

Jerusalem Letter

Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

JERUSALEM INSTITUTE FOR FEDERAL STUDIES • CENTER FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY STUDIES

Daniel J. Elazar, Editor and Publisher • David Clayman, Executive Editor

ISSN: 0334-4096

JL: 67 18 Kislev 5744/24 November 1983

FEDERATION ALLOCATIONS FOR JEWISH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CENTERS:

A COMPARISON

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Overall allocations -- 1974-78. Overall allocations -- 1979-80. Breakdown of Jewish education allocations. Education allocations in cities. New York -- A case in point. Jewish education and community centers -- their priority in the communities. Recommendations.

In recent years, Jewish education has moved up on the scale of priorities of the Jewish community federations in North America, as an awareness has developed concerning both the importance of Jewish education to reinforce Jewish identity and as an important contributing factor toward Jewish survival. The need for greater federation allocations to Jewish education is now accepted by all concerned. Attention in the communities has turned to focus more specifically on the extent to which support should come from the federation, whether support for day schools should be a main priority and whether funds should be channeled through the central community agency for Jewish education rather than directly from the federation. Precisely because the issue of increased funding seems settled, it is useful to look at where federation allocations to Jewish education stand in the context of overall allocations for local Jewish needs. A review of the situation since 1974 reveals a real increase in allocations for Jewish education. However, other local agencies have received increases of equal magnitude.

OVERALL ALLOCATIONS -- 1974-78

An examination of federation allocations to Jewish education between 1974 and 1978 in 109 cities showed an increase from \$21.4 million to over \$31.7 million, representing a 48.1% increase in allocations by 1978. During the same period, there was a 44.2% increase for all local expenditures (excluding United Way Grants). The overall increase in allocations to Jewish education, as it is represented in total local allocations, remained relatively marginal--in 1974

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Jewish education was 23.3% of all local expenditures and in 1978, it went up to 23.9%.¹

In another study of federation allocations to Jewish education in seventy-nine cities covering the period between 1976 and 1980, there was an apparently more substantial 47.8% increase, from approximately \$24 million in 1976 to over \$35 million in 1980. During the same period, there was a 36.6% across-the-board increase for all local expenditures (exclusive of United Way grants). Nevertheless, allocations to Jewish education as a percentage of total local allocations increased slightly from 22.9% in 1976 to 24.8% in 1980.²

OVERALL ALLOCATIONS -- 1979-80

Between 1979 and 1980, of these seventy-nine cities there was an 8.8% increase in Federation allocations for Jewish education, from \$32.5 million to \$35.4 million. Allocations for all local services increased 5.6%. Excluding the assistance allocated to local refugees, the increase in all local services was 8.7%, which represents almost the same percentage increase as to Jewish education.³

BREAKDOWN OF JEWISH EDUCATION ALLOCATIONS

In terms of overall federation allocations for Jewish education, a distinction should be made between funding earmarked for day schools, congregational schools and other schools. In an analysis of 1980 allocations to Jewish education covering ninety-seven US cities, out of a budget for local expenditures (excluding United Way funds) totalling \$145,602,677, 24.7% was designated for Jewish education. In dollar terms this percentage amounted to \$35,982,854 of which 66% or \$23,753,738 was allocated to the communities' central agencies for Jewish education. The central agencies retained nearly 46% or \$10,914,377 for their direct operational services and provided \$12,618,779 or 53% for schools. At the same time, federations provided direct subsidies to schools in the amount of \$11,937,840.

The following table shows the breakdown of funds allocated to educational institutions in 1980 from both the communities' central agencies and federations.

