

# Federation Emergency Response

## Guidelines for Funding in Israeli Municipalities and Local and Regional Councils

**October 2023**

Following the devastating Hamas terror attacks on October 7, Jewish Federations have sought to assist municipalities, as well as local and regional councils, directly impacted by the attacks, including those assisting evacuees and the wounded.

Jewish Federations have implemented a dynamic, holistic, and comprehensive needs assessment process and are directing funds from Federations' collective Israel Emergency Campaign to both national and local non-governmental organizations in some of the areas most directly impacted including: Ashkelon, Eshkol, Hof Ashkelon, Merchavim, Netivot, Ofakim, Shaar HaNegev, Sdot Negev, and Sderot. As of October 19, \$4,125,000 has been allocated to support these communities.

A thorough vetting process is in place which ensures that all grantees comply with both American and Israeli guidelines for tax exempt organizations and that their areas of operation fall within Federations' mandate. Funds are being directed to appropriate charitable entities, such as local municipal foundations or other organizations that operate in close collaboration with local authorities.

We are also assisting individual Federations interested in designating funds for support in specific municipalities and local or regional councils. We invite Federations considering such designations to consult first with the United Israel Appeal at [UIAMailbox@jewishfederations.org](mailto:UIAMailbox@jewishfederations.org) to ensure that grants can be implemented through JFNA.

Funding activities in or through municipalities and local or regional councils raises complicated issues. These include:

1. Under Israeli law, grants cannot be made to cover expenses determined to be the responsibility of the national, local, or regional authorities; non-governmental organizations cannot replace the government.
2. Grants cannot be directed to the government itself. They must fund programs implemented by The Jewish Agency for Israel, or a non-governmental organization or public benefit company that has met all United Israel Appeal requirements for the receipt of funding.
3. Other considerations may apply when the Government of Israel has not declared an "emergency," as it has done in the current conflict.

**Types of Funding that may be Permissible:**

- Municipal or regional emergency response equipment or protective gear for emergency response teams or civilian volunteers
- Scholarships for recognized academic or vocational institutions, Masa Israel Journey, or Jewish Agency programs – or grants through a clear process for the welfare of specific individuals or families at these institutions or programs
- Construction projects that meet UIA guidelines
- Evacuations
- Generators/fuel
- Equipment for first responders/first aid/volunteers, including "kitot konenut" (civic emergency response squads)
- Personal (non-tactical) equipment for army/government security services
- Mental health/respite
- Security cameras and civilian defense upgrades
- Food and basic supplies
- Temporary bomb shelters may possibly be funded under special conditions

**Funding Cannot be Provided for these Purposes:**

- Vehicles
- Professional equipment for army / government security services

