



## Board of Directors

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Junior League of  
Cleveland

3615 Superior Avenue E  
Building 44, Suite 4404C  
Cleveland OH 44114

Phone: 216-231-6300

**Dear Greater Cleveland Community Members, Partners, and Neighbors,**

The Junior League of Cleveland (JLC) invites you to submit a proposal for funding and partnership. The JLC's Signature Initiative, its highest priority for community impact, has been focused on youth aging out of foster care. Over the past year, we have evaluated our activities in this space and are seeking to transform our focus within this issue area. As a result, we are seeking the community's ideas for a creating a positive impact for young adults, who are aging out of foster care, in the following areas:

- Academic support
- Post-secondary educational support
- Career preparation
- Employment programs or vocational training
- Budget and financial management
- Housing education and home management
- Health education and risk prevention
- Family support and healthy marriage education
- Mentoring
- Supervised independent living
- Room and board financial assistance
- Other applicable services

The JLC will provide seed funding and trained volunteers for a period of up to 3 years to the proponents of the chosen proposal(s).

We are seeking to create an active partnership between the JLC and the chosen proposal(s). More information about this can be found in this Request for Proposals along with details regarding budget and selection criteria. **Please submit your completed application no later than January 21, 2020.**

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to reviewing your submission. If you do not have a relevant proposal at this time, we would appreciate your help in spreading the word! Please share this opportunity with your non-profit colleagues and stakeholders.

If you have any questions, please contact our Community Research and Development Committee at [info@jlcleveland.org](mailto:info@jlcleveland.org) or by phone at 216-231-6300.

Sincerely,

Kesha Owens  
Chair, Community Research and Development Committee  
JLC

**Mission:** The Junior League of Cleveland is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

## JLC's History

The Junior League of Cleveland is one of the oldest and largest Leagues. In 1912, The Junior League of Cleveland was organized by Mrs. John W. Cross (Katherine Mather), Mrs. Ralph Cobb, and a group of 67 women who wanted to make a difference in the city and their own lives.

They met monthly, often to hear a speaker whose topics dealt with social and service issues. They drew up a list of 190 places for volunteering, a "highly suggested" reading list, and adopted eight standing committees.

Many of The JLC's later projects found their start during those first few years—serving women, children, and educational needs. Money was raised to better the lives of the needy.

## What We Do

Since its inception in 1912, the Junior League of Cleveland (JLC) has provided countless volunteer hours and more than \$2.3 million to the community. The JLC has been involved with issues pertaining to children, education and women, providing volunteer energy, financial assistance, training and generating public support. Often in collaboration with other community groups and/or the public sector, the JLC designs and implements projects and programs to address community needs. As such, the major components of our activities are: **Women's Development, Community Service, and Advocacy.**

## Current Community Projects

**Girl League**— Girl League is a one-day inspirational leadership development symposium geared towards high school girls with a focus on goal-setting skills and developing a positive outlook on life. This event is co-sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio.



**Cooking with Cuyahoga's Kids**— The purpose of this program is to provide youth at risk of aging out of foster care with specific life skills, including making healthy food choices, basic cooking techniques, kitchen safety skills, and etiquette.

**Junior League of Cleveland Scholarship Fund**— The JLC Scholarship provides support for non-traditional women students seeking the opportunity to gain further education or career training. Awards of up to \$5000 can be used for traditional expenses such as tuition as well as transportation costs, supplies, and childcare.

**Immediate Impact (Done in a Day)**— Immediate Impact projects are designed to provide League members with a wide variety of volunteer opportunities that do not require an extensive ongoing time commitment. This year, we will have volunteer opportunities with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the Boys and Girls Club, Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, the Church of the Covenant, University Settlement, and the Kids Book Bank.

**Advocacy**— The Advocacy Committee is tasked with educating League Members and the community at large regarding issues surrounding the JLC's issue impact area and with supporting the advocacy efforts of The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). The Advocacy Committee also lobbies local, state, and federal lawmakers regarding our policy positions. This year, our efforts will be focused on easing the transition experienced by youth aging out of foster care.

# Request for Proposals

The Junior League of Cleveland (“JLC”) is seeking proposals from our non-profit community that focus on assisting young adults who are aging out of foster care. We have conducted a thorough community needs assessment and identified and prioritized the focus area as critical to the Greater Cleveland area and request proposals with clear objectives focusing on assisting young adults in the following areas:

- Academic support
- Post-secondary educational support
- Career preparation
- Employment programs or vocational training
- Budget and financial management
- Housing education and home management
- Health education and risk prevention
- Family support and healthy marriage education
- Mentoring
- Supervised independent living
- Room and board financial assistance
- Other applicable services

We will consider proposals to support existing programs, but also encourage applications for new program concepts that fit within our focus area.

The JLC will provide, at its sole discretion, up to \$10,000 in seed funding to be renewed annually based on a yearly evaluation for a period of up to 3 years (the “Funding Period”). In addition to the funding, the JLC will provide the support and expertise from our members for the duration of the Funding Period. Our members are trained volunteers with a rich history of leading and supporting community initiatives. The chosen program will be managed by the JLC and the sponsoring organization for the Funding Period.

The Junior League of Cleveland is a group of female leaders dedicated to community change. The group is composed of diverse, creative, compassionate, and action-oriented women who are committed to promoting the League’s mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action of trained volunteers. Our members have varying backgrounds and interests and share a commitment to volunteering.

**The deadline to submit proposals is Tuesday, January 21, 2020.**

Proposal applications should be completed online at:

[www.jlcleveland.org/community/rfp](http://www.jlcleveland.org/community/rfp)

Our proposal(s) will be selected by the membership at a General Membership Meeting in April 2020. All Finalists will be notified of the membership’s ultimate decision on or about April 30, 2020.

At the time of funding, a contract will be signed by the JLC and the sponsoring organization. The contract will detail, among other things, the program description, disbursement of funds, accounting by the recipient, rights of the JLC, and responsibilities of the recipient of the funding.

## Important Dates:

12/09/19  
RFP Opens



01/21/20  
RFP Closes



02/21/20  
Semi-Finalists Notified



03/09/20  
Semi-Finalists Present  
to JLC



03/20/20  
Finalists Notified



04/15/20  
Finalists Present to JLC  
Membership



04/30/20  
Notify Selected  
Proposals(s)



05/21/20  
Partner Introduction at JLC  
Annual Meeting

**Note:** Technical Assistance Nights will be held during the RFP window.

Questions? Please email us at [info@jlcleveland.org](mailto:info@jlcleveland.org) or call 216-231-6300.