

The Power of *Jewish* LA Community





The Power of Community

Who is Jewish LA?

- Part of a resilient, connected, global Diaspora
- Our values and priorities
- Demographics

Challenges Our Community Members Face

Our Connections to Israel

Our Policy Priorities

How We Connect with Diverse Groups

Showing Up for Each Other

Study of Jewish LA

WHY

- ✓ To help inform strategy of all organizations across Los Angeles and beyond

WHAT

- ✓ Large-scale study of nearly 4,000 Jewish individuals in Los Angeles

HOW

- ✓ Federation-led study with two premiere research institutions (Brandeis University and University of Chicago)

WHEN

- ✓ Data collection took place between June and September 2021

MORE INFO

- ✓ <https://studyofjewishla.org/>

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF:

- ✓ Cedars Sinai
 - ✓ The Diane & Guilford Glazer Foundation
 - ✓ Jewish Community Foundation Los Angeles
 - ✓ The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles
 - ✓ The Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Foundation
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Diversity

Our community is ethnically, culturally, politically, racially, socioeconomically diverse as are the ways we express and practice Judaism and in our connection to Israel.

Half of households include an immigrant to the United States or someone whose parent was an immigrant.

Jewish adults' regions of origin include Russia/the Former Soviet Union, Latin America, Israel, Iran, and Europe.

LA's diversity is one important lens with which to understand LA Jews

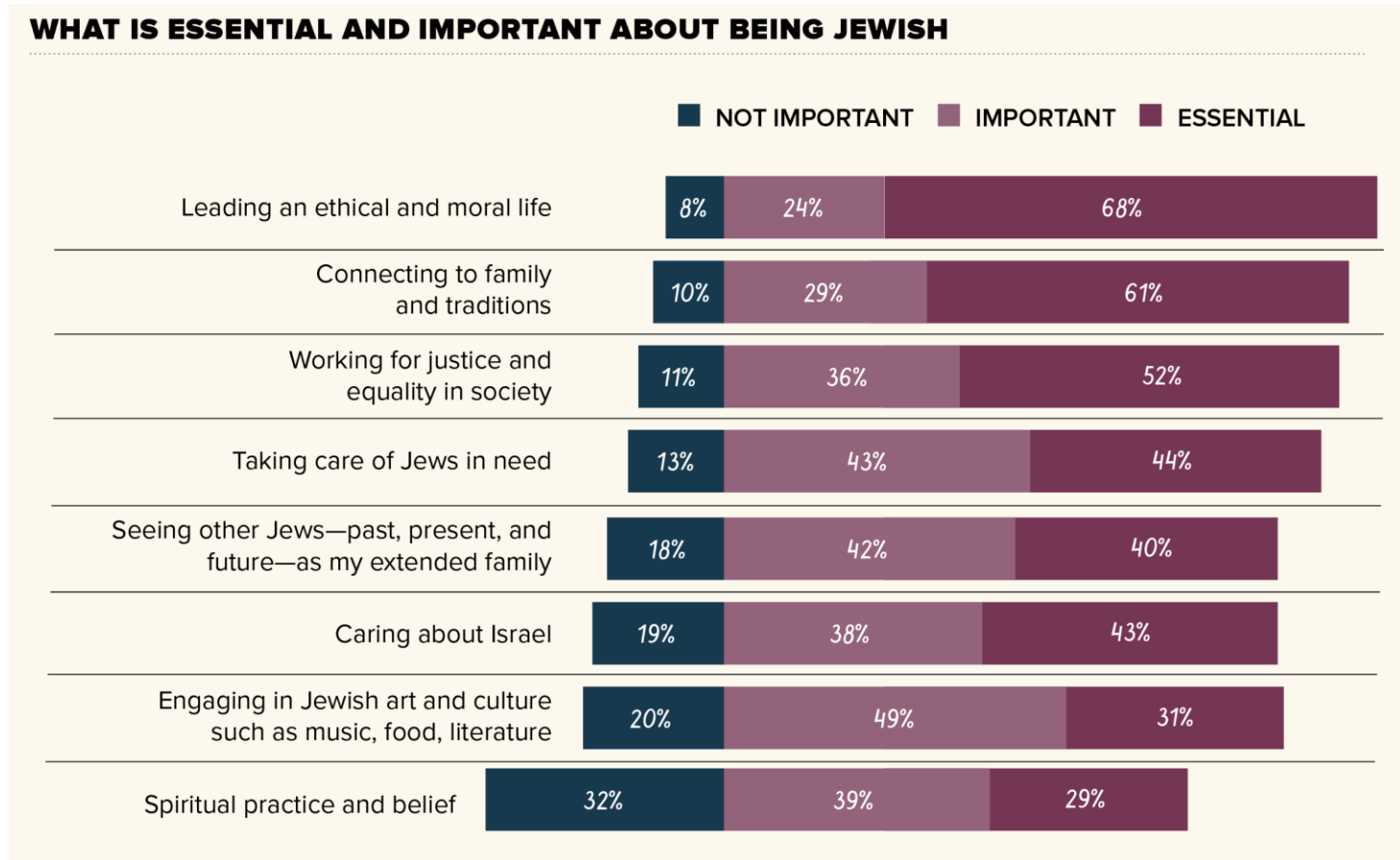
- ✓ 48,000 Russian-speaking Jews
- ✓ 28,000 Latino/a Jews
- ✓ 27,000 Israelis
- ✓ 22,500 Persian Jews
- ✓ 32,500 JPoC
- ✓ 8% of Jewish adults in Los Angeles identify as LGBTQ and 14% of Jewish households have a member (who may or may not be Jewish) who identifies as LGBTQ



