



Jewish SILICON VALLEY

The 2024 Santa Clara County Jewish
Community Study
**Building Communal Identity and
Developing Strategic Initiatives**

March 2024

Funded by
Chai House, Inc.

Commissioned by
Jewish Silicon Valley

Conducted by
Rosov Consulting

Acknowledgements

On behalf of Jewish Silicon Valley, we are excited to share with you the *2024 Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study: Building Communal Identity and Developing Strategic Initiatives*. We hope the robust range of data and findings in this study will help you better understand the diverse, interconnected, and vibrant Jewish Communities of Santa Clara County, and will guide you (and all of us) in strengthening Jewish life in our region.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and support of the board of Chai House, Inc., which motivated and fully funded this study. We are also grateful for our partnership with the dynamic team at Rosov Consulting including: Dr. Wendy Rosov, Founder and Principal; Dr. Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Senior Director and the study's lead; Dr. Evelyn Dean-Olmstead, Senior Project Associate; Megan Brown, Project Associate, and Brian Blumenband, Associate Director. We appreciate the team's enthusiasm in working with us to craft an integrated, multi-faceted study designed to encourage communal collaboration and collective action. We are grateful to Dr. Helen Kim for guiding us to think through issues of equity and inclusion as we designed and implemented study components; as well as to the study's advisory committee members: Trista Bernstein, Susan Frazer, Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson, Scott Kaufman and Danielle Patterson for their ongoing support. We are grateful to Rachelle Vogler, whose expert project management contributed immensely to the study's smooth execution.

We are also deeply grateful to all of those community members who contributed their time and thought to the study's components: the participants in stakeholder engagement sessions, focus groups, individual interviews, and shareback sessions; along with the survey and organizational inventory respondents.

This collective effort, which engaged hundreds of community members, shows what is possible when we join together in service of a worthy common cause. It is our hope that this effort becomes the groundwork for additional collective engagements in service of a more vibrant, resilient and impactful Jewish community in our region. May this report spark ongoing curiosity, innovation, and community connections in the months and years to come, and may we, collectively, go from strength to strength.

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Contents

Introduction	3
Section 1. The Study Process and Study Participants	6
Section 2. Strategic Issues: Topics	14
Safety and Security	
Human Service Needs	
Community Priorities: Funding and Programming	
Barriers to Connection and Participation	
Leadership Pipeline	
Jewish Organizations	
Israel	
Section 3. Strategic Issues: Groups	29
Children and Teenagers	
Young Adults	
Older Adults	
Newcomers to Santa Clara County	
Diverse Identity Groups	
Immigrants: Russian-Speakers and Israelis	
The Economically Vulnerable	
Conclusions	43
Appendix	44

Introduction

The Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study, funded by Chai House, Inc. and commissioned by Jewish Silicon Valley, is the first study designed to catalyze Jewish communal partnerships and collective action across the entire county. While the county's Jewish community has traditionally been divided between areas in and around San Jose and areas to the north around Palo Alto and Los Altos, this study has deliberately taken a broader view. It has sought to transcend the traditional divide and begin, instead, to build a Santa Clara County Jewish communal identity and set the foundation for initiating county-wide strategic initiatives. With this perspective front and center, the study has been driven by several more specific goals as well:¹

- To uncover and clarify the concerns, needs, preferences, ideas, and suggestions of people who identify as Jewish or are somehow connected to Judaism
- To assess where current physical assets, programs, and activities exist spatially within the region
- To understand the spiritual, racial, gender and sexuality, and economic diversity of the Jewish community and increase accessibility based upon various identities
- To provide reliable and relevant data for determining funding priorities for supporting and enhancing Jewish life in Santa Clara County
- To establish a continual learning network that is responsive to changes and growth within the community from this point onward.

Jewish Silicon Valley engaged Rosov Consulting, a Berkeley-based research and evaluation firm specializing in the Jewish communal sector, as its research partner for the study. The study process, which began in the second half of 2022, comprised several distinct components. It started with a series of engagement sessions designed to discover what key communal stakeholders—both professionals and volunteers from various communal organizations—wanted to learn from the study. Following that, three modes of data collection were employed, including an opt-in community-wide survey, focus groups/interviews, and an organizational inventory; maps of the community's physical assets were also developed. The collected data were synthesized, analyzed, and shared through a series of “shareback” sessions with key stakeholders, a process that surfaced a set of strategic issues that are the focus of this report.

¹ These goals are considered equally important to each other and are not listed in any particular order.

The community-wide survey and organizational inventories were conducted before the October 7, 2023, attacks against Israel and the subsequent Israel-Hamas war. While October 7th and its aftermath are watershed events in Israel and for the United States Jewish community, the study's key findings remain valid and valuable in the post-October 7 world for several reasons. First, the majority of the data collected in the study concern long-standing local issues and structural patterns in the community unrelated to Israel in general and to October 7 specifically, and those issues and patterns will not have changed. Second, while answers to survey questions on antisemitism and Israel might have been different had they been asked after October 7, the study shows that concerns about safety, security, and antisemitism were already evident in the community well before October 7. Third, most of the focus groups and one-on-one interviews were conducted after October 7. The attacks and subsequent events were acknowledged at the beginning of the focus groups and interviews, and they were occasionally mentioned during them, but they were not central to the discussions, again reflecting the fact that the study focused for the most part on local communal issues. Fourth, and perhaps most important, the Jewish community's trajectory is toward greater collaboration and stronger partnerships to address the communal challenges and opportunities the study identified. October 7th and its aftermath made that trajectory more salient than ever, and amplified the need to build on the communal momentum that the study has set in motion, as we reflect on the community's past, process its present, and turn to shape its future.

Roadmap to This Report

The remainder of this report is organized into three main sections and a conclusion. **Section 1** focuses on the study process and study participants in greater detail. It highlights the holistic approach to data collection that was employed and describes how each mode—engagement sessions, the community survey, focus groups/interviews, the organizational inventory, and the community sharebacks—was carried out. It also provides information on the study participants, including key sociodemographic and Jewish characteristics of the survey respondents.

Sections 2 and 3 then address a set of fourteen strategic issues—seven about topics and seven about groups—that data analysis, synthesis, and sharebacks identified as key findings from the study. Challenges associated with these strategic issues and potential opportunities for addressing the challenges are highlighted. The report's discussion of these strategic issues is primarily narrative, with selected survey, focus group/interview, and organizational data used to illustrate them. More granular data from the study in the form of a presentation deck, survey

crosstabulations, aggregate-level organizational data, and asset maps will be available through [Jewish Silicon Valley's website](#).

A brief conclusion serves as a bridge to the community's next phase of work, named Phase II. Some of the opportunities noted in Sections 2 and 3 may be immediately actionable for, or inform the planning of, communal organizations, and organizations should feel empowered to pursue them. Other opportunities, however, will require collaboration across organizations in order to lead to longer-term changes in the community. This will be the focus of Phase II work, which will entail the development of a theory of change, identification of strategic initiatives, and the selection of key indicators to track desired outcomes and measure strategic impact.

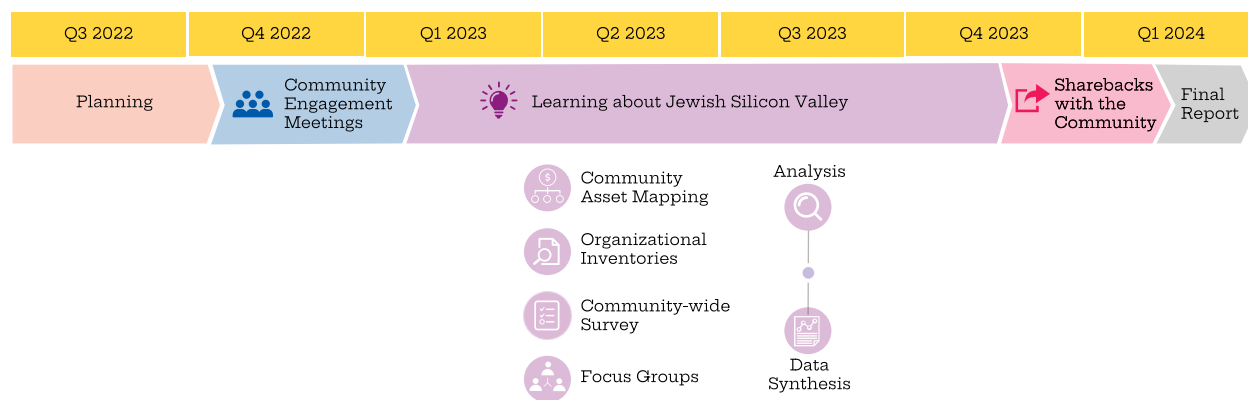
Section 1

The Study Process and

Study Participants

As noted in the introduction, the Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study process included several distinct but integrated components (see Exhibit 1). The study purposefully undertook a holistic approach to gathering information from numerous sources, including key stakeholders at two points in the process—engagement sessions and sharebacks; a survey of community members; follow-up focus groups and interviews with survey respondents; and an organizational inventory. A series of maps were also developed based on collected information.² Figure 1 provides a timeline of the study process and its components.

Exhibit 1. The Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study process



Engagement Sessions

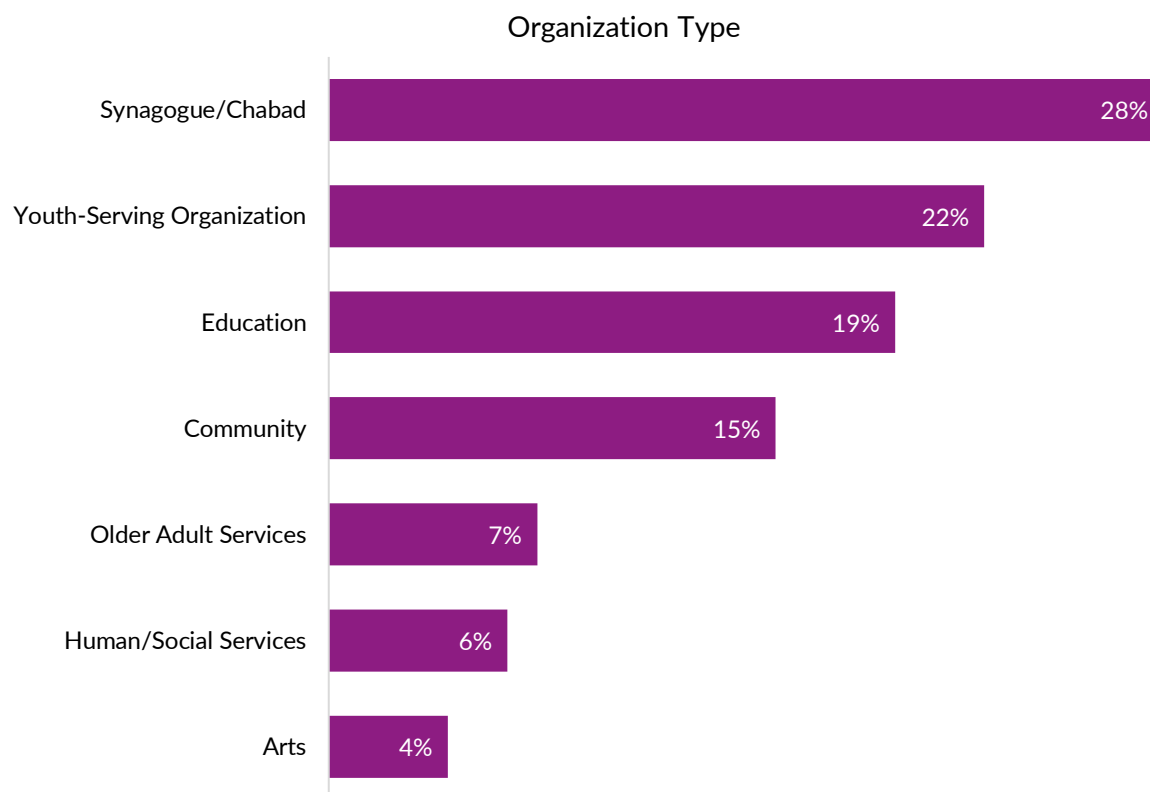
The study process began with a planning phase, which was followed by five engagement sessions with key communal stakeholders. Separate engagement sessions were held with communal leaders in Palo Alto/Los Altos and the San Jose/Los Gatos areas; philanthropic funders; young and emerging community leaders; and a joint session with the Chai House board and Jewish Silicon Valley board and professional staff. These sessions were designed to surface key stakeholders’ perceptions of important challenges and opportunities facing the Jewish community as well as their learning goals for the study, both of which helped inform the subsequent data collection efforts.

