Reconstructing Judaism's Auerbach Innovation Launch Grant
for Innovating Reconstructionist Rabbinical Students and Recent Graduates

Reconstructing Judaism is delighted to award two $15,000, 2:1 matching grants to support innovation that strengthens Jewish community and engages the unengaged and/or under-engaged. We support change makers in the Reconstructionist community to spark emerging expressions of Jewish life in our changing world.

Multiple forces at work in our times demand that we reconstruct opportunities to immerse in Jewish life. This grant will support an innovative endeavor that responds to one or more of the following forces: 1) rising generations that seek connections and yearn for new entry points; 2) technological advances insisting we find ways to harness its power; 3) increasing diversity that cries out for inclusion; and/or 4) social and political upheaval that insists on action.

Your initiative should respond to shifts in the American Jewish landscape and seek to engage and *create community* for the under- and/or unengaged.

Two $15,000, 2:1 Matching Grants

Reconstructing Judaism is offering two $15,000 Auerbach Innovation Launch Grants. These grants are offered as 2:1 matching grants. To receive the full $15,000, recipients will independently raise or develop income totaling $7,500. Up to $1,500 of the $7,500 can be attributed to in-kind services. If the grantee generates less than the total required, then the grant award will be proportionately reduced.

Applicants are encouraged to work with partners. However, the team leader must be a current RRC student or a recent RRC graduate. Grant recipients will provide two grant reports, mid- and end of year, including financial accounting. Recipients are also required to participate in three Zoom sessions with fellow grantees to share learning.

Grant payments are distributed three times throughout the year.

Award Decisions: A three-judge panel will review all applications and make award decisions. The panel reserves the right not to award the grant if proposals do not adequately meet grant criteria.

Timeline: By May 13, 2022, send proposal to Cyd Weissman, Cweissman@reconstructingjudaism.org. Grant awards will be announced via email during the week of June 1, 2021. The project must have an anticipated start date no later than October 2022. The project needs to be completed within one year of the initial financial disbursement.

Grant Criteria:

1. Project tests an innovative approach to Jewish living and engagement in America; 2. Must serve Jews outside of New York City and Los Angeles; 3. Has potential for expansion into a larger-scale project; and 4. Welcomes women, LGBTQ+ and Jews of Color among all other applicants.

Be bold. Be willing to fail and to learn. Be prepared to celebrate your successes and build from the misses. Grant funds cannot be used to employ staff from Reconstructing Judaism. We honor serial entrepreneurs, but the Auerbach Launch Grant will only be awarded once to an individual. Learn the stories of previous Auerbach Launch Grantees.

Questions: Connect with Cyd Weissman, Vice President, Innovation and Impact, Reconstructing Judaism Cweissman@reconstructingjudaism.org

With appreciation to the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Advisory Fund I/Schiro (SFS), a donor-advised fund at the Jewish Community Fund of Greater Hartford.

Reconstructing Judaism's Auerbach Innovation Launch Grant Application
Submit to cweissman@reconstructingjudaism.org no later than May 13, 2022

Provide cover page with name, contact information. Keep your application to 3–4 pages double-spaced.

Project Overview

1. Provide a 1-sentence summary of your project

2. What is the challenge you are trying to solve? What opportunity is present?

3. Describe your project. Who do you seek to serve and why? What is the solution?

4. What have you done to learn about the needs of the people you wish to serve? What have you done so far that leads you to believe in your project?

5. What is your plan to raise revenue? (up to $7,500)

6. What makes your project unique?

Your team

1. Let the grant readers know a bit about you. Who else do you plan to work with?

2. Why does this project matter to you?

3. What experience do you (your team members) have that demonstrates your ability to complete the work outlined in your project?

Action Steps

1. Provide your project timeline (time and tasks)

2. Where do you need help?

3. Provide a detailed budget