

# Utah Jewish Community 2024 Social Justice Priorities

## JEWISH DAY AT THE CAPITOL



CONGREGATION  
KOL AMI  
1973-2023



SOCIAL  
ACTION  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AT KOL AMI



CHAVURAH  
BYACHAD



### 1. Homelessness in Utah

Utah is in the midst of a homelessness and housing affordability crisis.

*Kol Ami members have volunteered for years with Family Promise to support individual families working their way out of homelessness. Jewish Family Service provides emergency assistance, food, and supplies donated and prepared by Jewish community volunteers to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.*

We call on our state government to heed the Biblical imperative to...

תַּפְתַּח אֶת-יָדְךָ לְאֶחִיךָ לְעֹנֶיךָ וּלְאֶבְיֹנְךָ בְּאַרְצְךָ (דברים י"ה)

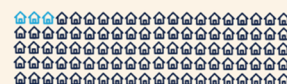
**"Open your hand to your brethren, to your poor and your needy in your land"**  
...by providing the resources that only state government has the capacity to bring together to address this crisis. We support Governor Cox's call for \$193 million for homeless services and housing affordability, which includes:

- \$130 million for emergency shelter services
- \$5 million in new ongoing funding for the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund to spur the production of more affordable housing
- \$25 million in one-time funds for the deeply affordable housing fund targeted at moving people from homelessness to housing
- ...and tens of millions more for vitally needed, life-saving supports

- **Senior homelessness is increasing**
  - 27% increase since 2020
  - Increase of 1,064 individuals
- **Family homelessness is increasing**
  - 27% increase since 2020
  - Increase of 2,309 individuals
- **Youth homelessness is increasing**
  - 59% increase since 2020
  - Increase of 259 youth since 2020

77,000

Households in Utah who need  
deeply affordable housing



There are only 3 available units  
for every 100 extremely  
low-income households

Source: Ken C. Gardner Policy Institute

וְעֹנִיִּים מְרוֹדִים תְּבִיא בֵּית

"bring the homeless poor into your house"

Isaiah 58:7

### 2. HB 127: Bias Incident Reporting (Rep. Owens, Sen. Bramble)

This bill was drafted collaboratively by Rep. Owens and United Jewish Federation of Utah's Community Partners Against Hate, a coalition of leaders of historically targeted groups and city and county government and law enforcement. It creates a system to analyze and track bias and hate incidents that individuals can report easily online to the State Attorney General's Office. This information enables communities and law enforcement to better respond and prevent hate crimes and incidents.