

Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center Awarded \$5 Million NY BRICKS Grant to Launch Major Campus Transformation

Albany, NY — The Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center (Albany JCC) announced today that it has been awarded a \$5 million grant through Governor Kathy Hochul's New York Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids, and Seniors (NY BRICKS) program. This investment will anchor a large-scale capital campaign to reimagine and renovate the entire JCC campus, ensuring the Center remains a vital resource for Albany families for generations to come.

The NY BRICKS program supports municipalities and nonprofit organizations across New York State in strengthening community centers that promote physical health, mental well-being, inclusion, and connection. The Albany JCC was selected for its longstanding role as a community anchor—providing early childhood education, youth enrichment, senior programming, wellness offerings, and a welcoming space for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

“For more than a century, the Albany JCC has shaped the lives of families throughout this city—including my own,” said **Dora Fisher, President of the Board of Directors**. “This grant—and the capital campaign it will spark—will allow us to modernize our campus and ensure this legacy continues for the next 100 years. All across Albany, people have meaningful JCC stories, and now we have the opportunity to secure this institution for future generations.”

David Posner, CEO of the Albany JCC, said, “This award marks the beginning of an exciting transformation for our community center. With support from the State and our partners across the Capital Region, we will be able to reimagine our facilities to meet today's needs and tomorrow's possibilities. This investment positions us to launch a major capital campaign that will strengthen our programs and expand our impact.”

State Senator Pat Fahy said, “The JCC has been a cornerstone of community life in Albany for generations. This funding will ensure the facility continues providing essential programs while meeting modern standards of accessibility, safety, and energy efficiency. It is a transformative investment for Albany families.”

Albany Common Council Member Jack Flynn, whose district includes the AJCC, highlighted the center's longstanding role as a hub for recreation, education, and community connection. “The Albany Jewish Community Center is one of the most important gathering places in our city. This \$5 million investment ensures that the AJCC can continue serving families, seniors, and residents of all backgrounds with safe, modern, and accessible facilities. I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for recognizing the value of this institution and for making a meaningful commitment to the people of Albany.”

Assembly Member Gabriella Romero said, “The Albany JCC is more than a building—it is where community and belonging come to life. Their community-centered programs, especially childcare, have a lasting impact in our neighborhoods. Growing up, I had many unforgettable

summers at JCC Summer Camp, and I'm so excited to see their continued success in providing care for Albany children and families. This grant will help renovate and modernize the campus, further strengthening the JCC's ability to serve our community with dignity, wellness, and inclusion."

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan said, "The Albany JCC has been a place where people from every corner of our city find support, connection, and a true sense of belonging. This investment will help the JCC modernize its campus and expand the programs so many Albany families rely on. It's an exciting moment for the JCC and for our entire city, and I'm grateful to see this long-standing community institution poised for a new era of growth and service. Thank you to Governor Hochul and the entire team at the Albany JCC for working together to secure this critical investment that will positively impact so many in our community for years to come."

Mayor-Elect Dorcey Applyrs said, "People across our city have deep connections to the JCC—through early childhood programs, summer camp, cultural events, fitness classes, or senior activities. This award ensures the JCC will remain a place of connection and care for generations to come."

Albany City Auditor-Elect Sam Fein said, "The Albany JCC reflects the best of our city—rooted in Jewish values of community and stewardship, and welcoming and supporting everyone who walks through its doors. Strengthening an institution like the JCC strengthens Albany itself."

The forthcoming capital campaign will focus on comprehensive upgrades across the entire campus, including improved accessibility, modernized program spaces, enhanced energy efficiency, and revitalized recreational and wellness areas. The JCC will engage community members throughout the planning process.

"We are deeply grateful to Governor Hochul and to our elected partners who recognized the importance of investing in this community center," Fisher added. "This is a win for the JCC, for the Jewish community, and for the entire City of Albany."

About the Sidney Albert Albany JCC:

The Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center provides a nurturing environment where individuals and families can grow and develop in mind, body and spirit. We serve the spectrum of family life, from infants through seniors, through programs related to education, physical fitness, and communal life. Our core values are rooted in Jewish principles, and we welcome members of the community at large, regardless of their faith or background.