

PRESS RELEASE

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Jewish Heritage Foundation Announces Changes in 2007 Grantmaking Priorities

KANSAS CITY, MO: The outcome of a year-long strategic planning effort by the Directors of the Jewish Heritage Foundation will result in designating at least two thirds of grant funds for Jewish organizations in Greater Kansas City. It will also mean a significant infusion of support for organizations throughout the general community that serve older adults. The Foundation will continue to fund requests for operating support from general community organizations.

Given stable market conditions, the Foundation expects to award approximately \$2.5 million in 2007, allocated as follows:

- Two thirds to Jewish organizations
- One third to general community organizations, with 50 percent designated for core agency support grants and the other 50 percent set aside for program grants to organizations serving older adults.

According to the Foundation's Executive Director, Ellen Kort, the strategic planning effort that led to these choices was launched largely because of a realization that the foundation could no longer effectively review the increasing number of grant applications, and at the same time make meaningful and effective grants to the general community. This led board and staff to agree on the need to consider ways to focus resources without diluting the Foundation's core mission to promote health and general well-being in the Kansas City metropolitan area, with a priority to serve the Jewish community.

"The focus on older adults," said Board President Dan Scharf, M.D., "resulted from the board's analysis of current funding priorities of 16 funding agencies and foundations in the Kansas City area that currently award competitive grants. We found that funding for older adult services represents a small fraction of dollars awarded, and that, of the funders surveyed, only two specified older adults as a priority area."

"By comparison, the Jewish Heritage Foundation has funded Jewish organizations serving older adults rather extensively. We saw an opportunity to leverage this experience in the general community, learn from each other, and hopefully bring new partners, including government and the private sector, to the table to address this increasingly important issue."

The strategic plan calls for funding guidelines to organizations serving older adults to remain in effect for five years, with evaluation of impact at the end of the third year.

The Foundation's website at www.jhf-kc.org indicates it will review grants in 2007 in three separate cycles.

- **Jewish Organizations** – All applications for core agency support and program grants will be due Thursday, March 1, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.
- **General Community Organization Core Agency Support Grants** – All applications will be due by Monday, April 2, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.
- **Older Adults Program Grants** – Information will be posted on the Foundation’s website after April 1, 2007, including details on types of older adult services the Foundation will target for funding.

For more information about the Jewish Heritage Foundation and its grantmaking, please contact Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Senior Program Officer, or visit the Foundation’s website, www.jhf-kc.org.

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