

Founded 1971.
Reimagined 2024.



The Ark's Strategic Plan:
Our Roadmap to the Future



VISION

Where every Chicagoland Jew experiences the life-changing power of self-reliance.

MISSION

The Ark creates pathways to achieve self-reliance for Jewish families and individuals across Chicagoland. As an organization firmly rooted in Jewish values and laws, The Ark unites its dedicated professionals, volunteers, and donors to provide the services and skills that address vital human needs.

Looking Ahead to 2028

The Ark’s four-year strategic plan is a roadmap to an energizing and ambitious phase of service and growth. Building on a firm foundation for 53 years, The Ark endeavors to reach every Chicagoland Jew, no matter their affiliation or circumstance, with essential services that support their individual path to self-reliance.

The year 2024 has represented the beginning of boundless possibilities for our community as The Ark welcomed clients, donors, volunteers, staff, and community partners into our expanded and renovated facility in West Rogers Park. This Strategic Plan lays out a bold but achievable vision for the future of The Ark that will measurably impact more lives while strengthening the Jewish community we share.

Pillars: The Ark’s Priorities for the Future

Four key areas guide The Ark in pursuit of its mission and vision as a vital resource for all Jews. Much like the interdependent relationship between a client and their case manager, these “Pillars” work in partnership to drive the long-term impact of The Ark across our community. Collectively, they define The Ark’s priorities and the critical initiatives that will enrich the lives of those we serve and propel our organization forward for years to come.

PILLARS			
 <p>Self-Reliance Impact</p> <p>Partner with clients to take steps forward on their own path toward self-reliance.</p>	 <p>Engagement Community Stakeholders</p> <p>Expand partnerships to support client journeys and engage more volunteers with fulfilling experiences.</p>	 <p>Sustainability Financial and Leadership</p> <p>Ensure leadership and financial stability for continued meaningful impact in our community.</p>	 <p>Infrastructure People and Capabilities / Systems and Processes</p> <p>Leverage people, technology, and efficient processes to elevate organizational excellence.</p>
<p>Working in partnership with Jewish families and individuals, alongside increased accessibility to a core set of services, we will support clients’ physical, emotional, and financial stability.</p>	<p>Volunteers, community organizations, and corporate partners power The Ark’s efforts to accelerate pathways to self-reliance. Each are the strength of our past and the promise of our future.</p>	<p>Strengthen philanthropy and manage services and programs with continued fiscal responsibility while upholding The Ark’s commitment to serve every Jewish family and individual in moments of need or extended periods of hardship.</p>	<p>Our people are our strength. Supported by standardized processes, systems, technology, and professional development, we build on this foundation to drive innovation and lasting impact.</p>

How We’ll Measure the Success of the Strategic Plan

Our ambitious, but achievable plan will be measured in impact: the lives we touch, the positive outcomes that result, and the daily challenges we ease. United as a community—invested in The Ark’s mission, anchored by these pillars, and uplifting those we serve—we can achieve our goals.



Case Management | Social Services | Financial Counseling | Health Clinics
Pharmacy | Kosher Food Pantry | Employment Services | Mental Health Services
Spiritual Enrichment | Housing Solutions

The Ark

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