 2.1 of the RFP.

3. Is a program considered innovative if we are launching a program we have done before in a new location, or expanding upon a project that is already in use today?
Please read section 1.2.1 of the RFP to determine whether your proposed project meets the criteria for innovation. Of note, "If an organization has implemented a project similar to the proposed project, whether or not the project was funded by Jewish Federations, applicants must detail what will be new, innovative, and/or expanded," (RFP, section 1.2.1).

4. What if your organization has never been required to have an audit?
To be eligible for this grant, the organization must have an audit report, even in cases where an organization is not required to have an audit for other purposes. Section 2.1 of the RFP explains that the organization must have at least one audit report that includes a management letter, consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flow.

5. Who is considered an older adult with a history of trauma?
The definition of "older adult with a history of trauma" can be found in section 1.6 of the RFP.

6. Can we propose working with older adults in other countries besides the U.S.?
Section 2.1 of the RFP states the organization must be based in the United States. Because this grant is funded by the U.S. Government, all Service Populations must reside in the United States.

7. Are second generation (2G) Holocaust survivors eligible for services?
Please see Section 1.6 of the RFP. Second generation Holocaust survivors are eligible for services if they are age 60 or older or if they are caring for an older adult with a history of trauma who is age 60 or older.

8. If a person under the age of 60 has a disability or circumstance that causes them to feel older than their chronological age, and their caregiver is also under 60, are they eligible to receive services?
Only people age 60 or older are considered older adults under this grant program. Family or friend caregivers are eligible if they are age 60 or older or if they are caring for someone age 60 or older. Please see section 1.6 of the RFP.

9. If we work with Holocaust survivors and family caregivers, do the caregivers have to be related to the Holocaust survivors or can they be an independent group of family caregivers with a history of trauma?
Please read the definition of family caregiver in section 1.6 of the RFP. The Holocaust survivors and family caregivers do not need to be related.

10. Our organization does not provide direct care, but we provide support for those who work in eldercare, including older adults, through education, training, technical assistance, and coordination. Would we qualify for this grant?
"The organization must be a direct service provider to Holocaust survivors, older adults with a history of trauma, and/or family caregivers." (RFP, section 2.1).

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11. Can a local Jewish Federation apply if they are doing a program in partnership with Jewish Family Services?
Section 2.1 of the RFP states that the organization applying must be a direct service provider to Holocaust survivors, older adults with a history of trauma, and/or family caregivers. The applicant organization may work with partners or contractors, but they may not further issue subgrants (through sub-subgrantees or secondary subgrantees).

12. If the project is training for caregivers, would that be considered direct service?
This depends on who the caregivers are in relation to the people being cared for. Improving family caregiver experiences is considered a direct service, but training for caregivers who are not family or friends to the person being cared for is not a direct service to the Service Population. "Services designed to promote physical, mental, spiritual, financial, and social health and well-being of family members and friends who care for Holocaust survivors and/or older adults with a history or trauma. Services may include caregiver outreach, assessment, counseling and support groups, information and referral, case management, respite services, caregiving resources, and training. Measurable results may include improved satisfaction with caregiving; increased connection to other family caregivers; increased access to resources to support caregiving; increased understanding of self-care strategies; enhanced caregiving skills and confidence; reduced physical, mental, or economic strain; and reduced feelings of burnout, stress, and isolation associated with caregiving," (RFP, section 1.5). Direct services, case management, or counseling to Supporters of Service Populations is not allowed under this grant (RFP, section 2.6).

13. Is there an LOI acceptance needed to continue on with the full grant process? We submitted an LOI before the deadline but have not been told if it was moved to the full application stage. There is no LOI acceptance process. If an organization is eligible to apply per the eligibility requirements outlined in the RFP, they may proceed to the application portal.
Please contact Aging@JewishFederations.org if you experience any technical challenges.

14. How do you define a direct service provider?
In the context of this RFP, direct service providers are organizations that offer professional care and/or support such as counseling, case management referrals, home care, or health care directly to a care recipient.

Finance Questions

Updated 4/15/2026

1. Is emergency financial assistance a permitted use of funding?
The Innovations Program does not permit Emergency Financial Assistance (RFP, section 2.6).

2. Can the match be unrestricted (general fundraising) funds?
Although the source of match may be general fundraising or other unrestricted revenue, all match contributions must be applied directly and exclusively to the project(s) funded by Jewish Federations. Match contributions may not be allocated to or used for any other projects, organizational operating costs, or unrelated expenses (RFP, section 2.4)

3. Is the minimum required matching amount supposed to be in-kind or financial?
"The match may be comprised of financial contributions (cash or grants), in-kind contributions (goods, services, or time), or both," (RFP, section 2.4).

