



For further information, please contact:

Prof. Jack Habib
Director
jack@jdc.org

Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute
JDC Hill
Jerusalem 91037
Israel

Phone: 972-2-655-7400
Fax: 972-2-563-5851
brook@jdc.org
www.jdc.org.il/brookdale
www.facebook.com/MJBInstitute

Founded in 1974, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute is Israel's leading center for applied research on social policy and services, serving Israel, the Jewish world, and the international community. MJB is an independent, non-profit partnership between the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Government of Israel, and the David and Inez Myers Foundation of Cleveland. The Institute's Board of Directors is composed of senior government officials from the ministries of Social Affairs, Education, Health, and Finance, and Israel's Social Security Administration, along with international experts, and major international Jewish lay leaders.



WISH LIST

A MENU OF CURRENT
HIGH-PRIORITY PROJECTS
REQUIRING
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING



FALL 2015

HEALTH CARE POLICY

Improving Health Care of Israelis in the Periphery

\$300,000 over 5 years

(\$60,000 per study module; each may be funded independently)

Significant shortages in hospital-based physicians result in the poorer health status of Israelis living in peripheral regions. In the efforts to improve health care quality for these disadvantaged Israelis, the government has introduced a series of incentives to draw physicians to the periphery. MJB is conducting a multi-phase evaluation over 5 years to assess the impact of these new policies.

The Bi-Annual Consumer Health Survey: Giving a Voice to Health Care Consumers

\$95,000 over 2 years for the 2016 survey

This project offers a donor-naming opportunity
for endowment or long-term support.

MJB's flagship survey is Israel's most important information source on the Israeli public's attitudes towards, and satisfaction with, the health care system. Now in its 11th round, the survey monitors the level of services provided by the health plans, assesses how changes in health policy impact consumers, and brings the consumer perspective to bear on deliberations about future directions for Israeli health care. The survey is also a major source of knowledge about disparities in health care among different population groups. Its comprehensiveness and unbiased perspective have made it an essential planning tool for senior policymakers in government and the entire health care system.

Learning from Success to Enhance Educational Quality in Arab Communities

\$30,000 over 2 years

There is broad recognition that the Arab educational system requires significant improvement in both national policy and municipal implementation. Over the past 4 years, MJB has implemented an innovative educational approach empowering Arab educators in the Qalansuwa municipality to substantially impact their education system, both in terms of academic and social achievement and the educational environment. MJB is now expanding the program into additional Arab municipalities in pre-school through high school frameworks and teacher trainings. We are also preparing a monograph to document the strategy, outcomes, and broader lessons for educational reform in other Arab communities. The monograph will be launched at a national workshop and will provide a basis for learning and educational development in Arab and Jewish communities alike.

PROMOTING QUALITY IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES

Upgrading the Quality Assurance System in Residential Facilities of the Administration for Rural Education & Youth Aliyah

\$15,000 for one year

Since the late 1980s, MJB has helped the government to improve the quality of care through the RAF (Regulation, Assessment, Follow-up) Method, developed and continually updated by MJB. Building on almost three decades of experience in working with the Ministry of Social Affairs, MJB has embarked on a new partnership with the Ministry of Education to upgrade the quality of service and care in the out-of-home educational facilities that serve immigrants and vulnerable populations.

LEARNING FROM SUCCESS

Ethiopian-Israeli Children at Risk

\$15,000 over 1 year

The LFS approach helps professionals uncover the specific actions that have contributed to their previous successes. On this basis, they formulate principles of action to help them continue to build on their successes in the future. MJB, together with the Haruv Institute, is using the LFS Method with social workers to examine their success in addressing cases of neglect and abuse within the Ethiopian-Israeli community. The "success stories" will contribute to the development of a best practices guide to working with this population.