² Some of the maps also include information from Santa Clara County residents in the 2017 Bay Area Portrait of Jewish Life and Communities. See below in the Community Survey section.

Organizational Inventory

Distributed to 77 organizations across the county from April-June 2023, the organizational inventory received responses from 54 of them (a 70% response rate). Exhibit 2 reports the types of organizations that answered the inventory.

Exhibit 2. Organizational respondents to the Jewish organizational inventory (N=54)



The organizational inventory asked about a wide range of subjects, including:

- Constituents and participants
- Programs, services, activities, and events
- Marketing
- Planning and evaluation
- Calendar
- Professional staff
- Governance
- Physical facilities
- Financials
- Shared services
- Diversity

Selected information from the organizational inventories is presented in this report. Additional aggregated data from the organizational inventories is available on the [Jewish Silicon Valley community study website](#).

Community Survey

An opt-in survey was conducted among community members. Two methods were used to distribute the survey: eight Jewish community organizations sent the survey to people on their email lists, and the survey was also sent to lists of likely Jewish households in Santa Clara County purchased from a data list company. While community lists allow access to organizationally affiliated Jews, lists of likely Jewish households facilitate reaching those who may not appear on Jewish organizational lists. The survey was fielded from April 25 to June 5, 2023, and yielded a total of 1,209 respondents (see below for more details on respondent characteristics).

Respondents qualified for the survey based on two criteria: Jewish identity and geography. Almost all people who took the survey, 96%, currently consider themselves Jewish. A small percentage who do not consider themselves Jewish now qualified for the survey because they were raised Jewish or had a Jewish parent (3%), or live with someone else who considers themselves Jewish (1%). Similarly, nearly all respondents currently reside in Santa Clara County (91%), but small shares who do not live in Santa Clara County qualified for the survey because they currently work in the county (2%), lived in the county in the past five years and still live in the Bay Area (4%), or otherwise reside in the Bay Area (3%).³

Compared to surveys in which respondents are randomly selected, opt-in surveys tend to produce samples that are skewed toward those who are more interested and engaged in the survey's subject matter. To reduce the skew in findings that this might produce, the survey researchers compared key demographic and Jewish characteristics of respondents in this survey to respondents from Santa Clara County in the [2017 Bay Area Portrait of Jewish Life and Communities](#), which was a random study of Bay Area Jews.⁴ Based on those comparisons, survey weights were constructed that adjust the demographic and Jewish characteristics of this survey's respondents to match those from the 2017 survey, giving less weight to respondents who were overrepresented relative to the 2017 survey respondents and more weight to respondents who

³ Among those not living in the county now or in the past five years, and not working in the county, all were from community lists, and most were from the Oshman Family JCC and Jewish Silicon Valley.

⁴ The 2017 Bay Area Portrait of Jewish Life and Communities was sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund (San Francisco). Data from the Bay Area Portrait were accessed from the Berman Jewish DataBank. Neither the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund nor the Berman Jewish DataBank contributed to this report nor bear any responsibility for its content.

were underrepresented relative to the 2017 survey respondents. This weighting procedure, which is commonly used in survey research, yielded a sample that is more representative of the Santa Clara County Jewish community than it would be if left unweighted. **All survey analysis and reporting in the remainder of the report use weighted data** (for more information on opt-in surveys, see Sidebar: Opt-in Surveys and Statistical Significance).

Respondent Characteristics

Though not randomly selected, the weighted opt-in sample attests to the diversity of the respondents, including their demographic and social characteristics; their identities around gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, and abilities/disabilities; and their Jewish characteristics and engagement. Exhibit 3 displays some of these key characteristics, identities, and behaviors; additional information about respondents' characteristics is provided throughout the report.

Opt-in Surveys and Statistical Significance

While the terms *statistical significance* and *statistically significant* are well known, they are often misapplied. Tests of statistical significance refer specifically to determining the possible range of error that can arise when inferring from a randomly selected sample to a larger population that the random sample represents. A survey's "margin of error"—which many readers will be familiar with from political polls—is perhaps the most widely known test of statistical significance.

However, statistical significance is not meaningfully applicable to opt-in surveys. This is because tests of statistical significance are based on certain assumptions about the ways in which random samples are constructed, and opt-in samples do not meet those assumptions. As a result, this report does not utilize the language of *statistical significance*, including *statistically significant* differences between or across groups. Instead, it identifies and surfaces important, or substantial, patterns in the survey data guided by three factors: the researchers' expertise and knowledge; a general, though not determinative, rule of thumb that says differences of 10 percentage points or more between or across groups are worthy of attention; and the congruence of survey and qualitative data.

Exhibit 3. Respondent characteristics (N=1,209, except Jewish Denomination N=1,139)

Age		Years in Santa Clara County	
18-34	30%	Less than 5 years	12%
35-49	23%	5 to 10 years	15%
50-64	24%	11 to 15 years	12%
65+	24%	16 to 25 years	15%
Gender Identity		More than 25 years	45%
Woman	46%	Education	
Man	51%	High school diploma or	8%
Nonbinary/gender queer/gender fluid	<1%	Some college, no degree	19%
Prefer to self-describe	1%	College degree	32%
Marital Status		Graduate or professional	41%
Single and has not been married	21%	Diverse Identities	
Living with partner	10%	LGBT: Respondent	6%
Married	56%	LGBTQ: Someone in	9%
Separated/divorced/widowed	9%	Person of color:	5%
Widowed	4%	Person of color: Someone	15%
Among Married/Partnered		Has a disability:	9%
Spouse/partner is Jewish	52%	Has disability: Someone in	17%
Spouse/partner is not Jewish	46%	Jewish Denomination	
Prefer not to answer	2%	Orthodox	3%
Children in Household		Conservative	19%
None	67%	Reform	34%
1	16%	Reconstructionist	5%
2	13%	Other	3%
3+	5%	None	36%

Focus Groups and Interviews

A total of eight focus groups and six one-on-one interviews were conducted from September 26 to October 31, 2023. Fifty-eight people, including 48 adults and 10 teenagers, participated in this qualitative component of the study. Adult focus group participants were recruited through a question at the end of the community-wide survey that asked if they would be willing to participate in additional research. Teenage participants were recruited mostly through parents who took part in the focus groups. Interview participants were recruited by email invitation through various contacts and organizational lists.

Exhibit 4 shows the criteria that were used to organize the focus groups and interviews. A core set of questions was used across all of the groups, and a customized set of questions relevant to each specific group was developed as well. As qualitative methods of gathering data, focus groups and interviews were part of a holistic data-gathering process used in the study. They are designed to complement other data sources, in particular, by examining and surfacing issues and identities in greater depth and nuance than survey data allow, but the topics they cover and the findings they yield are not necessarily representative of the community as a whole.

Exhibit 4. Focus group and interview criteria

Focus Groups	
1. Interested in greater engagement	5. People with disabilities (self or household)
2. Economically vulnerable	6. Older adults 65+
3. Interfaith/mixed heritage families	7. Parents of teenagers
4. Families with young children (0-12)	8. Teenagers (12-18)

Interviews	
1. Self-identifies as Person of Color or lives with someone who does	2. Self-identifies as Person of Color or lives with someone who does

Maps

A series of interactive maps were created to display selected organizational data that were collected as part of the Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study, as well as other publicly available data about Santa Clara County respondents in the 2017 Bay Area Portrait of Jewish Communities and Life. The maps will be available on [Jewish Silicon Valley's website](#).

Shareback Sessions

After analyzing and synthesizing the data, the last step in the study process was returning to key stakeholders for a series of shareback sessions, held with communal leaders in Palo Alto/Los Altos and the San Jose/Los Gatos areas; young and emerging community leaders; Chai House board members; and staff and board members from Jewish Silicon Valley and the Oshman Family JCC. In a sense, these shareback sessions functioned as their own set of focus groups; they were designed to report on what had been learned and to obtain stakeholder feedback on what resonated with their experience, what surprised them, what challenges they saw in the data, and what opportunities exist for collective communal action. Through these iterative shareback sessions, key strategic issues were identified, discussed, and finalized for presentation in the remainder of this report.

Section 2

Strategic Issues: Topics

Topics

The fourteen strategic issues that emerged as the most important from the Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study are divided into two groups: those that focus on specific topics and those that focus on specific groups within the community.

The topics, which are examined in this section, include:

- Safety and Security
- Human Service Needs
- Community Funding and Programming Priorities
- Barriers to Connection and Participation
- Leadership Pipeline
- Jewish Organizations, and
- Israel.

The groups, which will be addressed in the next section, include:

- Children and Teenagers
- Young Adults
- Older Adults
- Newcomers to Santa Clara County
- Diverse Identity Groups
- Immigrants
- The Economically Vulnerable

As noted in the introduction, discussion of these strategic issues is primarily narrative, with selected survey, focus group/interview, and organizational data used to illustrate them. Importantly, challenges associated with these strategic issues and potential opportunities for addressing the challenges are also highlighted.

Safety and Security

Even before the October 7 attacks on Israel, safety and security loomed large for the Santa Clara County Jewish community, much of it driven by concerns over antisemitism. A very strong majority of Jewish organizations, 91%, reported that they already had security policies in place. When survey respondents were asked how important it is for the Jewish community to fund a series of 29 communal initiatives, combating antisemitism and ensuring the safety and security of local Jewish institutions landed number one and number two respectively.⁵ In another series of

⁵ See Exhibit 6 in the section on Community Priorities: Funding and Programming below.

survey questions, two-thirds of respondents said they think there is a lot or some antisemitism in Santa Clara County (as opposed to just a little or none at all), and nearly twice as many respondents perceive antisemitism as increasing (41%) rather than remaining stable or decreasing (19%) in the past five years. More than 40% of respondents said they had either witnessed or directly experienced antisemitism in the past 12 months, a figure especially heightened for respondents ages 18-34 (76%).

Opportunities

Before October 7, 40% of organizations said they were interested in further conversations about communal safety and security, even as most of them already had such policies in place. After October 7, it is likely that even more would want to participate in the conversation, just as it is likely that the same survey questions would reveal increased desire for funding and increased concerns about and experiences with antisemitism. In focus groups, some teenagers reported they are reconsidering which colleges to apply to as more and more reports of campus antisemitism have emerged, and parents said they are seeking information and guidance around antisemitism on college campuses, a need that communal organizations, for example, the Jewish Community Relations Council, could seek to address.

Human Service Needs

Providing for the human service needs of community members is a critical function of Jewish communal agencies. While two organizations surveyed have human service provision as their primary mission,⁶ a quarter of all organizations reported in the organizational inventory that they provide social services of some kind for adults and a quarter reported they provide special needs services for children. Survey respondents recognized the importance of this communal responsibility as well. In the survey question on the importance of funding communal initiatives, human service needs placed fourth, after only combating antisemitism, ensuring the safety and security of local Jewish institutions, and providing programs for Jewish families with young children.⁷

There are wide-ranging human service needs in the community. Asked whether they needed a series of 21 human services for themselves or someone they care for in the past year, regardless of whether they received help for them or not, survey respondents far and away identified mental health needs for themselves (40%) or their children (32%) (Exhibit 5). A second tier of

⁶ Jewish Family and Children's Services (Palo Alto) and Jewish Family Service Silicon Valley (Los Gatos).

⁷ See Exhibit 6 in the section on Community Priorities: Funding and Programming below.

needs—each identified by more than 10% of respondents—included financial planning; employment; coordinating or providing care for a relative or friend; physical, visual, or auditory disabilities; activities of daily living; affordable housing; services for older adults aging in their own homes; and transportation services for older adults. Altogether, 68% of survey respondents identified at least one of the 21 service needs the survey asked about.

While in many cases, survey respondents reported that they obtained help for the service needs they identified, in others substantial service gaps exist (Exhibit 5). Strong majorities of respondents who said they had mental health needs and needs around disabilities, activities of daily living, and providing care for others also reported that they received help. But fewer older adult service needs were met, while the biggest gaps in meeting service needs occurred for those identifying needs for respite care for caregivers, affordable housing, and employment.⁸

Opportunities

Survey results suggest there is room for improving the extent to which community members receive help for their human service needs. In addition, some respondents indicated that it would be important for them to receive help from Jewish organizations should they or someone they care for have service needs in the future (Exhibit 5). The most common needs where respondents indicated a desire for Jewish organizational help in the future were for older adult services, including independent living facilities, assisted living facilities, and services to prevent social isolation. Lastly, communication and information about human service provision in the Jewish community could be strengthened. Shareback session participants suggested a one-stop concierge service for human service needs would be helpful. Several focus group participants were unaware that there are communal agencies specifically devoted to meeting human service needs.

⁸ Survey respondents were not asked why they did not receive help for needs they identified.

