



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

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NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION AND THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE OPEN COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO HELP MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

Fifth year of grants to bring awards total to \$6.15 million

*Grantmaking focus on racial and social justice, and on
sustaining programs through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic*

The Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation today issued a Request for Proposals for the Aim High grant program, which provides grants to organizations that provide afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs across the country. For the fifth year, the Foundation will award \$1.35 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged middle school youth, bringing the total amount awarded over the life of the grant program to \$6.15 million.

Aim High is part of the New York Life Foundation's ongoing investment in OST programs to help underserved 8th graders reach the 9th grade on time and prepared for high school level work. In 2021, 26 awards in total will go to afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide through a competitive application process. In recognition of the unique burdens the COVID-19 crisis creates for OST programs, grants will help sustain programs for middle school students amidst the pandemic. Ten one-year grants will focus on supporting OST programs' racial and social justice equity efforts.

"Recent acts of racial injustice have highlighted the inequities that continue to exist in our society. In an effort to support young people in this environment and build on the Foundation's long history of supporting organizations that address racial injustice, this year's Aim High grant program will focus on funding out-of-school time programs that are at the forefront of this work," said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. "OST organizations are essential in helping underserved students to bridge the gap between middle school and high school through mentors and trusted adults from their own community and opportunities to connect socially and emotionally with other youth. We know that these benefits are critical to positive youth development and are especially important for youth now and in the future."

Research shows that participation in high-quality afterschool, expanded day and summer programs leads to greater academic achievement, better school attendance and more engaged students.

Twenty-six grants will be awarded in 2021 in three categories:

- Eight grants of \$50,000 per year over the span of two years (for a total award 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.
- Eight grants of \$25,000 per year over the span of two years (for a total award 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 efforts around advancing racial equity and social justice.

The Afterschool Alliance will convene a selection committee comprised of experts in the OST field to assess applications and make grant recommendations. Applications are due by January 22, 2021. Grant winners will be notified in May 2021.

"Afterschool programs have stepped up heroically during the pandemic," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "During the height of the shutdowns, they delivered meals to low-income families, provided in-person services to children of essential workers, and road-tested and improved the methods that many schools are now using to teach children in person and via the Internet. The New York Life Foundation's Aim High grant program has never been more critical to the afterschool movement than it is today, and we're proud to be associated with the Foundation's essential investments. Afterschool programs keep our kids safe, give parents peace of mind, build foundational skills and provide a supportive environment where youth have a sense of belonging. Because of the Foundation's generosity, many programs will be able to continue that vital work this year and into the future."

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$58 million in national middle school OST efforts. Information for prospective applicants is available at <http://afterschoolalliance.org/awards.cfm>, including the application and eligibility requirements and previous winners. Questions from applicants should be directed to dgilbert@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 \$360 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 and childhood bereavement. 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.