Our Focus Areas

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the 50 largest private charitable foundations in the United States, is dedicated to meeting the basic needs of people experiencing poverty.

The Weinberg Foundation supports nonprofits that provide direct services in the focus areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, Education, and Community Services. These focus areas, as well as the 14 funding priorities specific to each focus area, which guide the Foundation’s grantmaking, are detailed below. The funding priorities address a range of populations, including older adults, women and children at risk, people with disabilities, veterans, and the Jewish community.

The Foundation administers the majority of its funding in its priority communities: Baltimore, Chicago, Hawai‘i, Israel, New York City, Northeastern Pennsylvania, San Francisco, and Rural Communities (primarily rural areas within proximity to other priority communities). These areas represent personal ties to the life and legacy of Harry Weinberg, as well as communities where Weinberg Foundation trustees reside and provide leadership. Most grant requests should align with one of the four core focus areas: Housing, Health, Jobs, and Education. The Community Services focus area is intended for community organizations operating multiple programs that meet a range of needs, spanning these four core focus areas.

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit hjweinbergfoundation.org.

Housing

Stable housing provides a foundation for individuals, children, and families to lead healthy and productive lives. Without housing, people are unable to focus on education, employment, health care, and other basic needs.

Areas of Funding

1. Affordable Housing Development and Renovation: The Foundation supports the creation of new housing units, as well as the renovation of existing housing, to provide and maintain affordable, quality, and supportive housing options. Projects should be integrated into the broader community and must incorporate supportive services. Priority is given to projects that add new units of housing into a community.

2. Maintaining Stable Housing: The Foundation supports programs that allow people to remain housed within their communities by providing comprehensive services that meet a range of social, economic, and health needs.

Health

Good health is essential to help people move and remain out of poverty. Poor physical or mental health can prevent or complicate the pursuit of education, employment, and other opportunities for economic mobility.

Areas of Funding

1. Health Care Access: The Foundation supports organizations that provide access to health care, as well as those that work to improve the health status of vulnerable patients.

2. Aging in Community: The Foundation supports projects that enable older adults to remain independent. Projects must incorporate a model that connects older adults and/or caregivers with a range of services that help them age independently, within their communities, and with maximum quality of life.
Health (continued)

3. Veteran Mental Wellness: The Foundation supports programs that enhance the mental wellness of veterans who are reintegrating into civilian life.

4. Nutrition and Food Access: The Foundation supports organizations and programs that increase access to sufficient and nutritious food.

5. Trauma, Abuse, and Safety: The Foundation supports programs that promote child and family safety and that reduce the long-term traumatic effects of child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, intimate partner or family violence, elder abuse, and exposure to community violence.

Jobs

Employment provides the best opportunity for personal success and financial security. Quality training programs that lead to employment enable individuals and families to achieve economic stability.

Areas of Funding

1. Job Training: The Foundation supports job-training programs that result in industry-recognized credentials, as well as job-placement and retention services. Employers must engage with the training organizations to verify program content and support placement and retention services. Organizations should track job retention and wages for at least two years.

2. Financial Literacy and Economic Stability: The Foundation supports programs that provide people with the financial tools necessary to achieve economic stability.

3. Youth Employment and Career Support: The Foundation supports programs that provide school-based career exploration and work-based learning opportunities for youth, generally ranging between 14 and 24.

Education

Education can help break the cycle of poverty. Providing at-risk children and youth with academic opportunities helps prepare them for a stable and productive future. The Foundation is dedicated to supporting organizations that provide or supplement a high-quality education from kindergarten through high school.

Areas of Funding

1. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math): The Foundation supports in-school and out-of-school STEM programs, professional development to strengthen STEM instruction, and programs proven to improve math proficiency, in order to prepare youth for evolving workforce needs that require STEM literacy.

2. Out-of-School Time: The Foundation supports after-school, weekend, and summer programs for students, kindergarten through grade 12. Funded programs must have an academic component with demonstrated academic outcomes.

3. College and Career Preparedness: The Foundation supports programs that assist students in developing a post-secondary plan and position them for success after graduation from high school.

Community Services

The Foundation recognizes that certain service providers operate multiple programs that meet a range of basic human needs and span many of the Foundation’s funding priorities. Organizations that provide services bridging the areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, and Education may be eligible for a Community Services grant.

The Foundation is also engaged in select initiatives addressing Jewish poverty on a national scale, as well as strengthening the leadership of organizations that serve the Jewish community.