Foundation Overview

2020
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 on pages 11 through 22. The funding priorities address a range of populations, including older adults, women and children at risk, people with disabilities, veterans, and the Jewish community.

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit www.hjweinbergfoundation.org.
Like most immigrants coming to the United States in the early 1900s, Harry Weinberg’s family arrived with little more than hope and a willingness to work hard. Beyond their many challenges, they saw opportunity.

Harry was gifted with a keen business mind and entrepreneurial spirit. Despite leaving school at age 12, Harry built a career that turned one successful investment into another, often seeing value where others did not. In the 1950s and 1960s, he owned bus lines in several cities, including Honolulu, Hawai‘i. Again seeing opportunity, and before many others recognized the eventual value of real estate in Hawai‘i, Harry began purchasing properties throughout the Hawaiian Islands. At the time of his death, Harry Weinberg was the largest single real estate investor in Hawai‘i.

However, Harry never forgot his humble roots. In 1959, he created The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to help meet the needs of low-income and vulnerable people. The Foundation as we know it today has existed since 1990, when Harry Weinberg died, a year after his beloved wife, Jeanette, passed away. Today, the fortune that Harry amassed has grown to $2.9 billion—the assets that make possible the Weinberg Foundation’s grantmaking.
Commitment to the Jewish Community

The Weinberg Foundation supports organizations that serve low-income and vulnerable people within the Jewish community, both in the United States and Israel. Grants to support the Jewish community align with the Foundation’s funding priorities within the areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, Education, and Community Services.

In Israel, the Foundation has a long history of supporting direct service-providers, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s (JDC) work dedicated to serving vulnerable older adults and providing job training for low-income populations. In 2018, the Foundation expanded its commitment in Israel to organizations serving women at risk and their children.

In North America, over the past two decades the Foundation has provided $24 million to organizations serving Holocaust survivors, and in Baltimore the Foundation is the largest contributor to The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore (The Associated), providing one of the single largest annual campaign gifts to any Jewish Federation.

The Foundation is also engaged in a range of strategic initiatives focused on addressing Jewish poverty on a national scale, as well as strengthening the leadership of nonprofits that will serve the Jewish community into the future.
Key Initiatives

Yashar - Support for Inclusion at Jewish Camp

In partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the Weinberg Foundation has committed $12 million to a matching grants initiative. The Yashar Initiative aims to enhance accessibility and inclusion for campers and staff with disabilities by providing capital improvements, professional development, staff training, research, and evaluation to both participating camps and the field at large.

Leading Edge

Leading Edge

The Foundation has contributed more than $3 million in support of this program involving more than a dozen foundations, nonprofits, and Jewish Federations. Founded in 2014, Leading Edge influences, inspires, attracts, and develops top talent and a leadership pipeline for Jewish organizations serving both the Jewish and the broader community across North America. The flagship program areas focus on the immediate and long-term leadership and talent issues facing the Jewish sector, including onboarding new CEOs, strengthening partnerships between lay leaders and professionals, and helping to create leading places to work.

National Affinity Group on Jewish Poverty

In partnership with the Jewish Funders Network, the Foundation is supporting a nationwide collaborative effort dedicated to addressing the issue of poverty within the Jewish community throughout the United States. Specific goals identified to date include assembling reliable and uniform data on Jewish poverty in America; changing the narrative around Jewish poverty; and developing, aggregating, and sharing best practices and models of poverty alleviation.

The SafetyRespectEquity Coalition

The SafetyRespectEquity (SRE) Coalition works to ensure safe, respectful, and equitable Jewish workplaces and communal spaces by advancing women’s leadership and gender equity and addressing sexual harassment, sexism, and gender discrimination. The ethical standards of Jewish tradition call upon each of us to work toward a more just and equitable world. To that end, SRE brings together organizations, funders, individuals, and experts to help create lasting, systemic change. The role of the Coalition is to serve as a catalyst and resource to support, coordinate, and amplify change in individual Jewish organizations and communal spaces, as well as to accelerate a broader cultural shift.
Where We Give

