

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

MISSION

Jewish Family Services' (JFS) mission is to provide supportive services that will strengthen families, children and individuals throughout the life cycle within the context of their unique needs and traditions.

JFS was founded on the principle that it is our obligation to repair the world and work towards justice for those who have not been treated fairly and these values still hold true more than 155 years later.

BRIEF HISTORY

JFS is one of the longest standing nonprofit organizations in the state of Wisconsin. Founded in 1867 as the Hebrew Relief Society, the agency was established to meet the emerging needs of the European and Russian Jewish population migrating to the United States, many fleeing persecution in their home country.

Our early programs addressed the basic life needs of resettled individuals through a range of services. Over the years, JFS expanded our mission to serve the community at large. Today, we offer quality community-based programs that improve the health, personal well-being, and level of independence of thousands of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, age related disabilities, and chronic mental illness. These services are fully accessible and are provided regardless of someone's health insurance status, household income or ability to pay. Our primary goal is to provide barrier-free access to programming that promotes dignity, independence, and stability for vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals and families, at-risk older adults, and persons with disabilities (cognitive, developmental, physical, and age-related).

LOCATIONS

JFS' serves clients in the Metro Milwaukee area including Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Waukesha counties. Our main clinic location is in downtown Milwaukee at 1300 North Jackson Street. We also provide services at our affordable housing campus on the northwest side of the county on West Bradley Road, the Sojourner Peace Center on the near west side, and seven local schools; one in a public housing campus, one on the northeast side, one in a north suburb, two in a northwest suburb, and one on the west side of Milwaukee. All our locations, except one school are accessible by public transportation.

CLIENTS SERVED

JFS intentionally reaches out to those most vulnerable yet least able to access services, including individuals with disabilities, mental health challenges, and substance use problems, and individuals, families, and seniors with low household income in greater Milwaukee (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties). Of those served last year, 10% were children; 35% were adults, 55% were seniors 55+, and 66% of clients were female. Our client population is representative of the greater Milwaukee community with 46% are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and/or other. Over 62% of our clients whose income was known, live on less than \$15,000.

PROGRAMS

JFS offers a wide range of mental health and counseling services, social services, case management programs and safe and affordable housing to nearly 2,500 individuals annually.

JFS Housing, Inc.

With recognition that housing stability is a key Social Determinant of Health (SDOH), JFS has provided supportive, affordable housing since 2010, including:

- Deerwood Crossing Senior Residences, a licensed Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC), is Milwaukee County's only rent-restricted assisted living residences for low- to moderate-income seniors age 55 and older through independent apartments and assisted living. In addition to being challenged by age-related issues and poverty, these residents are at elevated risk for social problems, loss of independence, ability to manage daily living activities, and stress due to limited income.
- Bradley Crossing Supportive Housing Community and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Residences at Bradley Crossing, a rent-restricted housing complex for persons with and without disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, and mental illness.
- Coming soon - Woodale Crossing, a 56-unit affordable and supportive housing residence located in Brown Deer, will provide affordable housing to approximately 70 residents, with 14 units reserved for persons with disabilities who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The goal of the capital project is to open the residency for occupancy in July of 2025 with full lease-up by October of 2025. With the addition of Woodale Crossing, our vision is to create a housing community that fosters independence along with a sense of community and belonging where all residents are valued, contribute and have meaningful connections is continued.

Mental Health Services

- Individual, Family and Child Counseling: comprehensive psychotherapy services offered by licensed clinicians specializing to meet the psychological needs of adults, children and families.
- School-Based Counseling: addresses the mental health needs of students to mitigate the negative impact untreated mental health issues can have. Provided on-site for children in seven area schools. In addition to individual therapy, we provide services that promote Social Emotional Learning (SEL) through whole classroom and small groups for K-3rd grade students to learn to identify and regulate intense emotions, find focus and build relationships.
- Psychiatric Medication Management: Oversight of psychiatric medications in conjunction with therapeutic services to improve and sustain mental wellness.
- Grief Counseling: Sessions at local Synagogues and Friendship Café
- Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence: comprehensive mental health services for the treatment of interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. We provide trauma-informed care using specific trauma modalities that specifically treat symptoms of trauma in victims.
- Jewish Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: We partner with Hillel Milwaukee and the Federation to provide individual and group services and outreach.
- Late Life Counseling: Services for Milwaukee County seniors.
- Mental Health Professional Trainee Program: JFS offers three clinical training program tracks within our clinic, providing internship placements for Bachelor, Master's and PhD level students.

Social Services

- **Disability Case Management:** Helping through a continuum of services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and chronic mental illness and focuses on collaborative, client-centered treatment planning, independent living skills, financial support, and assistance with decision-making. Case Managers also provide Representative Payee and Corporate Guardianship services for individuals unable to manage their financial resources.
- **Social Services for Russian Speakers and Holocaust Survivors:** Provided throughout the life cycle to address challenges related to basic needs, physical and mental health, ability to live independently for this special population of aging adults identified as Russian immigrants and those with a formal designation of Holocaust Survivor.
- **Jewish Community Case Management and Advocacy:** Supportive services for members of the Milwaukee Jewish community in a culturally informed and competent manner. The program addresses immediate, intermittent and ongoing social service needs through a formal assessment and strength based culturally sensitive care plan. Individuals and families learn how to navigate community resources and develop natural
- **J-Help and U-Help:** Jewish and recent Ukrainian individuals address urgent, immediate basic needs and a continuum of Case Management services
- **Community Programs:** As a cornerstone of a supportive housing model, our program provides free educational, social engagement and social service programs to promote inclusion, personal safety, wellness and housing stability for residents living at Deerwood Crossing Senior Residences and Bradley Crossing in Brown Deer and Surlow Apartments in Milwaukee.
- **Supportive Services:** Services for adults experiencing mental health challenges, substance use disorders, or both. Includes the Sandy Naimon Breakfast Club provides peer-based emotional support for individuals diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness.