What is the mission of the Jewish Community Legacy Project?
The Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP) aims to help mature Jewish communities in small-town America face challenges brought on by dwindling membership and changing demographics. JCLP aids these communities—ardent in their commitment to Jewish life—as they navigate the present and prepare for the future.

What does JCLP do?
JCLP engages local leadership to sustain active Jewish life as long as possible and in the creation of a “Communal Legacy” plan that honors the past and perpetuates the heritage of these congregations. JCLP helps the leadership shape forward-thinking plans to address buildings and other assets, religious and historical objects, other material culture and, if applicable, maintenance of cemeteries and monuments. Great care is also given to archive individual and congregational histories so that these stories live on.

What are the indicators of a need to involve JCLP with a community?
Declining membership (fewer than 80) and few, if any, new members
How does a congregation work with JCLP?
After being introduced to the congregation by someone familiar with the benefit of working with JCLP, congregational leadership invites a JCLP representative to explain how the process functions. Tasks begin after leadership agrees to participate in the process and identifies a working committee. Congregations are asked to enter into an official agreement to become Legacy congregations once they have committed to developing the plan.

What is the JCLP Agreement?
JCLP agrees to facilitate the planning process and to introduce the congregation to organizations and individuals well suited to assist with cemetery maintenance, placement of religious and historical artifacts, and continuation of philanthropy. Congregations agree to work in a timely manner to develop and to identify at least one way to leave a Jewish imprint.

How long does it take to create a Legacy Plan?
Congregations drive the timeline. A dedicated and focused committee might take 12-16 months to complete the planning process. Congregational leadership may choose to spread the work across a longer period of time.

What are some examples of how Legacy congregations have chosen to leave their legacies?
Legacy Plans establish endowments that indicate how congregational assets can be distributed to support a variety of Jewish causes reflective of communities’ interests and values. Plans have included provisions for youth camping and Israel travel scholarships, social welfare projects and Holocaust education. New and growing congregations and other Jewish institutions in the United States, Israel and around the world have received donations of Torah scrolls and other ritual objects. Historical documents are now in the care of both local and national Jewish museums and archives. Endowments have also been established within congregations’ general community.

What is the cost of participation?
There is no charge to work with JCLP. Operational funding for JCLP is provided by individual gifts and grants from foundations, Jewish Federations, and Legacy congregations. Congregations are invited to consider an allocation to JCLP in their plans to fund outreach to other congregations in need of similar guidance.

How is JCLP managed?
The Jewish Community Legacy Project is a 501(c) (3) organization governed by a distinguished board of directors comprised of Jewish federation, synagogue
and educational institution professionals, clergy, and representatives of partner organizations. Additionally, a community lay advisory committee includes leadership of Legacy congregations.

**Must congregations belong to one of the partner organizations?**
No. JCLP works with congregations of all Jewish denominations regardless of affiliation as well as with those that are unaffiliated. Congregations affiliated with URJ and USCJ may be eligible for Legacy dues and member status from their respective denominations.

**To learn more about the Jewish Community Legacy Project, visit:**
www.jclproject.org

**Contacts:**
Noah Levine
nlevine@jclproject.org
678.429.8895

David Sarnat
dsarnat@jclproject.org
770.690.9916

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