Exhibit 5. Percentage of survey respondents reporting human service needs for themselves or someone they care for (N=1,052-1,077)

		In past 12 months			In future if needed: very/ somewhat important to receive from Jewish organization
		Needed help	Received help (among those who needed)	Received from Jewish organization (among those who received help)	
Mental Health, Care for Others, and Addiction	Mental or emotional health needs of adult	40%	93%	5%	27%
	Mental or emotional health needs of teenager or child (respondent has child in house)	32%	89%	8%	24%
	Coordinating or providing care for a relative or friend	15%	82%	17%	26%
	Respite care for primary caregiver	6%	42%	28%	22%
	Substance abuse or addiction	6%	74%	25%	16%
Finances, Jobs, and Housing	Financial planning	22%	71%	16%	17%
	Employment	15%	50%	20%	24%
	Short-term financial relief/support	13%	65%	27%	20%
	Affordable housing	11%	45%	35%	20%
Disabilities and Activities of Daily Living	Physical, visual, or auditory disabilities	13%	86%	6%	18%
	Activities of daily living	12%	86%	10%	33%
	Cognitive or developmental disabilities	9%	81%	11%	27%
	Learning disabilities	8%	79%	12%	17%
Older Adult Services	Aging in own homes	11%	65%	22%	37%
	Transportation services for older adults	11%	73%	22%	22%
	Independent living facilities	10%	62%	22%	46%
	Assisted living facilities	10%	55%	23%	46%
	Services to relieve social isolation	8%	56%	70%	47%
	Services to address dementia	8%	56%	32%	35%
	Services to prevent hunger/food insecurity	5%	63%	63%	34%

Community Priorities: Funding and Programming

As already noted, combating antisemitism, ensuring the safety and security of local Jewish institutions, and human services score high among survey respondents' funding priorities. A majority of respondents also support programs for several life-stage groups—Jewish families with

young children, older adults, and teenagers; programs for newcomers to the county and Jews with disabilities; Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education; and social, recreational and cultural programming (Jewish summer camp is just below the majority threshold at 49%). Exhibit 6 lists all of the items the survey asked about with respect to the importance of funding.

Not surprisingly, there is a general relationship between feeling connected to a Jewish community in Santa Clara County and thinking funding for communal initiatives and programs is very important. For example, among those who feel very connected to a Jewish community in the county, 70% think it is very important to fund Jewish summer camp, compared to 56% of those who feel somewhat or only slightly connected, and just 22% of those who do not feel connected at all. This pattern is not always the case, nor is it always quite this dramatic, but stronger connections to the community lead, overall, to more favorable views on funding.⁹

In many cases, funding priorities reflect the interests and perspectives of demographic and life-stage groups. One stark illustration is age. For example, young adults are more likely than others to favor funding for teenagers, college students, young professionals without children, and families with young children. Older respondents, in turn, are more likely than others to prioritize combating antisemitism, the safety and security of Jewish institutions, and fostering community relations with non-Jewish communities and organizations. In addition, among respondents with children in their households, 73% think it is very important to fund programs for Jewish families with young children compared to 51% of others. Similarly, 57% of those who have faced economic distress in the past three years think it is very important to fund financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations and programs, compared to 48% of others.

Funding priorities also reflect the interests and perspectives of identity groups. For example, 52% of interfaith respondents said it is very important to fund programs for interfaith families, compared to 35% of others. Similarly, 56% of respondents living in a household where they or someone else identifies as a Person of Color said it is very important to fund programs for Jews of Color, compared to 31% of others. This pattern is particularly strong among respondents living in a household where they or someone else identifies as LGBTQ+: 86% of them said it is very important to fund programs for LGBTQ+ Jews, compared to 34% of other respondents.

⁹ Across the 29 funding items the survey asked about, those who are very connected to a Jewish community are nearly twice as likely, on average, to say it is very important to fund an item than those who are not connected at all.

Women are more likely than men, overall, to favor funding. On 12 of the 29 items the survey asked about, the gap between women and men was 10 percentage points or more, with an average difference of 15 percentage points. In only three cases—all related to overseas items—did men outpace women in favoring funding, and in those cases, the gaps were comparatively smaller, eight percentage points or less, with an average of six.

Approaching the question of community priorities from another perspective, the survey asked a subset of respondents who said they were very or somewhat interested in being more connected to the Jewish community what programming topics, events, and programs for life-stage groups might interest them. Exhibit 7 shows Jewish food and cooking, social and entertainment events, and programming for parents with their children top the three lists, respectively (for more on teenagers and their parents, see Section 3 on Strategic Issues: Groups).

Exhibit 6. Percentage of survey respondents who said it is “very important” for the Santa Clara County Jewish community to fund ... (N=1,101)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	66%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	51%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	64%	Jewish summer camp	49%
Human service needs	57%	Jewish day school	38%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	51%	Adult Jewish education	32%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	47%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	46%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	53%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	46%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	39%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	44%	Programs for interfaith families	38%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	38%	Programs for Jews of Color	35%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	31%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	58%	Programs for Israeli Jews	31%
Programs for Jewish older adults	57%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	56%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	40%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	56%	Security and safety of Israel	39%
Programs for Jewish college students	46%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	34%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	38%	Human service needs in Israel	31%

Exhibit 7. Percentage indicating interest in programming item, among respondents very or somewhat interested in being more connected to a Jewish community (N=586)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	71%	Community relations/advocacy	37%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	60%	Jewish text study	25%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	59%	Diverse identity groups	20%
Israel	41%	Jewish politics	16%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	71%	Leadership development	38%
Opportunities for volunteering	47%	Social justice	27%
Professional networking or development	44%	Environmental and climate change issues	23%
Sports and recreational activities	40%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	20%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	73%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	50%
Older adults (among ages 65+)	68%	Single adults (among single adults)	42%
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	52%		

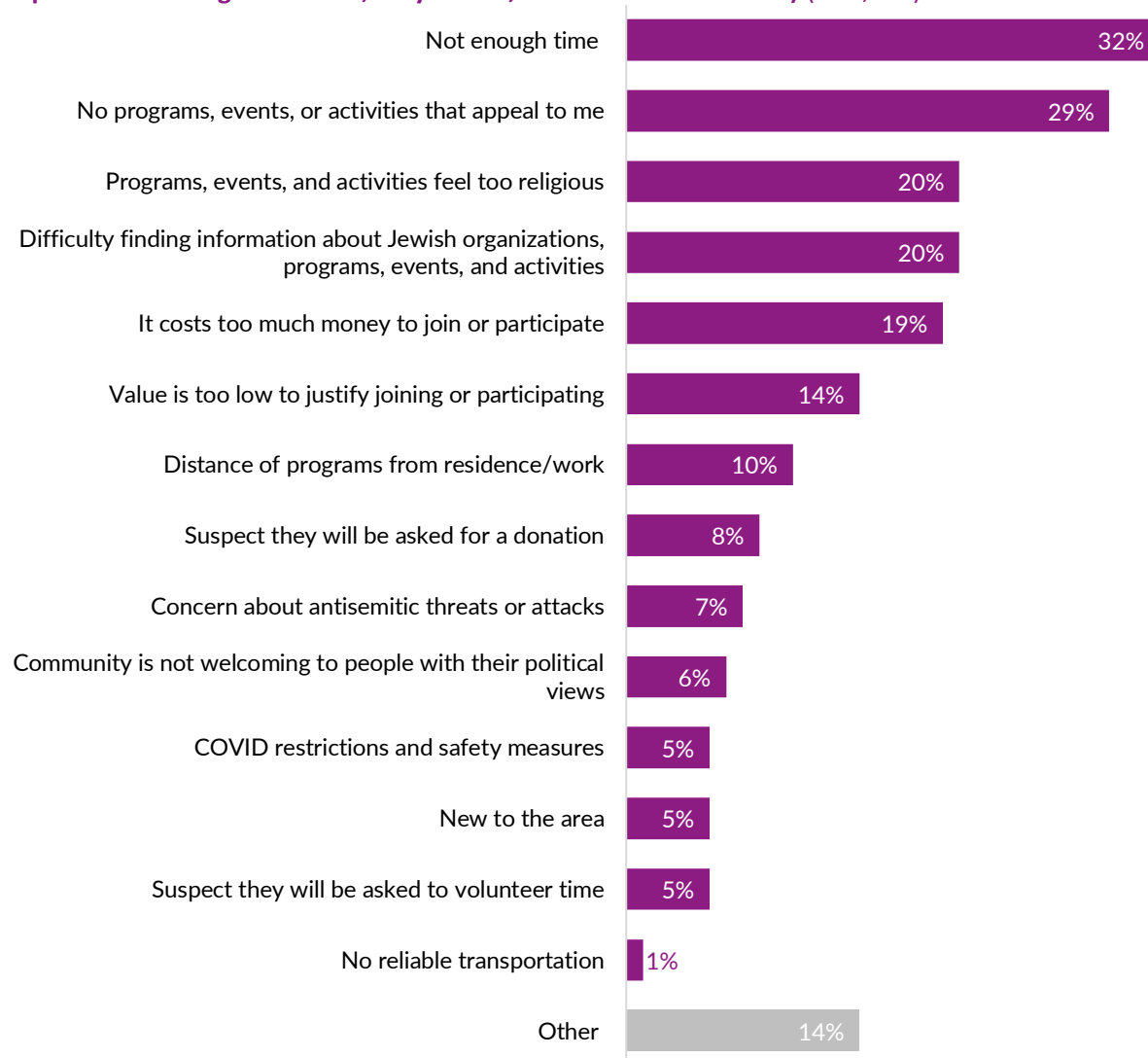
Opportunities

Variations in funding priorities offer an opportunity to better understand the priorities of diverse demographic and identity groups for communal funding to support them (for more on diverse identity groups, see Section 3 on Strategic Issues: Groups). Programming that matches survey respondents' interests, for example, around Jewish food and cooking, holidays and religious practices, and Jewish arts, culture, and literature, as well as social and entertainment events, could attract more community participation. Both funding priorities and programming interests point to opportunities for increased communal attention on families with children—both teenagers and younger children—and older adults.

Barriers to Connection and Participation

Many barriers to connection keep people from participating and joining the community in providing human, social, and financial resources to foster an experience of meaning and service. The two most commonly cited barriers to connection among the survey respondents are a lack of time and finding no appealing programs, events, or activities (Exhibit 8), which are commonly cited reasons in many local Jewish community surveys. A second tier of barriers includes difficulty finding information about Jewish organizations, programs, events, and activities; programs, events, and activities feeling too religious; the cost of joining and participating; and a perceived low value proposition of membership and participation.

Exhibit 8. Percent reporting barriers to feeling more connected to a Jewish community (among respondents feeling somewhat, only a little, or not at all connected) (N=1,024)



Focus group discussions reinforced that time, location, costs, and difficulty finding information are general barriers to connection, and they surfaced other important barriers as well, especially among focus group participants from diverse identity groups. More than others, focus group participants in interfaith relationships or mixed heritage backgrounds cited feelings of not being “Jewish enough” as keeping them from more fully participating in the community. LGBTQ+ participants pointed to discomfort in some more traditional Jewish settings, while participants who identify as Persons of Color noted that even one experience of feeling unwelcome can be a powerful deterrent to future participation. For people with disabilities, both visible and not, physical and social-emotional-behavioral barriers exist. And while cost in and of itself is a barrier for the economically vulnerable, so too are perceived class differences and feelings of being out of place in upscale buildings and facilities. Exhibit 9 provides examples of quotations from focus groups illustrating these barriers to connection.

Exhibit 9. Focus group quotations illustrating barriers to community connection

“The one place [in my town] where there are family activities is the Chabad, they don't know that I'm bi. That, and the fact that my mother converted while she was pregnant and I'm now in an interfaith marriage—I don't feel like I can really be myself.” – LGBTQ+ participant

“We had just come from a very negative experience with a Christian school that was very bigoted. And I'm not ensconced in the Jewish faith, but I was like, let's go to a Jewish school. Let's try that. And we were really not well received. And it's probably because my wife was Black. The first sign was that nobody was really taking care of us. We didn't go in entitled, but nobody was giving us a tour or really dealing with us. Then people started smirking ... it was interesting because I utterly wasn't expecting it.” – Participant with spouse who identifies as a Person of Color

“Palo Alto is an insanely wealthy area, and man, that JCC is expensive and looks expensive, and it is very much like you need quite a bit of money to be a part of it.” – Economically vulnerable participant

The organizational inventories are consistent with the sense that barriers to connection are suppressing communal participation. Specifically, a strong majority of organizations, 79%, said they could serve more people, while just 20% reported they are at capacity in terms of how many people they can serve, or even over capacity, turning people away or putting them on waiting lists.

