



# CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

## *Rabbinical Student Apprenticeship Program, 2025/26*

Are you an entrepreneurial rabbinical student interested in creating vibrant Jewish life? Are you looking for intensive mentorship from clergy who serve small-town congregations and meaningful relationships with congregants? Would you like to spend time in beautiful Maine over the coming year? If so, please apply to join the Center for Small Town Jewish Life's 2025/26 Rabbinical Student Apprenticeship Program!

This program offers a unique twist on the small-town student pulpit. Each apprentice works in a diverse and vibrant community large enough to support its own clergy but small enough to crave the energy and excitement for building Jewish life that rabbinical students bring. Apprentices receive intensive mentorship from a team of Conservative and Reform rabbis who have chosen to establish their careers in Maine's small Jewish communities, and they learn hands-on about the distinctive dynamics of small-town Jewish life. The insights and leadership strategies that apprentices gain are relevant in communities of all sizes.

Working both in person and online, apprentices lead services, teach children and adults, and establish pastoral relationships. Apprentices also offer programs that serve members of Jewish communities across the state, including at Maine's colleges. These include activities related to a project that capitalizes on the apprentice's strengths and passions while advancing locally defined needs.

Expectations include:

- Six weekends during the 2025/26 academic year, including the Center for Small Town Jewish Life Fall Shabbaton (Nov. 7–8, 2025) and the Maine Conference for Jewish Life (June 12–14, 2026).
- Modest online engagement with Maine communities throughout the year.
- Occasional Zoom orientation and learning sessions with fellow apprentices.
- Check-ins with mentors before programs and constructive feedback sessions afterwards.

Apprentices must be able to work independently, following through on their commitments. They should demonstrate eagerness to grow professionally by learning from feedback and mentorship.

Honorarium: \$4,000 plus all reasonable travel expenses. We strongly encourage new apprentices to attend this year's Maine Conference for Jewish Life (June 13–15) and will provide an additional honorarium to those who do. Of greater value, apprentices receive ongoing one-on-one mentorship from at least two rabbis to help them develop as effective leaders and educators.

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to [jewishlife@colby.edu](mailto:jewishlife@colby.edu). Please be sure to address your specific interest in the opportunities associated with this apprenticeship. Review of applications will begin on Monday, February 24, and will include Zoom interviews with finalists the week of March 3.

For more information about the Center for Small Town Jewish Life at Colby College and its approach to cultivating transformational learning and vibrant Jewish community, visit [jewishlife.colby.edu](http://jewishlife.colby.edu).