



AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD MISSION

APRIL 3, 2019

OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY





WHAT **AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS** MEANS TO THE **COMMUNITY**

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Community Advocacy

- Protecting religious liberty
- School choice & tuition relief
- Israel
- Security grant programs
- Combatting anti-Semitism

School Services

- Commission on Special Education
- Get Out The Vote campaigns
- Legal Support Services
- Constituent Services

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Charity Alliance for the Needy

- Holiday Preparations Assistance
- Holiday Food Assistance Program
- Midwest Agudah Lay Leaders Conference
- Community Safety & Security Initiative
- Young Leadership Initiative
- Antonia Spitzer Jewish Library

Recognized by Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)

Teacher Assistance Subsidy Program

Gemach

Recycling service allowing people to borrow items for holidays, events, or temporary needs

Computer Kiosks & Kosher Internet Center

CAMPING NETWORK

- Agudah Midwest Boys Overnight Summer Camp- South Haven, MI
- Agudah Midwest Girls Overnight Summer Camp- South Haven, MI
- Bnos Ma'arava Girls Overnight Summer Camp- Marshall, IN
- Nageela Midwest Overnight Summer Camp- Ingleside, IL
- Pirchei Day Camp- Chicago, IL

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pirchei & Bnos Youth Groups

After school, weekend, holiday, and summer programs

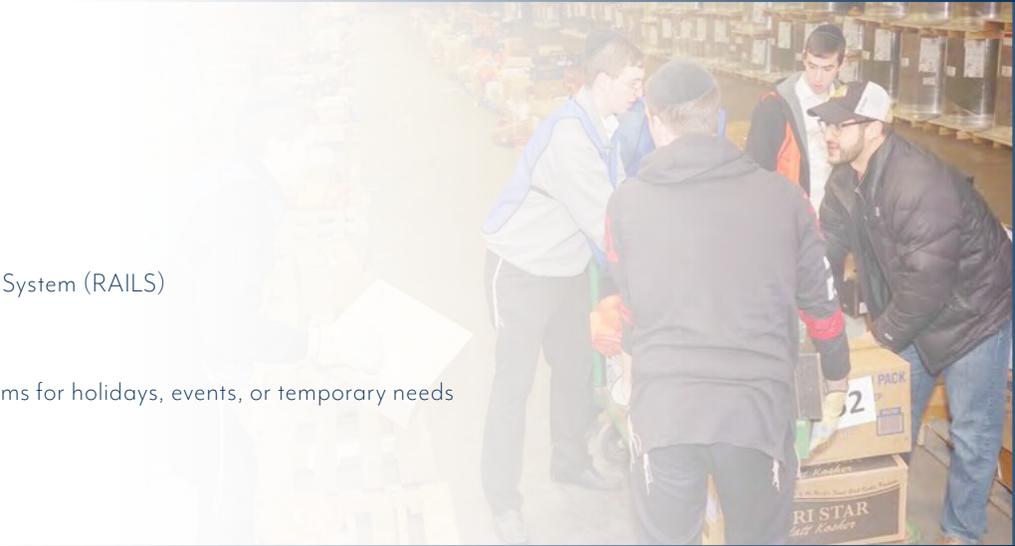
Bar Mitzvah Preparation Program

Youth field trips

Youth trips to visit the elderly & infirm

Dor L'Dor Father & Son Study Program

Boys After School Study Programs



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Nageela Outreach year-round
 - Camp Nageela Boys Midwest
 - Camp Nageela Girls Midwest
- Youth retreats
- Pre-holiday events
- Big Sister Program
- Big Brother Program

ADULT EDUCATION

- Midwest Agudah Convention
- Annual Business Halacha Summit
- Midwest Council of Synagogue Rabbis
 - 75 rabbis across 11 states and 17 cities
- Midwest Daf Yomi Commission
- Ner Reuven Awareness Initiative
- Publication Department
- Midwest Bais Hora'ah with Rabbinic Inquiry Hotline

CHAYIM ARUCHIM DIVISION

- Center for Culturally Sensitive Health Advocacy & Counseling
- End-of-Life guidance & support services
- Culturally sensitive hospice & palliative care navigation
- Halachic Medical Advanced Directives
- 24-Hour Help Hotline

AGUDAH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

- Funeral & burial services
- Jewish cemetery plots
- Chesed Shel Emes Burial Services & Indigent Burial Fund

PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

- Family Calendar
- Safa Berurah on relevant and seasonal Jewish law
- Passover Guide

SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT

- Lobbying and Advocacy for Invest in Kids Act
- Program Implementation
 - Donor outreach and fundraising
 - School training, consulting and assistance
 - Family application guidance and assistance





CHILD NUTRITION FAST FACTS

KOSHER KIWI KIDS SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

- Works through the National School Lunch Program
- Free and Reduced Lunch application processing
- 60% of participating students qualify & receive free or reduced lunch
- 70% of families who don't qualify for government aid receive private subsidies
- 1,109 meals served daily
- Over 1 million meals served since launched in June 2014
- 6 schools being serviced
- Exclusive commissary kitchen for kosher cooking preparation
- Meals delivered and served hot
- Breakfast
- Keshet Program providing jobs for special needs community

COMMUNITYWIDE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

- All children at participating camps receive breakfast and lunch free of charge
- Chicago Park District Kosher Program for day camps