Opportunities

A centralized online information portal, mentioned numerous times in shareback sessions, could be an efficient way to address the difficulty many community members have in finding information about communal services, programs, activities, and events. Also noted as possibilities in shareback sessions are a concierge service for individualized information and connections with local realtors to direct Jewish newcomers to an online portal and concierge service. Beyond these possibilities, there are ongoing opportunities to promote a culture of welcoming for diverse community members who may feel that personal experiences and communal spaces signal they do not fully belong.

Leadership Pipeline

Emerging from the initial engagement sessions, the issue of the leadership pipeline reflects communal concerns over leadership development specifically and, more generally, over communal norms around volunteering and donating to Jewish causes. Survey data seem to corroborate the concerns. Just one-third of survey respondents agreed there is a strong sense that community members should donate to Jewish organizations and causes, and just one-fifth agreed there is a strong sense they should volunteer for Jewish organizations and causes. Similarly, only one-fifth of respondents agreed that there is a clear and understandable way to get involved in community leadership.

Among young adults themselves (age 40 and younger), the survey numbers are similar, with just small minorities agreeing that there are strong communal norms about volunteering and donating and clear pathways to communal leadership. In a shareback session, emerging community leaders emphasized that many young single adults do not perceive the community as serving their interests or needs. Starting to address those needs and interests, they said, must come before asking them to take on volunteer and philanthropic leadership roles.

Opportunities

Countering these concerns is an interest among some young adults in leadership development programs. One-quarter of survey respondents ages 40 and younger said they are interested in connecting more to the Jewish community through leadership development programs. And about two-fifths of these young adult respondents said they view participation in the Jewish community as meaningful or more meaningful than participation in the general community. There is, it appears, an opening for a more intensive focus on leadership development among young Jewish adults in Santa Clara County. More generally, communal organizations need to

build and nurture a leadership pipeline by engaging young adults around their needs and interests before they can expect them to be willing to move into leadership positions.

Jewish Organizations

The Jewish organizational inventory was designed to take a snapshot of the state of Jewish organizations in the county. While important in its own right as a source of information about communal organizations, the inventory will serve as a foundation for one of the study's larger goals, creating a continual learning network that is responsive to changes and growth within the community from this point onward. If the study's survey and focus groups can be thought of as providing demand-side data on the interests and needs of community consumers, then the organizational inventory can be considered as providing supply-side data on the strengths of and challenges facing communal producers.

Santa Clara County Jewish organizations are diverse in terms of budgets, staff, and constituents. Operating budgets vary from less than \$10,000 to more than \$50M. The mean reported budget is \$3.7M and the median is \$850,000.¹⁰ Staff run from as little as a few people to more than 200, and altogether the total staff labor force reported by the 54 organizations in the inventory is more than 2,400. The number of participants, members, or constituents served ranges from fewer than 100 to more than 5,000.

Organizations rely on numerous sources for revenue and have multiple expenditure obligations. Looking at all organizations combined, the top revenue sources include membership and program fees, tuition, fundraising, and philanthropic grants; rent, endowment income, and government funding are much less common. Not surprisingly, the top expenditure is staff compensation (salaries and benefits). A second tier of expenditures includes direct program expenses; facilities maintenance; mortgage or rent payments; and financial assistance/scholarships for members and participants.

Among the top challenges facing Jewish organizations is staff recruitment and retention. More than three-quarters of the organizations said it is challenging to identify and recruit qualified staff, and more than half said it is challenging to retain qualified staff. Recruitment and retention

¹⁰ The median is the value that half the organizations are above and half below. The mean is so much larger than the median due to several organizations with very large budgets. Means are much more sensitive to very large and very small values than medians are.

challenges are reflected in half the organizations reporting they are understaffed. (The other half said they are adequately staffed, while none said they are overstaffed.)

Strategic planning is often considered fundamental to nonprofit organizational success. Close to half of the organizations reported that they have engaged in strategic planning within the past two years. However, a third said they could not remember or did not know the last time their organization engaged in strategic planning. Recent strategic planning is not related to organizational size.

Solid governance practices are also often considered basic to nonprofit organizational success. More than 80% of organizations report they have a board of trustees or directors, but far fewer have standing committees of the board or ad hoc committees and task forces. Similarly, more than 80% of organizations have presidents or chairs, with slightly fewer having other officer positions. Only one-sixth of organizations report they have a president/chair-elect. About one-third of the organizations have bylaws and regularly review them, while half have bylaws but do not regularly review them and one-sixth said they do not have bylaws.¹¹ Unlike strategic planning, governance practices are more common among the group of organizations above the median budget size than those below it.¹²

Lastly, a minority of organizations have implemented formal strategic priorities or policies that address DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) for various stakeholder groups. This includes 42% of organizations with DEI strategic priorities or policies for professional staff, 30% for volunteer leadership, and 33% for constituents and participants. Here, too, larger organizations are more likely to have formal DEI strategic priorities or policies in place than smaller ones.¹³

Opportunities

Data from the inventory indicate a substantial number of organizations are open to greater organizational collaboration. More than half expressed an interest in discussing shared services and spaces, and as noted above in the section on safety and security, 40% are interested in a communal conversation about security (a proportion that may be higher in the aftermath of October 7). There may be additional opportunities for partnerships around programming and

¹¹ Four organizations did not answer whether they have bylaws or not.

¹² For organizations above the median budget size, 90% have boards, 68% have standing committees of boards, and 79% have ad hoc committees. For organizations below the median budgets, the respective proportions are lower: 80% have boards, 30% have standing committees, and 60% have ad hoc committees.

¹³ For organizations above the median budget size, 47% have formal DEI strategic priorities or policies in place for professional staff, 29% for volunteer leadership, and 33% for constituents and participants. For organizations below the median budgets, the respective proportions are lower: 26% for staff and 20% for both volunteer leadership and constituents and participants.

service provision, and organizations that have experience with strategic planning, governance development, and DEI policies could share guidance and/or their experiences with organizations that would like to pursue these practices and policies as well.

Israel

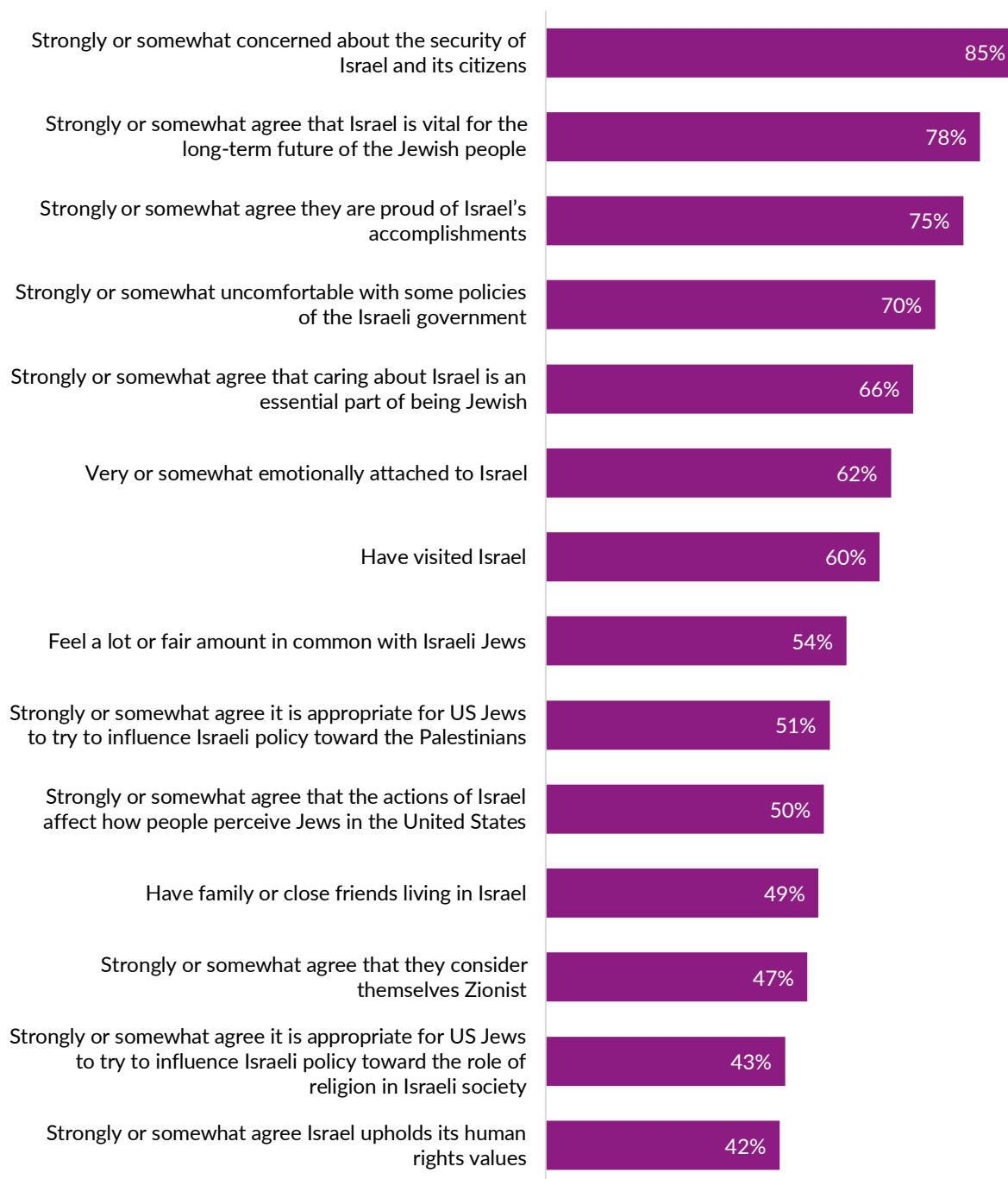
As noted, the community survey was completed before October 7, and responses to it may have been different if conducted afterward. As a result, the survey results should be understood as a benchmark reading of connections with, attitudes toward, and concerns about Israel in the community prior to the attacks on Israel and subsequent war in Gaza.

General support for and connections to Israel are strong across numerous survey items, including concern about Israel's security; recognition of Israel's vital role in the Jewish people's future; and pride in Israel's accomplishment (Exhibit 10). At the same time, support and connections are complicated by concerns about policies of the Israeli government and about Israel's upholding its human rights values, and the rejection of the term "Zionist" by many community members.

Talking about Israel can be complicated, too, and respondents are looking for organizations to help the community have the conversation. Just two-fifths of respondents feel safe all or most of the time expressing opinions about Israel to other Jews in the county, and three-quarters say it is very or somewhat important for Jewish organizations to create safe spaces for expressing views about Israel.

Santa Clara Jewish community members are aware of the ways that American and Israeli Jews are mutually interconnected with each other. A strong majority say the actions of Israel affect how people perceive Jews in the United States, while about half think it is appropriate for US Jews to try to influence Israeli policy toward the Palestinians and Israeli policy on the role of religion in Israeli society.

Exhibit 10. Connections to Israel among survey respondents (N=1,084)



Opportunities

For communal organizations, opportunities exist to create safe spaces and facilitate conversations among community members about their feelings toward, concerns about, connections to, and perspectives on Israel. This may be even more important now than before October 7. In addition, about a third of survey respondents said they would be interested in a trip to Israel with a Jewish organization in the future.

Section 3

Strategic Issues: Groups

As noted, the 14 strategic issues that emerged from the study process include the seven topics discussed above in Section 2 and seven groups that are addressed in this section. The groups include:

- Children and teenagers
- Young adults
- Older adults
- Newcomers to the county
- Diverse identity groups (Jews of Color, LGBTQ+, interfaith, people with disabilities)
- Immigrants (Russian-speaking Jews and Israelis)
- The economically vulnerable

For each of the groups in this section, separate tables displaying their funding priorities and programming interests are in the Appendix, starting on p. 49.

