

- **Name of the study:** 'Keshet' Grant Evaluation Findings
- **Year:** 2025
- **Type of research:** Evaluation
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- **Authors:** 'Michlol' unit, Shalem Foundation.
- **Research Authority:** Shalem Foundation.

### **Abstract**

#### **This study was carried out by 'Michlol' - the Assessment and Measurement Unit of the Shalem Fund**

The "Keshet" grant is an initiative of the Shalem Foundation in collaboration with the Disability Administration at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, which aims to provide optimal solutions to families of people with disabilities. The grant is based on the concept of strengthening the family unit and is intended to expand the opportunities in local authorities to establish training and treatment groups for families caring for people with intellectual, physical, sensory disabilities and cognitive impairment. The groups are designed to provide families with knowledge, tools and professional support that will allow them to maintain an enabling and supportive lifestyle, while creating a space for emotional and social support and strengthening the connection with the social services in the authority.

The main goal of the evaluation was to examine the contribution of the grant to the development of the training and treatment groups and the contribution of the groups to their participants, both in terms of assistance in personal coping and in terms of creating a community and strengthening the connection with the Department of Social Services. The evaluation included 13 project integrators in 16 local authorities, and 102 group participants in 14 authorities, who responded to online questionnaires in Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian.

The findings presented a very positive and encouraging picture. The vast majority of participants enjoyed participating in the group, with 98% reporting great to very great enjoyment, 90% stating that the group enriched their knowledge, and 92% acquiring new tools for implementation. The main contributions noted by participants included deepening knowledge and coping tools, mutual support and networking, empowerment and confidence in emotional coping, and quality time for themselves. About half of the participants who had participated in similar groups in the past indicated that the current groups were preferable in terms of a more homogeneous structure, professional and focused content, meaningful group dynamics, and the functioning of experienced facilitators. The desire for continuity was particularly high - 99% expressed interest

in participating in another group in the future and 100% recommended other family members to participate.

In the eyes of the authorities, the grant was identified as having a unique and significant contribution. It allowed the family centers to hold specific activities beyond the current one, to develop and expand support for diverse population groups such as fathers and Russian speakers, and to build a high-quality and strong infrastructure. All the authorities indicated that the content provided an adequate response to the needs of the authority, and 77% reported an increase in the number of participating families and success in reaching new audiences that had not previously received a response.

The Keshet grant was perceived by both the participants and the authorities as a successful and significant initiative that resulted in a significant contribution. It removed existing barriers, expanded the range of services for families with special needs, reached new audiences, and provided high-quality support and practical tools that improve the quality of life of the families. The contributions reported by the participants aligned precisely with the grant's pre-defined goals, reinforcing the precision in planning and implementation. The uniqueness of the groups stemmed from structured content, precise target audience definition, and selection of facilitators with appropriate therapeutic background and experience. The evaluation findings highlight the strong need that existed in the field and the grant's significant contribution to addressing this need. It is important to note that the grant was able to take shape and come into effect within a year of war, with the opening of 111 groups during the first year supporting the area's enormous need for this grant. The findings can serve as a model for building similar groups in the future.

## **Keywords**

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Shalem Foundation Research | Keshet grant | training and treatment groups | caring families | authorities | family centers.

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