



Request for Proposals

Evaluation of Hakhel (The Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator) & Impact on the Field

Summary

Hazon is soliciting proposals for an evaluation project that will examine the next five years of Hakhel: The Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator, and the impact on the field.

The outcome of this evaluation will result in up to five annual reports that provide actionable recommendations for Hakhel's staff and funders. These reports would hopefully lead to improved impact and performance of the program towards goals. In addition, at the conclusion of the evaluation process, this evaluation will result in the development of a summative executive summary for funders and practitioners interested in Jewish intentional communities.

Key areas of inquiry will include:

- 1) To what extent have communities realized the quantitative objectives set in their work plans, in terms of numbers of community members and numbers of participants in activities led by the community?
- 2) What was the impact of the Incubator on participating communities in terms of their Jewish identity, commitment to Jewish communal life, Jewish learning and practice and connection to Israel?
- 3) What was the impact of communities on their wider environment?
- 4) To what extent has Hakhel been a mechanism that recruits, trains, deploys, networks, supports, and integrates a cadre of Jewish Intentional Communities into the wider Jewish community?

We envision that this project will be conducted by a team of evaluators with expertise in Jewish experiential education, intentional communities (in Hebrew: קהילות משימתיות) and the organized Jewish community. Oversight of this project would be provided by an advisory committee consisting of Ministry of Diaspora Affairs' staff and Hazon staff, with Ministry of Diaspora Affairs staff assuming a lead role.

The proposed timeline for this project is from July 2018 – December 2022.



Evaluation Purpose and Audiences

The **purposes** of this evaluation are to:

- Provide leaders of organizations promoting new experiments in Jewish communal life and their funders with empirical data that measures the efficacy of their work.
- Identify *what* appears to be working most effectively and *why*, in order to support current and future providers of new experiments in Jewish communal life in offering better, more effective experiences to their participants.
- Offer guidance to organizational leaders and funders interested in new experiments in Jewish communal life as they determine how to invest their attention and resources.

The **audience** for this evaluation includes a number of important stakeholders:

- The professional staffs and boards of the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.
- The professional staff and board of Hazon.
- The professional staff and board of Hakhel's partner organizations such as, but not limited to, Habonim Dror, Kol Ami, Machon Kehilot, Lavi Olami and more.
- Leaders of other organizations who are providers of new experiments in Jewish communal life
- Funders and leaders operating in the broader field of Jewish education and local Jewish community development.

Evaluation Project Advisory Team

An advisory team for this evaluation project will work closely with the evaluators to oversee the project and to provide input and feedback at key points during the process.

Responsibilities of the Evaluation Project Advisory Team will include:

- Working with the evaluators to identify key questions and refine the scope of the evaluation project.
- Ensuring that the evaluation plan and report are properly designed to meet the goals and purpose outlined above.
- Identifying Jewish Intentional Communities who will serve as key informants and will connect the evaluators to participants for the study.
- Reviewing surveys, interview protocols and other data collection instruments.
- Reviewing drafts and the final executive summary to ensure that expectations have been met
- Aiding in dissemination of the final summary.



The Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator

The advisory team will include the following individuals:

- Margarita Spicheko, Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.
- Aharon Ariel Lavi, Hakhel general Director
- Judith Belasco, Hazon Executive Vice President
- Shaked Landor, Hakhel administrative Assistant

Evaluation Tasks

Throughout the process, we ask that the evaluators:

- Refine and clarify outcomes.
- Finalize core evaluation questions in consultation with the Evaluation Project Advisory Team.
- Specify data collection methods linked to key questions (data collection systems will be developed by Hazon, and collection process will be carried out by Hazon staff).
- Analyze data
- Present annual findings and facilitate a dialogue of the findings and implications.
- Prepare an executive summary.

Proposal Guidelines

1. **Evaluation design.** Based on a review of this RFP, please describe the proposed evaluation approach, process, likely methods, and timeline for undertaking each of the tasks above.
2. **Budget.** Detail anticipated scope of work and fees/rates for the lead Project Director and any key team members in a line item budget *with a succinct description of each line* (budget proposals should be in the range of \$10,000-\$20,000 per year, for 5 years).
3. **Timeline.** Organize a list of anticipated dates for key steps in the evaluation process and deliverables.
4. **Key team members.** Include biographies of the Project Director and any key team members.
5. **Previous work with clients.** List of previous relevant clients and a concise description of work performed.
6. **Sample work.** One or two samples of work that is comparable in scope and purpose.

Proposal Submission Deadline

The deadline for the submission of this proposal to Hazon is May 31st, 2018. The evaluation project itself is anticipated to occur during the period of July 2018 through December 2022.





The Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator

Evaluation Timeline

It is expected that an evaluator will be selected by June 15th.

Evaluator Skills and Competencies

Specifically, we are seeking the following:

1. A team of evaluators whose collective knowledge includes expertise in qualitative evaluation, quantitative evaluation and network analysis.
2. Knowledge of and demonstrated ability to use a range of evaluation designs, data collection methods and analyses.
3. Experience with and an understanding of Jewish experiential education and the organized Jewish community.
4. Leaders in Jewish educational evaluation whose experience and reputation will bring knowledge and credibility to the project.

Where to Submit Materials

Please submit all materials, and any questions and inquiries you may have, to:
hakhel@hazon.org