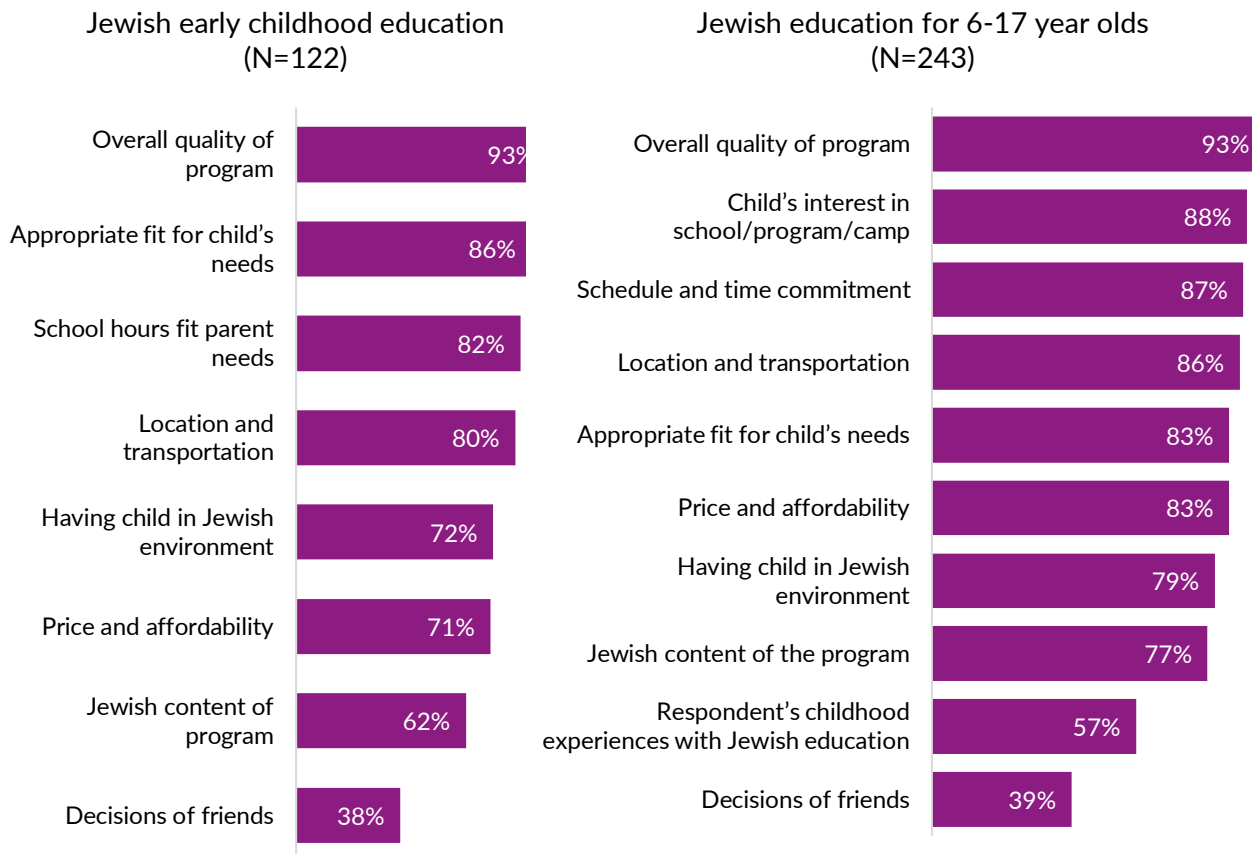
Children and Teenagers

The organizational landscape serving children and teenagers in Santa Clara County is robust. Twelve of the organizations in the inventory are youth-serving organizations (YSOs) specifically, and more than three-quarters of all organizations serve children or teens in some way.

Approximately half of all survey respondents enroll their children in formal Jewish educational experiences. Among those with children ages 0-9, 48% enrolled them in either childcare, preschool, or early childhood education programs. Among those with children 6-17, 50% have enrolled them in at least one of the following: Jewish day school, part-time religious school, private bar/bat mitzvah tutoring, Jewish day camp, Jewish overnight camp, Begeg Kefet, a Jewish youth group, or teen travel to Israel.

For those who enroll their children in Jewish education experience, the top factor in their decision-making is the overall quality of the program. The Jewish content and Jewish environment are important to a strong majority of parents, but they are less important than other factors (Exhibit 11).

Exhibit 11. Factors in choosing Jewish educational experiences (% very or somewhat important to parents)



For many people, cost is a constant consideration, both for early childhood education and later when it comes to full-time school.

“We live in an area with such wonderful public schools, and it’s such a constant battle for us to figure out whether to keep my daughter at day school or to put her into public school. It’s hard not to take [Universal Free Pre-K] into consideration.” –Parent of child/ren ages 0-12

“The financial aspect is always an influence. Sending one kid to Jewish day school, we can swing it. Sending four kids feels a little less doable.” –Parent of child/ren ages 0-12

The Jewish experience of teenagers is especially important as both a bridge and foundation to the independent decisions about Jewish engagement that they will inevitably make as emerging adults. In focus groups, both parents of teenagers and teenagers themselves emphasized the need to offer many shorter opportunities for Jewish engagement that can accommodate teenagers’ busy schedules rather than more time-intensive activities and commitments. They also emphasized the desire for programming that Jewish teens can bring their non-Jewish friends to.

“Open more activities to non-Jewish kids. Because some of their friends who are not Jewish are super interested about what Judaism is and what we do. And a lot of things are restricted for Jewish people or Israeli kids, and that makes kids feel excluded. So I think opening more events for general teenage kids in the Bay Area, that has to do with volunteering, with doing good things and inviting other teenagers to come along—that would be great.” —**Parent of Jewish teenager**

“I wish that more things like that were not limited to only people that are Jewish. I feel like it'd be cool if there was something where if you're Jewish or not, you could learn more about the culture and stuff. It's happened to me before where my friends want to do it, but I'm like, oh, it's only for Jewish people. It's kind of annoying.” —**Jewish teenager**

On the other hand, at least some teens see Jewish education and engagement opportunities as ways to meet other Jewish teenagers:

“I think it would be nice to just connect with more people that are similar to me. And like I said, I only know a few Jewish people at my school.” —**Jewish teenager**

Like adults, Jewish teens can also experience concern that their Jewish background, knowledge, and practices leave them “not Jewish enough” to participate in Jewish activities.

“Make people know that they're included. Because I don't feel very Jewish, I'm only partially Jewish, so I get worried that I won't be included in Jewish things because I'm not really the target audience.” —**Jewish teenager**

Opportunities

For parents, the overall quality of education programs is key to their enrollment and loyalty, providing a north star for communal organizations as they invest in children's education. Jewish context and content are important to parents as well, but play a lesser role than overall quality. The community can support teenagers in particular by meeting several of their needs through integrated programming that combines volunteer hours, work experience, and internships, in addition to Jewish programming that is inclusive, nonjudgemental, and open to their non-Jewish friends.

Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for parents are in the Appendix, pp. 45-46.

Young Adults

Young adults, ages 18-34, face a set of distinctive challenges. Compared to three older age groups (35-49, 50-64, and 65 and older), young adults are the least likely to feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in Santa Clara County. Top barriers to feeling more connected include difficulty finding information, time, lack of appealing programs, and costs. Participants in the shareback session with emerging young leaders noted their feelings that they are often invisible to communal organizations, especially when they are not married or partnered and/or do not have children.

The lack of felt connection may explain why young adults are the most likely to express an interest in being more connected to a Jewish community. Young adult survey respondents reported even greater interest in Jewish food, cooking, and holidays (90%) and religious practices than others (74%). More than half also said they are interested in social and entertainment events (64%), Jewish arts, culture and literature (62%), opportunities for volunteering (59%), sports and other recreational categories (57%), professional networking and development (54%), and community relations/advocacy on behalf of Jewish communities (52%). Critically, nearly three-quarters of young adults said they prefer in-person rather than online Jewish engagement, substantially more than their older counterparts.

Two other areas where young adults face challenges are around antisemitism and mental health. They are much more likely than others to report personal experiences with antisemitism. Relatedly, they are also much more likely to say that due to concerns for their safety, they have at times deliberately concealed their Jewish identities either online or in-person, did not wear or took off something distinctively Jewish, or decided not to attend a Jewish event. More than half of all young adults (55%) said they had needs for mental or emotional health services in the year before the survey, far more than older respondents.¹⁴

Opportunities

Young Jewish adults, especially those who are not married or partnered and/or do not have children, seek connection to a Jewish community on terms that are meaningful to them at their stage of life, yet there is relatively little programming targeted to this group. Communal organizations wishing to reach them have an opportunity to focus greater attention on their Jewish engagement preferences, as well as to address their heightened experiences with

¹⁴ Nearly all young adults who reported a need for mental health services, 96%, said they received the services they sought.

antisemitism and mental health needs. The engagement of young adults around their programming preferences, their feelings of safety and security, and their well-being will help nurture the community's next generation of leaders (see section on Leadership Pipeline above).

Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for young adults are in the Appendix, pp. 47-48.

Older Adults

Community members prioritize the well-being of older adults. Older adults are among the top groups that survey respondents support for communal funding (see Exhibit 6), and the top three services that respondents want Jewish organizations to provide should they need them are all related to older adult services: independent living facilities, assisted living facilities, and services to prevent social isolation for older adults. There are four communal organizations specifically dedicated to older adults,¹⁵ and two-thirds of organizations that answered the inventory reported that their constituents and participants include older adults.

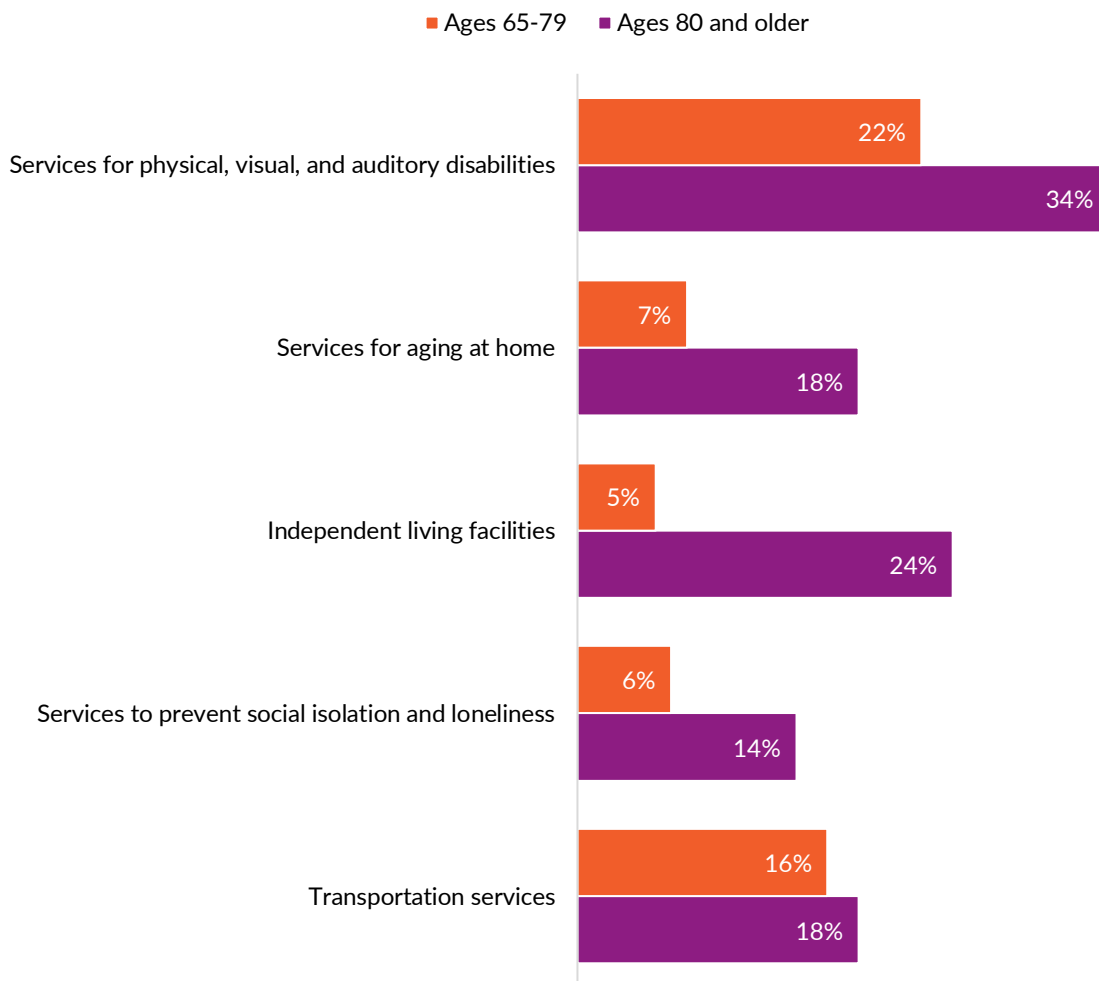
In turn, older adult survey respondents, defined as those ages 65 and older, feel more connected to a Jewish community in Santa Clara County and are more likely to donate to Jewish causes and to serve on boards, committees, and task forces than their younger counterparts. Nonetheless, some older adults do not feel very strongly connected to the community. Their top barriers to feeling more connected are a lack of appealing programs, events, and activities, cost, and suspicion they will be asked to donate money. Asked what types of programming would interest them, the most common answers included Jewish arts, culture, and literature, social and entertainment events, Jewish foods and cooking, and Jewish holidays and religious practices.

