

The Shefa Fund
(Philadelphia, PA)

Total Award: \$100,000 over 1 year

Yedidya Center for Spiritual Direction

Presidential Authority Grant

To support the creation of the *Yedidya* Center for Jewish Spiritual Direction, an organized effort to cultivate and disseminate the practice of Jewish Spiritual Direction. Jewish Spiritual Direction, a one-on-one contemplative counseling practice, is a new development on the American Jewish landscape. Through regular, one-on-one meetings, an individual is guided through the use of Jewish textual sources and religious practices in recognizing and deepening the holy dimension of his or her life. *Yedidya* will develop the field of Jewish Spiritual Direction in part through an expansion of its training program for Jewish Spritual Directors, *Morei Derech*, a program that was sucessfully piloted last year. It will also launch a public education campaign in the Jewish community to raise awareness about this emerging practice. In its work to introduce Jews and Jewish leaders to Spiritual Direction while simultaneously deepening the field, *Yedidya* will provide consultations to synagogues and other Jewish institutions, continue to develop curriculum, provide on-going professional development for Directors, and conduct research to advance the emerging field.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$100,000 Jewish Life and Values/Contemplative Practice Program: *Goal I, Objective 2*