

Our Purpose

Jewish Family Service partners with people of all backgrounds to build stable and dignified lives. Together, we create a stronger and healthier community where everyone can thrive.

About Jewish Family Services of San Diego

Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFSSD) is a people-centered, impact-driven organization working to create a stronger, healthier community. Founded in 1918, JFSSD is one of the region's most impactful nonprofit human services agencies, providing an array of compassionate care and supportive programs.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year alone, JFSSD provided support to more than 98,000 individuals, including over 22,600 children. Essential services are provided to those of all ages, faiths, sexual orientations, nationalities and ethnicities – from Holocaust Survivors to refugees seeking a safe haven to those in need of a hot meal.

Focused on breaking cycles of poverty and strengthening the San Diego community, JFSSD supportive services – including food assistance and transportation, care management and patient advocacy and more – work together to equip individuals and families with the building blocks needed to stabilize, move forward and thrive.

JFSSD's diverse network of staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners are committed to one shared goal: helping individuals and families in the San Diego community move forward.

JFSSD's critical services and supportive programs include:

Food Security

In fiscal year 2023, JFSSD distributed nearly 900,000 meals. Programs designed to aid those experiencing [hunger and malnutrition](#) include community food distributions throughout San Diego County; in-person congregate dining; a client-choice food pantry (Corner Market), offering fresh food free of charge based on family size and need; home-delivered meals for isolated older adults; and CalFresh (SNAP) enrollment assistance.

Economic Mobility & Opportunity

JFSSD has helped thousands of households make ends meet through [direct financial services](#). The nonprofit has launched all of the guaranteed income programs – providing direct cash assistance to low-income families – within San Diego County to date.

Examples include the San Diego for Every Child Guaranteed Income Project pilot, which provided 150 families within four zip codes in San Diego County with \$500 in monthly cash payments for 24 months; the Family Income for Empowerment Program, which provided eligible families with children under 18 unrestricted monthly cash support of \$500 for 24 months in partnership with the County of San Diego Child Welfare Services Department (CWS); and the Recovery Action Fund for Tomorrow (RAFT), which provided one-time cash distributions of \$4,000 to families with children under 18 years of age as well as seniors in partnership with the County of San Diego to spend as they see fit.

To help alleviate financial stresses, JFSSD also provides low-interest auto [loans](#), financial education for credit-challenged working families, and interest-free loans for business development, education/job training, car purchase/repair, and other goals focused on helping individuals and families become self-sufficient.

Housing Security

JFSSD has helped thousands of San Diego County households experiencing homelessness return to stable housing. In the 2022-23 fiscal year alone, JFSSD assisted 272 individuals return to stable housing. A range of JFSSD programs support those in need of shelter on multiple levels, among them the [Safe Parking Program](#) – which provides a pathway out of homelessness as well as safety, security, and support for unsheltered San Diegans living out of their vehicles at six locations throughout San Diego County, including one location each in the City of Encinitas and City of Vista.

In Riverside County, the Desert Rose and Desert Vista programs offer [permanent supportive housing](#) and outreach services to formerly unhoused individuals and families living with disabilities.

Aging Care Services

With a mission to help older San Diegans stay healthy, independent and connected to community, JFSSD provides a multitude of supportive [services for older adults](#). JFSSD is the largest provider of senior transportation in the county, with flexible individual and group transportation for riders aged 60 and up. Services also include two social and wellness centers with day programs that provide education and enrichment activities, exercise, entertainment and healthy nutritious meals. The [Balboa Avenue Older Adult Center](#) specifically supports individuals living with early stages of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and their caregivers, while the [Friendly Match](#) program matches older adults with caring volunteers who offer companionship and a steady connection to the community through weekly in-home visits. In an effort to keep older adults safe at home, the [JFS Fix-It Service](#) provides free minor home-safety repairs and modifications..

San Diego Response Network Migrant Shelter Services

Since October 2018, JFSSD has operated [San Diego Rapid Response Network Migrant Shelter Services](#) for people seeking asylum who are processed through the San Diego-Mexico border. Services include respite shelter, medical screenings, food, basic case management, legal support, and travel coordination to reunite asylum seekers with loved ones and sponsors across the country.

Refugee & Immigration Services

In addition to migrant shelter services, JFSSD provides a myriad of programs to help [support immigrants and refugees](#), including comprehensive services for newly arriving refugees referred by the US Refugee Program; Higher Education Legal Services (HELS), with legal support for immigrant faculty, staff and students at local colleges; the Affirmative Immigration Legal Services program, providing free legal services to lower-income individuals; and full-scope representation for non-citizens in removal proceedings.

Expanding Access to Services

Expanding access to fundamental services is a critical step when coping with [adult and family challenges](#), as well as mental health and other issues. Keenly focused on providing life-changing support and critical care, in the last fiscal year, JFSSD provided support and a voice to 4,364 individuals in behavioral health treatment facilities through patient advocacy; mentored more than 1,700 families on how to raise happy, confident children and provided enhanced care management for 224 individuals.

Concentrating on well-being, JFSSD provides access to critical services – from parenting classes to patient advocacy to Intimate Partner Violence support to mental health education for providers and the community (Breaking Down Barriers). Its Family Support Liaison program helps those in need navigate the child welfare system, connect to community resources, and increase the network of support, while the Adolescent Family Life Program addresses the complex social, health, educational, and economic challenges of adolescent pregnancy by providing comprehensive case management services to expectant and parenting youth.

Support for Jewish Community

The Center for Jewish Care assists community members who are experiencing trauma, grief or financial challenges. The team of compassionate professionals provides assistance and support that help each person find stability, move forward and thrive. The Center for Jewish Care offers:

- Compassionate support in English and Hebrew
- Spiritual support with [Rabbi Susan Freeman](#)
- Mental health navigation and coping strategies
- Financial assistance

Notably, the Center for Jewish Care, also runs Supporting Our Survivors, offering comprehensive services to help Holocaust Survivors maintain their health, independence and community connection.

Ways for the Community to Support

Funded by community donors and private and public funding, JFSSD is grateful for the generous financial support that strengthens our community – and helps San Diegans move forward.

JFSSD supporters are those with a passion for serving others and strengthening our community. For more information, contact the JFSSD development team at [858-637-3300](tel:858-637-3300) or visit www.jfssd.org/donate. The nonprofit also offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to support these efforts. Go to www.jfssd.org/volunteer to learn more. Join the team at www.jfssd.org/careers.

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