Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties
September Report to CHI for 2026
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1) The total number of children served Between October 1, 2025, and the date of your report, and a breakdown of how those children were served.
    - SPACE
        - October 2025 – 7 families/14 parents participated in the SPACE program
        - March 2026 – 7 families/14 parents participated in the SPACE program
        - October 2026 (Anticipated Participants) – 6 families/12 parents
        - Total Anticipated: 40 parents/caregivers, indirectly more than 50 children
    - SPACE Outreach
        - May 2026 – Provided training at Somerset County School Regional Counselors meeting to over 40 school providers
        - September 2026 – Provided training at Somerset County School Regional Counselors meeting to over 40 school providers
        - September 2026 – Presented at local addiction services and advocacy organization at staff meeting about SPACE and relevant youth resources
        - Additional outreach activities in progress:
            - November/December 2026 - Hosting introductory SPACE training at JFS Somerville for youth mental health providers with focused outreach to school counselors (6-8 participants anticipated)
            - November/December 2026 – Workshop facilitation at community partner provider (6-8 participants anticipated)
            - November 2026 - January 2027 – Working on specific workshop facilitation at Montgomery School District, Somerville/Branchburg School District (8-10 participants anticipated)
    - Stress Less
        - April/May 2026 – 3 children gained coping skills to manage anxiety and stress by participating in Stress Less, hosted at JFS Somerville
        - September/October 2026 – 5 children gained coping skills to manage anxiety and stress by participating Stress Less, hosted at People Care Center
        - October/November 2026 (Anticipated) – 4-6 children will gain coping skills to manage anxiety and stress by participating Stress Less, hosted at JFS Somerville
        - November/December 2026 (Anticipated) - 4-6 children will gain coping skills to manage anxiety and stress by participating Stress Less, hosted at community partner

2) Narrative of the services provided with the grant you received, describing the successes and challenges you faced this year.

In 2026, JFS gained momentum with our community engagement but struggled with group

recruitment. The youth services team was successful in bringing our programs to community partners, however, participation at our Somerville location was found to be a challenge. We are currently developing a schedule with multiple external community partners to bring the program to their facilities, and meet youth where they are. This approach is likely to increase visibility about our services, Stress Less, and support outreach for future SPACE groups. A parenting support group is running parallel to the implementation of Stress Less in September and October, offering relief regarding the transportation challenge. We are also exploring offering an early evening session Winter 2026 and hope this time change will improve recruitment and reduce barriers to transportation for working parents. One challenge that we have addressed midyear is that we had a lower number of social work interns in Spring 2026, and this Fall we have started 3 social work students who will focus on youth programs, communications and facilitation in partnership with the JFS social workers.

3) A breakdown of monies expended in 2026 from the grant and the purpose for which they were expended.
   We have spent $4,250 on the following:
   Program Supplies (Food, art supplies, games): $250
   Marketing: $250
   Office Supplies: $250
   Staff Salary & Benefits: $3,500

4) Your estimate of the amount from this year's grant that you would like to carry forward into 2027 because of delays and impediments encountered this year.

Based on our proposed timeline on this grant, we anticipate spending 90% of the grant funds in 2026, with some program recruitment and scheduling efforts leading to service delivery early 2027 for less than 10% of our anticipated outcomes. We anticipate carrying over less than $500 into the first quarter of 2027.

5) Two success stories from the programs funded by CHI grants that we can share with our donors. Of course, we do not want the child's real name.

One mother of a participant of our group stated, “I have been searching for a program exactly like this for him for a while - I am so grateful to find you!”

For youth who we had worked with in different capacities last year, summer break allowed staff to reflect on shifts in returning participants, recalling how one 16-year-old no longer needed to observe a game before joining, and a 14-year-old who began at the table with the group who had previously spent months isolating himself.