4. Can grant funds or match contributions be used to purchase equipment, such as a laptop for a staff member working on the project funded by Jewish Federations?
"Funding may not be used for equipment purchases, unless such equipment is necessary to carry out an activity otherwise fundable under Title IV of the Older Americans Act. Office equipment, such as furniture or copy machines, is not allowable. Allowable purchases include, but are not limited to, emergency response systems or grab bars, provided that the purchases are directly related to the proposed project(s)," (RFP, section 2.6).

5. Are respite services for caregivers a permitted use of funding?
Respite services for caregivers are a permitted use of funding (RFP, section 1.5). However, please note that, "cash or cash equivalents such as a check or general-purpose debit card may never be distributed to clients or staff for any reason," (RFP, section 2.6).

6. Can the funding cover a staff training that may be related to an activity that is part of the grant, such as a certification in a unique mental health counseling modality?
Grant funds and match contributions may not be used to cover the time or expenses associated with external trainings or certifications for staff (RFP, section 2.6). Please note that all personnel charging time to the grant budget are required to complete the free, one-hour online training course on PCTI care produced by Jewish Federations (RFP, section 3.3).

7. Is there a list of funding sources, programs, or agencies that would make an applicant ineligible if they were already receiving support from them?
Please read Section 2.1 of the RFP regarding eligibility, and Section 2.6 about funding limitations. Section 2.4 explains what sources cannot be used toward the Jewish Federations' match.

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8. We wanted to include consultation services to the communities participating. Is consultation allowed to be part of this grant?
Subgrantees are allowed to hire consultants.

9. In the RFP program guidelines, it's stated that there is a 25% match for each funding period. While completing the budget, I noticed that when I chose the $105,000 funding amount, the drop down for the match says $35,000, which is not 25% of $105,000. Can you please clarify, and am I able to modify the drop-down amount of $35,000 per project period?
Section 2.3 of the RFP states, "applicants will be required to contribute match funding at a level of 25% of the total program budget. Subgrantees will be responsible for raising the match funding in both Program Periods 1 and 2, if Program Period 2 funding is available…Jewish Federations' grant funding plus the required match equals the total program budget per Program Period." Therefore, $35,000 is 25% of $140,000. It may be easier to think of the match as 1/3 of Jewish Federations' grant funds.

10. Are there different requirements for applying under Option A or Option B?
For information about funding requirements, see section 2.3 and 2.4 of the RFP.

11. To sustain the project once Jewish Federations' grant period ends, we are considering transitioning to a strategy that utilizes multiple funding sources, including Medicaid/Medicare. We understand that billing public benefit programs is not allowable during the grant period, but is this an acceptable strategy for sustaining the project after Jewish Federations' grant period ends?
"Jewish Federations' grant funds and match funds may not be used for the following activities:…Funding may not be used to cover copays, coinsurance, deductibles or any services reimbursed by any third-party insurance, including Medicare, Medicaid, other government-funded insurance, or any private insurance. Subgrantees may not bill public benefit programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, other government-funded insurance, or private insurance for the balance of the cost of services (such as staff salaries or client expenses) provided by a Jewish

Federations-funded project (RFP, section 2.6)." All withstanding, after Jewish Federations' grant funding ends, we encourage you to find creative ways to sustain projects.

12. I am writing to ask if grant funds and match contributions may be used to cover time and expenses associated with internal staff training. I understand that external training is not an allowable expense. However, I wanted to confirm whether funds can pay for a grantee's own staff to provide training to other direct services staff, assuming that training includes information that goes beyond JFNA's PCTI course.

You are welcome to apply for a grant from Jewish Federations to fund a project that would improve understanding of the PCTI approach. "Nothing…prohibits the training of Supporters of Service Populations (staff or volunteers) in order to implement a direct service project. On the contrary, training and knowledge acquisition is likely necessary and beneficial in a direct service project. For example, project staff providing case management should participate in PCTI training, and this should be included as an activity in the Work Plan (RFP, section 1.4)." Please read the section titled, "Additional Guidance on PCTI Training Projects." Section 1.5 gives examples of services and measurable results for training projects under the heading, "Improved Understanding of the PCTI Approach." Please note that, "Funding may not be used to develop and/or implement PCTI training without a separate direct service project to at least one Service Population. Training Supporters of Service Populations on its own is not considered a direct service to the Service Population (RFP, section 2.6)."

13. One of our projects will offer cooking classes. Will the budget allow for the cost of ingredients?

Per our Guide on Using Grant Funding for Meals, "Meals for Service Populations (which include Holocaust survivors, older adults with a history of trauma, and their family caregivers) are allowable if specifically approved as part of the project." Section 5.5.2 of the RFP states, "Per federal guidelines, line items in project budgets must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable." Therefore, if the cost of ingredients is reasonable and necessary, then it would be allowable.

