



United Jewish Communities represents 155 Jewish federations and 400 smaller Jewish communities across North America. UJC-Washington brings the Jewish voice to Capitol Hill and the White House by advocating for life-saving and life-enhancing humanitarian assistance through more than 1,300 social service and healthcare institutions, community centers, schools, and summer camps in nearly 800 locations in North America, in Israel, and in 60 other countries around the world.

2007 Legislative Priorities

Safeguarding At-Risk Non-Profit Organizations from Terrorism—UJC assists communities in securing funding through the Non-profit Security Grant Program and other homeland security grants to increase preparedness and mitigate risks to Jewish communal institutions. UJC also advocates for continued Federal safeguards ensuring the availability of terrorism risk insurance.

Bolstering Baby Boomer Retirement Policy— UJC plays a leading role in shaping policies related to the retirement of the Baby Boomers, who will begin to turn 65 in 2011. UJC develops and promotes policy recommendations to best serve the evolving needs of this generation in the areas of transportation, housing and land use, social services and health care, staffing and volunteerism, home and community-based care, and income security.

Protecting Medicaid's Mission and Funding— UJC works to protect Medicaid funding and to prevent efforts to transform the program into a block grant or a capped entitlement. UJC works to improve Medicaid's overall efficacy and to engage public and private stakeholders in strengthening the program's long-term viability as a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

Maximizing Incentives for Charitable Giving—UJC supports new tax incentives for charitable giving, and opposes legislation that would create new tax requirements and impediments on major aspects of non-profit governance, operations, and fundraising.

Creating and Sustaining New Alternatives for Long-Term Care—UJC bolsters innovation in community-based services for older Americans, by building on its success in advocating for the inclusion of a new Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) program within the Older Americans Act Reauthorization of 2006. UJC promotes the continued development and funding of this innovative aging in place model, pioneered by the federation system. Additionally, UJC works with federation NORC demonstration grantees to maximize access to other federal, state, and local opportunities for development and sustainability.

Strengthening Support for Family Caregivers— UJC supports the development of Family Caregiver Access Network (FCAN) Demonstration Projects in communities across the country. These projects are based on a UJC-developed model that takes a three-pronged approach to service delivery for family caregivers, focusing on outreach, assessment, and service coordination. UJC also continues to work to increase funding for family caregiver programs and to provide tax relief for family caregivers.

UJC-Washington

Additional Legislative Priorities

Advocating for Mental Health and Disability Services— UJC works to ensure that the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is fully funded and implemented. UJC also promotes efforts to require insurance plans to provide mental health parity and support programs that specifically address the mental health needs of the economically vulnerable, older adults and children.

Alleviating Poverty— UJC advocates for policies that provide assistance to economically vulnerable Jews and supports proactive solutions to alleviate poverty, such as investment in housing, healthcare, transportation, job-training, and nutrition programs.

Assisting Immigrants and Refugees— UJC coordinates with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and other organizations to lift the seven-year limit on refugee access to public benefits. UJC also promotes federal programs that provide skills to assimilate new Americans.

Coordinating Rapid and Effective Disaster Relief— UJC works cohesively with federal, state, and local government and community service organizations to ensure disaster relief funds are delivered effectively to people in need.

Defending Affordable Housing— UJC works to block cuts in HUD's Section 202 and Section 811 programs, which provide support for over 100 independent living facilities for low-income elderly and disabled individuals within the Jewish community.

Developing Employment and Training Opportunities— UJC works with Congress to address the challenge of recruiting and retaining quality nursing and home health care staff through new training programs and funding streams, and exploration of the possibilities of modifying visa programs. UJC also works to increase federal funding for programs that employ older adults or coordinate senior volunteers.

Improving Senior Transportation— UJC advances and promotes policies that address the transportation needs of older Americans, by playing a leading role in the new National Technical Assistance Center for Senior Transportation.

Raising Awareness of Children's Issues— UJC engages the Jewish community on a wide range of issues related to children and youth such as autism and other developmental disabilities, early childhood education, and SCHIP, the Medicaid program for children without health insurance.

Supporting the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)— UJC works to protect EFSP, which provides funding for food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters within our system, and opposes moving the program out of FEMA.

Sustaining Community Services— UJC supports increased funding for the Social Services Block Grant program, an essential source of flexible funding for states through which many Jewish agencies provide services. UJC also opposes cuts to the Community Services Block Grant and the Community Development Block Grant programs, which fund services such as housing assistance, as well as domestic violence and substance abuse prevention.

KEY LEGISLATIVE STAFF:

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