



## The Holocaust Survivor Support Program

Since 2000, JFSA has been a recipient of grant funding through the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference). The purpose of this funding is to ensure that survivors of the Holocaust remain connected to vital community services that help them to age with dignity.

Each funding period, the Claims Conference decides on a distribution amount for JFSA based on the population demographics and needs of the survivors we serve. In our first year as a recipient, JFSA received approximately \$40,000 in funds.

Last year in 2014, JFSA received a total of **\$229,976**. Below is a summary of what was received each year from “German Government” (GG) and “Successor Organization” (SO) grants between 2011 and 2014.

	<b>GG Grant</b>	<b>SO Grant</b>	<b>Total Grants Received</b>
<b>2014</b>	\$ 74,976.00	\$ 155,000.00	<b>\$ 229,976.00</b>
<b>2013</b>	\$ 61,322.00	\$ 155,000.00	<b>\$ 216,322.00</b>
<b>2012</b>	\$ 45,688.00	\$ 155,000.00	<b>\$ 200,688.00</b>
<b>2011</b>	\$ 45,666.00	\$ 155,000.00	<b>\$ 200,666.00</b>

### Use of Funds:

The Claims Conference designates specific areas in which the funds are to be used. These include:

- Home Support (including personal/nursing care, to keep survivors in their homes for as long as possible)
- Medication
- Food programs (usually in the form of gift cards)
- Medical equipment (hearing aids, wheelchairs, lift-chairs, walkers)
- Dental (dentures)
- Medical programs (Osteo-fit, heart health, pool)
- Adult Day programs
- Case Management by JFSA geriatric social workers

### Matching Gift Requirements:

The Claims Conference is the single largest organization in the world working to secure compensation, restitution and assistance for survivors of the Holocaust. The funds were awarded as a result of lawsuits levied against Germany and other Nazi-occupied countries and are, therefore, finite. Some of the funds have already stopped distribution, with others expected to end soon. In addition, needs are growing as child survivors enter their 70's and older survivors are living longer requiring more services as they age.

Over the last few years, these concerns regarding the future sustainability of the program, led the Claims Conference to impose new regulations on JFS's in the United States and in Canada. Primarily, these regulations require the creation of a Matching Funds program in order to receive funding. The purpose of creating a matching funds requirement is to ensure that each community is prepared for annual appeals to their donors and to build commitment (and ability) to care for those survivors most in need. Matching funds are to be used for the same purposes as Claims Conference funding.

## Supporting Aging Survivors, in Comfort and with Dignity

JFSA helps as many Holocaust survivors in financial need as possible.

Currently, we support **175 survivors** with case management, programs and services.

Many of the survivors we assist are living on fixed pensions that barely cover basic needs, and we provide monthly grocery store gift cards for the purchase of food or medications. Others are in a sponsorship situation and rely on family support to meet basic needs. This means that the families who can help, take care of day-to-day expenses, but must rely on JFSA for large dental or equipment needs.



More and more frequently, we are seeing middle class survivors who are 80+ who cannot meet their basic needs due to rising health expenses.

JFSA gives single seniors \$80/month for food vouchers, couples \$120 a month. When we project a shortfall, we notify them that they will be cut down monthly by \$10-\$20 in their monthly allocation.

