

Media Alert: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact: Rochelle Eisenberg
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation
of Baltimore
410-369-9306 | reisenberg@associated.org

The Associated Launches Microgrants Initiative in Baltimore

Will award Jewish Baltimore Innovation Grants (JBIG) of up to \$1,000 to foster Jewish community and strengthen Jewish identity

Baltimore, MD – November 16, 2015 – With the generosity of the Grandchildren of Harvey M. and Lyn P. Meyerhoff Philanthropic Fund and the Nathan & Lillian Weinberg Family Foundation, The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore (The Associated) launched JBIG, a new microgrants initiative that invites individuals to submit ideas that foster Jewish community and inspire Jewish conversations and connections. In January, The Associated will select local ideas and up to five ideas developed in Baltimore’s sister cities of Ashkelon, Israel and Odessa, Ukraine to receive microgrants of up to \$1,000.

JBIG is an opportunity for individuals and grassroots organizations to seed, grow and act on new ideas – from poetry slams to meet-ups, Shabbat dinners to service projects – that showcase the talent and creativity taking root in Jewish communities all over the world. There will be two rounds of funding - the submission deadlines are December 31, 2015 and May 31, 2016.

“JBIG is designed to empower individuals to take that initial or next step on a leadership journey,” said Debs Weinberg, Community Planning & Allocations Chair of The Associated. “These small grants embody a ‘first yes’ and a realization that the Jewish community values and is willing to invest in new ideas that contribute to ensuring a vibrant Jewish future.”

Microgrants and other small-dollar investment models have taken root in recent years as a way to empower people to explore new experiences, gain valuable skills and even launch small businesses. JBIG marks the first time The Associated has created a pool of microgrants that is open to the general public, inviting anyone 18 years of age and up to submit ideas. The online application process can be completed in 10 minutes.

“JBIG is the type of opportunity that embodies the Baltimore Jewish community,” said Marc B. Terrill, President of The Associated. “This campaign will enable us to invest in more young Jews, seed great new ideas, explore how our microgrants strategy can be replicated and expanded and ultimately show how small investments can lead to big change. We look forward to the amazing creativity and innovation of our community.”

The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
Krieger Building • 101 West Mount Royal Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-727-4828 • associated.org

The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore strengthens and nurtures Jewish life by engaging and supporting community partners in Greater Baltimore, Israel and around the world.



About The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore:

Established in 1920, The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore is Baltimore's central philanthropic and community-building organization whose mission is to strengthen and nurture Jewish life by engaging and supporting community partners in Greater Baltimore, Israel and around the world. The Grandchildren of Harvey M. and Lyn P. Meyerhoff Philanthropic Fund is a donor-advised fund of The Associated. The Nathan & Lillian Weinberg Family Foundation is a supporting foundation of The Associated. www.associated.org

###