As noted earlier in this report, about ten percent of all respondents reported a series of older adult service needs, either for themselves or someone they care for, in the year before the survey (see Exhibit 5). These included services for aging at home, transportation services, independent and assisted living facilities, and services to prevent social isolation and dementia. In addition, 13% percent of all respondents reported service needs for physical, visual, or auditory disabilities, which increasingly characterize older adults as well. But older adults themselves are not homogeneous when it comes to human service needs. Most notably, human service needs become more common at ages 80 and older. Compared to older adults ages 65-79, those who are 80 and older are more likely to report needs for physical, visual, and auditory disabilities,

¹⁵ Moldaw Residences, Jewish Community at The Terraces, Jewish Community at the Villages, and Holocaust Survivor Services.

services for aging in their own homes, independent living facilities, and services to prevent social isolation and loneliness (Exhibit 12). Notably, there is less difference in the need for transportation services between those ages 65-79 and 80+ than in some other service needs.

Exhibit 12. Human service needs among older adult survey respondents in the past year (Ages 65-79 N=215, Ages 80 and older N=75)



Opportunities

The Jewish community often serves as an important source of support for older adults and for those who are responsible for their care. While the community’s infrastructure for older adult services is robust, there are opportunities for further accommodations through offsite and satellite programming for older adults, especially for those who may live at a distance from current facilities and onsite programming. Needs for many human services increase among those ages 80 and older, a population that may need additional resources from the community to age with dignity and as much independence as possible.

Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for older adults are in the Appendix, pp. 49-52.

Newcomers to Santa Clara County

Twelve percent of survey respondents are newcomers to Santa Clara County (resident in the county for four years or less). Newcomers tend to be young (57% are 18-34), married (77%), and have children (67%).

Like young adults, newcomers face a distinct set of challenges. Settling into a new area and establishing Jewish social and organizational connections often takes time. Not surprisingly, then, newcomers in the survey report feeling less strongly connected to a Jewish community than others, and a smaller share of them than others belong to synagogues and donate and volunteer for Jewish causes. They are also less likely to have simply heard about most Jewish organizations in Santa Clara County. Among the top barriers newcomers cited to greater communal connections are time, cost, lack of information, and being new to the area.

Newcomers to the county also disproportionately report they have been economically vulnerable in the past three years and are looking for work. Related to that, they indicate heightened needs around financial issues, for example, employment, affordable housing, financial planning, and short-term financial support. And while some may have come to the county for jobs, it appears that for others employment is a concern, all the while the county's high cost of living and shortage of affordable housing present particular problems as they try to make the county their home.

Opportunities

There is interest in supporting newcomers across the community. More than half of all survey respondents say funding for programs for newcomers is very important (see Exhibit 6). Among newcomers, top programming interests include Jewish foods and cooking, social and entertainment events, Jewish holiday and religious practices, Jewish arts, culture and literature, and sports and recreational activities—and in each of these cases, newcomers express more interest than others. A centralized online information portal and help with economic challenges could be particularly beneficial for newcomers as they settle into life and Jewish community in Santa Clara County. One shareback session suggested this is an opportunity to devise a contemporary version of a “welcome wagon” community of practice. Lastly, newcomers may represent a good source of potential employees for communal organizations that are understaffed and looking to recruit and retain qualified workers.

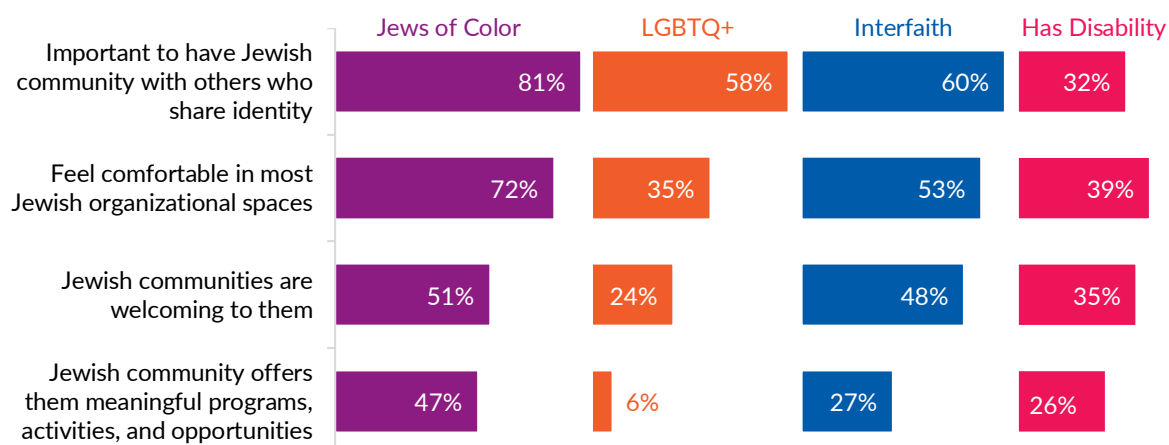
Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for newcomers are in the Appendix, pp. 53-54.

Diverse Identity Groups

Like American society generally, Jewish communities are increasingly diverse. In the Santa Clara County Jewish community survey, diverse groups of respondents—those who identify as Jews of Color, LGBTQ+, in interfaith marriages or partnerships, or as having a disability—vary in how much they seek Jewish community with others who share their identities, how comfortable they feel in Jewish organizational spaces, how welcoming they perceive Jewish communities are, and whether they feel the community provides meaningful opportunities to them (Exhibit 13).

- About four-fifths of respondents who identify as Jews of Color said it is important to them to have a Jewish community with other Jews of Color. In contrast, about three-fifths of LGBTQ+ respondents and interfaith respondents said it is important to them to have a Jewish community with others who share their identities, a position held by just one-third of those who identify as having a disability.
- A solid majority of Jews of Color reported they feel comfortable in most Jewish organizational spaces in the county, compared to just over half of interfaith respondents and even fewer respondents who identify as LGBTQ+ or as having a disability.
- Among Jews of Color and interfaith respondents, about half said that Jewish communities in Santa Clara County are welcoming to them. But that fell to a third among those who identify as having a disability, and to just one-quarter of LGBTQ+ respondents.
- Jews of Color are the most likely of the groups to say Jewish communities offer them meaningful programs, activities, and opportunities, but even so, less than half do so. That number falls to a quarter of interfaith respondents and just 6% of LGBTQ+ respondents.

Exhibit 13. Attitudes and perceptions of diverse identity respondents in the Santa Clara County Jewish community (Jews of Color N=65; LGBTQ+ N=72; Interfaith N=361; Has disability N=115)



Opportunities

These survey results, together with findings from focus groups of diverse respondents presented earlier (see Exhibit 9), suggest that building a culture of welcoming to diverse identity groups is both a major challenge and an opportunity for the Santa Clara County Jewish community. Among LGBTQ+ respondents and respondents who identify as having disabilities, the relatively small share who feel comfortable and welcomed is a particular cause of concern. Shareback session participants noted that compared to San Francisco, there are fewer resources and opportunities for creating community for those who identify as LGBTQ+ in Santa Clara County.

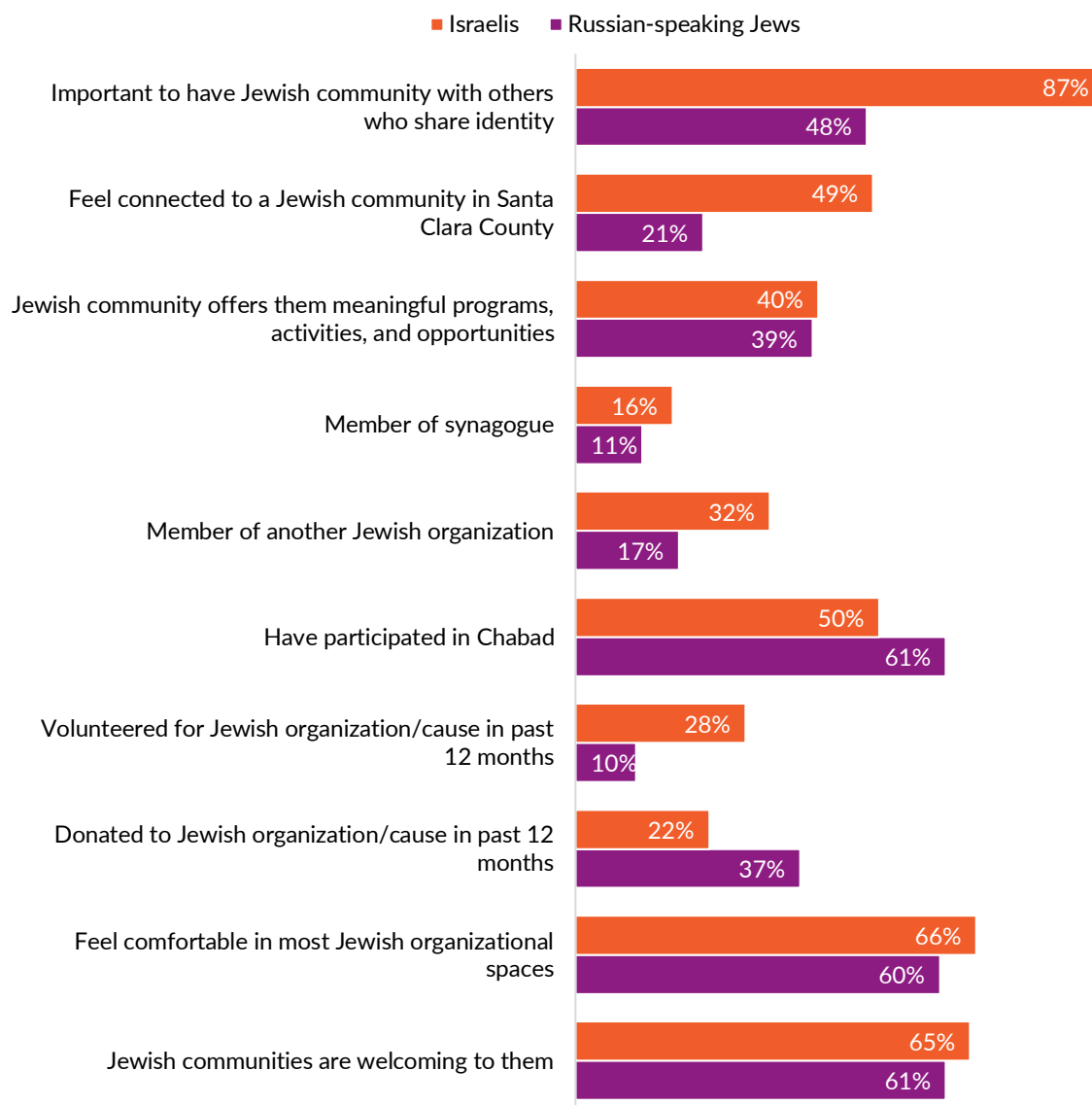
Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for diverse identity are in the Appendix, pp. 55-62.

Immigrants: Russian-Speaking Jews and Israelis

Russian-speaking Jews (RSJs) and Israelis, the two largest Jewish immigrant groups in Santa Clara County, share several social and demographic similarities. Among survey respondents, about half of each group lives in the northwest part of the county. The median number of years in the county for each group is about 10 (slightly more for Israelis, slightly less for RSJs). Both groups are highly educated, with 70% of Israelis and 80% of RSJs having a college degree or more, quite similar to respondents overall. Despite their high levels of education, both groups have slightly elevated rates of economic vulnerability compared to other survey respondents.

There are substantial differences between the two groups as well, especially with respect to their Jewish connections (Exhibit 14). Israelis express more cohesion than RSJs; close to 9 in ten Israeli respondents say it is important to have a Jewish community with other Israelis, compared to half of RSJs saying it is important to have a Jewish community with other RSJs. More generally, Israelis report feeling more connected to a Jewish community than RSJs do, and Israelis are more communally involved in terms of donating, volunteering, and joining Jewish organizations as members. But not all is different between them when it comes to Jewish connections; they are similar to each other in feeling comfortable in Jewish organizational spaces and in feeling that Jewish communities in the county are welcoming to them. They are also similar to each other in being less likely than others to belong to a synagogue but much more likely than others to participate in Chabad.

