

Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) Organization Overview / Fact Sheet

Mission

The mission of Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) is to improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency for the Jewish and broader communities throughout South Florida, in accordance with Jewish values.

Vision

JCS envisions being recognized as the leading provider of innovative services and programs that address both existing and emerging social service needs.

Core Values

JCS delivers a continuum of culturally sensitive, accessible, and integrated services that support individual self-sufficiency. JCS is committed to:

- **Embracing Jewish Values:** Providing services grounded in Jewish ethics and values
- **Collaboration:** Building new partnerships and strengthening existing strategic relationships
- **Client-Centered & Mission-Driven Care:** Being responsive to the evolving needs of clients and the community
- **Financial Responsibility:** Practicing sound fiscal stewardship
- **Quality:** Delivering a consistent, high standard of services across all programs
- **Accountability:** Upholding integrity, transparency, and accountability
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** Practicing cultural humility and competence while fostering an inclusive, welcoming, and affirming environment

Year Founded & Brief History

JCS has been enriching lives and empowering individuals since 1920, tracing its roots to the founding of its predecessor agency, Jewish Family Service of Greater Miami. As Miami-Dade County's first Jewish social service agency, Jewish Family Service initially provided critical support including mental health services, refugee resettlement, foster care, and adoption to a small but growing Jewish community.

As community needs expanded, additional organizations emerged to address specialized services. In 1958, Jewish Vocational Service of South Florida was established to promote self-sufficiency through employment assistance, meals, and supportive services for individuals with

disabilities. Later, in 1987, the Community Council for Jewish Elderly was formed to help older adults maintain their health, dignity, and independence while reducing reliance on institutional care.

In 2000, these three civic-minded organizations merged to form Jewish Community Services of South Florida, creating a coordinated and integrated social service agency. Through this unification, JCS quickly grew into one of the largest and most influential nonprofit social service organizations in Florida and a trusted, preeminent resource for individuals and families in need throughout South Florida.

Communities Served & Geographic Reach

JCS serves individuals and families of all faiths, backgrounds, religious affiliation, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, abilities, ability to pay, or gender identity, across every zip code in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Through multiple service locations, community-based programs, and collaborative partnerships, JCS ensures accessible and responsive support throughout South Florida.

Key Program Areas & Impact Highlights

JCS delivers a comprehensive continuum of care designed to promote safety, stability, and independence for individuals and families across South Florida. Core program areas include:

- Clinical Services**
 JCS provides comprehensive mental health counseling, emotional wellness programs, and crisis intervention services to support individuals and families experiencing emotional or behavioral health challenges.
- Case Management**
 JCS helps frail, vulnerable individuals and seniors through care coordination, food and socialization support, congregate dining, and specialized services for Holocaust survivors and survivors of domestic abuse.
- Food & Nutrition Support**
 Through the Kosher Food Bank and nutrition programs, JCS ensures individuals and families have access to healthy, culturally appropriate food to promote stability and well-being.
- Information & Referral Services**
 JCS connects people to critical resources through its Access and Contact Center, including 211 Miami and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, offering guidance, referrals, and immediate support when it is needed most.

Impact:

Each year, JCS serves tens of thousands of individuals across South Florida, delivering compassionate, high-quality services that improve mental health, increase stability and self-sufficiency, and enhance overall community well-being.



JCS is a Beneficiary Agency of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and an Impact Partner of United Way of Miami-Dade • Social services for Nazi victims have been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany • JCS is funded by The Children's Trust, a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County • The Alliance for Aging and the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs sponsor some JCS programs for seniors.

CARF International has accredited JCS' Behavioral Health Services Division and the employment services of JCS' Rehabilitation and Employment Division through 2025.

Sponsored by Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Thriving Mind South Florida and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.