Essential and Important About Being Jewish

Substantial agreement, and some notable differences

- ✓ High levels of agreement about leading a moral and ethical life, connecting with family and traditions, and working for justice and equality
- ✓ Less agreement about spiritual practices and belief, although majority see it as essential/important

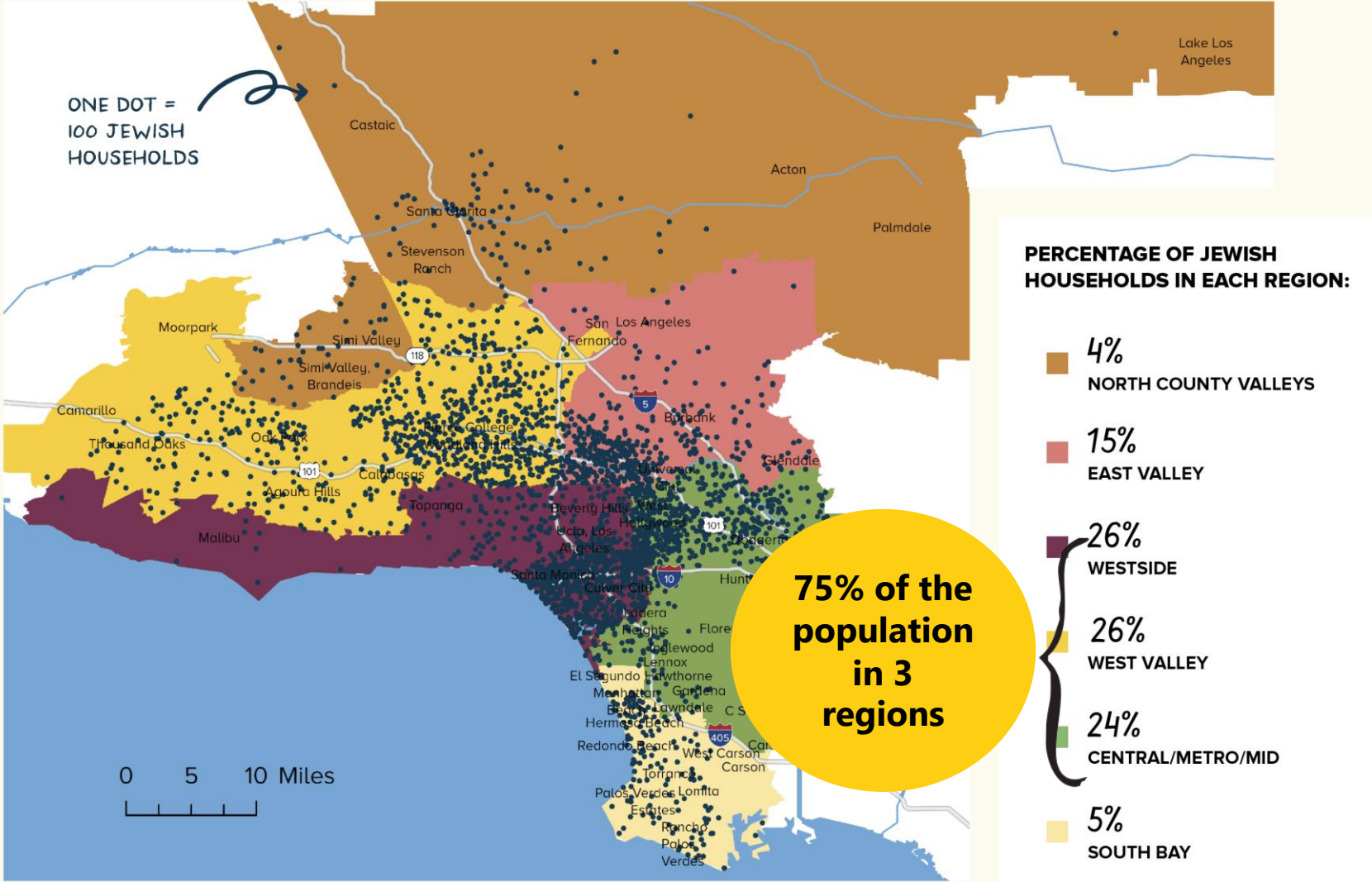


Geography

Catchment area

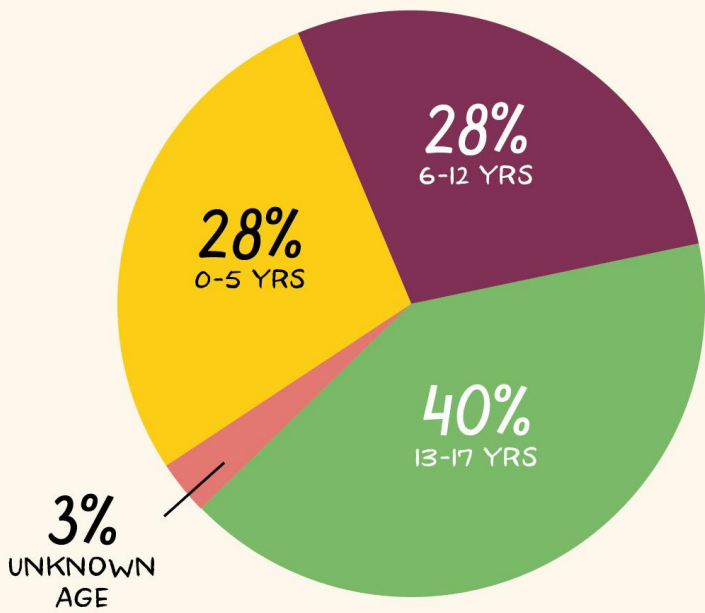
- ✓ Includes most of LA County
- ✓ Organized in six regions

