

IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report • Vol. 1, No. 2 • June-August 1998

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IAJVS AWARDED \$338,887 IN NATIONAL DISABILITY GRANT

We applied and we were funded!

IAJVS was among fifteen organizations awarded grants to conduct a Disability Employment Program. The program, directed to national or multi-site employment and training projects serving people with disabilities, is funded under JTPA. In its announcement, the United States Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration called the solicitation process very competitive. The announcement went on to say that this year's grantees are focused on the missions of innovation, coordination, and quality employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

Five affiliates – Boston, Chicago, Gulf Coast, Philadelphia, and San Francisco – collaborated in designing a national model. The program will train a total of 105 clients in basic computer skills. Web design will be offered for the more advanced clients.

Special thanks to the following people who worked so hard with me on this first time ever interagency collaboration: Erin Flynn (Boston); Marty Kaplan (Chicago); Harvey Landress and Dolly Dillin (Gulf Coast); Elinor Hewitt, Steve Applebaum, and Jay Spector (Philadelphia); and Wendy Verba (San Francisco). Special appreciation also goes to Connie Beresin and Albert Greenbaum (Philadelphia) for their assistance in the final stages of the grant submission. Very, very special thanks to Rachel Friedlander for her composure during all the editing, copying, faxing, sending, and finally, delivering the proposal.

This proves, once again, the old adage that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”. We anticipate an exciting year as the programs take shape across North America.

The 1998 Annual Meeting Evaluations Are In

Thirty-five of you responded. This is what you said about the conference:

- The Sunday evening reception at Norm Zilber's house got the highest “very satisfied” rating by more than half the group.

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- Among the professional programs, Gary Tobin's keynote address on Monday morning received the second highest "very satisfied" rating from nineteen of thirty-five respondents. Another nine were "satisfied".
- The AmeriCorps session Monday afternoon elicited a lukewarm response: eighteen satisfied and six dissatisfied.
- Tuesday's programs featuring technology and welfare to work presentations drew equal favor, both receiving twenty five votes in the satisfaction category.
- Most of you gave high marks to Mark Guterman's Wednesday morning session on Career Development and Jewish Spirituality.

A quick summary of overall comments revealed two themes:

- The meeting was overprogrammed with not enough time for discussion, small groups, networking, or processing information.
- While we all feel a need for the Roundtable, the format needs improving. There has to be a better way to share agency news and programs with each other.

Thanks to all of you who returned your evaluation forms. We will refer to your responses when shaping the 1999 meeting. **Remember - if you do not respond to evaluations, we have no basis for continuous improvement!**

1999 Annual Meeting Hotel Confirmed in Washington, D.C.

Finally, we have signed a contract with the Crowne Plaza Hotel for Sunday, March 7 through Wednesday, March 10, 1999. The hotel is located in the heart of the city at 14th and K Streets, NW.

A Program Committee will be formed at the September EDC meeting. If you are interested in being on the committee or have ideas for program content, please call me.

EDC Fall Meeting Planned

On September 12 and 13, 1998, the Executive Directors Council will meet in Chicago to discuss and debate important issues facing the JVS network.

Our work that weekend will draw heavily from Dr. Gary Tobin's presentation in San Francisco "Changes in the Jewish Community: Challenges and Opportunities for JVS Agencies". We will explore his themes, topics, and suggestions for the agencies. We hope to come away with an action plan, both on the local and national level, in response to these coming changes.

Copies of Gary's speech highlights have been distributed both as advance preparation for those of you planning to attend the Chicago meeting, and as general information for those of you who are interested but unable to attend. Please contact the IAJVS office if you require an additional copy.

Second National Grant Submitted by IAJVS

On July 14, 1998, IAJVS submitted its second national grant to the U.S. Department of Labor under the Welfare to Work competitive grants, round two.

Six affiliates – Boston, MetroWest, Middlesex County, Minneapolis, North Shore, and Philadelphia – collaborated on a national strategy to provide an integrated work and learning model leading to full time employment for 545 hard to employ welfare recipients. The health care industry was targeted. Our request was for \$4.2 million. We will keep you updated as the grant evaluation process unfolds.

IAJVS Affiliate Agency News

- **JVS Cincinnati** moved into their new home in February 1998. Best of luck to Peter Bloch, new Executive Director and his staff.
- Under the first round of Welfare to Work competitive grants, **JVS San Francisco** received \$608,000 over three years as a subcontractor with the city of San Francisco. They will be providing retention services. Congratulations to Abby Snay, Executive Director, and staff.
- **JVS MetroWest** earned funding and high praise for its welfare to work services. As quoted in the New Jersey Jewish News, Steve Corman, Executive Director of the Essex County Workforce Investment Board, described the program, provided in cooperation with the county, as “a model across the state based on the quality of its training program, its ability to place participants in jobs and its ability to help participants retain jobs.” The first year of the JVS program was funded for \$356,100. (NJN, June 18, 1998, page 12.)
- **Miami JVS** reports that their **JVS Kosher Kitchen**, which provides 5,000 kosher meals per day to institutions and individual elders, has moved to a new building in Fort Lauderdale. Sister catering organization **Gourmet Kosher Parties** also moved to the new location. All are invited to their grand opening, tentatively set for September 27. In early June, Genie Cohen visited Sylvia Goldsmith and her staff and enjoyed the grand tour of their (pre-move) kitchen facilities. Genie Cohen’s reaction was “What an amazing operation!”

Share with IAJVS the Latest News from Your Agency

Network on paper with your colleagues!

Mail: 1845 Walnut Street, Suite 640
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Fax: 215-854-0212 (please type)

Email: iajvs@jevs.org

REMINDER: The 1998 Agency Profile Survey Needs YOU!

Please complete your copy of this survey and return to IAJVS at your earliest convenience.

In developing new sources of revenue (private and governmental grants) for IAJVS and its affiliates, this collective information becomes a powerful means of demonstrating our strength and expertise as a multi-agency, collaborative organization.

Surveys were distributed to each affiliate agency in early August. **If you need a replacement copy, please contact Rachel Friedlander at (215) 854-0233.**