Learning from Success in Career & Technological Schools

\$30,000 over 3 years

Around the world, there are major efforts to enhance and expand career and technological education (CTE) at the high school level. Similarly, the Israeli system is currently engaged in serious efforts to reform its CTE programs. The Israeli reform entails updating the technological curriculum, strengthening the academic component and fostering industry ties to better link with the demands of the labor market. As a major lever for change, the Ministry of Education has created demonstration schools that incorporate these key elements. These schools place a particular emphasis on upgrading career opportunities for weaker students who have dropped out of the mainstream education system. MJB will engage the centers in a process of identifying and distilling the best practice principles that contributed to their successes, which can be broadly disseminated as part of the reform.

Putting Patients First:

Implementing Patient-Centered Care in Israel

\$25,000 over 2 years

Patient-centered care (PCC) is a core element of health care quality that focuses on those health care outcomes that patients care most about—being healed and avoiding negative impacts on their functioning and quality of life—and emphasizes the patient's role in making decisions about their care. Implementing PCC is not easy, however. Physicians are typically trained to solve specific and discrete medical problems as efficiently as possible, rather than to take a more holistic approach to patient care. Limited resources often create a "get-it-done-now" attitude that allocates little time, money, or staff to addressing a patient's broader and longer-term needs. MJB is assessing the extent to which PCC is currently implemented and is exploring how it could be enhanced. The lessons from the case study will be relevant more generally to other treatment contexts.

Addressing the Shortage of Arab Mental Health Care Professionals

\$20,000 over 2 years

The serious shortage of Arab mental health care professionals in Israel is expected to intensify as a national reform of Israel's mental health care system will increase the number of patients seeking treatment. In response, the health care and educational systems are working to expand the supply of Arab mental health care professionals through new educational opportunities and outreach efforts. MJB is accompanying these efforts and providing critical input to help improve access to services and reduce gaps in the mental health care for Israel's Arab population.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Providing High-Risk Pre-School Children with Permanent Homes: Evaluation of a Pilot Program to Help Children Stay Home or Reach Permanency through Adoption

\$40,000 over two years

Currently, children whose parents cannot adequately care for them at home are placed in foster homes, usually for many years with no permanent home in sight – not as children and not when they age out of the foster care system at age 18. The Ministry of Social Affairs, together with JDC-Ashalim, is beginning a pilot that would enable young children to either stay at home – as a result of intense, effective work to support their parents – or be adopted if they are already in foster homes and returning home is not an option. The challenge is complex and the evaluation will help learn how to best implement this new approach and determine whether it actually works for these very vulnerable children and families.

Educational Staff at Residential Facilities for Children at Risk: A National Study

\$35,000 over 2 years

In Israel, most youth who need out-of-home placement are cared for in residential facilities under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The key staff people are the counselors and "house-mothers," and there is wide recognition of the importance of their work and their caring relationship with the youth. There is, however, deep concern about the quality of the staff and their work. MJB is conducting a national study of staff at residential facilities to assess critical needs in upgrading the quality of care.

Taking Employment to the Next Level: Evaluating One-Stop Employment Centers for Ethiopian-Israelis

\$40,000 over 2 years

Over the past decade, Ethiopian-Israelis have joined the workforce at rates equal to the rest of Israeli society. Yet, despite high employment rates, there are large gaps in the quality of their employment and opportunities for career advancement. MJB is evaluating a JDC network of one-stop employment centers that are helping Ethiopian-Israeli young adults upgrade their employment and, in the case of college graduates, secure jobs that match their level of education.

SYSTEM-WIDE IMPACT & MEASUREMENT

Identifying the Keys to Success of Inter-ministerial & Cross-sector Programs: A Case Study

\$30,000 for one year

MJB promotes the advancement of holistic and collaborative approaches to help more effectively solve complex social problems. Shared measurement is one such means, enabling comparisons across communities and over time, thus helping to identify and share best practices. An important example is the shared measurement system developed by MJB for the National Program for Children and Youth at Risk. The system is used by all 1,600 programs and services offered under the Program umbrella. MJB is interested in identifying and disseminating the lessons learned as to how shared measurement systems can be used to improve collaborative programs.

EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY

Evaluating the "Tenufa" Program for integrating long-term welfare recipients into employment

\$75,000 over 3 years

Tenufa is a joint initiative to promote the employment of relatively young welfare recipients with very complex problems, with the goal of preventing long-term dependency. It is unique in that it involves the collaboration of the National Employment Service with the Ministry of Social Affairs in order to address a group considered to have very little potential. The partnership makes it possible to address the root causes in a new way. The Institute is evaluating whether this new model can really restore hope and create new opportunities for the recipients.

New Opportunities for the Bedouin Population in the Negev: Evaluating the Government's 5-Year Plan

\$65,000 over 2 years

Israel's Arab Bedouin population is one of the least integrated populations in Israeli society, with serious social needs and high poverty levels. In a national 5-Year Plan to increase Bedouin integration, the government has undertaken expansion of infrastructure, education, public safety, and employment opportunities for the Bedouin communities of the Negev. The reform is also working to strengthen community leadership, bolster social and community life, and invest in opportunities for Bedouin women and youth. MJB is evaluating this landmark initiative for one of Israel's most important minority populations.

Supporting Educational Work with Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) Youth at Risk

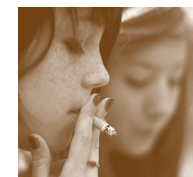
\$20,000 for 2 years

Many Haredi boys and girls suffer school adjustment problems, like other youth in the general population, and yet policy and staff at their schools are often particularly unequipped to meet their needs. JDC-Ashalim, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, is developing an intensive staff-training program, especially tailored to the values and norms at Haredi schools. The MJB evaluation will help program developers and staff involved to better identify successes and pitfalls in this process and to ensure program effectiveness.

Developing Standards for "Best Practice" at Youth Centers

\$15,000 for one year

Youth Centers are increasingly employed in Israel in order to provide youth at risk with activities and support designed to help them deal with the challenges in their lives and prevent further high-risk behavior. There is a great deal of variation in the programming components included in the youth centers. This poses questions as to the key components in assuring the effectiveness of the centers. MJB is collaborating with the National Program for Children and Youth and JDC-Ashalim to develop practical standards and guidelines to make sure that this very important service realizes its potential.



ELDERLY

Annual Statistical Yearbook on the Elderly

\$35,000 per year

This project offers a donor-naming opportunity for endowment or long-term support.

MJB's Statistical Yearbook of the Elderly has become an essential tool for national policymakers to plan and provide services for Israel's growing elderly population. The Yearbook provides an indispensable evidence base for the identification of evolving needs and the promotion of interventions or changes in public policy on the main issues effecting the elderly and their role in society.

Integrated Care for Elderly with Complex Needs

\$40,000 for two years

Evidence indicates that high-risk elderly with complex health and social needs often do not receive the medical and social support services they require because of a lack of coordination and inadequate access to services. The ministries of Social Affairs and Health, together with Israel's Social Security Administration, the national health plans, and JDC-ESHEL, are developing a model of integrated care, with a professional care coordinator at the core. MJB is conducting a formative evaluation examining key implementation issues and providing indicators of the added value of care management for the elderly and members of their families.

Supporting Family Caregivers Who Are Also Employed: An Evaluation

\$15,000 for one year

There is growing global recognition of the challenges that family caregivers face in balancing caring for family members with their responsibilities at work. In light of the rapid increase in Israel's elderly population and their need for care in the coming years, JDC-ESHEL and Caregivers Israel have developed an innovative pilot program to work with employers to adapt the workplace to the needs of employees who are also caring for family members. MJB is evaluating this pilot in preparation for national implementation.



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

National Survey of Children with Disabilities in Israel

\$200,000 over 3 years

In 1999, MJB conducted Israel's first-ever national study of children with disabilities. The report revealed for the first time the size and scope of the challenges facing these children and their families. It further identified the needs to be addressed in order to expand their opportunities. The survey stimulated a wide range of efforts by the various government ministries to improve policies and programs. Today, the system continues to rely on the 1999 survey – despite major changes in the characteristics of the disabled and the service system. Thus, there is a tremendous need for a new survey that will identify the needs of today.