MAP OF JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS IN LA

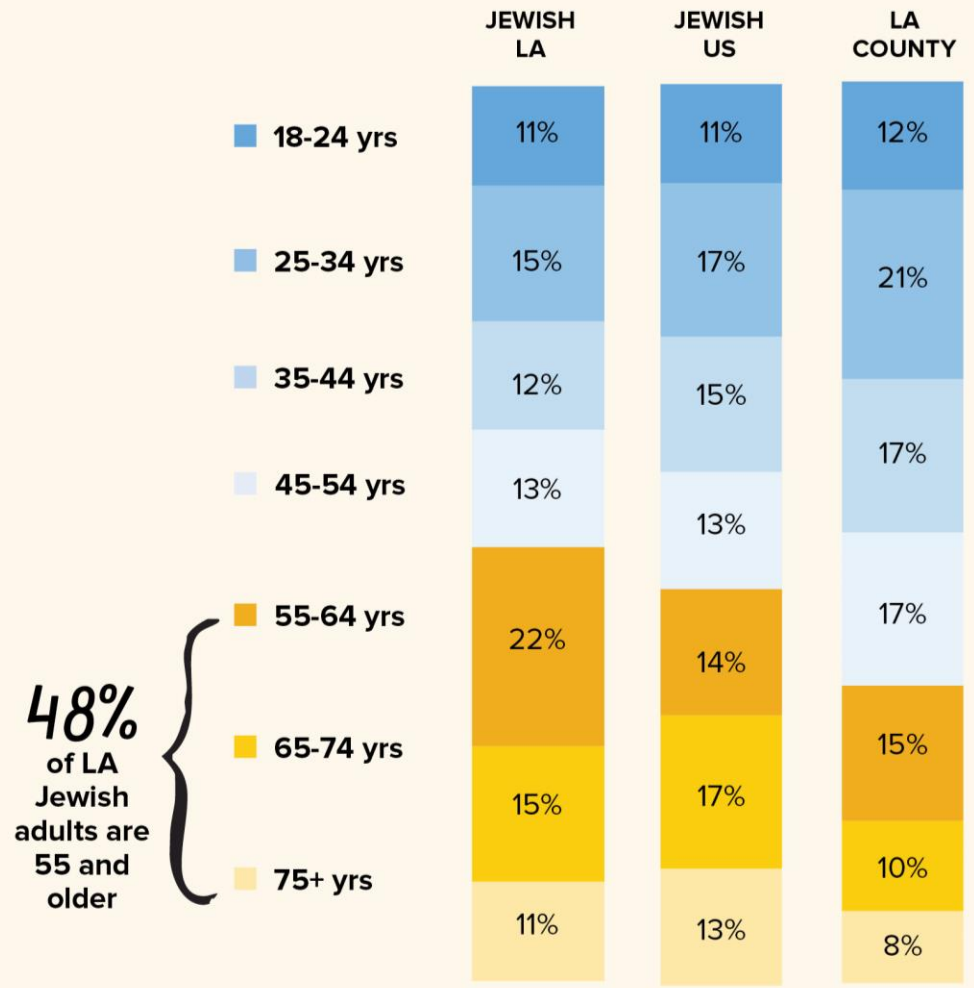


Community Age

AGES OF JEWISH CHILDREN



AGES OF JEWISH ADULTS⁵



Financial Well-Being

- ✓ Nearly 20% of Jewish households “just managing to make ends meet”
- ✓ 20% of households are “well-off”
- ✓ Among households currently struggling financially, close to half report that their situation worsened during the pandemic
- ✓ 1 in 5 Jewish adults stated that the expenses of Jewish life limited their Jewish involvement

HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Percent of Jewish households that describe themselves as...
(Text in parentheses is the category name used within this report)



CONSIDER
THIS

Most LA Jews do connect to Jewish life, but often this is happening outside of traditional synagogues and organizations. For example, more than half of young adults ages 22-30 are engaged Jewishly through conversation, books, films, and music

Traditional and Emerging Practices

- **25% of Jewish adults** reside in households in which someone is a member of a synagogue, congregation, or other Jewish worship community
 - Significantly lower than the national average of 35%
- More than 25% of Jewish adults regularly mark Shabbat in some way, including taking a break from work or technology
- Jewish identity is expressed by many outside of institutional affiliations

Antisemitism

- **Antisemitism is of great concern to nearly all Jewish adults in Los Angeles**
 - More than 75% are very concerned about antisemitism around the world
 - Nearly 70% are very concerned about antisemitism in the United States
 - 18% of Jewish adults indicated that they personally experienced antisemitism in the previous year

CONCERN ABOUT ANTISEMITISM

Percentage of Jewish adults

	AROUND THE WORLD	IN THE UNITED STATES
NOT AT ALL CONCERNED	1%	1%
NOT TOO CONCERNED	2%	5%
SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	21%	25%
VERY CONCERNED	76%	68%

Health

- **Nearly 25% of households** include someone with a chronic health issue, mental health issue, special need, or disability
- Significant needs for mental health services
 - 6% have someone in the household with a severe and persistent mental illness
 - 30% have someone in the household who needs mental health or substance abuse treatment
- **Among Jewish households** headed by young adults (ages 22-30), 21% report severe and persistent mental illness
 - Nearly 50% need mental health or substance abuse treatment services, but fewer than half received these services

MENTAL HEALTH

	SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS	NEEDED MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT
ALL JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	6%	30%
AGE 22-30	21%	47%
AGE 31-40	6%	44%
AGE 41-54	5%	42%
AGE 55-64	6%	34%
AGE 65-74	8%	22%
AGE 75+	3%	12%

QUESTION TEXT:

Do you or anyone in your household have... severe and persistent mental illness (e.g., depression, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia)