The Weinberg Foundation administers the majority of its funding in its priority communities:

- Baltimore
- Chicago
- Hawai‘i
- Israel
- New York City
- Northeastern Pennsylvania
- San Francisco
- Rural Communities (primarily rural areas within proximity to other priority communities)

Foundation funding extends to the greater metropolitan areas of the specific cities listed. All of these locations represent personal ties to the life and legacy of Harry Weinberg, as well as communities where Weinberg Foundation trustees reside and provide leadership.
How We Give

The Weinberg Foundation’s grantmaking reflects the wishes of Harry and Jeanette Weinberg, as outlined in the Foundation’s charter, as well as the laws and public policy that govern private philanthropy in the United States and Israel.

The Foundation’s Program Committee (comprised of the trustees, president and CEO, and program team) is responsible for the Foundation’s grantmaking and meets regularly to make decisions regarding the award and distribution of grant funds.

The Foundation’s funding takes the form of capital, program, and operating grants. Grants should be requested through an online application process. www.hjweinbergfoundation.org/how-we-give/how-to-apply/apply-for-a-grant

Eligibility

To be considered for funding, an organization must meet several requirements:

• Be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; or have a fiscal sponsor that has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; or be an Israeli equivalent.
• Provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable populations.
• Have audited financial statements or external financial reviews.
• Have been in operation for at least three years.

Please see page 10 for information regarding the Foundation’s special grant programs.

The Foundation does not fund the following interests/entities:

• Individuals
• Arts and culture
• Post-secondary scholarships
• Debt reduction
• Colleges and universities
• Religious institutions and facilities (including churches, synagogues, congregations, mosques, and temples)
• Think tanks
• Endowments
• Political action groups
• Annual appeals (in most cases)
• Publications
• Academic or health research
• Fundraising events

Please note: the Foundation and the Foundation’s individual staff and trustees do not accept awards or honors from past, present, or potential grantee organizations.
Special Programs

Small Grants Program (SGP)

The Foundation recognizes that small, community-based organizations provide critical services to vulnerable individuals and families. Through the Small Grants Program (SGP), the Foundation supports smaller nonprofits with a streamlined grant application and review process. Grants awarded under the SGP—operating, program, or capital—must still align with the Foundation’s strategic priorities in the areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, and Education.

The maximum Small Grant amount is $50,000 per year over two years, or $100,000 total. Organizations are eligible to apply if they meet the Foundation’s eligibility criteria and maintain an annual organizational budget of $3 million or less.

Baltimore City Community Grants Program

This program was created to provide one-time support to small nonprofits (with an annual operating budget of $500,000 or less) that serve low-income individuals and families in Baltimore City through direct services. Eligible organizations may apply for up to $10,000 for one year in order to assist with general operating expenses and capital costs, including equipment purchases, capacity building (e.g., evaluation and audit costs), and other eligible expenses.

Employee Giving Program

This biennial program allows each Foundation staff member, not including the president and CEO, to recommend a $20,000 grant to a nonprofit of their choice consistent with the Foundation’s grantmaking goals and guidelines. Employees handle every step of the grant evaluation, including a site visit, review of financials, and preparation of the final grant recommendation. Organizations may not apply for the Employee Giving Program.

Israel Mission & Alumni Scholars Program

For several years, the Weinberg Foundation has been privileged to bring prominent community and government leaders from the Foundation’s priority communities to visit Israel.

The Foundation seeks to provide participants with a better understanding of the complex realities of the Middle East. Participants have the opportunity to meet with major Israeli political and community representatives, including social-service agencies that reflect the Foundation’s approximately $12 million in annual grantmaking in Israel. The Mission trip has allowed participants to learn from, and share information with, Israeli nonprofits and experts.

The Foundation also introduces participants to experts on poverty in Israel who share several of the major challenges the country faces both now and in the future. The Foundation sees this trip as an opportunity to provide leaders of similar organizations with relevant data and information.