Exhibit 14. Selected Jewish connections of Russian-speaking Jews and Israelis (Russian-speaking Jews N=51; Israelis N=235)



Opportunities

Opportunities exist to bring both Israelis and, especially, Russian-speaking Jews into closer connection with communal organizations. Less than half of both feel the Jewish community offers them meaningful programs, activities, and opportunities. Communal organizations can build on the fact that nearly two-thirds of each group feels comfortable in most Jewish organizational spaces and that the community is welcoming to them, while also focusing on developing programs that are more meaningful to them.

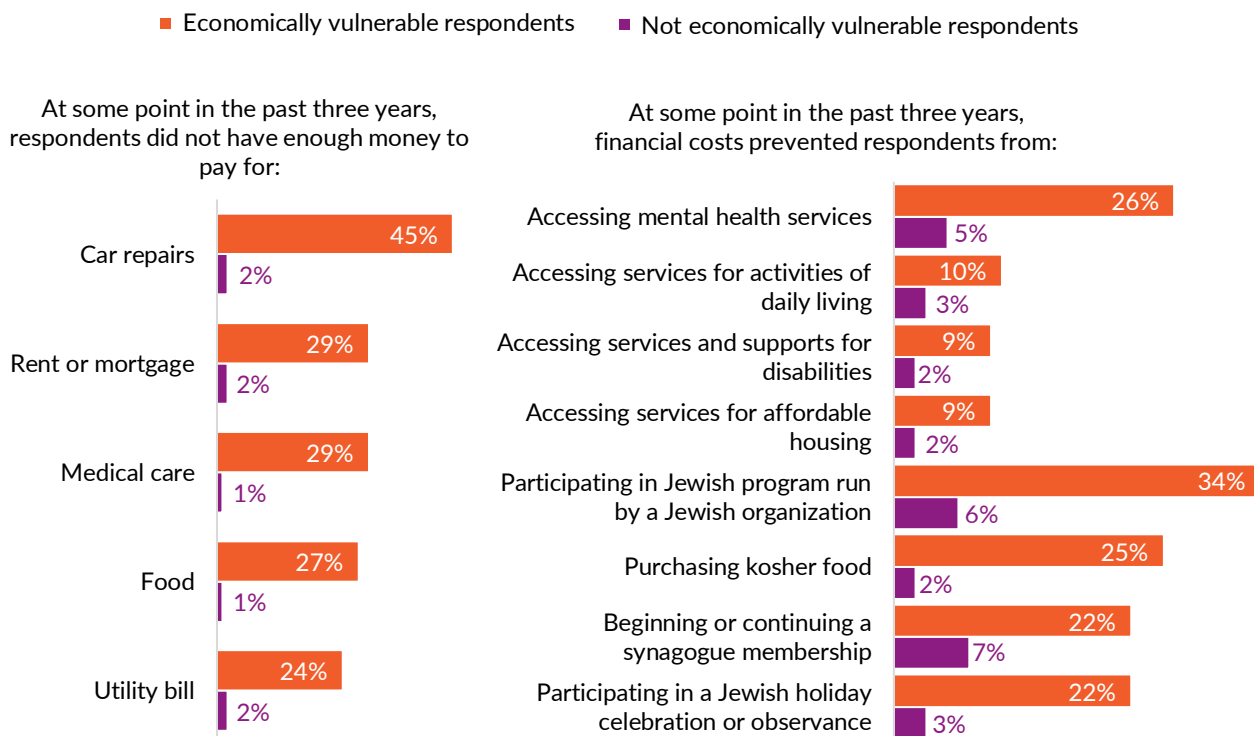
Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for Russian-speaking Jews and Israelis are in the Appendix, pp. 63-66.

The Economically Vulnerable

Eleven percent of survey respondents indicated that they are either just meeting or unable to meet their basic expenses now, and another 12% said they either just met or were unable to meet their basic expenses at some point in the past three years. Altogether, then, just under a quarter of respondents (23%) indicated some level of economic precariousness within the past three years.

Economic vulnerability has many adverse consequences (Exhibit 15). Compared to respondents who have not faced economic distress, economically vulnerable respondents are more likely to report being unable to pay for car repairs, rent/mortgage, medical care, food, and utility bills. They assess their family life, social life, and physical health more poorly, and they have substantially larger gaps in accessing needed human services. Their Jewish communal participation also suffers: they are, for example, substantially more likely to report that financial costs have prevented them from participating in Jewish programs, joining synagogues and other Jewish organizations, traveling to Israel, purchasing kosher food, participating in holiday celebrations, and donating to Jewish causes.

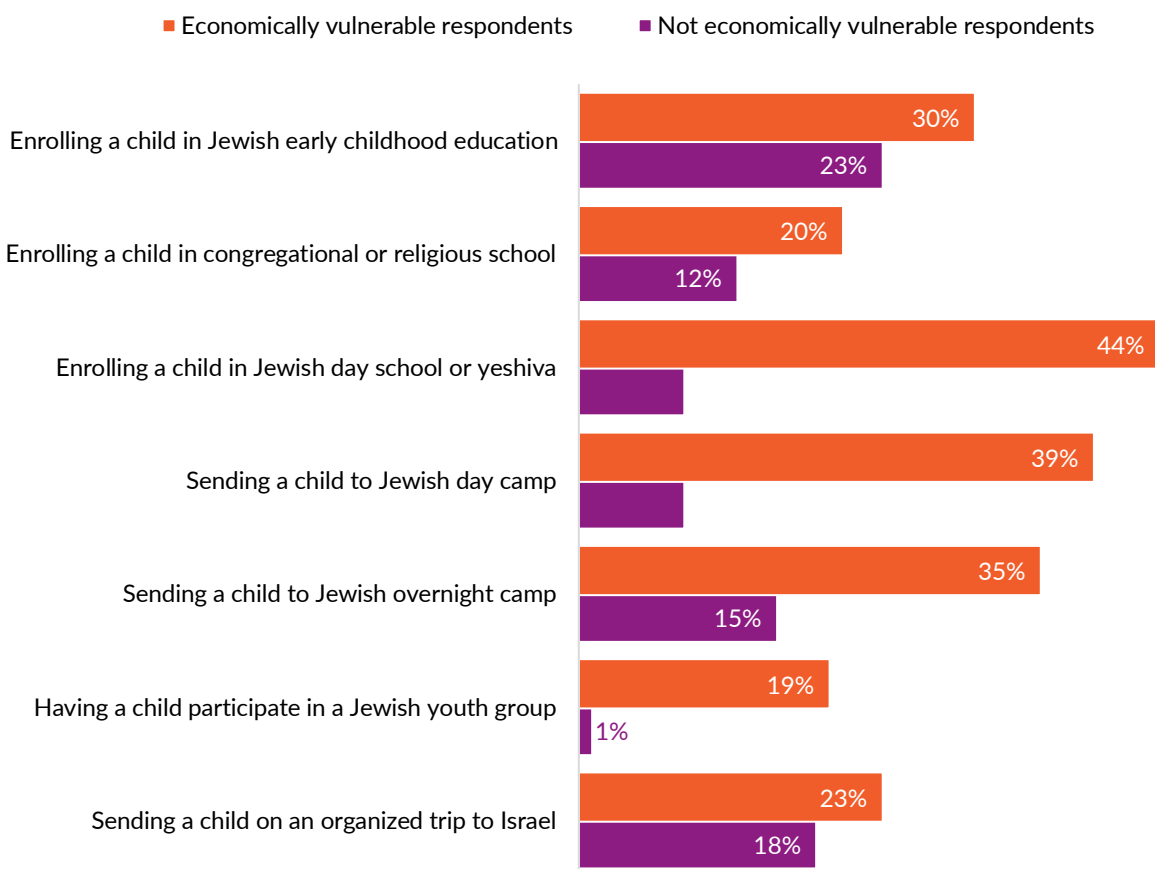
Exhibit 15. Selected adverse consequences of economic vulnerability for Jewish adults (Economically vulnerable N=243; not economically vulnerable N=707)



These negative outcomes extend to children as well. Economically vulnerable respondents are far more likely than others to report financial costs have prevented them from having their children participate in nearly every kind of Jewish educational experience during childhood, from early childhood education through teenage travel to Israel (Exhibit 16).

Exhibit 16. Adverse consequences of economic vulnerability for Jewish children (Economically vulnerable N=101; not economically vulnerable N=204)

At some point in the past three years, financial costs have prevented respondents with children from...



The same sense of socioeconomic differences that create barriers for adults (see Section 2, Barriers to Connections and Participation) can also affect children. One focus group participant described her children’s experience at religious school through a social class lens:

“My children went to a religious school at [synagogue]. The primary group of kids there ... were a different financial demographic than us. And they had their cohort from their schools and my kids felt excluded. They did not make friends at Hebrew school, and that was a real disappointment for us on their behalf.” – Focus group participant

Opportunities

There are numerous ways that communal organizations can help those who are facing economic adversity, from financial assistance for material necessities like food and medicine, to support for access to human services and scholarships for widening the communal connections and participation of adults and children. Meeting these challenges depends, of course, on the ability to raise and leverage philanthropic dollars that can provide emergency short-term financial support, expand services, and offer scholarships, all in ways that maintain the dignity of those in need, many of whom are uncomfortable asking for help.

Tables showing funding priorities and programming interests for economically vulnerable respondents are in the Appendix, pp. 67-68.

Conclusions

The 2024 Santa Clara County Jewish Community Study employed a holistic approach that included community engagement sessions, surveys, focus groups, interviews, organizational inventories, maps, and shareback sessions. The study collected information about the county's Jewish community, organized and analyzed the data, and, crucially, facilitated reflection and meaning making among key stakeholders. The study process ultimately surfaced a series of fourteen key strategic issues and groups, highlighted in this report, that represent important challenges and opportunities to Jewish organizations as they seek to build a county-wide communal identity and develop strategic initiatives to strengthen Jewish life broadly across the county and for the many diverse groups that comprise the community. More granular data from the study in the form of a presentation deck, survey crosstabulations, aggregate-level organizational data, and maps will be available on Jewish Silicon Valley's website.

This report, however, does not mark the completion of the community's work, but rather serves as a bridge to the next phase of work. As currently envisioned, the next phase of work will entail the development of a theory of change, the design and implementation of strategic initiatives, and the selection of key progress indicators to track desired outputs and outcomes and measure impact. That process will both require organizational collaboration and aims to contribute to the establishment of a communal learning network that is responsive to changes and growth within the community from this point onward.

In the meantime, some of the opportunities noted in Sections 2 and 3 of this report may already be actionable, and organizations should feel empowered to use the data in this report and other formats as foundations for their own strategic planning on how to serve their particular members, constituents, and participants. As they do so, we encourage them to share what they learn with professional and lay colleagues across Santa Clara County's Jewish communal sector.

Appendix

Funding Priorities and and Programming

Interests of

Strategic Interest

Groups

Parents: Funding Priorities (N=358)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	68%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	56%
Combating antisemitism	66%	Jewish summer camp	52%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	65%	Jewish day school	35%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	51%	Adult Jewish education	28%
Human service needs	46%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	44%	Programs for interfaith families	45%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	39%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	43%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	35%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	40%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	35%	Programs for Jews of Color	34%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Israeli Jews	32%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	73%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	29%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	63%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	60%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	38%
Programs for Jewish older adults	44%	Security and safety of Israel	33%
Programs for Jewish college students	41%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	28%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	33%	Human service needs in Israel	24%

Parents: Programming Interests (N=203)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	72%	Jewish text study	38%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	56%	Community relations/advocacy	26%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	53%	Jewish politics	21%
Israel	38%	Diverse identity groups	18%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	68%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	29%
Professional networking or development	42%	Environmental and climate change issues	28%
Sports and recreational activities	40%	Social justice	28%
Opportunities for volunteering	29%	Leadership development	15%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	73%	Single adults (among single adults)	23%
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	52%	Older adults (among ages 65+)	17%
Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	50%		

Young Adults: Funding Priorities (N=323)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	66%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	51%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	64%	Jewish summer camp	49%
Human service needs	57%	Jewish day school	38%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	51%	Adult Jewish education	32%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	47%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	46%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	53%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	46%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	39%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	44%	Programs for interfaith families	38%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	38%	Programs for Jews of Color	35%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	31%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	58%	Programs for Israeli Jews	31%
Programs for Jewish older adults	57%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	56%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	40%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	56%	Security and safety of Israel	39%
Programs for Jewish college students	46%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	34%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	38%	Human service needs in Israel	31%

Young Adults: Programming Interests (N=239)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	90%	Israel	48%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	74%	Diverse identity groups	22%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	62%	Jewish text study	22%
Community relations/advocacy	52%	Jewish politics	9%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	64%	Leadership development	42%
Opportunities for volunteering	59%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	23%
Sports and recreational activities	57%	Social justice	18%
Professional networking or development	54%	Environmental and climate change issues	14%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	99%	Single adults (among single adults)	41%
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	54%	Older adults (among ages 65+)	-
Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	46%		