14. What are allowable expenses? Are their percentages or caps on what can be allocated to salaries, administrative overhead, etc.

Please see section 2.6 of the RFP for Funding Limitations, along with the Budget Application Workbook (also found on the Call for Applications webpage) for information on all relevant percentages and allowable expenses.

15. For the match requirement, would dollars from our local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) be eligible for use towards the match? We would allocate match funds specifically for this program.

Please check if the source of AAA funds are federal funds. If they did not originate from federal funds and will be used specifically to support the Jewish Federations-funded project, then they would be allowed as a match. Federal funds are never allowed to be a match.

16. What is required for documentation of the match in the application? Are MOUs sufficient to establish a commitment for in-kind contributions? If working with an AAA for the match, would we require a letter specifying their level of contribution for the match?

You will be required to complete and submit Jewish Federations' Evidence of Match Form with the Quarter 2 Financial Report (due July 31, 2027) outlining 100% of your match contribution. At that time, any financial match is expected to be in-hand, and any in-kind match is expected to be committed, both of which must be expended throughout the grant period. Please retain your own internal documentation, whether MOUs or otherwise, should Jewish Federations ask for such documents as proof of meeting and using the match and/or if there is an audit. You will be required to show your drawdown or use of match contributions, whether financial and/or in-kind, in each quarterly financial report throughout the grant cycle. Jewish Federations funds and match funds are considered to be one pool of money. Regarding the AAA, please see our note above. Should the AAA funds be eligible, you would need the contract signed and in-hand at your organization and funds available during the course of the grant cycle. While no specific letter is required from the AAA, it will be important for you to have an internal control and documentation that some of these funds are used as a match for the Jewish Federations-funded project and not used for another project and/or another project's match.

17. Can a salaried case manager be shared across multiple grants when they are providing services to the same family? Specifically, are personnel costs allowed to be allocated between this grant and another funding source under these circumstances? Additionally, what are the expectations for timekeeping and cost allocation to ensure compliance when a case manager's time is split across multiple grants?

A salaried staff member may allocate their time across multiple funding sources, provided such allocations are accurate, allowable, and properly documented in accordance with federal guidelines, including but not limited to:

- Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses: 2 CFR 200.430(g)
- Allocable Costs: 2 CFR 200.405
- Internal Controls: 2 CFR 200.303

Costs may not be duplicated or charged to more than one award. If services to a single family are supported by multiple funding streams, the organization must ensure there is a clear basis for distinguishing which portion of the case manager's time is attributable to each award (for example, by linking activities to specific project requirements or service components) and the allocated funds. The case manager must document their time precisely in accordance with the federal standards cited above. We encourage you to review whether your timekeeping and internal controls are sufficient to support this type of arrangement. The necessity for documentation of time and allocated funds are also important should budget modifications be needed during the grant cycle, for ensuring project activities/time are aligned with the budget, and for audit purposes, if any.

SurveyMonkey Apply Questions

Updated 4/15/2026

1. I'm new to my organization and don't have the log-in credentials for my organization's SurveyMonkey Apply account, although we have applied in the past. How can I log in to work on our application? Can more than one person work on the same application?

If you have never created your own SurveyMonkey Apply account, follow these instructions to sign up for your own SurveyMonkey Apply account. Once you have verified your account, if someone from your organization has started the application, they can add you as a collaborator by navigating to the organization's application, where on the left side of the screen, they will be able to click the "Add Collaborators" button. Upon doing so, they can enter the email address of the collaborator they are adding, set the permissions of the user to "View & Edit" or "View Only" and provide an optional message to the collaborator.

General Questions

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1. What is your definition of trauma?

"An individual with a history of trauma has been exposed to a traumatic event, series of events, or circumstance(s). This trauma exposure may be considered by the older adult as 'physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual wellbeing,'" (United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2014, p. 7) (RFP, section 1.6).

2. Where can I find the link to the RFP informational webinar recording?

You can find the link to the recording and many other resources on our Call for Applications webpage.

3. How many grants do you plan to award during this cycle?

The exact number depends on the number of applications, quality of applications, and funding levels requested. Previous Innovations Program cohorts have included approximately 20-25 subgrants.

4. What is the expected level of training for staff working on this grant?

Jewish Federations is planning to launch a new one-hour online course about the PCTI approach in 2027. This course will be, "mandatory for ALL staff charging time to this grant as listed on the budget(s). If there are staff changes, the new staff member charging time to this grant must take the one-hour online training course," (RFP, Section 3.3). If volunteer time is charged to the match portion of the budget, they would also be required to take a PCTI training. If you would like staff to receive a deeper education in the PCTI approach, we recommend our free online course, *PCTI Essentials for Aging Services*. Eligible social workers can earn five continuing education credits from this course.

