Reconstructing Judaism's Auerbach Innovation Launch Grant

Supporting Reconstructionist rabbinical students, recent graduates and students enrolled in the Leading Through Innovation

2021-22

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 and those from across seminaries because of our commitment to fostering emerging expressions of Jewish life—always helping to shape what it means to be Jewish today and to imagine the Jewish future.

Multiple forces at work in our times demand that we reconstruct opportunities to engage 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. This grant is offered as a 2:1 matching grant. 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.

One grant will be awarded to a student(s) presently enrolled at The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) or is a recent graduate(s) (2019 or later). A second grant will be awarded to a student(s) who has successfully completed the inter-seminary course, Leading Through Innovation (LTI).

Applicants are encouraged to work with partners. However, the team leader must be a current RRC student, a recent RRC graduate or a student who successfully completes LTI. Grant recipients will provide two grant reports, mid-and end year, including a 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 14, 2021, 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 2020. The project needs to be completed within one year of the initial financial disbursement.

Grant Criteria:

1. Project tests an innovative pilot for 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 in order to meet a challenge or explore an opportunity in the Jewish community. Please note: grant funds cannot be used to employ staff from Reconstructing Judaism, the Glean Network, CLAL or a participating seminary. 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

Provide cover page with name, contact information Please keep your application to 3-4 pages double-spaced

<u>Project Overview</u>

1. A 1-sentence summary
2. The problem: What is the problem or challenge you are trying to solve? Why is this problem or challenge important? Elaborate as needed.
3. Overview of Your Solution: What is your project? JTBD (Who do you seek to serve, and why) :
   - Who is the main constituent group for your project? Why did you choose this constituent group?
   - What are the Jobs to Be Done of your constituent group?
   - How did you come to these insights? What were the moments in the interviewing phase that led to you understanding your constituents' needs better? Be specific.
4. Your solution:
   What is your solution to these problems? What features help constituents meet their needs, relieve pains, and create gains:

5. How did you (or will you) validate that your features actually relieve pains and create gains?
6. What makes your project unique?
7. Your team:
   - Who are you? Why does this project matter to you, personally / spiritually / emotionally / etc.?
   - What experience do you (your team members) have that demonstrates your ability to complete the work outlined in your project?
8. Next Steps

- Provide your project timeline (time and tasks).
- Where do you need help?
- What are your financial and non-financial needs? How much time, talent, and treasure will you need to get your solution from where it is now to your envisioned future?