

Union for Reform Judaism

(New York, NY)

Just Congregations Initiative

To support the Just Congregations Initiative (JCI), a project to help synagogues become congregations of justice and integrate action for the public good into the ritual and educational life of the community. JCI will strategically engage, train, and link Reform congregations to the tools of Faith-based Community Organizing (FBCO), focusing on developing congregations, strengthening leadership through relationship building, and engaging in systemic social change as part of a broader interfaith effort. JCI will: 1) Hire professional staff; 2) Strategically target three fertile geographic areas in which to engage and develop synagogues and train and support leaders in FBCO; 3) Identify key congregations in which to train lay and professional leaders, engage in relationship building campaigns, and lead effective public actions for social justice; 4) Integrate FBCO into regional and national Union for Reform Judaism trainings and programs; 5) Provide ongoing support to synagogue leaders across the country; 6) Document and disseminate the ongoing work in social justice and congregational development; 7) Evaluate the progress of participating synagogues; and 8) Raise the profile of FBCO throughout the Reform movement.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$175,000 Jewish Life and Values Program: *Objectives I, II, III & IV*

\$125,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*

Total Award: \$300,000 over 2 years