

The League of Women Voters of Moscow is pleased to release to the community and stakeholders its study on *A Study of Poverty in Latah County, Idaho in 2012*. This document provides insights into the needs of a significant portion of our population and points out programs and approaches that can improve or increase accessibility and availability of goods and services, either through the coordination of existing programs or by the enhancement or creation of new services.

The extent of poverty became apparent when various service providers approached local government to express concern over increasing demands on their services without commensurate increases in support. Rather than address issues piecemeal, the City of Moscow convened a series of well-attended forums among stakeholders, and recognized their enthusiasm over the prospect of cooperation.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Moscow realized the need for basic gathering of information on the current state of poverty in Latah County and in the spring of 2011 voted to study the issue. The five areas of concentration were housing, food instability, medical care, transportation and child care. Our speaker series since then has featured providers and experts who could illuminate the subject for us. Committees were formed to study the availability and needs in each of the five areas of concentration. This document is the result of our study. It is a snapshot in time and we realize, through the experience during this past year, that changes can occur rapidly.

Elaine C. Broyles, President
League of Women Voters, Moscow