



BACK TO WORK:

SUPPORTING EVACUEES, INJURED SOLDIERS, AND RESERVISTS

PROPOSAL



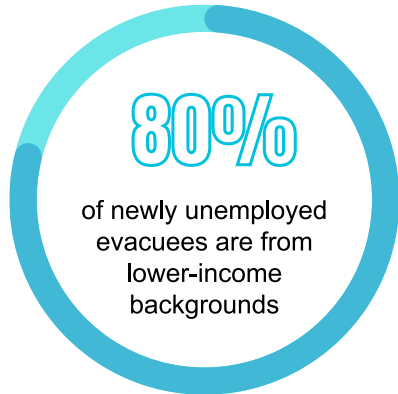
Prepared for JewishColumbus
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INTRO:

HOW CAN WE CONTINUE OUR IMPACT IN 2025?

It's difficult to comprehend that more than a year has gone by since the brutal attack on October 7th and subsequent war in Israel. While it profoundly changed us all, for Israelis, that morning feels as visceral as ever. The trauma, the destruction, and the loss were deeply personal, igniting a war for survival that continues to rage. Since that dark day, thousands of Israelis have buried family and friends, braced for missile strikes, endured prolonged displacement, fought in battles, and so much more.

Beyond the devastating human toll, this war has caused severe economic upheaval. Many Israelis are now out of work, including thousands of evacuees and those injured or disabled on October 7th or in combat, leaving them at risk of long-term unemployment.



Following the events of October 7, 80% of those who initially became unemployed lacked post-high school education, underscoring how low-income, vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected during times of crisis. While not all of these individuals remain unemployed, many others have since become at risk, including injured soldiers, those who have been on reserve duty, and traumatized evacuees. These additional vulnerable groups now face significant physical and psychological barriers to re-entering the workforce. The longer they remain unemployed, the greater the risk that they—and others in similar situations—may not return to work at all.

THE NEED: Experts predict it could take more than a decade to put Israel's national economy and workforce back on track. More than the paycheck, work provides purpose, routine, and wellbeing, making employment essential for post-crisis recovery. It's the chance for **resilience, rehabilitation, and self-reliance**. For their personal future, and for the long-term strength of the country, Israelis must rejoin the workforce and restart their lives.

OUR RESPONSE: JDC has developed **three emergency initiatives** designed to get Israelis back to work. This proposal outlines opportunities for JewishColumbus to partner in JDC's innovative employment services that provide scalable, practical solutions to the wartime challenges facing so many. Together, we can provide immediate economic relief while supporting the country's long-term recovery and sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, we will continue to mourn those we have lost. But we will also take pride in the life-sustaining initiatives we are putting in place to alleviate some of the suffering within the most devastated communities in Israel. Most importantly, we will recommit to a future we must build together.

May peace come soon.

PROJECT 1: VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT

WHO IT SERVES Unskilled jobseekers facing economic hardship in the north and the south, including displaced Israelis living in temporary accommodation and communities, former evacuees returned back home who cannot resume their previous work, entry-level workers with limited education/credentials, and underserved groups in the periphery.

HOW IT WORKS JDC is partnering with employers in the north and the south to pinpoint and create job opportunities in high-demand professions like electronics manufacturing, welding, food-tech oversight, automated manufacturing, therapy, and digital marketing. We are then developing training programs to upskill the most vulnerable Israelis, with a focus on current and former evacuees, in these fields. JDC is designing courses with the employers themselves, so participants can master industry requirements and guarantee their improved employment prospects at the end of the process.

With 30 employers already taking part, the program has reached 518 participants so far across 26 vocational courses, covering a wide range of professions. The plan is to expand this outreach in the year ahead.

WHY IT MATTERS The program ensures tangible results by requiring employers to offer participants quality paid positions upon completing their training and commit to retaining them for at least six months. The initiative is also creating incentives for people to return to work and normal life in the north and the south, while supporting local employers with severe recruitment challenges - in turn supporting the rebuilding of Israel's damaged economy in the periphery.



