

## Measure of Success #1

### NUMBER OF ENGAGED TEENS



**Dramatically increase the number of teens in targeted geographic areas engaged in Jewish learning during their high school years.**

In most Jewish communities, the number of teens who are involved in programming for Jewish teens ranges between 10% and 25% of the local Jewish teen population. Through targeted investment in select Jewish communities, we seek to fund strategies that, by the end 2020, will enable communities to influence the Jewish learning and growth of 40% of their Jewish teens during their high school years.

## Measure of Success #2

### DIVERSITY OF ENGAGED TEENS



**Involve Jewish teens who come from diverse Jewish backgrounds.**

Most of the teens who currently opt into Jewish involvement have previous Jewish experience from their families, schooling, summer camp, youth group and/or travel to Israel. This funder collaborative seeks to co-invest in strategies that will influence the Jewish learning and growth of teens from a range of backgrounds — those who have not had previous Jewish experiences as well as those who have, and those from diverse socio-economic, demographic, and geographic communities.

## Measure of Success #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.**

The field of Jewish social science is becoming increasingly sophisticated at measuring the development of young Jews' knowledge, behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs as indicators for future Jewish involvement. Specifically, this funder collaborative seeks to co-invest in strategies that will:

- ◆ Empower Jewish teens to develop a sense of what being Jewish means to them, why it is important to them, and its relevancy to their everyday lives.
- ◆ Increase Jewish teens' skills and involvement in personal and Jewish communal life such as Shabbat, Jewish holidays, life-cycle events, Israel and cultural activities, volunteer service, and ongoing learning and discussion on Jewish topics.
- ◆ Deepen Jewish teens' connections to their Jewish peers, Jewish adult role models, the Jewish community, and Israel.
- ◆ Increase Jewish teens' interest in continuing to learn, explore, and be involved with Jewish life during their college years and beyond.



**JEWISH TEEN**  
Education & Engagement  
FUNDER COLLABORATIVE

## Measure of Success #4

### FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE MODELS



**Build models for Jewish teen education that are sustainable.**

The Funder Collaborative recognizes that it will take both time and significant communal investment to get teen engagement right. At the same time, as we seek to co-invest in initiatives that are moving toward wide acceptance by and integration into the local Jewish community, we are aware that it is important to monitor and provide feedback on developments in the structural and operational aspects of the initiatives. Positive developments may include, but are not limited to, realistic fundraising plans; diversified revenue sources; clearly stated mission aligned with goals and objectives; strong and stable leadership; opportunities for staff and board growth; evidence of a demand for services; strategic partnerships; and an ability to respond to changing needs.

## Measure of Success #5

### TEEN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT A PRIORITY FOR LEADERS AND PARENTS



**Establish Jewish teen education and engagement as a priority for local Jewish community leaders and parents.**

Appreciating that new initiatives will only be as strong as the systems that support them, members of the Funder Collaborative seek to build broad-based coalitions within our communities that support, in word and deed, efforts to engage teens Jewishly. We will seek to engage key stakeholders including, but not limited to, Federation professionals and lay leaders; rabbis and congregational lay leadership; youth professionals; families of teens and pre-teens; and teens themselves. We will seek evidence of this support in some or all of the following: continued/increasing/guaranteed financial support from the local Federation; public statements from varied stakeholders about the importance of community-wide teen engagement; multi-institutional collaborations to engage teens; financial and/or volunteer involvement of families of teens; increasing numbers of teens on boards of local Jewish communal organizations; and strategic communications and outreach tools that foster the development of broad community support.

## Measure of Success #6

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### A NETWORK OF CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT YOUTH-SERVING PROFESSIONALS



**Youth professionals working with Jewish teens feel well-prepared and confident to do their work; have appropriate skills and knowledge to do their work; exhibit core competencies as required by their career stage and position and feel valued as professionals in their organization and by the Jewish community at large.**

Understanding the importance of role models in teens' lives and recognizing that new teen initiatives are built upon the quality of the education and experiences they provide, we support the professional development of youth professionals, and aspire to establish teen education as a valued and enduring profession. Youth professionals (defined as those who work directly with teens on a full-time, part-time, or volunteer basis in programs associated with community initiatives) should be able to influence the Jewish growth and learning of teens in some or all of the four areas captured by the TJLES: supporting the development of a healthy self in relation to others (Personal); elevating caring about social justice and community service (Universal); strengthening connections to Jewish peoplehood and Israel (Tribal); and strengthening the connection to Jewish heritage and rituals (Sacred).

Knowing that different communities have different goals for professional development, as well as different content areas relevant to their teen programs, we encourage youth professionals to increase the competencies most relevant to their communities, roles, and job duties. At the same time, we appreciate the importance of a common set of skills and competencies that are essential for youth professionals across communities. To that end, we intend to increase youth professionals' knowledge of adolescent development; and their ability to build strong relationships with teens, provide substantive programmatic content, and help teens explore how Judaism can help them lead more meaningful, productive lives. We intend to increase youth professionals' competency to serve as Jewish role models for teens, and to see themselves as an important part of teens' lives as emerging Jewish young adults. We intend to equip youth professionals to communicate and work with the parents of the teens they serve, as well as to reach out to parents of teens who have never, or rarely, participated. We aspire to empower youth professionals by establishing that role as one which includes appropriate compensation, benefits, and opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

## Emerging Unified Goal #7

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### MEETING THE NEEDS OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS



**Engaged, Supportive and Supported Parents and Caregivers.**

Creating opportunities for teens to connect with Jewish life is a communal and family affair, with parents continuing to influence their teens' behaviors, beliefs and activities throughout the high school years. Yet, parenting a tween and teen can be challenging and often isolating. The Funder Collaborative will encourage communities to provide experiences that connect parents and caregivers meaningfully to one another (community-building), create spaces to share struggles and seek advice (support), and participate in new and relevant learning to build their skill sets to better parent adolescents and guide them towards resiliency (education). When parenting is expressed through the lens of Jewish values and teachings, new layers and contemporary relevance of Jewish wisdom will unfold.

We will utilize tools to assess parents' and caregivers' needs for parenting education and skills; the wellness challenges their teens face; their hopes for their child's Jewish future and participation in communal life; and their satisfaction with current Jewish programming. We aspire to equip parents and caregivers to become effective advocates for their teen's individual thriving as well as influential ambassadors for effective Jewish teen education and engagement. Additionally, we seek evidence that better connected, supported, and Jewishly engaged parents and caregivers will inspire teens to explore their own Jewish identities and growth more readily and deeply.