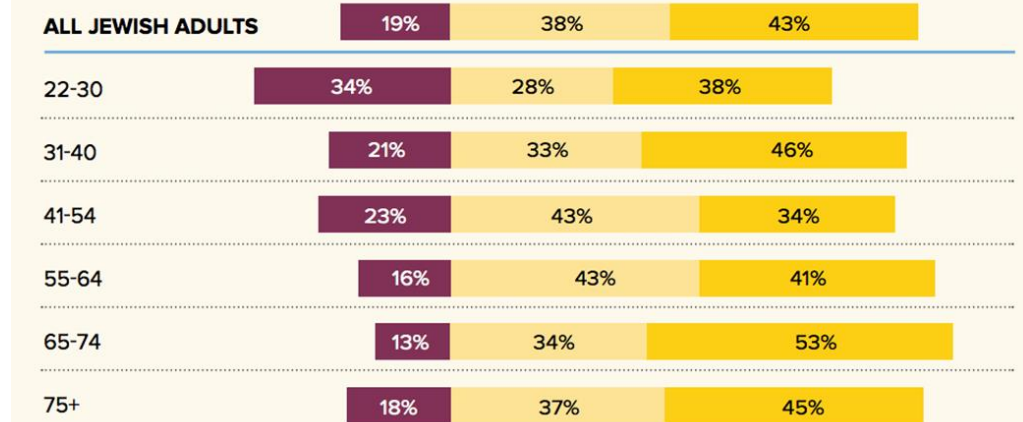
In the past year, did you or anyone in your household need... mental health or substance abuse treatment (e.g., counseling, medication, psychotherapy, inpatient treatment)

Our Connections to Israel

- A large swath of the Jewish community, particularly, young adults, have been to Israel including 59% of Jewish adults
- Experiences of Israel travel are strongly associated with attachment to Israel.
- About half of Jewish adults who have been to Israel multiple times feel very attached to Israel, compared to 8% of those who have never been to Israel.
- Among people who have been to Israel more than once or lived in Israel, at least 60% feel that caring about Israel is essential to being Jewish.
- Nearly 79% of LA Jews agree that it is important for Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people and 75% agree American Jews have the right to criticize Israel's government

