



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

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

Sixth year of program largest to date, bringing awards total to \$7.95 million

*Grantmaking focuses on racial and social justice, and on
sustaining programs as they address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic*

The Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation today announced a new 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. In this sixth year of the grant program, the Foundation has increased funding and will award \$1.8 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged middle school youth. Once these awards are issued in 2022, the total amount awarded over the six-year life of the grant program will climb to nearly \$8 million.

The Aim High grant program 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. Applications are due by February 1, 2022 and awards will be announced in May 2022. Forty awards will be announced for afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide through a competitive application process. In recognition of the unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose for OST programs, grants will help sustain programs for middle school students amidst the pandemic. Of the 40 grants, 20 will focus on supporting OST programs' racial and social justice equity efforts.

"Afterschool and summer learning programs are essential for COVID-19 recovery," said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. "Out-of-school time programs help children catch up on disrupted learning, re-engage with their school communities, and provide important well-being and emotional supports. These programs are a lifeline for working parents. Recovering from the pandemic will require a multi-faceted approach to address the negative impacts the pandemic continues to have on children, youth and families. OST programs are part of the solution to help children and their families thrive."

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.

In response to the challenges the pandemic and ongoing need to support racial and social justice efforts, the Foundation increased the overall Aim High program budget by 22% and established a permanent grant category to support OST programs' efforts around racial and social justice efforts.

The Aim High grant categories are:

- Ten 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.
- Ten 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.
- Twenty 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 of experts in the OST field to assess applications and make grant recommendations. Applications are due by February 1, 2022. Grant winners will be notified in May 2022.

"Afterschool programs have been quiet champions of the pandemic," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Programs have been expanding their hours and services, delivering meals and enrichment kits, supporting students learning remotely, checking in on students' social and emotional health, connecting families to social services, and much more. Those efforts have strained budgets, and many are now facing significant challenges hiring and retaining staff. The New York Life Foundation's Aim High grant program continues to be a vital support for the afterschool movement. We're proud to partner with the Foundation. 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."

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$63 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. Potential applicants should direct questions to Dan Gilbert at 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 \$380 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.