

CY2015 Claims Conference Funding FAQs

1. Q: An additional million dollars in funding is a lot of money! Will it go directly into the hands of the Survivors? Who will make these decisions?

A: We are fortunate that the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany i.e. Claims Conference will allocate additional funds to the Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) for a total of over \$2.1 million for 2015 to assist eligible local Holocaust victims with homecare and other needs such as medical care, transportation, food, and grants for essential expenses. These funds are distinct from the direct payments that survivors may be receiving from the Claims Conference or the German government.

2. I survived the Holocaust but have never made application for compensation from Germany. Am I eligible for subsidized services? What if I never called JFSA before – can I call now?

A: In order to be considered for eligibility for social services funded by the Claims Conference, Holocaust victims must file an application. JFSA professional staff is experienced with providing assistance with these applications free of charge. Please contact us at 216.378.3438 if you think you may be eligible and have never called us before!

3. Am I eligible for services if I do not receive Article 2 or the Hardship Fund, but instead receive a different payment, such as ZRBG Ghetto pension, Slave Labor, etc.?

A: Effective January 1, 2014, the Claims Conference requires all recipients of services to have applied for either the Article 2 or Hardship Fund compensation or some other compensation program to establish their status as Nazi victim. If someone received *wiedergutmachung* (BEG), this may suffice. If a survivor does not want the compensation funds, he or she is not obligated to take them but establishing one's status as a Nazi victim is a requirement. JFSA professional staff is experienced with providing assistance with Article 2 and Hardship Fund applications free of charge.

4. Does this increase in funding mean that I am entitled to receive as much service that I want or need?

A: Services provided to individual survivors are and will be determined by a combination of factors, including an individual's physical condition and eligibility, and the resources available. Provision of services is determined on an individual basis, using the guidelines as agreed to with the German government.

5. Can I still receive homecare through the Claims Conference if I am already receiving government subsidized homecare from PASSPORT, Care Source, Buckeye, United Healthcare, or OPTIONS?

A. The number of hours of homecare that the Claims Conference will fund is partially dependent on the number of hours you are receiving through government programs. For example, if you are assessed to be eligible for 10 weekly hours of Claims Conference-funded homecare, and are already receiving 6 hours of PASSPORT, then the Claims Conference will pay for up to 4 hours of homecare per week.

6. What are the eligibility requirements? Are there exceptions for special circumstances?

A. Eligibility requirements are divided into 3 categories:

- 1) Documentation of a person's persecution history
- 2) Financial need based on German government guidelines regarding annual income and assets
- 3) Condition assessment

7. If I am eligible for and receive an increase in services in 2015, will I continue to receive the same level of services in 2016?

A. Currently, there is no guarantee for future support of this specific funding awarded by the Claims Conference during 2016; The Claims Conference determines its annual funding to JFSA on a year-to-year basis and advises JFSA once that decision is made. However, the Claims Conference has provided funding to JFSA for 19 years and has never yet decreased funding. The Claims Conference has indicated that it hopes to continue its funding as long as the need exists.

8. If I meet the eligibility guidelines, what types of services may I receive?

There are many subsidized services available to survivors in need which may include:

- Home Health Aide personal care: Assistance with hygiene, nutrition, walking, dressing, assistance to medical appointments, etc.
- Nursing Care: Medication fills, wound care, eye drops, etc. not typically covered under Medicare or Medicaid
- Home cleaning – Light housekeeping to whole house cleaning
- Emergency assistance
- Medical and dental not covered under insurance i.e. hearing aids, eyeglasses, Lifeline Emergency Response System, walkers, etc.
- Meals and/or food subsidies
- Transportation for medical, necessary errands, and other important needs
- Household safety repairs and necessary household items
- Clothing, coats, shoes, boots, etc.
- Moving expenses to more affordable senior subsidized housing
- Other unique or important needs for which no other resources exist
- Assistance with reparations and pensions applications
- Socialization activities including weekly Café Europa and other exciting and fun events

9. How does this funding differ from Holocaust compensation payments?

A. Eligible survivors are provided with services for which JFSA pays with Claims Conference funds. Compensation payments, such as from the Article 2 Fund and Hardship Fund, are paid directly to individuals. In January, the Claims Conference is also launching a new fund for survivors who were in camps, ghettos, hiding, and under false identity as children (defined as those born January 1, 1928 or later). Eligibility guidelines for these programs are at www.claimscon.org and JFSA provides help in applying, free of charge. Call 216.378.3438.