TABLE 1: 1980 ALLOCATION TO SCHOOLS BY FEDERATIONS AND COMMUNITIES' CENTRAL AGENCIES (in dollars)

TYPE OF SCHOOL	FEDERATION	COMMUNITIES' CENTRAL AGENCIES
DAY SCHOOLS	6,934,002	10,266,796
CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOLS	296,677	953,194
OTHER SCHOOLS	2,853,912	632,013
JEWISH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING	1,853,249	766,776
TOTAL	11,937,840	12,618,779

SOURCE: FEDERATION ALLOCATIONS TO JEWISH EDUCATION 1976-1980, Council of Jewish Federations, New York.

EDUCATION ALLOCATIONS IN CITIES

Most recently, a preliminary report issued by the Council of Jewish Federations in May 1982 provided 1980 and 1981 allocation profiles of Jewish federations in eighty-four cities. Part of the data presented in the tables indicates the distribution of federation funds, broken down by major fields of service. In 1980, the federations in the eighty-four cities surveyed allocated \$23,075,000 to community centers, representing 23.0% of total federation expenditures for local agencies and \$24,395,000 for Jewish education or 24.4%. In 1981, federation spending for community centers was \$23,488,000 or 22.5% while the 1981 allocations for Jewish education increased to \$26,597,000, representing 25.4% of all local allocations.⁴

Among the large cities, 1980 Federation allocations to Jewish education exceeded \$1 million in: Detroit (\$1.1 million); Washington, D.C. (\$1.1 million); Miami (\$1.1 million); Boston (\$1.2 million); Baltimore (\$1.4 million); Cleveland (\$1.6 million); Philadelphia (\$2.2 million); Los Angeles (\$2.5 million); Chicago (\$3 million); Toronto (\$3.6 million); and New York City (\$5 million).

NEW YORK -- A CASE IN POINT

The New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies* remains the exception among the major Jewish communities in the very low percentage of funds it allocates for Jewish education. Of its total allocations, in 1977, 6.3% went to Jewish education; in 1978, 7.2% went to Jewish education. Additional funding from Program Development Fund (PDF) grants, allocations to the Board of Jewish Education and allocations to Jewish schools through the PDF, increased the Federations's 1978 allocation to Jewish education to 10.6%. This does not take into account additional sources for Jewish education, for example, some community center expenditures are allocated to educational programs.

The Federation's allocations for Jewish education have been growing since 1968. However, increases do not match those for community centers (23.8% to 28.8% increase from 1970 to 1978). Excluding Program Development Funds, allocations increased by 15.1% from 1977 to 1978. Allocations to Jewish community centers increased by 5.6% and to all other functional fields by less than 2%.⁵ (See Table 2)

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE OF FEDERATION DOLLAR ALLOCATIONS

Year	Jewish Education	JCC
1970	5.5	23.8
1975	*5.9	26.4
1978	*7.2	28.8

*Excludes PDF allocation.

Based on: Charles S. Liebman, "Leadership and Decision-Making in a Jewish Federation," AMERICAN JEWISH YEARBOOK: 1979.

*The New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, hereafter referred to as Federation, is treated as the local service arm of the United Jewish Appeal.

In percentage terms the New York Federation allocations for Jewish education are still considerably lower than those of other federations in the United States. In 1980, the fifteen largest federations excluding New York allocated 24.1% of their total local allocations to Jewish education compared to 16.8% in New York (this includes funds from the PDF and Endowment Funds).⁶

JEWISH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CENTERS --THEIR PRIORITY IN THE COMMUNITIES

Closer examination of Table 3 reveals that federations serving larger Jewish populations allocate more or less equal amounts for Jewish education and community centers. As a community's Jewish population decreases, the percentage of local allocations to community centers surpasses the percentage for Jewish education. In five cities where the Jewish population is under 5,000 and \$750,000 is raised, the percentage of 1980 local allocations to community centers is only a marginal 3.4% increase over the amount designated for Jewish education. However, the 1981 expenditure representing 33.9% of the federations' allocation for community centers as compared to 28.3% allocated for Jewish education, reflecting a 5.6% difference, may reflect a slight trend to allocate a higher percentage of those federations' expenditures to community centers rather than to Jewish education.

