



Serve Israel Volunteer Initiative FAQ

7-10 Day 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).

The grant opportunity for organizations to bring participants to Israel for seven to ten-day volunteer programs is being offered in partnership with Mosaic United and in collaboration with Birthright Israel Onward. Organizations may develop their own service trips with optional planning support from Jewish Federations of North America, or they may request to work with Birthright Israel Onward to develop their trip. Birthright will determine if it is best positioned to offer its expertise in organizing the service trips to Israel and will customize programs to the extent possible to match with an organization's interests and priorities.

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 for a Serve Israel grant for a seven to ten-day program?

We encourage any Jewish organization inspired to offer a service trip to Israel to apply. Whether you are an expert in planning Israel trips or not, or whether you believe you can recruit a full group or only part of one, please complete an application [here](#) and/or reach out to us at Serveisrael@jewishfederations.org to discuss your needs. We are excited to work with you to develop the right program for your organization!

Who is eligible for a Serve Israel seven to ten-day program grant?

Serve Israel grant recipients must be Federations and Jewish nonprofit organizations. Whether your organization would like to design a new service-oriented Israel trip or adapt a trip model to meet Serve Israel requirements, we welcome your application.

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What are the deadlines for starting and completing the program?

- Programs can begin anytime after grant application approval.
- Programs must begin in Israel **no later than December 31, 2024**.
- Programs must be completed **by January 10, 2025**.

When is the application due?

- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until **11:59pm PST October 1, 2024, or until funding is exhausted**.

What are the required components of the program?

- A minimum of 25 hours of volunteer service over seven days, with an additional three and a half hours of volunteering for each additional day, up to a maximum of ten days. Volunteer hours can be distributed as desired throughout the program, provided they add up to the required amount.
- At least eight hours of Jewish enrichment over seven days, with an additional hour and a half of enrichment for each additional day up to ten days. This may include Shabbat or Jewish holiday celebrations, October 7-related experiences, site visits, lectures, and discussions on Judaism, Jewish values, Jewish history, Israel studies, and current events.
- At least two hours of a cross-cultural encounter with at least one Israeli during the program.
- A session on Jewish Federations' response to the war in Israel (Jewish Federations will help organize and facilitate).

Which participants qualify for Serve Israel-funded volunteer programs?

- Participants must be between the ages of 16 and 40 for organizations planning their own program, or 18 and 40 if collaborating with Birthright Israel Onward.
- The majority of participants must be Jewish North Americans (a minimum of 15), with up to 25% allowed to be Israel-based participants.
- No more than seven participants can be from the same family.
- Currently, Serve Israel-funded volunteer programs are open exclusively to participants who self-identify as Jewish.

What kind of funding is available?

Grants will be awarded at \$150 per volunteer per day, up to a maximum of ten days. The grantee is responsible for any additional costs.

The above-mentioned funding can be used for costs directly associated with volunteer equipment, ground transportation, accommodations, staff, marketing, recruitment, volunteering logistics, insurance, security measures, and volunteer training. The grant award cannot be applied to travel expenses to and from Israel.

Organizations that receive a Serve Israel grant and collaborate with Birthright Israel Onward are also eligible for a \$700 flight subsidy per participant.

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Is my program eligible for RootOne Vouchers?

RootOne makes immersive Israel travel more accessible for rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors in North America by offering \$2,000-\$3,000 vouchers per participant, paid to trip providers. Eligible programs are typically two to three-week trips in summer and winter that meet specific educational requirements. In response to 10/7, RootOne has provided \$1,000 vouchers for a select number of volunteer missions with their existing trip providers. Serve Israel applicants are invited to explore the possibility of a similar partnership with RootOne. For more information, please contact Nessa Geffen (ngeffen@rootone.org).

Who is involved with Serve Israel seven to ten-day grants?

Jewish Federations of North America is pleased to partner with Mosaic United and appreciates the support from the Government of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combatting Antisemitism. Birthright Israel Onward is available to collaborate with Serve Israel grantees to organize their volunteer programs. Serve Israel is made possible by generous support from Jewish Federations of North America's Israel Emergency Fund. The Israel Educational Travel Alliance (IETA), housed at Jewish Federations, serves as the implementing partner for this community-wide initiative.

I want to take a group to Israel and need help planning the volunteer program. Is there support available for this?

Yes! We have many resources available to help you craft the right volunteer experience for your program. Jewish Federations of North America is happy to advise grantees in any of the areas below. For more information, please reach out to Sophie Hearne (Servelsrael@jewishfederations.org)

- Volunteer experiences
- Jewish enrichment
- Educational content
- Cross-cultural encounter opportunities
- Trip logistics

You also have the option to request to partner with Birthright Israel Onward to organize your volunteer program. If you collaborate with Birthright Israel Onward, you are eligible for a \$700 flight subsidy per participant. After an organization's grant is accepted, if they express interest in partnering with Birthright Israel Onward, they will be connected with the relevant Onward contact.

What if I have more questions?

Please contact Sophie Hearne (Servelsrael@jewishfederations.org)

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