The New York Life Foundation’s Aim High Grant Program: Tips to Apply

Afterschool Alliance
Re-Recording the Q&A
Speakers:

- **Marilyn Torres**, Senior Program Officer, New York Life Foundation

- **Dan Gilbert**, Project Manager, Afterschool Alliance
Agenda

Award Overview
Top 5 Tips
Common Questions
Feedback from the First Round
What to Remember
Q&A
Overview
The Aim High RFP Program

- **Grants Targeted Towards:**
  - Afterschool, Summer, & Expanded Learning Programs
  - Serving Disadvantaged Youth
  - Supporting the Transition to 9th Grade

- **3rd Year:** $1.35 Million in Grant Funds will be Disbursed
National Middle School OST Investments

• Research shows that students who get to 9th grade prepared and on-time are 4 times more likely to graduate from high school. This important step puts students on the right path for academic and financial success.

• Since 2013, the Foundation has invested more than $38 million in grants to support middle school youth in OST programs.
The Aim High Grant Program is modeled after the Foundation’s national grantmaking strategy.

Indicators of Success:

- All Grants:
  - Academic Success
  - School Attendance
  - On-Time Promotion to 9th Grade
  - Development of Social & Emotional Skills
1-Year Grants: Focused on Supporting Professional Development Opportunities:

This year’s ten 1-year, $15,000 grants will be focused on helping programs to provide additional professional development supports to their staff.
The RFP is currently **OPEN**

The RFP will close at **5:00 PM ET** on **Friday, January 25, 2019**

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by a diverse team of experts.

Grant awards will be announced in **May, 2019**

The **two-year grant period** will begin in May 2019 and end in May 2021

The **one-year grant period** will begin in May 2019 and end in May 2020
## Grant Tiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Number of Grants Awarded</th>
<th>Individual Grant: Year 1</th>
<th>Individual Grant: Year 2</th>
<th>Total 2-Year Grant Amount</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Annual <em>Program</em> Budget Must Be At Least $250,000 AND Annual <em>Organizational</em> Budget must be at least $500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Annual <em>Organizational</em> Budget must be at least $250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Annual <em>Organizational</em> Budget must be at least $150,000</td>
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Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicants must be registered 501(c)3 organizations.

2. Applicants must either serve middle school youth (grades 6, 7, and 8) or use grant funds to begin serving middle school youth.

3. Applicants must serve a high percentage (75%) of low-income youth, as determined by Free & Reduce Price Lunch (FRPL) rates.

4. Applicants must not currently receive funding from the New York Life Foundation, either directly or as ‘pass-through’ funding.
Eligible Uses for Funds

Grant funds may be used for technical assistance and/or enhancing direct service activities.

• Technical assistance includes:
  • Program enhancements
  • Operations enhancements
  • Governance enhancements
  • Professional Development (1-year grants)

• Direct service components include:
  • Expanding program capacity
  • Adding a new program component
  • Enhancing programming to better support students’ transition to the 9th grade.
## Reporting Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Requirements</th>
<th>1-Year Grants</th>
<th>2-Year Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Progress Reports Due</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1, 2019</td>
<td>Progress Report Due</td>
<td>Progress Report Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2020</td>
<td>Progress Report Due</td>
<td>Progress Report Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2020</td>
<td>Final Report Due</td>
<td>Progress Report Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2021</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Progress Report Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2021</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Final Report Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tip #1:
All Questions Have A Purpose
Tip #2:
Be an Advocate for your Program
Tip #3:
Provide Lots of Details
Tip #4: Keep it Relevant
Tip #5:
Read, Re-Read
Have Someone Else Read
And Read Again
Templates & Samples:

• **Section D: Project Description and Expected Outcomes**

• **Section F: Budget and Narrative**

• Links to the templates and samples are available in the PDF of the Request For Proposals, and are also linked to from within the application.
Common Questions
Common Questions

How many grants will be given?

- 8 grants of $50,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of $100,000.
- 8 grants of $25,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of $50,000.
- 10 1-year grants of $15,000.

Are non-profit organizations that are not 501(c)3 eligible to apply?

- No, only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply.
Common Questions

Can multiple affiliates from the same organization submit applications separately?

- Yes, multiple affiliates of the same parent organization may apply for funding so long as each affiliate is currently not receiving grant funds – either directly or indirectly – from the New York Life Foundation, and so long as the applying affiliate meets all of the eligibility requirements laid out in the RFP.

Can multiple programs or program sites from the same organization submit applications separately?

- No, each organization or affiliate may submit only one application across all of their program sites.
Common Questions

What is the geographic scope of the grants?

- Applicants will be accepted from anywhere within the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Applicants from US Territories are ineligible to apply.
- NOTE: The New York Life Foundation reserves the right to provide an additional 5 points to certain applications based on the location and geographic distribution of applicants.

Are schools, school districts, and/or government agencies eligible to apply?

- Only if they are registered 501(c)3 organizations.
Common Questions

Can 501(c)3 organizations serve as a fiduciary agent for programs run by organizations that are not 501(c)3?

• **No**, the 501(c)3 organizations must be the applying program provider.

Can I get a recording of this webinar?

• **Yes**, this webinar is being recorded. The link will be both sent to you via email and posted on the Afterschool Alliance’s Webinars Page

Are organizations with annual budgets of less than $150,000 eligible to apply for any of the grants?

• **No**, they are not. The minimum organizational budget to be eligible for the grants is $150,000.
Common Questions

Is it the program budget or the organizational budget that will need to meet the budget requirement?

• For the 1-Year, $15,000 grants and the 2-Year, $50,000 grants, it is the full organization’s operating budget from the most recent fiscal year that determines eligibility. For most organizations this will be the final FY16 budget.
• For the 2-Year, $100,000 grants, applicants must meet the budget minimum for both the organizational budget and the program budget (See RFP).

Are 501(c)3 organizations that provide supports to middle school youth – but do not directly provide program services in out-of-school time settings – eligible to apply?

• No, only programs that are direct providers of out-of-school programming are eligible to apply.
Feedback from Past Years
Feedback from Previous Rounds:

High Turnout:

- 350+ applications received both years
- Highly competitive; 5% of applicants funded
Lessons from the review process:

- **Remember**: Reviewers are on your side
- Reviewers’ job is narrow the field - don’t give any reason to deduct points
Applicants that did best typically made a compelling argument that they were a good fit for the stated objectives of the Aim High Grant Program.
Feedback from Previous Rounds:

The **#1 reason** applicants lost points: responses did not address specifics of questions as they were posed.
What to Remember
Remember:

**Due Date:** Nominations must be submitted by *Friday, January 25th 2019* at 5:00 PM EST.

**Draft, Edit, Review:** Download the application, review the questions, and draft your answers with time to spare. Make sure your questions provide clear answers to the questions they correspond to.

**Data Matters:** The strongest applications often include robust program data.

**Don’t Assume:** Reviewers *will* be unfamiliar with your program; provide detailed information that will help reviewers gain a stronger understanding of the supports your program provides.
Q&A

More questions? Email Dan Gilbert at dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org