



2017-18 SPROUT GRANTS FOR PJ LIBRARY FAMILIES

A project of Sprout: Helping Families Grow Together

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Sprout?

Sprout: Helping Jewish Families Grow Together is the Federation's collaborative initiative designed to lower barriers to participation in Jewish learning for families of children from preschool through high school. The Sprout initiative includes our Youth and Family Concierge program, the PJ Library and PJ Our Way subscription program, and financial assistance for Israel trips, Jewish camping and year-round Jewish education.

What are the Sprout incentive grants?

This is the third year of the Sprout grant program, which is designed to encourage families that subscribe to PJ Library to enroll their children in Jewish learning for the first time. Grants of up to \$1,000 per family will be awarded and grants will not exceed 75% of the total cost to the family.

Who is eligible to receive a grant?

Any child, who is a resident of Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, or Napa Counties, and who is a PJ Library subscriber, PJ Library graduate, or sibling of a PJ Library subscriber/graduate, can apply. The child must be between the ages of 2 and 10 years old (at the time of program participation) and be the first in his/her family to attend an organized Jewish learning program in the East Bay is eligible.

What type of educational program can my child use their incentive grant for?

Sprout awards will be given to children beginning Jewish preschool, congregational based Hebrew or religious school, summer camp, family camp, or other non-day school educational experience. As Federation already provides financial assistance for day school families through the annual grants process, students enrolling in Jewish day school are not eligible for incentive grants.

What if my older child has participated in a Jewish program and now my younger child is ready for his first Jewish learning experience? Is my younger child eligible for a Sprout Grant?

It must be the family's first time enrolling any of their children in an organized Jewish learning program. This means younger siblings of children who have already participated in a formal Jewish experience are no longer eligible to receive this grant. The goal of this grant program is to get new families in the door of the Jewish learning programs and have them continue on with their other children, much like you have done!

What if my child has already started attending the program for which we had hoped to receive funding?

If a child has already started the program, at the time of the application deadline, s/he is ineligible to receive a grant.

Can I expect that my request may be fully funded up to the \$1,000 maximum (or 75% of the program cost)?

We can't guarantee that your request will be fully funded. Award amounts depend on the number of other families applying for a grant. Last year, the average grant size was \$630, but the year prior to that it was \$350.

Why aren't the grants need-based?

We are aware that the cost of Jewish education is high and award annual Impact grants to many Jewish educational organizations to support their work. While our Israel trip and camping financial assistance programs are financial-need based, the Sprout grants are incentives, offered to encourage families who are considering options other than Jewish education to choose a Jewish learning environment for their child.

What if I'm awarded an incentive grant, but I don't end up enrolling my child in the program I indicated in my application?

Grants are awarded based on the information provided in your application, therefore, the award must be used for the same purpose, although the provider may change. For example, you received a grant to send your child to a specific Jewish preschool, but the preschool was full when you tried to enroll. You can still use the grant money as long as your child is going to attend a different Jewish preschool in the area. However, you may not apply the grant money to a secular preschool or a Jewish day camp. Families must register their children within two months of the award date or else the grant will be forfeited.

What if I'm awarded an incentive grant, but don't register for the program within two months of the award date?

Families must register their children within two months of the award date or else the grant will be forfeited. For example, if you receive notification that you were awarded a grant on November 20, 2017, you have until January 20, 2018 to register for the program indicated on your application. If you are unable to register, the grant will be forfeited and the money will go back into the pot of money available for grants for the upcoming deadlines. You may apply again at another time as long as your child continues to meet the eligibility requirements of the Sprout grant program.

How are the incentive grants funded?

The funds for 2017-18 have been generously provided by the Goodman Family Supporting Foundation of The Jewish Community Foundation, specifically to support PJ Library families in taking the next step on the path of Jewish engagement for their children.

What are the application deadlines?

The application deadlines for 2017-18 are:

- Thursday, July 27, 2017
- Thursday, November 2, 2017
- Monday, February 5, 2018
- Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Where can I find the application?

The online application is available on our website. Click here for a link to the [webpage](#).