



JEWISH **FAMILY**SERVICE

**Main Office**

Jessie Danz Building  
1601 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98122-4000  
(206) 461-3240

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • August 21, 2009**

**RE: FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY AWARDED TO SEATTLE'S JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE**

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has approved the Seattle City Council's plan to award \$500,000 in Federal stimulus funds to expand the Morris Polack Food Bank, a program of Jewish Family Service.

"This funding allows Jewish Family Service to expand its neighborhood food bank, serving low-income families and seniors," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, who proposed the project using Community Development Block Grant funds available through the federal stimulus package. "By combining consumer choice and energy efficiency, Jewish Family Service can help more of our neighbors in need."

The Food Bank at Jewish Family Service was last renovated in 1999, at which time 625 households were assisted monthly. Today, JFS serves well over 1,000 households each and every month out of the same facility. "The demand continues to climb as neighbors have nowhere else to turn," reported Ken Weinberg, CEO of Jewish Family Service. "Our Food Bank served more **new individuals** in February than in any month in the 117-year history of JFS -- over 300 vs.70 in a typical month."

"Jewish Family Service is committed to best practices in all our programs. The current ethos for food bank service is based on 'consumer choice' which affords clients a higher level of dignity and choice in a less institutional environment," observed Claudia Berman, COO of Jewish Family Service. "When completed, the storage/delivery capacity of our Food Bank will be increased by as much as 100%, reducing or eliminating the current need for off-site warehousing and additional related transportation costs," Berman added.

The JFS project is literally "shovel ready." Construction will begin in September and is scheduled to be completed by year's end. The renovation area is approximately 2,600 square feet and involves interior alteration to existing offices, storage and Food Bank distribution area. The Food Bank at JFS will streamline operations during construction, relying more heavily on home delivery and consolidated

hours of operation while, at the same time, continuing to meet the need. It is estimated that the project will fund a total of 19 construction-related jobs, start to finish.

*Founded in 1892, Jewish Family Service delivers essential human services throughout the Puget Sound region to alleviate suffering, sustain healthy relationships and support people in times of need. As a member of the Seattle Food Committee and the King County Food Coalition, the JFS Food Bank maintains an atmosphere of respect and dignity while serving people of all backgrounds who live in zip codes 98101, 98112, 98121 and 98122 as well as providing kosher food for those who require it. JFS also has a small Eastside Food Bank that serves immigrants.*

#####