



# Serve Israel Volunteer Initiative FAQ

## 4 Week Experiences

### What is Serve Israel?

Serve Israel is a funding opportunity to activate and support Federations and Jewish organizations to swiftly respond and bring volunteers to Israel this year, during this time of great need. It offers two distinct grant opportunities based on the duration of the service trip experience (seven to ten days or four weeks).

This funding opportunity, in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel and in collaboration with Masa Israel Journey, allows organizations to bring participants to Israel for a four-week, highly subsidized volunteer program. Organizations will work with Masa Israel Journey to customize the program to meet their community's specific needs and interests. Masa Israel Journey will organize programmatic elements of the four-week volunteer experience. Organizations can also receive support from Jewish Federations of North America related to Jewish-service learning resources and staff training, coordination across interested organizations to travel together, and more.

Serve Israel is made possible through support from Jewish Federations of North America and the Israel Educational Travel Alliance (IETA), in partnership with Mosaic United, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Government of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, and in collaboration Birthright Israel Onward and Masa Israel Journey.

### How do I apply to run a four-week Serve Israel trip?

Federations and Jewish organizations can apply to host a four-week volunteer program in Israel by completing [this application](#). You can preview the application questions [here](#).

### Who is eligible for a Serve Israel four-week program grant?

Federations and Jewish organizations interested in providing a four-week volunteer program for their constituents are eligible to apply. Whether you believe you can recruit a full group or only part of one, we encourage you to reach out to discuss at [ServeIsrael@jewishfederations.org](mailto:ServeIsrael@jewishfederations.org).

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## What are the deadlines for starting and completing the program?

- The program must begin in Israel no later than **December 31, 2024**.
- The program must be completed by **January 28, 2025**.

## When is the application due?

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until **11:59pm PST November 4, 2024**, or until funding is exhausted.

## What are the required components of the program?

- Full-day group volunteering twice a week
- Half-day individual volunteering three times a week
- One day dedicated to Israel educational enrichment
- A session on Jewish Federations and their response to the war in Israel (Jewish Federations will help organize and facilitate)
- Groups must consist of at least 20 participants. If you do not believe you can recruit a full group but would like to participate, email [ServeIsrael@jewishfederations.org](mailto:ServeIsrael@jewishfederations.org) so we can coordinate across interested applicants.

## Which participants qualify for Serve Israel-funded volunteer programs?

- Participants must be Jewish North Americans between the ages of 16 and 65
- Participants cannot be Israeli citizens unless they left Israel before age 14 and lived outside Israel for at least four consecutive years before participating in a four-week Serve Israel service trip
- Currently, Serve Israel service trips are open exclusively to participants who self-identify as Jewish

## What kind of funding is available?

These trips are highly subsidized, with all programming costs at the offered level covered by the grant. Grantees are responsible for a \$200 registration fee per participant. While airfare is not included, a 15% discount is available on EL AL flights.

## What else is provided with the program?

- Health insurance
- Accommodations (with safe rooms)
- All meals on group volunteering days
- Ground transportation for group volunteering days
- Staff and security available 24/7. Security guard to accompany group on specific experiences
- Opportunities to work remotely throughout the week

## Who is involved with Serve Israel four-week grants?

Jewish Federations of North America is pleased to partner with the Jewish Agency for Israel to offer Serve Israel four-week grants. Masa Israel Journey provides programmatic oversight. The Israel Educational Travel Alliance (IETA), housed at Jewish Federations, serves as the implementing partner for this community-wide initiative.

## What if I have more questions?

Please contact Sophie Hearne ([ServeIsrael@jewishfederations.org](mailto:ServeIsrael@jewishfederations.org))

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