



OU ADVOCACY: FOR SYNAGOGUES. FOR SCHOOLS. FOR YOU.

Founded in 1898, the Orthodox Union's core mission is to unite the Orthodox Jewish community and promote its interests. For more than 25 years, the OU's Institute for Public Affairs has worked successfully to fulfill this purpose.

While we are changing the IPA's name to the OU Advocacy Center, our mission and our commitment remain the same: OU Advocacy will continue to harness the power of our united community to advance our values and interests to leaders at all levels of government as well as to the broader public.

OU ADVOCACY RECENTLY CHAMPIONED THESE INITIATIVES FOR NY COMMUNITIES: JEWISH DAY SCHOOL AFFORDABILITY

MORE THAN 14 MILLION DOLLARS IN INCREASED FUNDING FOR NY JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

OU Advocacy leads a coalition of NY Jewish day schools and Jewish organizations, including UJA-Federation of NY, to address the challenge of day school affordability. Last year, the OU and the Teach NYS initiative merged to consolidate resources and increase grassroots engagement. We are grateful to the schools that participate in this initiative, including SAR, Manhattan Day School, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester, Schechter School of Long Island, North Shore Hebrew Academy, Yeshiva of Flatbush, Westchester Day School, and Ramaz.

OU Advocacy and the coalition worked with lawmakers on NY State's funding of the Mandated Services Reimbursement (MSR) and Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP). NY State imposed these reporting requirements on private schools, but was recently tens of millions in arrears in reimbursement. Through the efforts of OU Advocacy and our partners, the funding for CAP and MSR increased by more than 14 million dollars.

THIS YEAR, A SCHOOL WITH 1,000 CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN \$575,000 FROM THIS FUNDING* AND A SCHOOL WITH 500 CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN \$345,000 FROM THIS FUNDING.

*Funding amounts are based on a variety of factors, including full compliance with the CAP and MSR programs. Schools may receive more or less funding depending on their participation in these programs.



SECURITY AID TO SYNAGOGUES AND SCHOOLS

In the wake of September 11th and explicit terror threats against Jewish institutions, the OU Advocacy Center joined with the Jewish Federations of North America and other Jewish community groups to spearhead the creation of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

The NSGP delivers federal financial aid to nonprofits to upgrade the physical security of their facilities. Since its creation, OU Advocacy and our partners have secured **more than \$100 million in security grants**—the majority of which has gone to Jewish community institutions.

In addition to this Federal funding, the OU helped secure **\$4.5 million in security funding** to non-public schools in this year's NY state budget.

FEMA AID TO COMMUNITIES HIT BY HURRICANE SANDY

Immediately after Hurricane Sandy, the OU Advocacy team began engaging with federal officials to seek appropriate aid for NY synagogues and churches to rebuild, alongside other community institutions receiving such aid. FEMA officials refused this request.

OU Advocacy worked to rally public opinion to our cause and joined with other key coalition partner organizations to strengthen our effort.

OU Advocacy turned to Congressional allies and partnered with outstanding local leaders such as U.S. Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ), Grace Meng (D-NY) and Peter King (R-NY) and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) to pass legislation overturning FEMA's unfair policy and to direct FEMA to aid Sandy-damaged houses of worship. The legislation passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly in February. We are now advocating for a vote in the U.S. Senate.

CONNECT WITH OU ADVOCACY

Join us in our efforts to advance the interests of our community. Go to www.OUadvocacy.org to learn more about the issues we care about, access resources, connect with our community and get involved.

