

The Cross-Community Evaluation of the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Funder Collaborative

The **Cross-Community Evaluation (CCE)** was created to better understand key questions surrounding Jewish teen education and engagement initiatives in communities across the nation. Beginning in 2013, the Jim Joseph Foundation and the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Funder Collaborative have co-funded comprehensive, innovative, and sustainable Jewish teen programs in 10 communities across the United States. As part of their grants, each community has independently engaged a local evaluator to examine their own initiative. At the same time, the CCE, working alongside these local evaluators, is in the process of exploring how, and to what extent, local initiatives across communities are successfully engaging teens in Jewish learning and growth.

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The CCE is managed by Rosov Consulting, a professional services firm based in Berkeley, California.

SHARED MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Early in its work, the Funder Collaborative developed a set of Shared Measures of Success, a common practice used to help steward the formation of effective collaborations:

- 1 NUMBERS OF ENGAGED TEENS**
Dramatically increase the number of teens in targeted geographic areas engaged in Jewish learning during their high school years.
- 2 DIVERSITY OF ENGAGED TEENS**
Involve Jewish teens who come from diverse Jewish backgrounds.
- 3 TEEN LEARNING AND GROWTH AS JEWS**
Provide Jewish teens with experiences that will contribute to their Jewish learning and growth during their high school years.
- 4 FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE MODELS**
Build models for Jewish teen education and engagement that are sustainable.
- 5 TEEN EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT A PRIORITY FOR LEADERS & PARENTS**
Establish Jewish teen education and engagement as a priority for local Jewish community leaders and parents.

A sixth measure, focusing on strengthening teen education as a valued and durable profession, as well as increasing the knowledge and competency of teen educators in key areas, is also being developed and is under consideration by the Funder Collaborative. The CCE team was also tasked with developing shared outcomes and common measurement systems for teens and youth professionals, as well as an additional tool to assess parents' perspectives, knowledge, and behaviors regarding teen involvement.

WHAT DATA DOES THE CCE ANALYZE?

The Cross-Community Evaluation has worked (and continues to work) closely with local evaluators to develop common instrumentation for data collection across communities. To date, three different surveys have been developed: for **teens** (utilizing the Teen Jewish Learning and Engagement Scales – TJLES); for **parents** (assessing their household backgrounds, attitudes, and needs and opinions about Jewish opportunities for their teens); and for **youth professionals** (assessing their profiles, career goals, educational competencies and needs, and sense of community support).

The CCE also incorporates into its findings a variety of additional data collected by local evaluators, including interviews and focus groups with each of the groups mentioned above, conversations with program providers and initiative staff, and budget allocations in each community. Taken together, these data allow the CCE to assemble the broadest possible portrait of Jewish teen engagement in the participating communities.

The CCE's initial report, "**Initial Outcomes Across Communities: First Fruits**," is available for download on the Funder Collaborative website.

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