"A person without a job is half a person...With JDC's courses and training, I have information and routine. And hope." – Omer, evacuated from Moshav Zimrat to Eilat

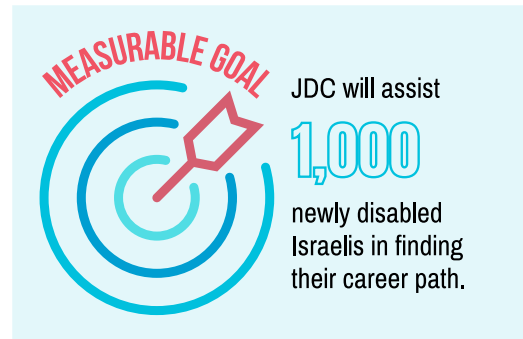
BUDGET: VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Expenses	Details	2025 Budget
Programmatic Activities	Partnership Manager, Employer Relations Manager, Employer and Regional Training Coordinators, professional training, incentives for employers, employee promotion, individual support, development and upgrading of study programs, employer relations, development incubator, professional training, advertising and marketing including conferences/events, etc.	\$4,311,500
Personnel	Program Director, Operations coordinator	\$234,200
Training & Knowledge Development	Knowledge Development Manager, consolidation and modeling of work processes, standardization of training and specialization processes, writing and producing materials, etc.	\$129,000
Technology/Data Base	Information system, control and monitoring systems, licenses, etc.	\$88,700
Evaluation & Research		\$138,600
Global Administration (10%)		\$544,700
TOTAL		\$5,446,700

PROJECT 2: EMPLOYMENT REHABILITATION

WHO IT SERVES Injured Israelis and those facing mental or physical trauma including soldiers, police forces, families of hostages, and other Israeli citizens who survived Oct 7 atrocities and more than a year of ongoing war.

HOW IT WORKS Just as physical rehabilitation helps individuals recover and regain strength after an injury, employment rehabilitation provides the skills and support needed to return to work. In response to the surge in injuries from the war, JDC is pioneering a program to help newly disabled Israelis reintegrate into the workforce. The program offers personalized guidance over 6 months to find suitable employment, adapt to new roles, enroll in higher education, or return to previous jobs when possible. This work is sensitive and precise, addressing both the physical and emotional challenges these individuals have faced over the past year.



JDC has teamed up with NATAL, the Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center, to design a unique model that combines their experience with trauma and our expertise in career guidance and workforce integration for these special populations with urgent, delicate, and complex needs – such as PTSD, major limb amputations/injuries, and more.

This initiative serves the hardest-hit communities of the south as well as rehab units in hospitals where the rehabilitation of the injured and wounded is taking place, especially with soldiers and reservists. The pilot is currently operational in seven municipalities – Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, Netivot, Ofakim, Sderot, the Northern and Western Negev – and three hospitals: Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva, Sheba Medical Center in Tel HaShomer, and Ichilov hospital in Tel Aviv.

WHY IT MATTERS This program is vital for newly disabled Israelis in addressing the profound challenges they face in rebuilding their lives after experiencing life-altering injuries. The combination of individualized guidance and tailored employment solutions ensures they can regain not just financial independence but also a sense of purpose and stability. These go a long way toward safeguarding health conditions and preventing the downward spiral into poverty.

*"Working toward a future career gives me hope during the toughest days of my rehab."
– Amit, soldier injured in Gaza*

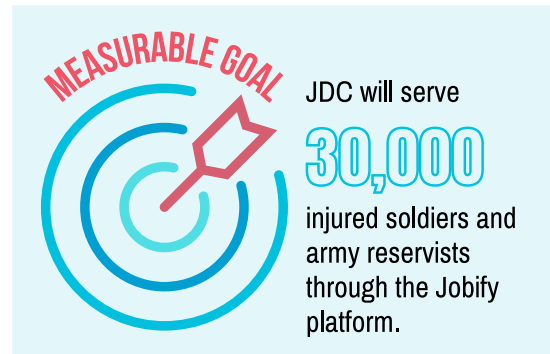
BUDGET: EMPLOYMENT REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Expenses	Details	2025 Budget
Programmatic Activities	District Coordinators, personal assistance for participants & employers, participant referral support, individual support for participants (private lessons, evaluations, language), professional learning and training days for health professionals, open invitations for entrepreneurs and technology companies, marketing and advertising, knowledge merging process for understanding new employment options	\$1,296,600
Personnel	Project Manager, Government Liaison	\$285,600
Training & Knowledge Development	Occupational model development, tools and training, staff training (individual and group)	\$193,000
Technology/Data Base	Database system	\$11,100
Evaluation & Research		\$55,600
Global Administration (10%)		\$204,700
TOTAL		\$2,046,600