Older Adults 65-79: Funding Priorities (N=197)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	76%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	44%
Combating antisemitism	75%	Jewish summer camp	41%
Human service needs	55%	Adult Jewish education	35%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	47%	Jewish day school	29%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	46%		
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	45%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	45%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	45%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	40%	Programs for interfaith families	35%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	31%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	32%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	29%
Programs for Jewish older adults	59%	Programs for Jews of Color	28%
Programs for Jewish teenagers	48%	Programs for Israeli Jews	22%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	47%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish newcomers	47%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	40%
Programs for Jewish college students	42%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	37%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	30%	Security and safety of Israel	37%
		Human service needs in Israel	30%

Older Adults 65-79: Programming Interests (N=79)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	72%	Jewish politics	23%
Israel	49%	Jewish text study	22%
Jewish foods and cooking	32%	Diverse identity groups	22%
Community relations/advocacy	30%	Jewish holiday and religious practices	21%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	54%	Environmental and climate change issues	22%
Social justice	48%	Professional networking or development	21%
Opportunities for volunteering	46%	Sports and recreational activities	12%
Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	23%	Leadership development	-
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Older adults (among ages 65+)	77%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	-
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	-	Single adults (among single adults)	-
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	-		

Older Adults 80+: Funding Priorities (N=69)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	84%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	45%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	81%	Adult Jewish education	40%
Human service needs	71%	Jewish summer camp	36%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	53%	Jewish day school	25%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	52%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	38%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	43%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	37%	Programs for interfaith families	26%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	35%	Programs for Israeli Jews	23%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	33%	Programs for Jews of Color	21%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	20%
Programs for Jewish teenagers	58%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	17%
Programs for Jewish older adults	55%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish newcomers	54%	Security and safety of Israel	51%
Programs for Jewish college students	51%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	44%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	42%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	33%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	20%	Human service needs in Israel	25%

Older Adults 80+: Programming Interests (N=19)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	62%	Community relations/advocacy	29%
Jewish foods and cooking	48%	Jewish text study	23%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	46%	Jewish politics	19%
Israel	31%	Diverse identity groups	14%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	68%	Professional networking or development	18%
Professional networking or development	42%	Sports and recreational activities	17%
Sports and recreational activities	40%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	10%
Opportunities for volunteering	29%	Leadership development	-
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Older adults (among ages 65+)	66%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	-
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	-	Single adults (among single adults)	-
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	-		

Newcomers: Funding Priorities (N=133)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	74%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	49%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	71%	Jewish summer camp	37%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	62%	Jewish day school	36%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	54%	Adult Jewish education	23%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	47%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Human service needs	44%	Programs for interfaith families	45%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	42%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	45%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	37%	Programs for Israeli Jews	43%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	32%	Programs for Jews of Color	29%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	29%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	73%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	25%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	69%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish college students	53%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	36%
Programs for Jewish teenagers	51%	Security and safety of Israel	36%
Programs for Jewish older adults	41%	Human service needs in Israel	29%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	34%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	27%

Newcomers: Programming Interests (N=100)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	87%	Jewish text study	41%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	70%	Community relations/advocacy	26%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	64%	Jewish politics	14%
Israel	55%	Diverse identity groups	4%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	74%	Environmental and climate change issues	14%
Sports and recreational activities	50%	Opportunities for volunteering	14%
Professional networking or development	32%	Social justice	12%
Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	23%	Leadership development	7%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	81%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	37%
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	69%	Single adults (among single adults)	17%
Older adults (among ages 65+)	50%		

Jews Of Color: Funding Priorities (N=60)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	71%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	65%
Combating antisemitism	69%	Adult Jewish education	64%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	66%	Jewish day school	55%
Human service needs	61%	Jewish summer camp	37%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	60%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	58%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	73%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	58%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	61%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	51%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	61%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	48%	Programs for Israeli Jews	45%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Jews of Color	43%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	70%	Programs for interfaith families	37%
Programs for Jewish older adults	68%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	57%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	55%
Programs for Jewish college students	50%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	42%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	50%	Human service needs in Israel	28%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	46%	Security and safety of Israel	25%

Jews Of Color: Programming Interests (N=35)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	90%	Community relations/advocacy	25%
Diverse identity groups	61%	Israel	25%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	46%	Jewish text study	23%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	42%	Jewish politics	15%
Programs and Events			
Opportunities for volunteering	87%	Professional networking or development	36%
Social and entertainment events	52%	Social justice	17%
Leadership development	51%	Environmental and climate change issues	14%
Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	45%	Sports and recreational activities	8%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Single adults (among single adults)	100%	Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	43%
Older adults (among ages 65+)	56%	Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	42%
Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	45%		

LGBTQ+ Jews: Funding Priorities (N=58)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Human service needs	80%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	48%
Combating antisemitism	60%	Jewish day school	40%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	54%	Jewish summer camp	40%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	52%	Adult Jewish education	37%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	35%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	32%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	89%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	26%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	57%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	25%	Programs for Jews of Color	36%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	22%	Programs for interfaith families	35%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Israeli Jews	26%
Programs for Jewish teenagers	71%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	25%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	61%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish newcomers	50%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	45%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	47%	Security and safety of Israel	32%
Programs for Jewish older adults	40%	Human service needs in Israel	31%
Programs for Jewish college students	31%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	16%

LGBTQ+ Jews: Programming Interests (N=33)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Diverse identity groups	68%	Community relations/advocacy	48%
Jewish politics	68%	Jewish arts, literature, and culture	48%
Jewish foods and cooking	58%	Israel	31%
Jewish text study	58%	Jewish holiday and religious practices	23%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	75%	Leadership development	30%
Opportunities for volunteering	62%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	13%
Social justice	55%	Sports and recreational activities	11%
Environmental and climate change issues	46%	Professional networking or development	10%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children aged 13 and younger)	100%	Children by themselves (among parents with children aged 13 and younger)	-
Parents without their children (among parents with children aged 13 and younger)	88%	Older adults (among ages 65+)	-
Single adults (among single adults)	6%		

Interfaith: Funding Priorities (N=345)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	79%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	48%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	78%	Jewish summer camp	39%
Human service needs	58%	Adult Jewish education	32%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	55%	Jewish day school	32%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	55%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	48%	Programs for interfaith families	52%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	46%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	52%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	43%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	50%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	31%	Programs for Jews of Color	45%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	37%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	69%	Programs for Israeli Jews	36%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	63%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	59%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	40%
Programs for Jewish older adults	55%	Security and safety of Israel	36%
Programs for Jewish college students	44%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	34%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	33%	Human service needs in Israel	31%

Interfaith: Programming Interests (N=160)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	70%	Israel	37%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	62%	Diverse identity groups	29%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	54%	Community relations/advocacy	21%
Jewish text study	42%	Jewish politics	19%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	69%	Social justice	28%
Opportunities for volunteering	39%	Environmental and climate change issues	26%
Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	36%	Sports and recreational activities	24%
Professional networking or development	30%	Leadership development	5%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	82%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	41%
Older adults (among ages 65+)	63%	Single adults (among single adults)	-
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	47%		

Respondent Has Disability: Funding Priorities (N=94)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	74%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	46%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	72%	Jewish summer camp	44%
Human service needs	58%	Adult Jewish education	43%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	52%	Jewish day school	33%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	45%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	45%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	59%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	43%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	47%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	42%	Programs for interfaith families	38%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	38%	Programs for Jews of Color	35%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Israeli Jews	33%
Programs for Jewish teenagers	64%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	32%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	60%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish older adults	58%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	40%
Programs for Jewish college students	49%	Security and safety of Israel	40%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	47%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	35%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	36%	Human service needs in Israel	34%

Respondent Has Disability: Programming Interests (N=46)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	68%	Israel	47%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	66%	Diverse identity groups	40%
Jewish text study	65%	Jewish politics	31%
Jewish foods and cooking	60%	Community relations/advocacy	20%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	48%	Leadership development	35%
Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	39%	Social justice	34%
Environmental and climate change issues	38%	Professional networking or development	32%
Opportunities for volunteering	36%	Sports and recreational activities	22%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	100%	Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	63%
Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	100%	Single adults (among single adults)	34%
Older adults (among ages 65+)	81%		

Russian-Speaking Jews: Funding Priorities (N=47)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	83%	Jewish summer camp	81%
Combating antisemitism	77%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	72%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	62%	Jewish day school	72%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	51%	Adult Jewish education	29%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	46%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	45%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	51%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	44%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	44%
Human service needs	27%	Programs for Israeli Jews	43%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	18%	Programs for interfaith families	39%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Jews of Color	34%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	86%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	30%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	70%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	63%	Security and safety of Israel	73%
Programs for Jewish older adults	61%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	61%
Programs for Jewish college students	51%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	33%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	43%	Human service needs in Israel	32%

Russian-Speaking Jews: Programming Interests (N=34)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	84%	Jewish text study	42%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	76%	Community relations/advocacy	13%
Israel	75%	Diverse identity groups	4%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	74%	Jewish politics	3%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	83%	Environmental and climate change issues	10%
Sports and recreational activities	22%	Leadership development	7%
Professional networking or development	19%	Social justice	5%
Opportunities for volunteering	15%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	2%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	95%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	11%
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	33%	Single adults (among single adults)	-
Older adults (among ages 65+)	26%		

Israelis: Funding Priorities (N=194)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	69%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	50%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	61%	Jewish summer camp	47%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	60%	Jewish day school	46%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	48%	Adult Jewish education	38%
Human service needs	48%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	47%	Programs for Israeli Jews	51%
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	41%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	46%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	36%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	32%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	35%	Programs for interfaith families	31%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Jews of Color	30%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	86%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	29%
Programs for Jewish older adults	70%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish teenagers	63%	Security and safety of Israel	73%
Programs for Jewish college students	61%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	61%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	51%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	33%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	43%	Human service needs in Israel	32%

Israelis: Programming Interests (N=128)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	70%	Community relations/advocacy	36%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	57%	Jewish text study	27%
Israel	55%	Jewish politics	22%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	45%	Diverse identity groups	16%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	68%	Leadership development	29%
Professional networking or development	40%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	19%
Opportunities for volunteering	34%	Environmental and climate change issues	17%
Sports and recreational activities	33%	Social justice	17%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Older adults (among ages 65+)	92%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	45%
Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	59%	Single adults (among single adults)	100%
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	53%		

Economically Vulnerable: Funding Priorities (N=243)

(Percentage indicating item is “very important” for community to fund)

General Needs		Jewish Education	
Combating antisemitism	73%	Jewish summer camp	47%
Safety and security of local Jewish institutions	73%	Jewish childcare, preschool, and early childhood education	46%
Social, recreational, and cultural programming	58%	Adult Jewish education	35%
Financial aid for participation in Jewish organizations/programs	57%	Jewish day school	33%
Human service needs	50%	Diverse Identity Groups	
Jewish organizations that serve Jewish and general communities	50%	Programs for Jews with disabilities	57%
Building physical spaces for members of the Jewish community to gather	48%	Programs for interfaith families	45%
Community relations with non-Jewish organizations	45%	Programs for LGBTQ+ Jews	42%
Jewish organizations that primarily serve Jewish communities	41%	Programs for Israeli Jews	40%
Age and Life Stage Groups		Programs for Jews of Color	38%
Programs for Jewish newcomers	64%	Programs for Russian-speaking Jews	33%
Programs for Jewish families with young children	57%	Overseas Needs	
Programs for Jewish older adults	57%	Safety and security of overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	41%
Programs for Jewish teenagers	51%	Human service needs in overseas Jewish communities outside Israel	39%
Programs for Jewish college students	45%	Human service needs in Israel	36%
Programs for Jewish young professionals without children	31%	Security and safety of Israel	33%

Economically Vulnerable: Programming Interests (N=121)

(Percentage indicating interest in programming item)

Topics			
Jewish foods and cooking	84%	Jewish text study	45%
Jewish holiday and religious practices	76%	Community relations/advocacy	28%
Jewish arts, literature, and culture	67%	Jewish politics	13%
Israel	53%	Diverse identity groups	11%
Programs and Events			
Social and entertainment events	79%	Programming with other religious, racial, or ethnic groups	29%
Sports and recreational activities	47%	Environmental and climate change issues	27%
Opportunities for volunteering	30%	Social justice	16%
Professional networking or development	30%	Leadership development	5%
Age and Life Stage Programming			
Single adults (among single adults)	78%	Children by themselves (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	44%
Parents with their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	72%	Parents without their children (among parents with children ages 13 and younger)	34%
Older adults (among ages 65+)	70%		