

**Caring for Those in Need: CJP's Economic Response for Greater-Boston Area Jewish Day Schools
August 2009**

CJP is in a unique position to mobilize our community's enormous intellectual, human and financial resources to care for the most vulnerable in Greater Boston. Working closely with our agencies and partners, CJP identified three priority categories for our Economic Response – basic needs, prevention assistance and education and participation in Jewish life. As we provide the support and resources for those in critical need, CJP is committed to ensuring that our Jewish day schools remain vibrant and strong.

A GROWING NEED

Jewish day schools in the Greater Boston area currently are experiencing a direct impact from the economic downturn.

- Schools are reporting that families have lost jobs
- Requests for additional financial aid have increased significantly
- Fundraising is increasingly challenging and endowment returns are down, placing financial strain on schools and aid available to families

CJP in conjunction with the Day School Education Commission (DSEC) has developed a two-part pilot project that addresses concerns both for: (1) a significant drop in kindergarten enrollment whose impact would be felt over the next 9-13 years; and (2) potential high attrition if schools can not meet the increasing financial aid needs of current families.

Part I: Incentive-to-Enroll Tuition Voucher Program

The Voucher Program's goal is to support and sustain the enrollment of kindergarteners in the 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 school years by targeting families in the middle tier of income. A \$4,000 voucher (or up to 25% of tuition) is available to eligible families with the hope that by guaranteeing the vouchers for three years (for kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades) enrollment in day schools will remain strong and attrition will be minimized. Middle tier income families will bring with them significant additional tuition dollars into the schools' operating budgets, resulting in a net increase of funds available for financial aid and educational excellence. Thus, we will be reaching a "sweet spot" for the most efficient and significant positive change for the entire system of day schools.

In the determination of a family's eligibility for a voucher, an "Effective Adjusted Gross Income" will be calculated by subtracting Jewish education expenses (e.g., Jewish high school tuition, Gateways tuition, etc.) and other Jewish expenses from the applicant's taxable and non-taxable income. Maximum income levels are defined as Effective Adjusted Gross Income of approximately \$180,000 for families with one child attending K-8 Jewish day school; \$215,000 for families with 2 children attending Jewish day school; and \$250,000 for families with 3 children attending Jewish day school. Families are not eligible for the voucher if they receive any other financial aid (including faculty discounts and sibling discounts). The three-year guarantee is intended to provide families assurance of

sustained financial support during the anticipated period of financial instability. As the efficacy of the program is demonstrated, we believe that increased donor interest will be inspired. It is our expectation that by the end of the initial 3-year period, we will be in the position to continue support of these and other families through a fully financed and implemented CJP Affordability Plan.

The Voucher Program is designed to lower barriers to participation, including maintaining privacy and simplicity. Parents will perform their own eligibility calculation via an anonymous on-line calculator or spreadsheet. A formal application is printed and sent to a 3rd party along with minimal additional documentation. If eligibility is confirmed by the 3rd party, the family can print their voucher at home, and then submit it to the school of their choice. Schools inform CJP of the number of vouchers for reimbursement. The online calculator will also alert a family if they are likely to receive more assistance through the school financial aid process than the Voucher Program maximum. The family will then have the option of accepting the voucher or applying for financial aid through the school.

CJP estimates that approximately 83 incoming kindergarteners across all of the Greater Boston Jewish day schools will be eligible for the voucher, and we assume consistent usage of vouchers for each cohort throughout 1st and 2nd grades. We estimate that the cost of the Voucher Program over 3 years, including marketing and administration costs, will be as follows:

Pilot Voucher Program Budget

Year One: Kindergarten only	\$381,257
Year Two: Kindergarten, Grade One	\$708,514
Year Three: Kindergarten, Grades One and Two	\$1,018,770
Total Request Over Three Years:	\$2,107,541

Part II. CJP’s Jewish Day School Financial Assistance Fortification Program

In light of the serious fiscal challenges and the potential impact on retention of students in all grades, CJP has established a Jewish Day School Financial Assistance Fortification program to provide funding directly to the schools for increased financial aid distributions to students. This spring, the Jim Joseph Foundation made a generous, two-year grant to CJP to provide emergency scholarship funding for Jewish education. CJP has allocated on a per capita basis the day school portion of this grant so that all of the 14 Jewish day schools (including high schools) are able to provide financial aid in 2009-10 over and above the current school year’s allocations. To continue to address this escalating issue, we anticipate an additional minimum need of **\$500,000**.

A PLAN FOR TODAY and TOMORROW

CJP is uniquely positioned to respond to the current economic situation in a timely, efficient and effective manner. With day school recruitment well underway, it is imperative that we act quickly to communicate our plan and raise the funding needed to effectively attract students to Jewish day schools. Our Economic Response is preparing and building the structure and capacity for our community to be able to provide the education our children deserve, ensuring a generation of children connected to Jewish life.