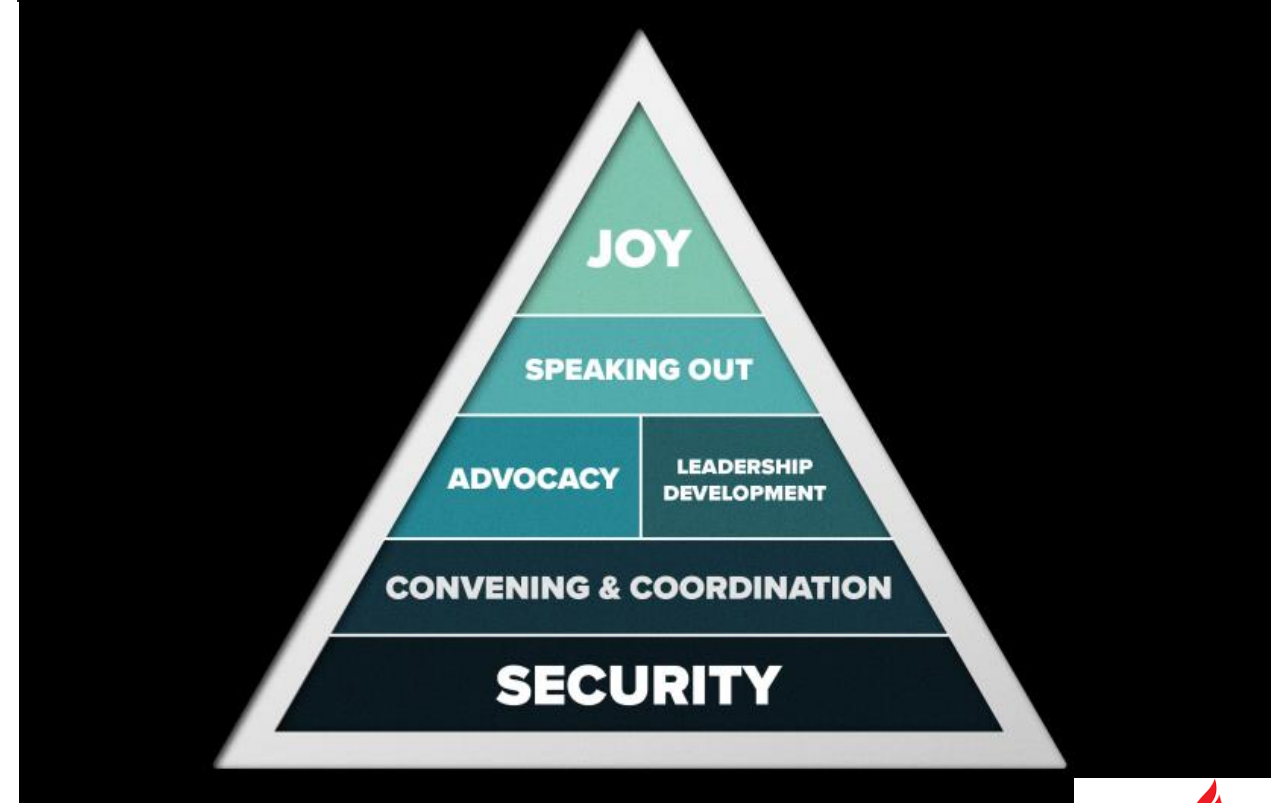
IMPORTANCE OF CARING FOR ISRAEL BY AGE

■ NOT IMPORTANT ■ IMPORTANT BUT NOT ESSENTIAL ■ ESSENTIAL



Challenges We Face

- Rising antisemitism and hatred and threats to community institutions and security
 - Antisemitic incidents reached the highest levels ever recorded by the ADL in the US in 2022 and hate-motivated threats and violence against our community and community institutions are everpresent.
- Our Federation's Community Security Initiative (CSI) continues to serve a unique role in its protection of every Jewish school, synagogue, summer camp, and organization in Jewish Los Angeles.
- Community health and caring for vulnerable populations



Policy Priorities & Statewide Advocacy Agenda

Our 2023 legislative agenda boldly signifies that California Jewish community stands up for ourselves and for all people as the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of CA (JPAC) strives to represent two core pillars of Judaism: supporting our own community and uplifting society as a whole.

Community Security

- **AB 1185 (Gabriel) NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANTS**
Expands the State's Nonprofit Security Grant Program to include "community connectors," who provide security services for a network of at-risk nonprofits.
- **Nonprofit Security Grant Program Budget Request – \$80 million**
Provides grants to nonprofit organizations at risk of hate-motivated violence to enhance their physical security infrastructure.
- **CA Collaborative on Holocaust & Genocide Education – \$3 million**
Continues and expands the work of the CA Collaborative, comprised of 14 leading California Holocaust and genocide educational institutions, tasked with developing lesson plans, resources, & trainings for K-12 teachers.



Policy Priorities & Statewide Advocacy Agenda

