

ABOUT IHC'S *PASSPORT TO ISRAEL* PROGRAM

What is the *Passport to Israel* program?

Passport to Israel is a grant program to help families finance a teen or youth trip to Israel. Knowing that youth trips to Israel reinforce Jewish identity and encourage teens and young adults to actively participate in adult Jewish life, the intent of IHC's *Passport to Israel* program is to encourage our youth to go on such a trip.

Do I need to register my child for the *Passport* program?

No, no registration is necessary. Since this is a grant program, parents are not required to open a savings account

Who is eligible for this grant?

The *Passport* eligibility requirements are:

- students must be in high school or younger as of January 1, 2009, the effective date of the *Passport to Israel* program.
- students must participate regularly in IHC's Religious School program
- Families must be IHC members in good standing
- Funds are available to students who have completed 10th grade up to and including age 22.

How much grant money is available?

- Students are eligible for \$100 per year for the years they are enrolled and regularly attend IHC's Religious School in grades K-10, up to a maximum of 9 years (\$900).
- Students who complete Confirmation are eligible for an additional \$200 award

What type of Israel trip is acceptable?

Trip must be a minimum of 10 days and be youth oriented. Family trips are not eligible for *Passport* grant funding. Although we encourage students to participate in a NFTY trip, students can choose from a wide variety of programs that qualify for an IHC grant. Contact Marcia Goldstein about the eligibility of trips other than NFTY.

What expenses can be covered by the grant?

The grant will cover basic trip expenses as outlined by the trip provider. This usually includes transportation, hotels, food, programming. Spending money will not be covered. Students participating in Birthright may receive ½ the cost of transportation to the port of departure.

What if my child has been to Israel before?

The *Passport* grant program is to encourage each child to have at least one Israel experience. With that in mind, students who have previously participated in a youth trip (Birthright or other experience) are not eligible to use *Passport* funds for an additional trip.

How do I request *Passport to Israel* funding?

Just download & complete the "Passport to Israel Disbursement Request" form from the IHC website, then submit it to Marcia Goldstein. Please note that the request must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the date the payment is due. Grant payments are sent directly to the sponsoring program, not to the family.

What if I have a SKIP account?

Youth who have active SKIP accounts at the time the SKIP program was changed are eligible for Israel trip support under either the previous or the new guidelines, whichever provides the greater amount of support. Families own their Bank of Indianapolis savings accounts and may use them as they see fit.

Do I lose the grant if I move out of town?

No. If a family moves from the greater Indianapolis area, the student is eligible for *Passport* funds for the years he/she attended IHC Religious School as long as the child has actively participated in a Religious School program including Confirmation at another congregation. Families who, however, change congregational affiliation to another Indianapolis congregation lose their ability to access IHC *Passport* grant funds.

Are there other funding options available also?

Yes. The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis also has a grant program, "The Federation of Greater Indianapolis' Israel Youth Experience Grant". Contact them directly (726-5450) for detailed information. Additionally, IHC does have limited scholarship funds available.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Just contact Marcia Goldstein (255-6647 x213; marciag@ihcindy.org), who will be happy to work with you and answer your questions.

