2026 Prime Time Family Reading

New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Organization

Organization Name*

Character Limit: 100

Organization Description*

Please briefly describe your work, including regular programs or services offered, with special focus on any programs or services offered which relate to literacy and literacy education.

Character Limit: 5000

Organization Budget*

To help us understand the size of your organization, please include your total organizational budget for this year or last year.

Character Limit: 100

Staff & Structure*

Please briefly describe the number of full- and part-time employees at your organization. If your library is part of a library system, please briefly describe the structure of the system and your place within it.

Character Limit: 3500

Audience*

Prime Time Family Reading's target audience is economically and educationally vulnerable children and their parents. Accordingly, it is important for us to collaborate with organizations with an interest in and commitment to serving those community members.

Please tell us about who visits you, how they participate, and what you know about them, including visitor and/or circulation numbers. Please use this space to help us get a picture of the kind of people you regularly serve and the role of your organization in the community.

Character Limit: 5000

Community Partnerships*

Please describe community partnerships your organization has established, or would be interested in establishing, to assist in the implementation of this program, such as partnerships with local school districts; private businesses and corporate entities; food co-operatives and community organizations; houses of worship; other literacy providers; social service agencies; and/or offices of state or local government.

Character Limit: 5000

Prime Time Program

Program Interest*

Why are you interested in becoming a Prime Time host site? How do you think this program will benefit you?

Character Limit: 5000

Program Timeline*

Prime Time Family Reading programs take place over 6 consecutive weeks during each season's implementation period. Programs take place on weekday evenings for approximately 1.5 hours. A more detailed timeline is available in the application guidelines.

Would you prefer to implement your program in SPRING or FALL?

Choices
Spring 2026 (March 1-June 30)
Fall 2026 (September 1-December 30)
I have no preference

Participant Recruitment and Outreach*

Please describe the population(s) your organization plans to target for recruitment, as well as the outreach methods you will employ to engage them.

Character Limit: 5000

Facilities*

Federal regulations require Prime Time Family Reading facilities to meet these minimum accommodations. Please confirm that your space meets the following requirements (check each box):

Choices
Building and internal rooms (including bathrooms) are ADA accessible.
A space where up to 50 people can share a meal.
A space where the same group can read and discuss books (may be the same space as the meal).
A separate play area for preschool-aged children.

Facilities (cont'd)

If you did not check all of the prior boxes, please explain.

Character Limit: 5000

Book Series*

Please select your top two of the available book series from the list below. Full book lists are available for each series via the Prime Time Family Reading Book Series page. NJCH will select up to 3 series to implement across the program in 2026 based on the interests of applicants.

Each site selected for the program will finalize their selection of series after notification of award.

Choices

Animal Tales - Explores social themes and values such as friendship, patience, and justice
Inquire - Encourages scientific thinking, invites readers to approach the sciences via storytellling
Nourish - Invites readers to approach humanities themes via food and foodways
Of, By, and For the People - Connects the humanities with themes related to civics and democracy
No preference

Program Team

Program Team members required for each site include a Program Coordinator, Scholar, Storyteller, Community Organizer, and Preschool Coordinator. Team members may be staff, volunteers, or community members. For full descriptions of all these roles, please see the Guidelines.

Please provide names, titles, organizational affiliations, and a brief description of relevant experience for each team member. If the team member has not yet been identified, please put in what characteristics you are looking for and any progress that has been made towards reaching out to appropriate individuals (if relevant).

Program Coordinator*

Must be a library staff member. Team lead for this program, overseeing the program logistics and overall success.

Character Limit: 3500

Community Organizer*

Assists with recruitment of families and preparation/implementation of each session. Supports the program coordinator, and contacts families each week to maintain steady attendance.

Character Limit: 3500

Storyteller*

Reads the stories at each session, demonstrating read-aloud techniques for parents. Reads the stories in a manner easily replicable during at-home reading, and works with the Scholar to model positive reading and discussion techniques.

Character Limit: 3500

Scholar*

Prepares and facilitates post-story discussion of humanities themes and issues. Leads discussions using the Socratic Method, modeling techniques families can adopt for at-home reading and lifelong learning. Works with the Storyteller to model reading and discussion techniques.

Character Limit: 3500

Preschool Coordinator*

Prepares and implements activities for preschool-aged siblings who attend each session.

Character Limit: 3500

Confirmations

Email List Opt-In*

Would you like to be added to the NJCH email list?

Choices

Yes
No
I am already on the list

By signing and submitting this application, the applicant is acknowledging compliance with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Prime Time Family Reading Guidelines. The applicant certifies that the organization is established for nonprofit purposes and that the described project is and will be not-for-profit; no profit will be derived from the project, nor will any accrue to the applicant.

The applicant will receive a confirmation email from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities once the application is successfully submitted.

Applicant Signature*

By typing my name I confirm that all information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

Character Limit: 250