

Aim High 2024:

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:
 - a. 10 focused on supporting programs in their efforts around advancing racial equity and social justice; and
 - b. 10 focused on youth entrepreneurship.

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?

- Schools (public and private) and school districts are not eligible to apply. Schools and school districts are encouraged to partner with a community-based organization (CBO) for this grant opportunity. The CBO must be the applicant and recipient of the funding in the partnership.

Question 4: Are colleges or universities eligible to apply?

- Colleges and universities are not eligible to apply. As with schools and school districts, colleges and universities are encouraged to partner with a community-based organization (CBO) for this grant opportunity. The CBO must be the applicant and recipient of the funding in the partnership.

Question 5: 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 6: What are the target states that will receive the 5 bonus points on their applications?

- Target States for the 2024 grant cycle are: Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming..

Question 7: 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 8: 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 FY21 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 61.

Question 9: Can 501(c)(3) organizations serve as a fiscal sponsor for programs run by organizations that are not 501(c)(3)?

- Yes, 501(c)(3) organizations may serve as fiscal sponsors for non-501(c)(3) program providers.

Question 10: 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 11: 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 12: 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 13: 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, Grief Reach 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 14: Can organizations submit applications for multiple tiers of Aim High grants?

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

Question 15: 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 16: 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 17: 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 18: 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 19: 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 20: 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 21: 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 22: 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 23: 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 OST program that determine the eligibility for the Aim High grants.

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.

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.
- Examples of data sources that have been used to estimate FRPL rates in previous years include the United Way's ["Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed" \(ALICE\)](#) measures and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Income Limits](#) data.

Question 26: Can Aim High grant funds be used to create a new program or program site?

- Yes, so long as the applicant already offers out-of-school time programming in a direct service capacity, the funds from Aim High grants may be used to create a new program or implement programming at a new program site.

Question 27: Where can we find a list of Aim High awardees from previous years?

- You can find the news releases announcing the recipients of previous rounds of the Aim High grant program below:
 - [2022 News Release](#)
 - [2021 News Release](#)
 - [2020 News Release](#)
 - [2019 News Release](#)
 - [2018 News Release](#)
 - [2017 News Release](#)

Question 28: Can grant recipients use Aim High grant funding to support programming at multiple locations?

- Yes, a single Aim High grant can be used to fund programming at multiple program sites. Note that only programs that meet the 75% free- and reduced-price lunch eligibility requirement for the Aim High grant program are eligible to receive funding.

Question 29: Is there a minimum or maximum number of youth that must be served by an applying program?

- No, there is no minimum or maximum number of youth that a program must serve in order to be eligible for the Aim High grant program.

Question 30: Can past Aim High winners reapply for the grant?

- Yes, past grantees can reapply for the grant two years after their grant ends. For example, for grantees whose award ended in May 2023, they will have to wait until 2025 to apply, which would be for the 2026 grant cycle.