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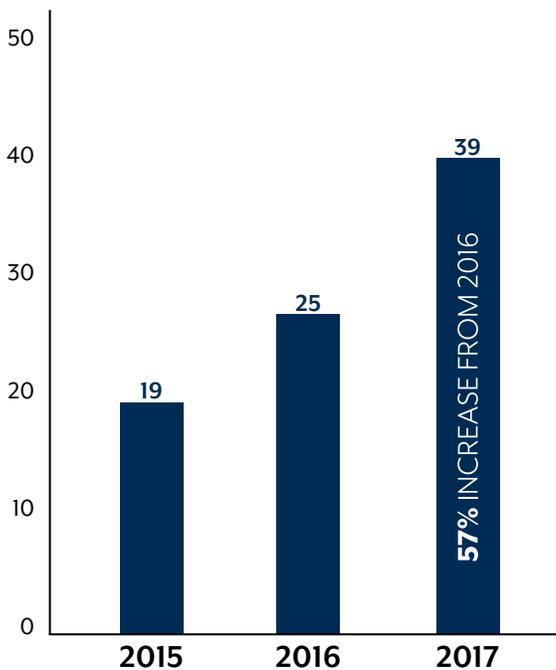
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

SECURING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

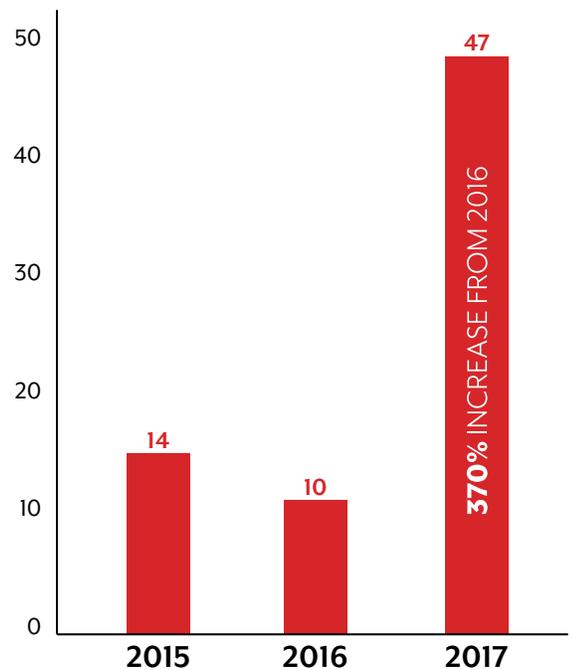
Support HB 3021 which appropriates \$30 million to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for security grants to at-risk nonprofit organizations to assist in preventing, preparing for, and responding to violent attacks.

- HB4011, now Public Act 100-0508 created a security grant program for this purpose, but it has yet to be funded.
- With the threat of anti-Semitic violence on the rise, and in the aftermath of the horrific Pittsburgh synagogue shooting that resulted in the deadliest attack against Jews in U.S. history, state governments across the nation are taking measures, including anti-terror grant programs, to secure schools, synagogues, and community centers.

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS PER STATE (AVG.)



ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN ILLINOIS



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION GRANT

- For over a decade, Agudath Israel has received a school transportation grant that is used for a busing program for school children. The number of students currently relying on this grant has grown to 1,960.
- This grant is more vital than ever to ensure the safety and security of our children.

“By necessity we are a dual-income family. When the busing program was reinstated, I returned to working full-time to support my family instead of driving carpools.”

-J.S. (parent at JDBY-YTT)



INVEST IN KIDS ACT TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Agudath Israel of Illinois represents more than 5,000 students attending Jewish day schools in the Chicago area. The overwhelming majority of these students and many others who wish to attend Jewish day schools require some type of financial aid. Many are low-income and qualify for free or reduced lunch. Nearly 800 Jewish students are now attending school on tax credit scholarships.
- This program has given low-income families educational opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach and has helped struggling families afford basic necessities.
- The Administration's FY20 budget suggests reducing allowable contributions from \$100 million to \$50 million, for a projected savings in revenue of only \$6 million, which is a relatively insignificant sum.¹ The adverse impact of any cut, however, would be very significant, as thousands of children would be inevitably hurt.
- The scholarship tax credit was part of a bipartisan compromise that increased public education funding and created a private school scholarship program. The proposed budget cut to the scholarship program unfairly targets one group of children.

Oppose SB 1513 and HB 3798 which prevent the awarding of any tax credits for scholarship donations if the minimum statutory funding level for public education hasn't been met by August 1.

- The bill artificially pits students attending public schools against students attending private schools where there should be no tension, as both public and nonpublic schools serve the needs of Illinois' children.
- The bill calls for a disproportionate response by cutting off ALL scholarship funding.
- We should not deprive children of their needs or use them for political leverage.

Oppose HB 3540 which would prevent parents from using the scholarships at most qualifying schools

- Over 90% of scholarship students are currently attending schools affiliated with a sectarian denomination. This bill would effectively leave families with very limited choices.
- This bill discriminates against religion, against schools, and against parents who wish to send their children to quality schools that best meet their individual needs. It is likely unconstitutional in light of the Supreme Court's 2017 ruling in *Trinity Lutheran v. Comer*.

¹The new K-12 funding formula, which AIOI supported as part of a bipartisan compromise, requires the state to increase K-12 funding by \$350 million. The proposed K-12 allocation calls for a \$375 million increase (\$25 million above the required funding) for a total of \$8.41 billion. By cutting the program by \$50 million, the estimated revenue savings are only \$6 million, which is .07 percent of the proposed K-12 allocation.

Our missions to Springfield, Illinois are attended by a group of dedicated community members who are politically engaged and meet periodically with legislators to discuss issues of importance to our community. We thank you and we thank all of our elected officials who serve our community and all citizens of the State of Illinois.

Thank you!





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