

Appendix D. Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: How many grants will be given?

- 10 grants of \$50,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$100,000.
- 10 grants of \$25,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$50,000.
- 20 1-year grants of \$15,000, focused on supporting programs in their efforts around advancing racial equity and social justice.

Question 2: Are non-profit organizations that are not 501(c)(3) eligible to apply?

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

Question 3: Are schools and/or school districts eligible to apply?

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

Question 4: 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, such as Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, 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.

Question 5: Are there any exceptions to the organizational or program budget requirements?

- No, to be eligible for any of the grants your organization's most recent organizational operating budget or program operating budget must meet the minimum requirement for that specific grant tier.

Question 6: Is it the program budget or the organizational budget that will need to meet the budget requirement? And what budget will be used to determine this eligibility?

The answer to this question depends on the grant tier for which the organization is applying.

- For organizational budget requirements, it is the organization's full operating budget from the most recently completed fiscal year that will determine eligibility. For most organizations this will be the FY20 budget.
- For the \$15,000, 1-year grant the organization's annual budget must be at least \$150,000.
- For the \$50,000, 2-year grant the organization's annual budget must be at least \$250,000.
- For the \$100,000, 2-year grant the organization's annual budget must be at least \$500,000, AND the applying program's operating budget from the most recent fiscal year must be at least \$250,000.
- For more details on how we define program budget and organizational budget, see Appendix E. Definitions on page 44.

Question 7: 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 program provider.

Question 8: Is there any maximum budget limit that would make organizations ineligible for these grant opportunities?

- No, there is no maximum budget that would render organizations ineligible.

Question 9: 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.

Question 10: If an organization runs multiple programs - some of which meet the low-income requirement and some of which do not – are they eligible to apply? If so, should only the program sites that meet this requirement be included in the application?

- Yes, and yes.

Question 11: The Request for Proposals says that organizations that currently receive funding from the New York Life Foundation – either directly or indirectly – are ineligible to apply. Are there any exceptions?

- Yes, there are two exceptions:
 - Organizations that receive funding from the New York Life Foundation through the Volunteers for Good program or Community Impact Grant program are eligible to apply for the Aim High grants.
 - Organizations that receive funding through the New York Life Foundation's employee matching gift program are also eligible to apply for the Aim High grants.

Question 12: Can organizations submit applications for multiple tiers of Aim High grants?

- No, organizations must choose a single grant tier for which to apply.

Question 13: Can multiple programs or program sites from the same organization submit applications separately?

- No, each organization can only submit one application. However, if an applicant is an affiliate of a national organization, more than one affiliate can apply for funding so long as each affiliate that applies is currently not receiving grant funds from the New York Life Foundation.
- Note: Affiliates of regional or national organizations that share a common Employer Identification Number may submit applications separately under the same EIN so long as each affiliate has its own budget and meets the eligibility requirements laid out within the application.

Question 14: Can programs that do not currently meet the 75 percent low-income eligibility requirement apply if they use the funds to serve a population that meets the 75 percent low-income requirement?

- No, programs must already meet the 75 percent FRPL minimum.

Question 15: Can Aim High grant funds be used for capital improvements?

- No, capital/building improvements do not fall within the grant program's acceptable uses.

Question 16: Are programs that only serve youth during the school year or only serve youth during the summer eligible to apply?

- Yes, programs that currently only operate during the school year or during the summer are eligible to apply. Furthermore, expanding programs to offer year-round services is considered an acceptable use for Aim High grant funds.

Question 17: Are 501(c)(3) organizations allowed to act as fiscal agents for direct service providers that are not registered 501(c)(3) organizations in applying for this grant?

- Maybe. 501(c)(3) organizations can act as fiscal agents for non-501(c)(3) program providers if and only if that fiscal agent was originally established and currently operates solely to support the particular organization that is the recipient of the grant.

Question 18: Are indirect costs allowed to be billed to the Aim High grants, and, if so, what is an allowable indirect cost ratio for the project budget?

- Yes, indirect costs may be included in your Aim High project budget proposals. The Foundation will allow the inclusion of indirect costs of up to 20 percent of the total grant budget.

Question 19: Can Aim High funds be put towards before-school and summer programming?

- Yes, Aim High funds can go towards afterschool, before-school, and/or summer learning programs. Organizations that provide programming during any one or more of these times are eligible to apply.

Question 20: Can Aim High funds go towards off-site programming that takes place during the traditional school day?

- No, Aim High funding cannot go towards programming that occurs during the school day, even if that programming is not on the school premises.

Question 21: Can we receive feedback on our applications from previous years?

- No, unfortunately the Afterschool Alliance cannot provide individualized feedback to applicants on their previous submissions due to capacity constraints.

Question 22: Does the school served by the program need to meet the 75% free and reduced-price lunch requirement?

- No, it is the population of youth served by the program that determine the eligibility for the Aim High grants.

Question 23: What are the target states that will receive the 5 bonus points on their applications?

- Target States for All Grants: The list of states that will receive 5 bonus points on all three grant tiers does not yet exist. This list consists of investment priority states for the New York Life Foundation, and it is not generated by the Foundation until early 2022, after the RFP closes.

Question 24: Are there any exceptions to the free and reduced-price lunch eligibility requirement?

- No, there are no exceptions to this rule. Each program or program site that would receive funds must meet the 75% FRPL minimum independently, or the total FRPL rate of the recipient programs must, in aggregate, meet the 75% FRPL minimum.
 - For example, if two programs (each serving the same number of youth) with FRPL rates of 60% and 90% were to apply, they would be considered eligible because 75% of the total number of youth they serve meet the FRPL requirement.

Question 25: The schools or school districts our program(s) work with either do not collect or do not share data around Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) rates. How can we establish that we are eligible?

- If programs serve low-income populations *and* do not have access to FRPL data from their school or school district, they may estimate their FRPL rate based on other data that they do have relating to the percentage of low-income families that they serve.
- If a program submits non-FRPL data or an estimated FRPL rate to establish their eligibility for the grants, they are expected to provide a thorough explanation of the data that they used within their responses in Section C: Community demographics and needs.