Re: COVID-19 RESOURCE UPDATE  
Date: Monday, September 21, 2020 1:30 pm CT

This memo is a daily synthesis of critical information and trends about the pandemic that are relevant to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation’s work of caring for the needs of the Jewish people. While the information is intended for use by MJF leadership, we are also sharing it with other community leaders. If you have questions, please contact Anna Goldstein at AnnaG@MilwaukeeJewish.org or 414-390-5733.

Financial Resources

- **Milwaukee County has created** the Small Business Recovery Initiative Grant program to provide support to businesses by lessening the economic impact due to COVID-19. The application is online and closes on Thursday, October 1 at 5 pm CT. The amount of individual grants will depend on the number of applications and available funds – Milwaukee County plans to distribute about $7 million. Grant awards will range from $7,500 - $20,000. To be eligible for a grant businesses must be for-profit, located in Milwaukee County, have 20 or fewer full-time employees at full operation, have 2019 revenues greater than $0 but less than $2 million, be in good standing with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, and be current on property taxes owed to the municipality where the business is located.

- The National Center to Encourage Judaism (NCEJ) has an open, rolling grants process for work with interfaith couples and families. NCEJ is funding virtual programs that meet eligibility guidelines. Applications are accepted anytime, and a decision is generally made within 45 days. Grants partially cover marketing, program materials, and other direct expenses for a variety of programs, including holiday workshops, introduction to Judaism classes, family classes, and discussion groups. Read more about what NCEJ funds.

- **The Otto Bremer Trust’s Community Benefit Financial Company (CBFC) Emergency Fund** is offering grants to North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Wisconsin nonprofit organizations for urgent financial support. The purpose of this program is to support local organizations that are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is primarily available to provide small grants to qualified organizations in the region. The CBFC Emergency Fund is designated for emergency requests only. The Fund will award an estimated $50,000,000 in grants. CBFC will make funding decisions on a rolling basis and will provide funds as soon as practicable following the execution of a loan or grant agreement. The first step in the application process is to submit an initial inquiry. Contact Danielle Cheslog, Grants Manager with questions.

- The City of Milwaukee is offering Parking Lot Beautification grants of up to $8,000 to Wisconsin nonprofit organizations and businesses in eligible regions for landscaping improvements. The purpose of the program is to beautify the local area, encourage sustainability, and promote local businesses. Eligible projects must be
located in the Milwaukee Neighborhood Strategic Planning Areas (NSP). View the NSP map. The City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) is offering one-time grants to help local businesses create more beautiful and environmentally friendly parking lots. Priority will be given to small and local businesses or nonprofits; projects located on major commercial streets; projects that replace pavement on the property with green space, trees, and shrubs; businesses making voluntary landscaping improvements; and projects that make a demonstratable impact on the surrounding community. Get details on required landscaping elements and reimbursement rates. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until funds have been fully allocated. Applications must be submitted by the 15th to be considered for review at the end of that given month. Applicants are responsible for acquiring all necessary permits and licensing, if applicable, from the City of Milwaukee Permit and Development Center prior to reimbursement. Funds will be reimbursed following the successful completion of a proposed project. The City will not fund projects that have begun construction prior to project approval. Questions and completed application packets may be submitted to ECO: Green Lots @ Milwaukee.gov.

National Resources

- The U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of three Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) totaling $11,150,278 to Oklahoma, Washington and Wisconsin, to help address the workforce-related impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency. Disaster Recovery DWGs may provide eligible participants disaster-relief employment to address the coronavirus impacts within their communities, as well as employment and training activities. Employment Recovery DWGs provide reemployment services to eligible individuals affected by mass layoffs, such as those resulting from the coronavirus.
- The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies created quantitative research on the impact of COVID-19 on Jewish families and households. The research was released in a recent webinar – view the recording and slides.
- This year’s National Small Business Week virtual conference from Tuesday, September 22 to Thursday, September 24 will offer free educational webinars, free business advice, and an opportunity to network with fellow business owners. Registration is required.

Local Resources

- Review the City of Milwaukee Health Department’s Phase 4.1 Order Update from Friday, September 18. The National Guard Testing Sites in Milwaukee (UMOS – 2701 S. Chase Ave and Custer Stadium – 4300 W. Fairmount Ave.) have updated their hours of operation to accommodate for fall daylight hours. Monday – Thursday 11 am – 6 pm, Friday – Saturday 11 am – 5 pm, Closed Sunday.

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Agency Resources

**Jewish Federations of North America**

- [Register](#) for JFNA’s first [Virtual GA taking place from Sunday, October 25 – Tuesday, October 27](#) – view the [events schedule](#).

**Jewish Family Services**

- Jewish Family Services is open (remotely) and offers vital, supportive services such as therapy and counseling; case management and social services; services for Holocaust survivors, the aging and elderly; and JHelp, which offers crisis funding for individuals who need assistance with rent/mortgage, food, transportation, clothing, utilities (phone/internet), and other emergent needs. Call JFS at 414-390-5800 for more information.

**SHOFAR**

- [SHOFAR](#) (Safeguarding Health Families and Relationships) is an initiative of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation that addresses child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and domestic violence. [Read more](#) about SHOFAR and access [SHOFAR resources](#) to get help now. [Contact JFS Community Advocate Breanna West](#) at 414-225-1374 for more information.

- Call the Sojourner Family Peace Center 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline at 414-933-2722. The National Domestic Hotline offers 24/7 support in more than 200 languages – call 800-799-7233.

**MJFLA**

- The Milwaukee Jewish Free Loan Association offers confidential, interest free loans for any purpose to people who find themselves in a time of financial need. [Learn more](#) or call 414-961-1500.

Webinars

*Please see the [Milwaukee Jewish Community Calendar](#) for the most current information on upcoming events.*

- **Wednesday, September 23**
  - Join the Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin and Walnut Way for a Cooperative Learning Series Session on formation, structure, best practices and resources for cooperative ownership at [6 pm CT](#). The UW Center for Cooperatives will offer a virtual presentation and discussion session – [register](#). Contact [jessica@uedawi.org](mailto:jessica@uedawi.org) if you need assistance registering.