Jewish United Fund

TOGETHER *for* GOOD

ILLINOIS POLICY AGENDA

Jewish United Fund provides real relief — whether it be in the form of health care, human services, or education — to more than 500,000 people of all ages, abilities, and faiths each year. This is thanks to our 70+ affiliated agencies, direct relationships with Chicago's Jewish Community, and partnership with elected officials and the State of Illinois. Our policy agenda promotes collaborative efforts to build healthy and well-supported communities throughout Illinois.

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Recognizing that quality health care is an essential foundation for a meaningful and productive life, JUF affiliates provide inpatient and outpatient physical & behavioral health care, assisted living, rehabilitation, respite, personal care, and other services to people of all ages, faiths, and incomes. We advocate for policies that support affordable and comprehensive high-quality health services and insurance coverage for all Illinoisans, including payment and coverage parity.

INTEGRATING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN COMMUNITY LIFE

JUF affiliates expand opportunities for people with disabilities to fully engage in community life by providing educational and residential living supports, housing, job training, synagogue participation, and community-based opportunities and care. We oppose institutionalization and promote policies that support independence and promote community inclusion for adults and youth with disabilities. JUF advocates for full implementation of the Guidehouse Rate Study recommendations, including rate increases for the provider community.

ENSURING OLDER ADULTS CAN LIVE HEALTHY LIVES SAFELY IN SETTINGS OF THEIR CHOICE

Our network provides a range of care including transportation, Alzheimer's and dementia care, adult day care, respite for family caregivers, legal assistance, benefits counseling, home-delivered meals, Holocaust survivor services, in-home care management, and housing options ranging from independent apartments to assisted living to rehabilitation care. Utilizing lessons learned from innovative programs, we advocate for community care programs that meet the needs of a rapidly growing population of older adults of all incomes. We support statewide adoption of PACE, the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

EDUCATING AND CARING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH — INCLUDING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

JUF affiliates provide a robust range of early childhood development, education, after-school care, recreation, and camps for all. For those with developmental, emotional, or behavioral health needs, including DCFS-involved youth, JUF affiliates step in with additional programs like counseling, family respite, residential care, K–12 therapeutic day schools, integrated therapies, Early Intervention services, and specially designed camps and day programs. We advocate for government investments and sound policies in education (both private and public) and special education, Early Intervention, child welfare, child care, CCAP, SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, and many other programs for children and youth, as well as workforce investments. JUF supports a mixed-delivery system of public and private early childhood providers.

HELPING THOSE CONFRONTED BY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES

JUF affiliates provide crisis care, education, counseling, and referrals for people with behavioral health and substance use issues. As members of the Healthy Minds/Healthy Lives Coalition, building the infrastructure of government-funded programs for people with mental health and substance use challenges is a priority shared by all our affiliates. At the same time, we also promote behavioral health and physical health parity in the public and commercial insurance markets.

SAFEGUARDING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND OTHER COMMUNITIES, AND STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ILLINOIS AND ISRAEL

Creating an environment that is safe and nurturing for everyone is essential to individual and community well-being. We address significant contributors to unsafe environments such as antisemitism, racism, and all other forms of bigotry and hate. Our advocacy includes support for human rights, voting access, gun violence prevention, and anti-hate crime legislation. We advocate for strengthening and continued funding for the Illinois Not-for-Profit Security Grant Program and lead a diverse 60+ member coalition that supports this advocacy. We support efforts that emphasize building equity for disenfranchised communities. JUF also supports ensuring proper implementation of the Illinois anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) law. JUF supports further enhancing the deep historical academic, business, investment, and cultural connections between Illinois and Israel and Jewish communities worldwide.

PROMOTING CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES AND NONPROFIT GOVERNANCE

Thriving communities depend on a robust and well-supported health care and human services infrastructure provided primarily by nonprofit institutions. We advocate for the best ways to promote charitable giving and supporting nonprofit institutions.

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

With a long and proud history of providing health care and social services to immigrants and refugees, including 40+ years administering the state's Refugee Resettlement Program, we support state policies that give immigrants access to services and help refugees resettle and integrate into life in the United States. We also support immigration policies which uphold our values as a nation of immigrants.

Working on the state and local levels, the JUF Government Affairs Department partners with over 70 affiliated agencies (examples below) and network of Illinois Jewish Federations to achieve outcomes that benefit the Jewish Community and beyond in Chicago and throughout Illinois. To learn more about JUF, please visit JUF.org.

THE Ark התיבה

att Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago ועד התורניך דשיקאגו

The Chicago Board of Rabbis

cje SeniorLife Jewish values for positive aging

encompass seeing the whole person

EZRA

בית המדרש לתורה Hebrew Theological College

HIAS CHICAGO

JCC chicago

JCFS CHICAGO

Keshet Forever Growing

Sinai Chicago

spertus יהי אור

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