



# Jewish Educational Loan Fund

Interest-free Loans *for* Higher Education

## **Mission:**

JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) provides interest-free loans for higher education to Jewish students in need. Higher education includes undergrad, graduate, vocational and/or technical school programs. A student must be enrolled full-time to apply.

## **History:**

JELF began as the Hebrew Orphans' Home in Atlanta in 1889, serving B'nai B'rith District 5 - Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, the same five states that the organization still serves today.

In the 1930s, the Hebrew Orphans' Home evolved into a foster care agency, Jewish Children's Service. Then due to changing times, the organization began providing interest-free loans in the 1960's, formally changing its name to JELF in 1989.

## **Recent Statistics:**

In 2019, JELF granted \$1,278,194 to 296 students in need. South Florida is the largest Jewish community served by JELF and Atlanta is the second largest, followed by Greensboro, Charlotte and Richmond. JELF currently has \$6.3 million loaned to more than 1,000 students.

Over the past 10 years alone, the organization has granted more than 2,000 loans totaling over \$9 million throughout the region.

For 10+ years JELF is proud to boast a 99% loan repayment rate, as well as a dedicated cohort of alumni donors.

## **For More Info:**

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