

**Jewish Community Relations Council of
Greater Boston**

(Boston, MA)

Synagogue Organizing Project

Total Award: \$170,000 over 2 years

To support the Synagogue Organizing Project in the first two years of a three-year initiative to engage more congregations in the greater Boston area in Faith-based Community Organizing (FBCO) and develop the capacity of Boston area synagogues to engage a critical number of their members in sustained organizing efforts aimed at effecting systemic change. The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston (JCRC) will give support to and work closely with the Greater Boston Synagogue Organizing Project (GBSOP) -- a consortium of three synagogues that recently joined together as a FBCO network. In collaboration with the GBSOP and its talented lead organizer, the JCRC will also reach out to rabbis throughout the area, identify likely congregational leaders, develop leadership in congregations prepared to engage in FBCO, and provide training and exposure to organizing in the greater Jewish community. Through this process a second circle of synagogues will emerge and commit to joining a local faith based community organization and engage in campaigns that address systemic issues of social justice. A thorough evaluation of this process and outcomes will determine the direction for the third year, the possibility of engaging additional circles of synagogues, and the most effective and appropriate roles for the GBSOP and the JCRC respectively.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$170,000 Jewish Life and Values/Contemplative Practice Program: *Goal I, Objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4*