



## **Applying to the Mack Ness Fund 2026**

The Mack Ness Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ (JCF) aims to advance Israel's Negev region. Through grants to NGOs and Amutot, the Mack Ness Fund supports strategic economic growth, expanding the region's population, advancing communities and employment, and seeding small and medium-sized businesses and innovation.

### **Timeline for the Mack Ness Fund- Grant Process-**

Grant period:	July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
Letter of Intent (LOI) application deadline:	October 27, 2025 at 24:00!
Responses to LOI:	November 18, 2025, via email
Full application deadline:	December 12, 2025 at 24:00!
Site visits for finalists:	March 8 -12, 2026
Grant award announcement:	On or before May 1, 2026

### **Requirements for Applying**

All organizations applying for funding **must have** registered Amuta status in Israel and must have Nihul Takin status with the Registrar of NGOs (Rasham HaAmutot).

The grant duration is one year. However, the Mack Ness Fund will consider funding for a second or third year, depending upon its priorities, and the grantee's performance and growth potential.

### **Information Sessions**

All prospective grantees are invited to an important meeting **on October 20, 2025 at 9:30 via zoom**. There will be a presentation about priorities and applying, and time for questions. Please register [here](#) for the meeting. For more information, contact [odelia@jfedgmw.org.il](mailto:odelia@jfedgmw.org.il) or Tel: 054-6112275.

## **This year's Funding Priority Areas - Revitalizing the Negev 2026**

***The Mack Ness Fund seeks to fund bold, relevant, and innovative strategic efforts aimed at strengthening the Negev region.***

- Address current challenges related to the region's economy.
  - Rebuild and strengthen small businesses, promote new start-ups.
  - Address workforce shortages, employment, training and mentoring challenges
  - Revitalize agriculture, agro-tech development, and related training.
  - Start or expand economic engines that will grow the region and its population.
  - Address the need for capacity-building among communities.
  - Initiate or expand programs that will address and reduce disparities of the Negev as compared to the central region, These initiatives aim to retain residents and attract new residents.
- Strengthen community efforts that will encourage people to return and remain in the Negev.

The Council will prioritize proposals with the following key elements:

- Project goals and enumerated objectives which address specific acute needs and, ideally, will be incorporated into a vision and strategic planning for the long term.
- Leadership/team who are strongly committed to this project.
- Projects aiming for strategic impact through specific actions which are measurable, replicable, and/or scalable.
- Projects that involve municipal leaders, strong partnerships with quasi-governmental or governmental authorities, or collaborations with nearby communities are encouraged.
- Leveraging other funding from various sources to support and sustain the project.
- Organizations with a history of working with other Foundations and philanthropists.

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### **Letter of Intent (LOI) - Due October 27, 2025**

Please submit a letter of intent of (up to) **2 pages** by **October 27, 2025**, to [odelia@jfedgmw.org.il](mailto:odelia@jfedgmw.org.il). Your letter should include all the following information:

- **About the Organization**
  - Title: Name of project for which you are requesting support
  - Contact person and information
  - Organization name, address, and organization website address
  - Name and address of the relevant municipality (or regional council)
  - Amuta status of organization in Israel renewal date (for the main amuta to which funding will be awarded)
  - Year established, and 2-3 sentences that summarize the current mission
  
- **Project Description**
  - Provide 2-3 sentences that summarize the project.
  - Describe the distinctive needs and/or issues that your project will address.
  - List 2-3 specific goals (aims), specific objectives and activities that will occur.
  - Indicate how your project's goals and objectives are consistent with the current Mack Ness Fund's **Funding Priority Areas**.
  - Describe your target audience/s, number of intended beneficiaries, as well as proposed programs or events.
  - Geographic focus: Which cities/towns/regional councils will benefit?
  - Impact: Provide 2-3 measurable indicators of success in achieving your goals.
  - Tell briefly about the leadership of the proposed project -- key person or team.
  - Tell how you will promote the project to both prospective participants and the local community and regional council?
  - Why is the project needed now?
  
- **Partnership:** Describe any partnerships with a municipality, other organizations, etc. Indicate their roles such as in developing the proposal, contributing staff, achieving the goals of the grant, grant oversight and grant promotion, etc.
- **Timeline:** Provide a brief timeline of operation for this project.
- **Challenges:** What challenges do you foresee?
- **Budget and Funding Request** (please list in \$US)
  - Overall (full) budget
  - Intended specific request from the Mack Ness Fund
  - Amount the parent organization will contribute
  - Other funding that will be used; please indicate if confirmed or pending.

For questions or explanations, please see: <https://www.macknessfundjcf.org>

Good luck!