

(Philadelphia)

Social Workers Being Sought for Israel

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Dr. Eliezer Jaffe, a social worker from Detroit who went to Israel 18 years ago, is in Philadelphia to ask other American social workers to do the same.

"Israel needs social workers," said Jaffe, who lives in Jerusalem with his wife and their four Israeli-born children. "About 500 jobs for social workers of all levels of experience are available now, and another 1,000 jobs are expected to be open in the next

two or three years."

The reason is the government drive to implement a blueprint for social services, aimed at upgrading the lives of Jews from Arabic countries, who as a group are on the bottom of the socio-economic rung, according to Jaffe.

Most in need of attention are the young, Jaffe said yesterday in an interview. There are some 20,000 school-age youngsters who neither go to school nor work, he said.

Only 12 percent of university students are from Sephardic or families from Arabic countries, compared with

60 percent in the first grade, according to Jaffe.

Unemployment, between 3 and 4 percent overall, is disproportionately higher among the Sephardim, who have larger families, as a group, than the Ashkenazim, or Western Jews, Jaffe said. He said a study shows that 9 percent of the population, mostly Sephardic, is responsible for 40 percent of the births.

In an effort to combat delinquency, crime and other problems among the Israeli disadvantaged, the government is implementing several pro-

grams, Jaffe explains.

"Social workers are being placed in the schools as part of teams that include psychologists, counselors and teachers," he explains. "The social worker works mainly with the family. The idea is to prevent a problem with a youngster from getting out of hand, rather than wait for a crime to occur."

If a youngster has a behavioral problem in school, he is assigned to such a team, according to Jaffe. About 200 social workers already are in schools, but many more are sought by the Israeli government, he says.

In addition, plans call for the construction of 100 settlement-house type community centers that will care for the aged and children by day and for adults and youths in the evening. Social workers will be needed in these centers, Jaffe says.

Also, a \$1.3 billion urban renewal program is planned in 160 slum areas over the next five years, Jaffe says. Under the program, existing buildings will be refurbished and expanded, not torn down, and social workers will be needed to work with families in the community.

Jaffe, who teaches social work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was a member of the Prime Minister's Committee on Disadvantaged Youth, which drew up the blueprint the government is acting on now.