

WOMEN UNITED LITERACY GRANTS 2025-26

The United Way of Champaign County Women United group has established a grant program to support early literacy programs and educators in Champaign County, via funds raised at Power of the Purse.

Women United strives to ensure all children in Champaign County have access to books, and the opportunity to fall in love with reading. Women United Literacy Grants aim to close the literacy gap, and increase literacy access for kids across the county.

For the inaugural 2025-26 Women United Literacy Grant cycle, a total of \$50,000 is available for funding.

Timeline

Grant Application Opens: May 14, 2025

Grant Application Closes: July 1, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

Notification of Awards: August 2025

Funds Awarded: September 2025

Grant Award Range: \$1,000 - \$10,000 per program

Application Process

An application must be completed by July 1, 2025. Proposals will be reviewed by members or Women United and United Way staff to select successful applicants.

Eligibility Requirements

- Grant activities must align with early childhood literacy in Champaign County, impacting **children within the ages of birth through 3rd grade**.
- Grants will only be awarded to organizations that have been designated as having tax exempt status according to the IRS Code Section 501 (c) (3), or its equivalent for educational institutions, including public libraries.

- Outcome-based reports will be required from the grantee in December 2025 and May 2026, including
 - How the grant was spent
 - The number of hours spent by staff
 - The number of children served receiving literacy support
 - The number of children served reading at grade level (if applicable)
 - Total number of children served and assessed for their reading level

More information about required reporting will be given to grant recipients in August 2025.

Contact

Please contact Emily Neal, Director of Engagement, United Way of Champaign County, at emily@unitedwaychampaign.org with any questions.