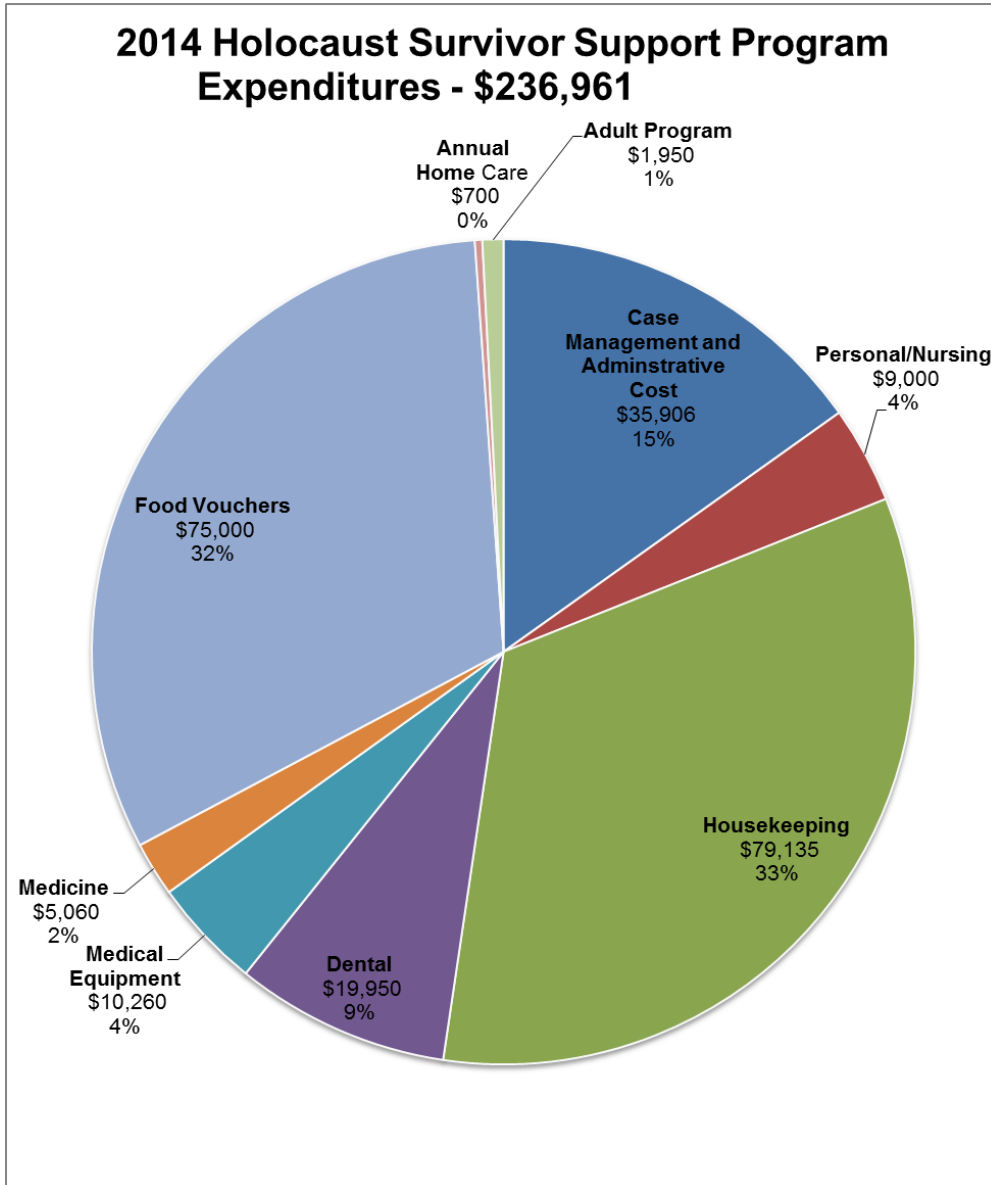
Monthly, a financial aid committee meets to vet voucher, medical and dental requests. All identities of our clients are confidential.

Last year, JFSA supported a value of \$35,000+ in medical and dental needs. Depending on the request, and the survivor's circumstances, 40-60% of their aid request is approved. For very dire circumstances, we approve 100% of the request. Despite the effort that we make to help as many people as possible, we know that there are many unmet needs. Currently, the estimated gap is \$40,000+ in medical and dental needs alone.

## 2014 Budget

In 2014, with grants totaling \$229,971 and close to \$7,000 raised in matching gifts from donors, we had a total budget of **\$236,961**.

15% of these funds were used for case management and program administration, leaving **85% for financial aid to help survivors**.



## Esther's Story

Esther first came to JFSA, emotionally fragile, vulnerable and in need of care. Originally from Poland, she is a child survivor of the Holocaust. She immigrated to Canada in the 1960s.

At the age of 84, she found herself living alone in Vancouver without a network of support. Her daughter, who lives in California, kept in touch with her frequently, but was not able to offer financial support and physical assistance. Isolated and in need of help, she had anxiety and depression. Concerned for her well-being, her friend referred her to JFSA. Her JFSA case worker, after assessing her condition, immediately placed her on the food voucher program to supplement her groceries and household needs.

After several months, her case worker assisted her in completing her application for Article 2 Funding from the Claims Conference and her application was a success. Now monthly she receives a small amount of compensation that makes a meaningful difference to her monthly budget. Periodically, she continues to receive visits from her case worker, who assesses her needs and sees what can be done to help her manage her day to day activities and to remain comfortable in her home. Recently she even accessed JFSA's Home Support services.

Esther's daughter says, "My mom is very touched and thankful for the personal attention she has received and I am grateful to know that JFSA is her family when I cannot be there."

**For more information about this program please contact:**

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