



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**WASHINGTON**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Junior League of Washington Announces 2016-2017 Grant  
Application Period for Literacy Projects; Letters of Intent Due  
September 16**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Junior League of Washington (JLW) today announced the opening of its 2016-2017 grant application period for literacy-focused projects in the Washington DC, area. Interested organizations are invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) no later than September 16, 2016.

JLW looks for programs that work to improve the literacy and life skills of women, children, and/or families; meet defined objectives when evaluated against measurable outcomes; and have strong leadership. The League prioritizes organizations that are fiscally responsible and that have partnerships with JLW and/or other organizations in the community. Additional weight will be given to those organizations who can provide one-time or ongoing volunteer opportunities for JLW members.

Preference for the Targeted Grants will be given to programs and projects that address one or more of the following children's literacy concerns:

- (1) Lack of reading materials in the home
- (2) Lack of reading materials and resources in school classrooms and libraries
- (3) Lack of exposure to reading aloud (ages 0-5)

For more than a decade, JLW has focused its financial and volunteer resources on the complex issue of literacy in the greater metropolitan area of the District of Columbia. JLW defines literacy as an individual's ability to read, write, and speak and compute and problem-solve at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential (adapted from the National Literacy Act of 1991). As a result, JLW is

committed to serving nonprofit organizations in the greater Washington, DC, area that make a significant difference in the area of literacy.

The LOI format and additional information are available at [http://www.jlw.org/?nd=grants\\_scholars](http://www.jlw.org/?nd=grants_scholars).

### **About Junior League of Washington**

The Junior League of Washington ([www.jlw.org](http://www.jlw.org)) is a nonprofit organization of more than 2,300 women who annually donate thousands of dollars and volunteer hours to the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. JMW is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. JMW focuses its financial and volunteer resources on the issues of literacy – adult, child, and cultural – and works with a diverse group of community partners. Since 1912, JMW has donated more than five million hours of direct volunteer service and more than \$5.8 million to the Washington, DC, community.