



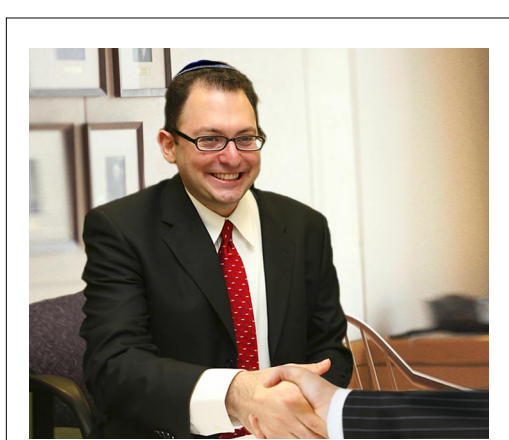
F·E·G·S receives IAJVS Program of the Year Award for providing regional employment assistance for UJA-Federation of New York's Connect to Care initiative. (L-R) Ira Machowsky, Executive Vice President, F·E·G·S; Lisa Futterman, Director, Employment Services, F·E·G·S; Meryl Kordower, Associate Vice President, Career and Employment Services, F·E·G·S; David Marcu, President of Israel Elwyn and immediate past president of IAJVS; Gail Magaliff, Chief Executive Officer, F·E·G·S; and Virginia Cruickshank, Senior Vice President, Employment, Career & Workforce Development, F·E·G·S. The award was presented at the recent IAJVS Annual Conference in Toronto. (Photo courtesy of IAJVS.)

## F·E·G·S Receives "Program of the Year" Award from International Association of Jewish Vocational Service Agencies - IAJVS



### Providing Regional Employment Assistance for UJA-Federation of NY "Connect to Care" Initiative

F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System has received the "Program of the Year Award" from the International Association of Jewish Vocational Service Agencies, presented at the IAJVS annual conference held recently in Toronto. IAJVS is an international not-for-profit association of health and human services agencies in the U.S., Canada, and Israel.



Connect to Care assisted Adam in finding a well paying position in his chosen field, accounting.

F·E·G·S was recognized for its pivotal role as the regional employment and career transition service provider for UJA-Federation of New York's Connect to Care initiative, launched in April 2009 to respond to the major employment crisis facing the Jewish community as a result of the economic downturn.

Ira Machowsky, F·E·G·S Executive Vice President, in accepting the award at the conference, said, "We are extremely proud to be recognized by an international organization with the stature of IAJVS. This award is a wonderful tribute to the many vital partnerships we have forged with the lead agencies in the UJA-Federation of New York network. Together, we have collaborated to create a critically important safety net during a time of significant need for thousands of individuals in the Jewish community affected by the economic recession."

Machowsky continued, "F·E·G·S is especially grateful to UJA-Federation of New York for having developed the vision and funding for this initiative and to the talented, committed, and dedicated employment and career staff at F·E·G·S who helped shape and carry out the regional employment and career transition services so integral to this initiative."

### F·E·G·S has provided Employment and Career Service to Thousands through Connect to Care

Over the past two years, F·E·G·S has connected with almost ten thousand individuals at more than 1,100 employment seminars, community outreach, and networking events. Nearly 3,200 have received one-on-one employment and career advisement. To date, almost 1,000 individuals have secured employment.

### Connect-to-Care: One-Stop, Wrap-Around Services

F·E·G·S's targeted employment and career transition services are provided as part of a one-stop, wrap-around service delivery system supported through eight regional hub centers in New York City, Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. Outreach to the Jewish and broader community is coordinated through a collaborative effort of ten UJA-Federation beneficiary agencies, including F·E·G·S, the Hebrew Free Loan Society, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, New York Legal Assistance Group, Samuel Field Y, Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center, Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center, and Westchester Jewish Community Services. More than 50 area synagogues and other Jewish gateway institutions also have participated.

In addition to F·E·G·S's regional employment and career services, the UJA-Federation Connect to Care initiative provides mental health counseling, financial and legal assistance, and emergency cash assistance. F·E·G·S's ParnossahWorks™, an online employment and job board system, provides the infrastructure to effectively coordinate the range of employment and career resources for both job seekers and employers.



Knowing the right questions to ask and responses to give at an interview is one of the topics discussed at the Career Transition sessions.

### Middle Class Professionals and Baby Boomers Face Special Challenges in the New Economy

"Even though the unemployment rate has improved slightly and is now below nine percent, this change has not necessarily found its way to Baby Boomers and other middle class professionals," said Meryl Kordower, F·E·G·S Associate Vice President for Career and Employment Services. She noted that three out of four participants in Connect to Care are age 40 and older, with two out of three over age 50. "These are people who have been especially affected by the recession – people well-settled in their careers and who may be facing an extended period of unemployment for the first time in their lives. Suddenly, they find themselves facing personal, employment, and economic upheaval."

Kordower noted trends among Connect to Care participants:

- Many will require 12 to 24 months to gain re-employment after their initial job loss and cannot realistically expect to earn the same salary they had before.
- They frequently do not seek assistance until they are in crisis or after being unemployed for a long period of time.
- Many do not know how to network using traditional and new social networks or other online resources, such as LinkedIn, and need to update their computer literacy skills to be competitive.
- They need career advisement on how to transition their skills from one industry to another and to learn techniques to remarket themselves.

"One of our biggest challenges is helping to keep participants, resilient, optimistic, and focused during this difficult time," Kordower continued. "Many baby boomers will need to learn new skills for jobs that didn't exist when they began their careers and F·E·G·S will be there to help them make the transition to the 21st century workforce."

### Connect to Care Will Continue

Gail Magaliff, Chief Executive Officer of F·E·G·S, stated, "Connect to Care has had a profound and significant impact on the New York Jewish community. UJA-Federation's continued commitment to support the model is significant in responding to the critical needs of so many still impacted by job loss and the many associated personal, family, legal, and financial difficulties. We are honored to be part of this vital initiative." ■

F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System is one of the largest and most diversified not-for-profit health and human service organizations in the country, serving more than 100,000 people each year throughout New York City and Long Island. Its service delivery networks comprises the following major operating areas: behavioral health, developmental disabilities, rehabilitation, education & youth services, employment, career & workforce development, family services, residential and home care. F·E·G·S, through its subsidiaries and infrastructure companies, also provides a range of technical assistance, capacity building and management consulting services to nonprofit, public, and private sector organizations nationally and internationally. F·E·G·S operates extensive Employment, Career and Workforce Development programs, reaching some 45,000 individuals annually – assisting them in preparing for employment and establishing successful careers. Learn more at [www.fegs.org](http://www.fegs.org).