



OUR MISSION

NCEJ At a Glance

The National Center to Encourage Judaism (NCEJ) is a Private Foundation Funding Efforts Worldwide to Welcome New People to Judaism

Giving Across the United States and Throughout the World

For over 45 years NCEJ has given grants for programs that educate, engage, and connect new people to Judaism – including interfaith families, people interested in conversion, Jewish-adjacent individuals, and others who want to explore becoming part of the Jewish community. Our primary objective is to help Judaism grow by encouraging conversion and helping those in interfaith marriages see the benefits of raising their children as Jews.

NCEJ provides grants to established Jewish organizations, including synagogues, JCCs/Federations, regional consortiums, and national networks for programs that help individuals and families establish a Jewish identity, such as Judaism 101, conversion classes, and similar courses.



Shaare Shalom Synagogue, Jamaica

Additionally, we want to increase connections to local Jewish communities and give people the tools to help them build vibrant Jewish homes. We encourage our grantees to promote their programs using a variety of methods to widen their audience and bring in new people. We give grants to synagogues of all denominations - Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Jewish renewal, and Reconstruction.

OUR GRANTS

NCEJ Gives Grants Globally

NCEJ has Grantees from Around the World

INTERNATIONAL

NCEJ began funding programs outside the United States in 2017. We now fund programs in over a dozen countries, including Israel, Germany, Poland, Canada, Brazil, Jamaica and Ukraine. NCEJ has funded translations in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Ukrainian.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NCEJ has given grants for programs in over 25 states, ranging from New York and California to Kansas, New Mexico and Maine. We fund a wide variety of Jewish organizations, including small independent synagogues and national nonprofit groups. We have given grants to JCCs and federations coast-to-coast, as well as groups such as the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City and Hebrew College, MA.



Estonia JCC Tallinn: Seder Family Passover Experience



WHAT WE FUND

We fund a variety of advertising and program materials, as well as some types of staff support, for virtual, hybrid, and in-person programming and other types of programs sponsored by established Jewish organizations.

i We prioritize programs that are promoted to a wider audience.

Marketing

We want our grantees to use a variety of methods to increase attendance, such as hyperlocal and regional media, and other specialized advertising. NCEJ reimburses for some of the costs for graphic design and printing. We also cover the costs for email marketing campaigns directly attributable to a specific program. Examples of promotional material we fund include:

- Print and digital ads
- Banners
- Postcards
- Brochures
- Flyers
- Posters

Program Materials

We cover a wide variety of program materials, including:

- Activity / holiday kits*
- Food related to program content
- "How-to" booklets
- Books to be used solely for students registered for class
- Arts and craft supplies
- Ritual-related items (i.e. candlesticks, mezuzahs)*

** We only cover ritual items as part of a program we support, not as a stand-alone item.*

Security

We provide reimbursement for security for in-person events.

Staff Support / Other

In some cases, we provide partial reimbursement for program coordinators, speaker honorarium, and facilitators. Other examples of items that may be covered include room rental and curriculum development (for funded programs only).

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

- Programs geared only to an institution's members or solely a Jewish audience
- Tuition assistance or grants to individuals
- Festivals (i.e. food or film) and conferences
- Food expenses unrelated to program content
- Operating expenses (both brick and mortar and virtual)
- Services for the community at large



Funding Focus

Programs can be any length, from single session workshops to multi-session classes. We fund a mix of programming, from family workshops to adult learning and conversations with clergy. Programs must have an educational component. We fund a variety of formats (online, hybrid, in-person). We want to attract more people to Judaism from all walks of life and backgrounds.

Check Out Our Resource Pages

Our program profile pages are full of examples of recently-funded projects, ranging from Judaism 101 classes to holiday workshops for interfaith families. Scroll through for program ideas, marketing suggestions, and advice on what worked well. To get ideas that you can use in your community visit our website: ncejudaism.org to see our profile pages:

Introduction to Jewish Traditions

*Fostering a Welcoming & Educational
Pathway to Judaism*



The Michael Levin Base

Holiday Programming

*Celebrating and Connecting
Newcomers to Jewish Life*



Chanukah Boxes of Warmth - The Beri Foundation

Interfaith/Intercultural Engagement

*Connecting Interfaith
Families to Judaism*



Hillel CASE Pesach Project

APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply Anytime

Apply now for funding for programming that connects new people to Judaism

NCEJ accepts applications throughout the year — apply anytime! Grantees may receive more than one grant per year. Apply now and hear back within 30 days. For more details see our website: ncejudaism.org

Have an idea for a program but not sure it meets our guidelines? Questions? Please contact Ellen Gerecht, Executive Director, at ellen@ncejudaism.org or call **301-802-4254**.