



## **ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MATANEL FOUNDATION**

### **Beit Hamidrash Shaarei Tzion –**

### **The Insititute for Training Community Rabbis in Israel**

**Name of the Program:**

Beit Hamidrash Shaarei Tzion - The Institute for Training Community Rabbis in Israel

**Year of activity:** 2023-2024

**Name of the report's writer:** Rabbi Dr. Yitzhak Ben David

**Function of the report's writer:** Program Head

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**Website/Facebook address of the organization:** <https://shaarei-zion.co.il/>

**Number of active participants in the program:**

Twenty three (23) rabbis are currently participating in the program. In the first year, 12 fellows initiated the program, and 11 joined in the second year. All have been serving as rabbis of their communities for less than 5 years.

**Estimated number of impacted participants:**

By expanding the rabbis' knowledge and community skills, the program has an indirect impact on the thousands of congregants who belong to and/or study in the synagogues, schools and cities in which these rabbis work and live.

**Indicate the current status of the plan (where the plan stands on the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):**

The program is in its third year and has succeeded in attracting excellent participants who hold significant rabbinical positions in a broad variety of communities and institutions across Israel. It has succeeded in creating a stimulating shared space which young rabbis find conducive to their continued development, both in Torah study and on a personal level.

The program helps students create a balance between the intensive Halachic study they need to prepare for their rabbinic exams, and the development of personal skills essential for rabbinical growth. To date, 4 students have completed rabbinical certification exams and await the final interviews necessary for final certification. Three students are expected to complete their exams by the end of this year, and an additional 5 will finish next year.

**Achievements of the past year (goals attained, number of events, number of participants, etc.):**

- We continued attracting high-quality candidates
- Four students completed their Rabbinic Certification exams
- Several participants entered into new roles as community rabbis
- We carried out successful public advocacy efforts about legislation that impacts city rabbis
- We developed relationships with city mayors and key figures in municipal governments and authorities
- We initiated meetings between our students and significant Israeli rabbinical and community leaders

**Assessment (methodology, results, comparisons to the previous year, conclusions for the future...):**

Based on our experience over the past two years, we continue to fine-tune and adapt the structure of our program. We have made the following changes:

- Having learned that the optimal time required to prepare for and complete the five Rabbinic ordination exams is slightly over two years, we now advise students to commit to learning with us for three years.

- To help our students learn pastoral skills, we have incorporated practical workshops on various aspects of rabbinical roles into our program.

We remain pleased with the current focus of our program. We continue to provide programming in three main content areas: in-depth Talmudic and Halachic study, the legacy of Sephardic rabbis, and a combination of Bible study and Jewish thought.

**Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in 2024-25:**

- Continue to support our students along the path that will lead to successful completion of their rabbinical certification exams
- We will continue to cultivate relationships with mayors and key figures in local authorities in order to help our students secure suitable employment
- Influence policy-making processes in the Knesset and government
- Prepare policy papers and appropriate proposals of law for future implementation
- Continue to explore opportunities for immediate or near-future rabbinical appointments.

**Appendix A: Financial Report**

September 2024 - August 2026							
Previous grant							
Expenses	Budget 2022-2023	Actual 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024	Projected actual 2023-2024	Projected actual VS budget 2022-2024	One year requested budget	Three year total budget 2024-2026 (NIS)
Director	220,320	214,560	270,000	270,000	99%	285,000	855,000
Coordinator	64,800	59,650	60,000	58,500	95%	80,000	240,000
Alumni coordinator	0	0	60,000	55,000	92%	43,000	129,000
PR & Policy promotion	84,000	61,500	66,000	63,000	83%	90,000	270,000
Scholarships	720,000	706,190	1,200,000	1,065,000	92%	1,260,000	3,780,000
Staff members	114,000	98,189	132,000	125,000	91%	150,000	450,000
Travel and events	75,000	54,890	70,000	55,000	76%	45,000	135,000
Lecturers	17,500	21,400	32,200	29,000	101%	43,000	129,000
Meals	60,000	53,800	154,800	148,700	94%	140,000	420,000
Renovation	50,000	63,250	50,000	25,000	88%	10,000	30,000
Overhead 8%	108,370	107,000	170,400	155,000	94%	171,680	515,040
Unexpected	35,000	29,500	35,000	30,000	85%	0	0
<b>total</b>	<b>1,548,990</b>	<b>1,469,929</b>	<b>2,300,400</b>	<b>2,079,200</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>2,317,680</b>	<b>6,953,040</b>

**Appendix B: Participant List**  
**2023-2024**

<b>Continuing Students (2nd Year)</b>	<b>1st Year Students</b>
1) Nadav Nizari 2) Yedidya Lau 3) Avraham Biton 4) Avraham Stav 5) Akiva Zuckerman 6) Rafael Fada 7) Eran Daom 8) Shai Ben Nahum 9) Hanan Atlas 10) Matityahu Kahn 11) Itamar Evron 12) Uziel Kedem	1) Hasdei Viner 2) Achiya Ben Fazi 3) Emanuel Deref 4) Shilo Gad Hoze 5) Avraham Mankin 6) Matan Schneiweiss 7) Or Ashot 8) Amram Vodka 9) Yitzchak Shmelov 10) Yuval Wexler 11) Hanan Benihu

**2024 - 2025**

<b>Continuing Students (2nd &amp; 3rd Year)</b>	<b>1st Year Students</b>
1) Avraham Mankin 2) Achiya Ben Fazi 3) Matan Schneiweiss 4) Emanuel Deref 5) Shilo Gad Hoze 6) Or Ashot 7) Yuval Wexler 8) Hasdei Viner 9) Shai Ben Nahum 10) Yedidya Lau 11) Rafael Fada 12) Nadav Nizari 13) Itamar Evron	1) Uriah Grinwold 2) Neria Teitz 3) Yair Rahat 4) Amichai Shoham 5) Itamar Frish 6) Sagi Mazoz 7) Shuval Kahane 8) Yonatan Sanders 9) Elad Bukovaza

**Appendix C: Photos**



