



The M² SEC Alumni Initiative

Consulting Grants

What are Consulting Grants?

An opportunity for you to bring the best of M²'s consulting services to your organization, with an emphasis on putting into practice the ideas you were exposed to during your SEC experience. This is made possible through a matching grant process where your organization's contribution is matched by M².

Consulting projects may include the development of an educational vision and strategy; staff training; curriculum development; program design and more. Our educational strategists and designers will work with you to build a customized consulting process designed to help you achieve your educational goals.

What do I need to do to apply?

Think about your organizational needs and what you would want to bring M² to do with you. Talk to your supervisors/staff and/or other stakeholders who may need to take part in the planning conversations and then participate, as necessary, in the implementation of the project itself.

The first step in applying for a Consulting Grant is completing a LOI (Letter of Interest). This will form the base for further conversations with M², to identify the scope and feasibility of the consulting project. Prior to filling out the LOI, we recommend reviewing the questions [here](#), and follow the instructions on the link to submit your LOI for review.

What are the details of the grant?

Up to five organizations will be selected for this matching grant program. Selected organizations will commit at least \$5,000 to the cost of this project, which will be matched up to \$5,000 by M².

The purpose of the initial discussion between M², you, and your organizational stakeholders is to discuss the scope of the potential consulting project you and your organization are interested in and how M² could help you to reach (some of) your educational goals.

What is the timeline?

Discussions and set-up for consulting projects will take place in Spring 2021. The projects themselves can be implemented any time from May-December 2021, depending on the project and needs of the organization.



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What role do I play in this initiative?

You are the leader of this project and the liaison between M² and your organization. We hope you will convene your colleagues, help to establish buy-in from all organizational stakeholders, help develop the project itself, and then be involved with us as we implement and deliver the consultancy project.

Some of what we will do together might include:

- ▶ **Clarifying the values** at the heart of your educational offerings, using M²'s signature approach to values education
- ▶ **Assess your current program/s** using specially designed protocols that reflects the most current approaches to experiential Jewish education
- ▶ Offer programmatic recommendations to **enrich programs with authentic Jewish ideas**, ensuring that these ideas come to life through powerful learning experiences
- ▶ Lead educators through a **process of creative brainstorming** to yield new ideas and approaches to old educational problems
- ▶ Conduct interviews and **focus groups of learners**, alumni and other stakeholders
- ▶ Develop **new models for staff training** and methods for motivating and onboarding teams.
- ▶ Convene an organizational think tank to **envision and articulate educational goals**
- ▶ Recommend changes and implement recommendations through training, **curriculum design** and development of new resources



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I'd love to bring M² to my organization but I'm not sure what to ask for!

Take a look at this chart for some examples of consulting work we have done and see if they spark any ideas. Gather a couple of colleagues to generate some suggestions and then submit a LOI. We will be happy to talk to you and develop a relevant project

| Do you sometimes say to yourself...? | What we can help you achieve! |
|---|---|
| Our programs are good, but they rarely "wow"! it is time to finally upgrade their power and impact. | Values-based educational programs that maximize impact, are creative and use cutting-edge methodologies |
| It is time for us to reassess whether our educational offerings really meet the needs of our constituents and how we can do better. | Clearly articulated, relevant and current educational goals that meet needs of today's issues and today's learners. |
| We want our programs to be more deeply "Jewish" but our learners (and educators) aren't interested or comfortable adding Jewish texts. | Authentically and deeply Jewish programs that are accessible to all learners of all backgrounds and provide meaningful Jewish experiences. |
| Our organization has evolved but we haven't updated our educational goals and vision. We're not really sure why we are still doing what we are doing, or whether it is truly aligned with our values. | A clear educational vision that demonstrates alignment between organizational goals, outcomes and values, learner needs and programmatic offerings. |

Timeline:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| MARCH 15 | <u>Letter of Interest submission deadline</u> |
| MARCH 15 - APRIL 12 | First discussion between M ² and alumni with relevant stakeholders |
| APRIL 12-30 | M ² develops proposal and sends to alumni |
| MAY 1 AND ON | Second discussion between M ² and alumni; Finalize proposal; Plan of action and timeline |