



THE WHAT

Minneapolis Jewish Federation builds community, cares for the welfare of Jews everywhere, and maximizes participation in Jewish life.

THE HOW

Minneapolis Jewish Federation raises and allocates funds to benefit the community. We

- **EMPOWER** our community partners to do their best work.

We grant unrestricted funds—the gold standard of nonprofit grants. Our partners use funds when and where they are most needed: to keep the lights on, buy new computers, and allow community experts to do what they do best.

By empowering our partner agencies in Minneapolis, Israel, and around the globe, donors are caring for the needy, enriching our community, and championing Jewish identity.

- **ENGAGE** people with opportunities to experience and explore the joy of Judaism in their personal lives, regardless of their affiliations or practice levels.

If there's a gap in community opportunities, Federation is working collaboratively to fill it. Whether we're bringing Jewish lawyers together to provide *pro bono* legal services or planning for the future of post-*b'nai mitzvah* Jewish learning, Minneapolis Jewish Federation provides programming and community engagement opportunities with no hidden agenda—because we believe in building and sustaining community.

Programming includes societies for networking and professional development; affinity societies; and activity-based programming.

- **INSPIRE** the next generation of Jewish communal and nonprofit leaders through training, education, and by example.

Minneapolis Jewish Federation provides philanthropic leadership to other agencies by inspiring legacy giving in our community, through It's Your Legacy, and by providing professional development opportunities for Jewish professionals through programs like the Harry Kay Leadership Institute, 248 CAN, and Yesod.

A VISION FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH FEDERATION

Minneapolis Jewish Federation (Federation) builds community, cares for the welfare of Jews everywhere, and maximizes participation in Jewish life. That seems like a pretty clear mission statement. And yet, there are myriad ways an organization can attempt to achieve those goals. **Our vision for Federation’s future is to capitalize on the two things the organization does best, two things that no other organization is positioned to do:**

- **Raise and allocate funds** to improve our community on each and every front deemed critical
- Serve as the **community planning table** around which anyone who cares about our future is invited to sit.

A long-time Minneapolis donor once said, “If Federation ceased to exist, it would be re-created within ten years.” One need only pick up a newspaper to understand that divisions amongst Jews exist and competing priorities often cloud debate. How fortunate we are to have Federation; an organization charged with looking out for each and every Jew and each and every organization. Federation offers a planning table like no other in the community and it must continue to serve this vital function.

Federation also has the core responsibility of providing much-needed funds which help power our community organizations, synagogues, and schools. But Federation can do better. Today, Federation’s dollars are the guarantor of the status quo. Allocations are based on precedent and formula, when ideally, they should be based on what will improve the community—making it stronger, more attractive, and more sustainable.

To achieve these goals, Federation requires a long-term strategy that embraces these principles. Federation’s partners rely heavily on allocations to cover operating expenses—the hardest dollars to raise. **Thus, Federation is proposing to undertake a substantial endowment campaign in order to help underwrite operating expenses for all partners in perpetuity.**

With this safety net in place—the guarantee of a specified level of annual funding to cover partner organization’s expenses—Federation can shift annual allocations to an innovative, outcome-based grant-making model. This will allow Federation to not only help raise the community to higher levels, but serve as the planning table it was designed to be.

This vision for Federation as the central place for the community to dream, to plan, and to implement strategic change is attainable if we focus on these core competencies, whereby Federation will continue to show relevance and value-added meaning. The Federation system touches more Jewish lives than any organization on Earth. Let us strive to live up to that all-too-important responsibility.