



2023 Maryland Legislative Priorities

FEDERAL LEGISLATION/FUNDING TO:

- Strengthen the US-Israel relationship by enhancing security assistance to Israel, countering Iran's nuclear ambitions, combatting terrorism, opposing anti-Israel discrimination, and supporting a two-state solution.
 - **Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA)** which funds people-to-people programs between Israelis and Palestinians.
 - **COI (Commission of Inquiry) Elimination Act** which aims to dismantle and withhold funds budgeted for the biased, anti-Israel UN COI.
- Combat antisemitism by supporting increased funding for the nonprofit security grant program for institutions and houses of worship at risk for terrorist attacks, and by strengthening laws to combat hate crimes.
 - **Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)** to increase funding to safeguard nonprofit and faith-based institutions against terrorist attacks.
 - **Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act** to establish grants within the Department of Justice for states to improve law enforcement of hate crimes.
- Provide additional resources to enhance the safety net for our nation's most vulnerable citizens which includes Holocaust survivors, individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those in dire need of support including Afghan refugees.
 - **Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program (HSAP)** to support aging Holocaust survivors and their caregivers.
 - **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)** which reimburses organizations, including Jewish agencies, for providing housing to those in need, including migrants.
 - **Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Age Adjustment Act** which would provide a pathway to greater independence for disabled individuals by allowing them to establish tax-free savings accounts for disability-related and health care expenses.
 - **Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA)** to provide a pathway to permanent legal status/residency. Afghans who have arrived as humanitarian parolees will need to apply for asylum, a very lengthy process.

MARYLAND STATE ISSUES:

OPERATING FUNDING - (maintain current levels)

- The Protecting Against Hate Crimes (PAHC) program for religious institutions and all nonprofits that can be targeted for a hate crime.
- The Hate Crimes Grant (HCG) for schools and childcare centers at-risk of hate crimes.
- The Jewish Social Services Agency's (JSSA) Holocaust survivors and Coming of Age programs for vulnerable, older adults.
- The Charles E. Smith Life Communities' ElderSafe Center to support victims of abuse and neglect.
- The Maryland Israel Development Center to promote trade between Israel and Maryland.

CAPITAL FUNDING - (new requests)

- The Charles E. Smith Life Communities' (CESLC) Revitz House infrastructure to upgrade its deteriorated piping system.
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's (JFGW) Community Impact Center of MoCo to replace its failing roof and enhance the security of its headquarters by repairing its windows and facades.

LEGISLATION TO -

- **Ensure reproductive freedom** for women to have access to the full spectrum of healthcare services including contraception and abortion.
- **Support survivors of intimate partner violence and abuse.**
- **Address climate change** and protect our environment including incentivizing energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources.
- **Expand voter access** and strengthen efforts to include those who might be disenfranchised.
- **Disability advocacy** to ensure that individuals have necessary resources to live with dignity and fully participate in society and Jewish life.
- **Address behavioral healthcare needs** given increased demand for these services for individuals and families in crisis and students facing learning loss after the pandemic.
- **Support immigration reform** that is nondiscriminatory and enables a path to legal status and citizenship and provides access to social services and housing.
- **Support cooperative efforts** between government and independent schools to help reduce burdensome for economically disadvantaged families and identify solutions for healthcare and student transportation

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ISSUES:

- **Increase funding for security grant program** for faith-based nonprofits facing hate and bias crimes.
- **Fight poverty with programs** that help the most vulnerable by providing access to affordable housing, hunger relief and quality education.
- **Secure funding for social service agencies** (JSSA, Makom, JCA, CESLC, Bender JCC, JCADA, Sunflower Bakery) which provide vital non-sectarian support throughout the county. These Jewish agencies help aging adults, individuals with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Holocaust survivors, and individuals with mental health challenges, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or ability to pay.
- **Criminal justice reform** for adults and juveniles that provides equitable and just treatment for all under the law.
- **Expand quality childcare** that is affordable and accessible for all.
- **Support educational programs** and funding to strengthen both our vibrant public school and independent school systems and to provide a thriving environment for all students.