PROJECT 3: JOBIFY

WHO IT SERVES IDF soldiers and reservists returning from prolonged army service, including those who have been injured while fighting in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as job seekers nationwide.

HOW IT WORKS JDC has developed Jobify, a virtual AI-powered career center that connects job seekers with immediate employment opportunities. By aggregating data from Israel's largest job boards, Jobify ensures precise matching based on individual skills, experience, and needs. The platform analyzes users' professional backgrounds through a CV upload or an AI-driven questionnaire, building a detailed profile of their skills and interests. Jobify then suggests new career paths, offering a range of relevant study programs and current job openings tailored to each user.



Jobify is a gamechanger for countless soldiers and reservists who have lost their jobs, closed their businesses, faced challenges returning to their previous roles, or required professional retraining due to shifts in their circumstances or labor market demands. Their abrupt and prolonged absence disrupted not only personal life dynamics but also their financial stability and professional continuity.

- **14,000** self-employed reservists have temporarily closed their businesses, facing significant financial losses.
- **80%** of spouses of self-employed reservists report a drop in income.
- Throughout the year, **100,000-250,000** individuals serve in the reserves, demonstrating the extensive scale of the issue.

Jobify will help them find their financial footing, and open access to 55,000+ opportunities from hundreds of recognized employers and accredited training institutions. Enhanced features such as employer outreach, resume creation tools, personalized messaging to injured soldiers and reservists, a dedicated hotline for injured soldiers, and virtual career guidance are currently under development.

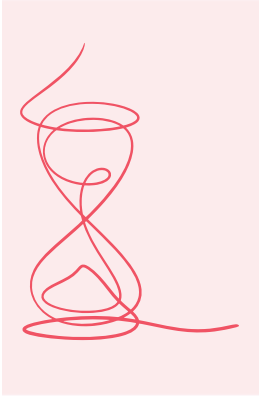
WHY IT MATTERS Jobify includes a designated track for soldiers, and works hand-in-hand with the Association of the IDF Disabled Veterans and National Insurance to support them on their new career path. It offers a customized experience, intelligently matching the skills and preferences of soldiers with suitable employment and training opportunities that will ease their transition back to civilian life.

Click [here](#) to visit the Jobify website!

BUDGET: JOBIFY PROGRAM

Expenses	Details	2025 Budget
Technology/Data Base	Customer Success Manager, system development, usage & maintenance costs, data dashboard	\$269,000
Programmatic Activities	Employer Relations Coordinator, advertising campaign (Google, Facebook, ads, building campaigns), SEO promotion	\$170,600
Personnel	Program Manager	\$76,000
Training & Knowledge Development	Content writing	\$43,400
Global Administration (10%)		\$62,100
TOTAL		\$621,100

TOGETHER, HOPE CAN FIND A WAY FORWARD



As described above, thousands of Israeli civilians, current and former evacuees, injured soldiers, and reservists are facing wartime challenges that are causing them to withdraw from the workforce. The longer these populations remain unemployed, the greater the likelihood they won't return to work — after six months, they are 50% less likely to return; after a year, 75%; and after two years, the chances of re-entering the workforce are close to zero.

Time is running out, and we cannot allow struggling Israelis who were evacuated or disabled in combat to languish in poverty, despair, or dependency on Israel's welfare system.

While this moment is daunting, it also holds opportunity for transformative change. Even in its darkest hour, Israel remains a great horizon for the Jewish future. We hope this proposal has presented JewishColumbus with meaningful ways to bring light, opportunity, and hope to the lives of Israelis who need it most.

JDC is grateful for your partnership and the possibilities for creating positive impact together in the year ahead.

