



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

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New York Life Foundation Selects 40 Out-of-School-Time Programs Across Nation to Receive Grants to Help Middle Schoolers Enter 9th Grade On Time and On Track

***\$800,000 in 2026 Grants Bring Total to \$14.15M Awarded
Since Aim High Program Launched a Decade Ago***

The New York Life Foundation, in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance, today announced the 40 afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs in 21 states and the District of Columbia that will receive Aim High grants this year. The programs will use these \$20,000 grants to help middle school students transition to high school on time and well prepared to succeed.

The new grants are part of the Foundation's Aim High initiative, now in its tenth year. With this latest round of funding, the Foundation has committed \$14.15 million to support out-of-school-time (OST) programs through Aim High since it launched in 2016.

The 2026 grants will provide general operating support to OST programs that help students successfully transition from 8th to 9th grade. They were awarded through a competitive selection process to OST organizations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

"We are proud to support these 40 organizations as they help young people navigate one of the most important transitions in their educational journey," said Heather Nesle, president of the New York Life Foundation and an Afterschool Alliance board member. "The move from middle school to high school can shape a student's confidence and future opportunities. Through afterschool, summer and other out-of-school-time programs, these organizations provide the guidance, encouragement, and supportive environments that help students build skills, strengthen resilience, and thrive. We're honored to invest in their work and in the potential of every young person they serve."

A large body of research demonstrates that participation in high-quality afterschool, expanded day, and summer programs leads to greater academic achievement, better school attendance, and more engaged students.

"The New York Life Foundation's generous, sustained commitment to support afterschool programs that are working with middle school students has had a powerful impact across the country," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "The Afterschool Alliance is grateful and honored to continue our collaboration on the Aim High program. We congratulate this year's grant recipients and thank the New York Life Foundation for its remarkable, continuing generosity."

The 2026 Aim High Grant Winners

The 40 organizations being awarded \$20,000 one-year grants to help students transition successfully to 9th grade:

- Camp Catanese Foundation, Phoenix, **Arizona**
- BOSS, Inc., Long Beach, **California**
- Breakthrough Silicon Valley, San Jose, **California**
- Mission Graduates, San Francisco, **California**
- The "I Have A Dream" Foundation of Boulder County, Boulder, **Colorado**
- Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. (LEAP), New Haven, **Connecticut**
- Norwalk/Stamford Grassroots Tennis and Education, Inc. (NSGTE), Norwalk, **Connecticut**
- West End Neighborhood House, Wilmington, **Delaware**
- Beacon House Community Ministry Inc., Washington, **District of Columbia**
- Little Lights Urban Ministries, Washington, **District of Columbia**
- Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF), Washington, **District of Columbia**
- Club Esteem, Inc, Melbourne, **Florida**
- Metropolitan Ministries, Inc., Tampa, **Florida**
- Young Musicians Unite, Miami, **Florida**
- Upriver Youth Leadership Council (UYLC), Kamiah, **Idaho**
- Chicago Youth Programs, Chicago, **Illinois**
- Erie Neighborhood House, Chicago, **Illinois**
- The Community House, Hinsdale, **Illinois**
- My Place Teen Center, Inc., Westbrook, **Maine**
- MTM Foundation, Inc., Baltimore, **Maryland**
- Bigfork ACES, Bigfork, **Montana**
- Give Chances, Palisades Park, **New Jersey**
- New Jersey Community Development Corporation, Paterson, **New Jersey**
- Girls Inc. of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, **New Mexico**
- Buffalo Prep, Inc., Buffalo, **New York**
- East Harlem Tutorial Program, Inc. (EHTP), New York, **New York**
- Figure Skating in Harlem, New York, **New York**
- Rosie's Theater Kids, New York, **New York**
- Dream Center Academy, Inc, Gastonia, **North Carolina**
- Operation Xcel, Stokesdale, **North Carolina**
- Student U, Durham, **North Carolina**
- YMCA of Western North Carolina, Inc., Asheville, **North Carolina**
- Esperanza. Inc., Cleveland, **Ohio**
- Girls Incorporated of Chattanooga, Chattanooga, **Tennessee**
- Moves and Grooves Inc., Nashville, **Tennessee**
- Refugee Empowerment Program, Memphis, **Tennessee**
- Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary, East Barre, **Vermont**
- Walk In It Inc., Suffolk, **Virginia**
- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Toppenish, **Washington**
- United Community Center, Milwaukee, **Wisconsin**

The Afterschool Alliance convened a selection committee of experts in the OST field, including youth, to assess applications and make grant recommendations.

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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 over \$490 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 and Grief-Supportive Workplace Initiatives. To learn more, please visit www.newyorklifefoundation.org.