



Giving Circle FAQ

What is a giving circle?

A giving circle is a group of people who pool their charitable donations and decide together where to allocate their money (and perhaps other resources like time).

Who can join a giving circle?

Anyone. Different circles have different membership requirements (including financial minimums), different focus areas for their giving, and different calendars of events and meetings. If you can't find one that works for you, you can always start your own!

What makes a giving circle Jewish?

In our definition, Jewish giving circles focus on giving to Jewish and/or Israeli organizations, and/or their giving is explicitly inspired by Jewish values.

Are there other Jewish giving circles out there?

There are many Jewish giving circles already in existence, and the list grows every day. Check out the Giving Circle Directory at AmplifierGiving.org, and also some of the giving circles (and networks) that have their own websites:

CIRCLES

[Acharai Fund](#)

[BYFI Alumni Venture Fund](#)

[HEKDESH](#)

[Jewish Women's Foundation of New York](#)

[The Natan Fund](#)

[Slingshot Fund](#)

[Young Jewish Funders of Arizona](#)

NETWORKS

[Jewish Teen Funders Network](#)

[Keren Baktanta \(Israel\)](#)

Here are some examples of non-Jewish giving circles and networks.

CIRCLES

[Social Justice Fund](#)

[Dining for Women](#)

NETWORKS

[Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy](#)
(AA/PI giving circles)

[Community Investment Network](#)
(African American giving circles)

[Women's Funding Network](#)

[Social Venture Partners](#)

What is Amplifier?

Amplifier is a global network of giving circles motivated by Jewish values and inspired by changemakers around the world. We catalyze, connect and counsel Jewish giving circles through hands-on guidance and a growing suite of tools:

Our robust web platform helps circles to manage essential grantmaking and administrative functions and to connect to other circles. The site hosts a Giving Circle Directory, an Organizational Directory, and Common Grant Applications from nonprofit organizations around the world that all giving circles registered on the platform can access.

The site also hosts an ever-expanding Resource Library that provides everything you need to know to start, operate, and sustain a Jewish giving circle, as well as a broad range of giving circle Case Studies.

We connect giving circles to coaches, mentors, and facilitators - giving circle experts who can guide circles as they grow and develop.

We host regional and national convenings, in-person trainings and webinars where giving circle leaders can network with and learn both from each other and from philanthropic and issue-specific experts.

I don't have that much money - are giving circles right for me?

Yes, they are. By joining together with others, you can leverage other people's contributions and together make a greater impact. The key to having a successful giving circle of any size is having a realistic understanding of your impact, and "right-sizing" your expectations for members and for grant recipients. Some groups focus more on the experience of the givers – are we learning what we want to learn, happy with what we're giving to, and having fun? – more than on the impact of the grants on the grantees. Others seek out matching funds from local philanthropists, foundations, or community foundations to amplify the impact of their contributions. Just remember that all organizations welcome contributions of any size, as long as you're being thoughtful about what you ask of them relative to your grant sizes. (In other words: don't ask organizations to spend more time and staff power on applications than they will receive in grants!)

I'd like to offer alumni of my program the option of starting a giving circle as an engagement model.

Can you help me?

Absolutely! We think the giving circle model is a great way for alumni to stay connected to each other and to your organization and the values that animate it. [HEKDESH](#) - a giving circle of alumni of the Dorot Fellowship, the [Bronfman Youth Fellowship in Israel Alumni Venture Fund](#), and [Challah for Hunger](#) are three great examples of giving circles for program alumni.

Reach out to us at [Hello@AmplifierGiving.org](mailto>Hello@AmplifierGiving.org) for more information about getting an alumni giving circle off the ground.

I'm a donor-advised fund, fiscal sponsor, family foundation or Federation that wants to host giving circles.

What should I do?

Hosting a giving circle is an excellent way to foster philanthropy in your community and to create a robust and diverse philanthropic ecosystem. It can even be a way to leverage your institution's investments in particular communities or funding areas. There are many types of host relationships, from simple administration (you process their donations and grant checks) to deep integration (you staff, advise, and administer the giving circle). One excellent guide to hosting a giving circle, from the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers, is [here](#); and be in touch with us at [Hello@AmplifierGiving.org](mailto>Hello@AmplifierGiving.org) or more information and connections to other institutions like yours that are already hosting circles.

I'm a nonprofit or social entrepreneur looking for new sources of funding.

How can I apply to giving circles?

Amplifier's website hosts a Giving Circle Directory that includes, among other things, information about the circles' funding interests and grant cycles. The site also features a Common Grant Application that any nonprofit or social entrepreneur can fill out, which will then be viewable by all giving circles registered on the Amplifier platform. By filling out a Common Grant Application, your organization will automatically create an entry in our Organizational Directory, which is viewable by any visitor to the site.