

UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK THRIVING SYNAGOGUE LEARNING TOOL

Thriving Synagogue Learning Tool — Defining Thriving

Thriving Synagogue Definition

Thriving synagogues are vital and alive, filled with purpose, activity and energy, and show promise for a strong future. Members and participants feel a commitment to and affection for the congregational community, the synagogue, and the Jewish life and learning that take place there.

UJA-Federation's Thriving Synagogue Learning Tool provides participating synagogues with their profile of thriving based on six dimensions described below.

Synagogues demonstrate their thriving in many ways. They readily attract, involve, and retain members and participants. They are financially sound. Thriving synagogues are dynamically heading toward their future. They have a clear sense of purpose and a vision and plan for fulfilling it. They are on the move, and members and participants are excited about the possibilities for the future of their synagogue.

Dimensions of Thriving



Belonging: This Is MY Place

Members are proud and feel at home here. They would recommend the synagogue to a friend



Intentional Leadership

Leaders have a vision, model Jewish values, and are accessible, responsive, and trustworthy



Sacred Purpose

Spiritual needs are fulfilled, and the synagogue helps people grow as Jews in a sacred space



Connected Community

All are woven into the fabric of the congregation, people are open, welcoming, and appreciative



Sound Operations

Everything runs smoothly, challenges are addressed efficiently, budgets reflect values and best practices



Outward Facing

Synagogue collaborates with the community and works toward positive change for all