Supporting Vulnerable Communities

We aim to uphold the Torah's most enumerated commandment – v'ahavta lere'acha kamocho (*loving the stranger as yourself*) – by working to end hunger and poverty, expand access to healthcare, support vulnerable communities, and combat climate change.

- **SB 4 (Wiener) AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON FAITH LANDS ACT**
Provides a streamlined process for faith institutions and nonprofit colleges to develop affordable housing on their property.
- **SB 85 (Wiener) EXTENDED CASE MANAGEMENT FOR NEW REFUGEES**
Extends critical case management services for new refugees beyond the federal government's 90 days. Offers an additional three to nine months of support, depending on need.
- **SB 600 (Menjivar) CALFRESH MINIMUM ALLOTMENT**
Increases benefit adequacy by raising the CalFresh minimum allotment from \$23 a month to \$50 a month to ensures low-income families can afford groceries.
- **Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention – \$44 million**
Invests in multiple programs that are proven to prevent and end cycles of domestic and sexual violence.



How We Reach Diverse Groups

JEDI

- Learning about and embracing our own diversity

Programs

- Civic Partnerships
- Leadership (ULP)
- Advocacy
- Holidays, Rituals, and Jewish Joy

Fighting Back and Speaking Out to Combat Hatred of All Kinds





How Can HRC Be Supportive

1. Stay Informed
 - Get to know us www.jewishla.org
 - Learn more at www.StudyofJewishLA.org
2. Include us in the Conversation, Invite Us to The Table
 - Addressing LA Challenges
 - DEI and Interfaith Effort
3. Engage the Broader Community With Us
 - ULP
 - CP
 - Rituals
 - Advocacy
4. Report Hate
 - ADL, Statewide Commission
5. There is more that unites us than divides us!
6. Thank you for your partnership and friendship!