Please visit our website, www.hjweinbergfoundation.org, for details on how to apply to our Small Grants Program and Baltimore City Community Grants Program.
The Weinberg Foundation fulfills its mission of meeting the basic needs of people experiencing poverty by providing grants across five focus areas. These grants serve a range of populations primarily within the Foundation’s priority communities.

Most grant requests should align with one of the four core focus areas:

- Housing
- Jobs
- Health
- 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.
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.

Key Initiatives

**Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors (HUBS)**

To date, the Foundation has invested $7 million in this Baltimore City initiative, which enables low-income older adult homeowners to remain independent by providing home modifications and repairs—including grab bars, electrical and plumbing repairs, and roof and furnace replacements—in addition to wraparound services.

**Deeply Affordable Housing**

The Foundation has contributed $5 million for programs in Maryland and Illinois to provide deeply affordable housing for persons with disabilities. In partnership with state agencies, these programs create affordable apartments that enable eligible individuals to live independently and within their communities.

**Rapid Re-Housing and Employment**

Over the past several years, the Foundation has supported the expansion of Rapid Re-Housing in Baltimore City to help more families move quickly out of homelessness. This effort includes a total of $1.75 million awarded to St. Vincent de Paul to help families with short-term financial assistance and case management and to assist individuals with job search and placement.
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.

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.

Key Initiatives

**Together We Care**

This initiative focuses on identifying best practices in home-based and community-based services for older adults and their caregivers. Specifically, the Foundation is dedicated to providing access to core services through a streamlined approach known as “no wrong door.” Individuals who access an agency for one service will be screened and referred to all other available services necessary for them to age independently, within their communities, and with maximum quality of life.

**Community Health Centers**

The Foundation supports Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across its priority communities in an effort to expand access to dental and behavioral health care. This initiative has been particularly important in Hawai‘i and rural areas where access is severely limited. Over the past three years, the Foundation has awarded more than $14 million for the renovation and expansion of FQHC facilities, allowing them to serve a greater number of patients.
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.

Key Initiatives

**Wage Record Study for Maryland Grantees**

The Weinberg Foundation, in partnership with the Abell Foundation and Annie E. Casey Foundation, is supporting a Wage Record Study through the Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative (BWFC). The BWFC contracted with the Jacob France Institute to analyze pre- and post-training earnings for participants of Maryland’s workforce development programs, in order to better understand the long-term impact of workforce interventions.

**Workforce Leadership Academies**

The Weinberg Foundation, in partnership with JPMorgan Chase, is supporting three new Workforce Leadership Academies in Chicago, New Orleans, and Jersey City. These Academies are implemented by the Aspen Institute’s Economic Opportunities Program and bring together senior-level managers over the course of a year who share perspectives from key workforce development institutions, agencies, and organizations in their respective cities.
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.

Key Initiatives

**Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project**

The Foundation has committed $10 million to this multi-year, collaborative effort to build or transform up to 24 Baltimore City Public School libraries in selected elementary/middle schools where existing funds can be leveraged. To date, the Foundation and its more than 30 partners have completed 15 libraries, which serve more than 7,000 students and their families.

**Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative**

This more than $3 million partnership of 14 Baltimore-based organizations supports high-quality summer programs for children and youth. Programs address one or more of the following areas: literacy; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math); youth employment; college and career readiness; environmental education; health and overcoming stress and trauma; and enrichment, including sports and arts programming.
Community Services

The Weinberg Foundation helps to build stronger communities through strategic partnerships.
Areas of Funding

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.

Key Initiatives

Mobility LABs (Learning and Action Bets)

This $25 million initiative is a strategic collaboration among national and regional philanthropic partners, including Robin Hood, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Tipping Point Community, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Over four years, Mobility LABs will spur the development of new solutions to sustainably lift families out of poverty in diverse urban, suburban, and rural communities and promote dynamic leaders who will aim to change the national conversation around social and economic mobility.

Baltimore’s Promise

The Foundation has granted more than $7 million to support this collaborative initiative dedicated to improving children’s health and education outcomes in Baltimore, from birth through college and/or career.
It is not upon you to finish the work,
but neither are you free to desist from it.

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Pirkei Avot 2:16