5. May I consult w/ Jewish Federations staff about a few project ideas to determine which one to submit in the application?

All the priority outcomes are outlined in section 1.5 of the RFP. You may also want to view the ACL priority areas on ACL's website: https://acl.gov/about-acl. Both resources can be found on our Call for Applications webpage. Out of fairness and transparency, we cannot have conversations about RFP ideas.

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6. How many participants must be served in the project? Is there a minimum number?
There is no minimum number of participants served for our grant, and we leave it to your discretion to ensure that the number of participants served will be reflective of the needs of your community.

7. If the project consists of a class or meeting for participants, is there a minimum number of times they must meet? Could it be a one-time class/meeting during the period?
There is no minimum number of times participants must meet or participate, and we leave it to your discretion to ensure that the number of instances of participation aligns with the needs of your community to achieve the outcome.

8. What if the measured outcome is not better or has no change?
Regarding measured outcomes, our internal Programs and Research & Evaluation teams will work with subgrantees on a regular basis to provide coaching and collaborate to address concerns. Please reference the Cooperative Agreement (found on the Call for Applications webpage) for more details about subgrantee compliance and conditions.

9. Will there be a shorter version of the PCTI training available?
Yes, per RFP section 3.3 Requirements and Compliance, "Complete Jewish Federations' new one-hour online course about the PCTI approach within the timeline provided by Jewish Federations, which is mandatory for ALL staff charging time to this grant as listed on the budget(s). If there are staff changes, the new staff member charging time to this grant must take the one-hour online training course."

10. Will all volunteers need to complete the training?
Yes, per RFP section 5.5.2 Budget Instructions and Summary, "Staff Training: Any staff, consultant, speaker, contractor, or volunteer listed in the personnel section of a project budget is required to be trained in the PCTI approach, no matter the percentage of time and commitment attributed to the project(s). Proof of participation in the mandated training will be required."

11. Can volunteers do a group training together? Many volunteers lack IT skills and will find it difficult to complete the training on their own.
As the one-hour training is still in development, more specifics about the training format and group learning opportunities will be released in the future.. We aim to eliminate barriers to access the training and will work with subgrantees to ensure accessibility.

12. I am not sure I understood whether something could be an activity under a larger project or if it would count as a separate intervention. For example, if a larger project includes multiple activities, like a Memory Café, Dementia Friendly Movies, and various education and respite options for family caregivers, would these parts of the project count as activities or separate interventions?

Per the RFP section 1.4 (Project Requirements) in the RFP, projects may only have one intervention. In this example, multiple interventions are mentioned (Memory Café, Dementia Friendly Movies, and various education and respite options for family caregivers) and as such this would be considered multiple projects. All activities listed for a project should support the project's intervention. Other interventions are not allowable activities as all activities should support the project's single intervention. More information about how a project is defined and examples of project descriptions are available in the How to Define a Project document and video tutorial located on the Call for Applications webpage. Project description 3 provides another example of a proposal that consists of multiple projects. Nothing in this RFP precludes an organization from conducting other projects outside of this grant context.

13. Can we include letters of support from partner organizations with our application?

There will be an opportunity to upload additional documents, including letters of support, should your application proceed to the next stage of the application process.

Work Plan Questions

Updated 4/15/2026

1. What kind of data should be included in the fillable sections within the Work Plan? Does it need to reflect actual data as the grant progresses?

The Work Plan is designed to help applicants create a realistic timeline by thinking through which staff will carry out which tasks and activities required to meet the major objectives. The information included should be projections of what you anticipate will be required to develop a feasible plan. Please read Section 5.4 of the RFP for more information. Here is a Sample Work Plan to help you complete the template. We will collect program progress and updates in our quarterly reports, and not through the Work Plan Template.

Cooperative Agreement Questions

Updated 4/15/2026

1. Where can we read the cooperative agreement?
Jewish Federations' Cooperative Agreement can be read on our Call for Applications webpage.

In-person Training Questions

Updated 4/15/2026

1. How many days do the in-person training events usually last?
Generally, the in-person training events last one to three days.

2. Could the travel costs for the annual in-person training event be included in the grant?
Yes, in your budget application workbook, please allocate funding for participation in the 2027 Training Workshop and 2028 convening. Jewish Federations will cover the costs related to Jewish Federations Workshops. Per the Budget Application Workbook instructions, "At least one staff member from each subgrantee must participate in Jewish Federations' Training Workshop in 2027 and the convening in 2028...Please allocate $5,000 of Jewish Federations funds in Period 1 and $2,000 in Period 2 for eligible travel expenses, including registration costs, travel, hotel, and incidentals. These expenses may be attributed in one project budget or across multiple projects."

3. Where is the in-person training event located?
We have not yet secured the location of our in-person 2027 training event.