As seen in Table 3, in the thirteen cities with Jewish populations of over 50,000 and raising over \$6 million, total allocations to local agencies in 1981 amounted to \$74,611,000, including \$19,132,000 for Jewish education and \$15,526,000 for community centers. This was the only group of cities out of the eighty-four cities surveyed in which federation funds for Jewish education surpassed the amount allocated for community centers. Of course, as the largest Jewish communities in North America, they are also the most significant. By contrast the six cities with Jewish populations over 5,000 in which under \$1 million was raised in 1981 federation allocations to local agencies totalled \$974,000 with \$431,000 allocated for community centers and \$176,000 for Jewish education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While the federations' share of Jewish education expenditures has become increasingly important and their support for Jewish community centers remains significant, both of the latter receive a substantial share of their financing from other sources. The community centers generate income from membership dues and United Way allocations; Jewish schools are supported by synagogues, tuition fees, and special donations. A full picture of community effort, therefore, requires an examination of all funding sources. Such an examination will also help federations in planning their own role in connection with both. In order to get a more complete picture of federation expenditures on Jewish education and community centers, the role of the federation must be evaluated in terms of its share as compared to funding from other sources.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF 1981 AND 1980 FEDERATION FUNDS FOR JEWISH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CENTERS (in thousand \$)

	Jewish Population Over 50,000 Raising over \$6 Million--13 Cities		Jewish Population Over 15,000 Raising Over \$2.6 Million--14 Cities		Jewish Population Over 5,000 Raising over \$1.75 Million--11 Cities							
	1981 \$	1980 %	1981 \$	1980 %	1981 \$	1980 %						
Community Centers	15,526	20.8	14,252	20.2	3,847	24.3	3,566	22.3	1,633	24.6	1,532	24.0
Jewish Education	19,132	25.6	17,283	24.5	3,995	25.2	3,819	23.9	1,744	26.3	1,690	26.5
TOTAL (LOCAL AGENCIES)	74,611	-	70,618	-	15,829	-	15,933	-	6,633	-	6,385	-
	Jewish Population Over 5,000 Raising \$1-\$1.75 Million--11 Cities		Jewish Population Over 5,000 Raising Under \$1 Million--6 Cities		Jewish Population Over 5,000 Raising Over \$750,000--5 Cities							
Community Centers	1,097	27.1	1,035	27.2	431	44.3	417	46.5	429	33.9	384	31.6
Jewish Education	852	21.1	791	20.7	176	18.1	154	17.2	362	28.6	342	28.2
TOTAL LOCAL AGENCIES	4,042	-	3,812	-	974	-	897	-	1,267	-	1,214	-
	Jewish Population Under 5,000 Raising Under \$750,000--14 Cities		Jewish Population Under 5,000 Volunteer Directed--10 Cities		ALL GROUPS TOTAL--84 Cities							
Community Centers	420	38.9	369	37.6	105	45.9	95	37.1	23,488	22.5	23,075	23.0
Jewish Education	310	28.7	372	27.7	23	10.3	42	16.4	26,597	25.4	24,395	24.4
TOTAL LOCAL AGENCIES	1,206	-	1,109	-	229	-	255	-				

NOTES

1. "Federation Allocations to Jewish Education 1974-1978," Council of Jewish Federations, Reports, December 1979. p.1.
2. "Federation Allocations to Jewish Education 1976-1980," Council of Jewish Federations, Reports, September 1981. p.1.
3. *Ibid.*
4. "Federation Allocations: Overseas, National and Local 1980 and 1981," Council of Jewish Federations, Reports, May 1982 (Preliminary), p.12.
5. Charles S. Liebman, "Leadership and Decision-Making in a Jewish Federation: The New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies," *American Jewish Yearbook 1979*, Vol. 79 (New York: The American Jewish Committee and Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1978), p. 38.
6. *Op. cit.* CJF Reports, September 1981.

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