



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

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Media Contact: Craig Demchak, 410-294-0994, cdemchak@hjweinberg.org

Weinberg Foundation Announces \$135 Million in Grant Activity in 2020

Total Assets Now Exceed \$3 Billion

Baltimore (February 2, 2021) – The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation today announced \$135 million in grant activity in 2020, as well as growth of total assets to just over \$3 billion. Since 1990, the Foundation has distributed grants totaling more than \$2.5 billion.

“In an unexpected and extraordinarily difficult year, the Foundation’s ability to pivot has been essential,” said Rachel Garbow Monroe, Weinberg Foundation President and CEO. “Thanks to the leadership of the Foundation’s trustees, and dedication of our professional team, the Foundation was able to support its many grantees coping with the COVID-19 crisis and expand its overall philanthropic impact in 2021 and beyond.” Monroe added, “Specifically, the Foundation was able to respond to the pandemic decisively and meaningfully by supporting grantees with both emergency and longer-term funding. In addition, the Foundation reached a new milestone in total assets, which results in increased levels of annual grantmaking.”

Significant events of the past year included the Foundation entering a new grantmaking space through partnerships with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs); first-time virtual convenings; new and continuing funding partnerships within the housing, health, jobs, and education sectors; and the election of Ambassador Fay Hartog-Levin (Ret.) as the Foundation’s next Board Chair, serving for the next three years. Beyond grantmaking, the Foundation moved to actively and tangibly pursue racial equity in its operations and grantmaking. This commitment includes partnering with effective community-based organizations and seeking out those that are led by people of color to advance the Foundation’s work in the areas of housing, health, jobs, and education.

In an unprecedented year, the Foundation provided a total of \$10.5 million in COVID-19 emergency funding to organizations providing direct services to people experiencing poverty. In addition, the Foundation accelerated more than \$3 million in grant payments to existing grantees, both in the United States and Israel. As part of its long-term COVID-19 response, the Foundation allocated an additional \$7.5 million in grants to three Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), which are providing loans and financial services to communities, particularly communities of color, where conventional financing is typically unavailable or unaffordable.

In partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), the Weinberg Foundation has committed a total of \$12 million to the Yashar matching grants initiative, with the goal of increasing accessibility for

campers and staff with disabilities. In 2020, in a second round of funding as part of its overall commitment, the Foundation provided \$3.1 million in support of Yashar, the Hebrew word for both “level” and “integrity.” Serving youth in Baltimore, the Summer Funding Collaborative announced \$3.5 million in grants, including \$1.2 million in Weinberg Foundation funding, to support 74 high-quality summer programs for children and youth. The Collaborative—now in its sixth year—is a partnership between public, private, and nonprofit institutions that aims to create summer program options for families, including academic support to reduce summer learning loss, youth work opportunities, and a variety of enrichment activities. The Foundation also announced an additional \$5 million in funding to support the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project, bringing the Foundation’s total commitment to this legacy initiative to \$15 million. The new funding will provide operating support for the existing 15 libraries, as well as capital funds for the development of four new libraries through 2023.

The Weinberg Foundation renewed and expanded longstanding partnerships in the housing, health, and jobs sectors. In Maryland, the Foundation provided a \$3 million capital grant to the development of additional rental housing for people with disabilities, as part of the renewal of the State’s Deeply Affordable Housing program. The Foundation also began supporting Baltimore County Age-friendly Upgrades for Seniors (BCAUSE)—an aging in community collaborative. Like the Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors (HUBS) program serving Baltimore City, BCAUSE allows older adult homeowners to remain independent by providing home modifications and repairs, including grab bars, electrical and plumbing repairs, roof and furnace replacements, and wraparound services. In addition, the Foundation committed \$1.25 million to the National Fund for Workforce Solutions through 2022 to support additional response to COVID-19, as well as the development of two new collaboratives in Hawai’i and Northeastern Pennsylvania that will serve as models for future urban and rural partnerships.

For the first time in its 30-year history, the Foundation organized two virtual events. The Hawai’i Jewish Leaders Convenings, held in July and December, gathered more than 60 Hawai’i Jewish leaders each with the goal of creating and leading a coordinated approach to better serve and strengthen Hawai’i’s Jewish community. In addition, the National Affinity Group on Jewish Poverty, in partnership with the Jewish Funders Network (JFN), continued to address the issue of poverty within the Jewish community throughout the United States. Most recently, the affinity group held a FedLab conference, where 38 Jewish communities developed action plans specifically addressing poverty.

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About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation: *The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, is dedicated to meeting the basic needs of people experiencing poverty. The Foundation provides approximately \$130 million each year in total grant activity supporting nonprofits that provide direct services in the areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, Education, and Community Services. The Foundation’s priority communities include Baltimore, Chicago, Hawai’i, Israel, New York City, Northeastern Pennsylvania, San Francisco, and Rural Communities (primarily rural areas within proximity to priority communities). The Foundation’s trustees are Ambassador Fay Hartog-Levin (Ret.), Chair; Robert T. Kelly, Jr.; Paula B. Pretlow; Gordon Berlin; and Nimrod Goor. Rachel Garbow Monroe serves as President and CEO. For more information, please visit www.hjweinbergfoundation.org.*