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CONTACT: [Lacey S. Siegel \(New York Life Foundation\)](#)
[Lisa Lederer \(Afterschool Alliance\)](#)

**THE NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION AND AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE INVITE PROPOSALS
FROM OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS
HELPING YOUTH TRANSITION FROM 8th TO 9th GRADE**

***Special grants to bolster out-of-school time programs that support
youth entrepreneurship***

Eighth year of competitive grant program will bring awards total to \$11.55 million

The New York Life Foundation and the Afterschool Alliance released a national Request for Proposals for the Aim High grant program today. Aim High provides grants to organizations across the country that provide afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. The Foundation will award \$1.8 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged middle school youth. Over the eight years of the program, nearly \$12 million has been awarded to OST programs nationwide. Aim High is part of the New York Life Foundation's ongoing investment in OST programs to help underserved middle school youth reach the 9th grade on time and better prepared for high school.

Forty new grants will be made to afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs next year through a competitive application process. Ten of the 40 will focus on OST programs supporting racial equity and social justice work, and 10 will focus on youth entrepreneurship and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

"Research suggests that participation in high-quality afterschool and summer programs can lead to more engaged students, increased well-being and socialization, and promotes greater academic achievement," said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. "Middle school students benefit from afterschool and summer programs, which help them discover their talents and interests. The Aim High grant program is dedicated to supporting OST programs, ensuring that middle school students succeed in school, work, and in life."

This year, the New York Life Foundation is recognizing the critical importance of supporting young people's entrepreneurial mindset with 10 Aim High grants. When young people learn about entrepreneurship, they gain important skills such as problem solving, persistence, and a growth mindset. Out-of-school time programs that enhance youth entrepreneurship offer opportunities to:

build college and career readiness; strengthen 21st century skills; connect youth with local businesses and community leaders; and more. Furthermore, youth can gain decision-making skills, communication skills and develop critical thinking skills from entrepreneurial education.

The four Aim High grant categories for 2024:

- Ten grants of \$50,000 per year over the span of two years (for total awards of \$100,000) will go to OST programs with annual program budgets of \$250,000 or more and annual organizational budgets of \$500,000 or more.
- Ten grants of \$25,000 per year over the span of two years (for total awards of \$50,000) will go to OST programs with annual organizational budgets of \$250,000 or more.
- Ten awards of \$15,000 over one year will go to OST programs with annual organizational budgets of \$150,000 or more with a focus on supporting programs in their work to advance racial equity and social justice.
- Ten awards of \$15,000 over one year will go to OST programs with annual organizational budgets of \$150,000 or more with a focus on youth entrepreneurship and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

The Afterschool Alliance will convene a selection committee of experts in the OST field, including youth reviewers, to assess applications and make recommendations. Applications are due by February 1, 2024. Grant winners will be notified in May of 2024.

“The New York Life Foundation's Aim High grant program continues to provide badly needed support for afterschool programs, and that is especially true now, as the pandemic relief funds run their course. The Afterschool Alliance is incredibly proud to partner with the Foundation on Aim High and we welcome the added focus on youth entrepreneurship this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Middle school youth need the opportunities out-of-school time programs provide to explore new interests, build work and life skills, and connect with peers and caring mentors. Afterschool programs will be able to do even more for students and families as a result of the Aim High grants.”

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$84 million in national middle school OST efforts. Information for prospective applicants is available at <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>, including the application and eligibility requirements and previous winners. Potential applicants should direct questions to aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org.

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About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.AfterschoolAlliance.org.

About the New York Life Foundation

Inspired by New York Life's tradition of service and humanity, the New York Life Foundation has, since its founding in 1979, provided nearly \$415 million in charitable contributions to national and local nonprofit organizations. The Foundation supports programs that benefit young people, particularly in the areas of educational enhancement, childhood bereavement and social justice. The Foundation also encourages and facilitates the community involvement of employees and agents of New York Life through its Volunteers for Good program and Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative. To learn more, please visit www.newyorklifefoundation.org.