



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Request for Proposals

## *Aim High: Supporting Out-of-School Time Programs Serving Middle School Youth*

**RFP Due:**

**Friday, March 7, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET**

**Application Information:**

Submit your application to the New York Life Foundation's Aim High RFP using the link below.

**NOTE:** Please review the application and prepare your answers and all attachments before submitting the application. **All application submissions are final. Applications cannot be revised or edited by applicant or Aim High staff once submitted.**

**Application Link:** <https://afterschoolalliance.smapply.io>

**Application Questions?** Contact the Afterschool Alliance: [aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org)

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# Executive Summary

On behalf of the New York Life Foundation, the Afterschool Alliance invites out-of-school time (OST) programs to apply for a competitive grant to support and bolster their ability to help prepare middle school students in low-income and disadvantaged communities for success in high school and beyond.

## Why Middle School?

Research shows that middle school and the transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade has a significant impact on students' long-term academic trajectory. Enriching OST programs—such as afterschool and summer learning programs—are an effective means of helping middle school students successfully transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Programs provide academic benefits, support students' well-being, and help youth develop the skills they need to thrive—cognitively, socially, and emotionally. The New York Life Foundation's educational enhancement grantmaking strategy aims to provide opportunities that help students in middle school thrive and become better prepared to complete high school and go on to college, providing them with a brighter future. As youth in low-income and disadvantaged communities have less access to OST programs, Aim High grants focus on youth in these communities.

## Why was the Aim High Program created?

The New York Life Foundation created the Aim High grant program to help local community-based afterschool and summer learning programs support middle school students from low-income and disadvantaged communities with the critical transition to high school.

## The Aim High Grant Program

15 one-year grants of \$20,000 and 15 two-year grants of \$100,000 will be awarded. **Awardees must be nonprofit organizations serving middle school youth, with at least 75% of those served from families with low incomes. Programs can only apply for one of these grants.** One-year grants will begin in August 2025 and end in August 2026. The two-year grants will begin in August 2025 and end in August 2027.

### One-Year Grants:

15 one-year, \$20,000 general operating grants will be awarded to programs that demonstrate successful student engagement strategies and have strong impact data. Unlike in previous years, applicants for the one-year grants will not have to meet a specific focus or theme. Funding must be dedicated to a middle school OST program that serves low-income or disadvantaged communities and provides support for the transition to high school.

### Two-Year Grants:

15 two-year grants of \$100,000 will be awarded to middle school programs to support efforts that help reduce school absences and chronic absenteeism, which has a strong impact on educational attainment. Programs must serve low-income or disadvantaged communities, and address how they support youth in the transition to high school.

**Application deadline: 5 p.m. EST, Friday, March 7, 2025**

**Link to Grant Application:** <https://afterschoolalliance.smapply.io>

**NOTE:** Please review the application and prepare your answers and all attachments before submitting the application. **All application submissions are final. Applications cannot be revised or edited by applicants or Aim High staff once submitted.**  
**Grants will be announced by the end of June 2025.**

# Section I. Request for Proposals Overview

## A. Overview of Aim High Grant Opportunities

All applications must describe in a meaningful way how the applicant supports middle school youth from low-income or disadvantaged communities with the transition to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and how they are providing academic, social, and emotional supports.

Two-year grant applicants must clearly outline the purpose of proposed funding, and provide clearly stated goals and project outcomes related to their efforts to reduce school absences or chronic absenteeism. The project description and funding request should reflect the specific timespan of the grant. One-year grant applicants receive general operating funding; an overall program budget is required.

Please note that the clarity and readability of grant applications will be considered during the review process. Please use clear, concise, and jargon-free language in your application.

For more information on the two-year grant, go to page 9. For more information on the one-year grants, go to page 10.

## B. Organizations providing out-of-school time programming

Grants support organizations that provide out-of-school time (OST) programming. For the purposes of the Aim High grant competition, OST programs include expanded learning programs, afterschool programs (programs that operate on a regular and consistent basis after the regular school day ends during the school year), and summer learning programs.

## C. Characteristics of quality applicants

While Aim High awardees vary in terms of their operations, program approaches, communities, and number of youth served, all grantees must illustrate components of a quality program. Research shows that elements of a quality program include: consistent and strong dosage, using data for continuous improvement, tracking outcomes for youth, prepared staff, and meaningful and relevant experiential learning opportunities.

Awardees tend to exhibit characteristics such as:

- Strong attendance rates (e.g. >50% of youth served attend the program on any given day);
- Established partnerships with schools and other community organizations;
- Serving an especially high-need and/or marginalized community;
- Strong demonstrated program outcomes aligned with the objectives of the Aim High grant;
- Clear proposed goals that align with the objectives of the Aim High grant;
- Staff and leadership that reflect the demographics of the population served;
- Holistic approaches to programming; and/or
- Unique program approaches or characteristics.

For more on what makes a quality program, see our [program spotlights on previous Aim High grantees at the bottom of the Aim High Awards homepage](#).

#### D. Selection process

The Aim High grant program is highly competitive. In 2024, 6% of applicants received a grant, out of a total of 670 applications. Applications are reviewed by a panel of experts in the OST and youth development fields, including past winners. Grants will be announced by the end of June 2025. The one-year grant period will begin in August 2025 and end in August 2026. The two-year grant period will begin in August 2025 and end in August 2027.

#### E. Reporting requirements

One-year grantees will be required to submit a report at the end of the year sharing highlights of the program’s work to support youth.

Two-year grantees will be required to submit a progress report once per year during the grant period. The report includes a narrative detailing progress on the proposed timeline of activities, achieved objectives, challenges in fulfilling grant deliverables, and a financial report documenting the allocation and expenditure of the grant funds and any interest earned thereon.

**NOTE:** Grant recipients will be required to review and consent to the Foundation’s terms and conditions prior to receiving their grant payments.

<b>Progress Reports Due</b>	<b>Two-Year Grants</b>	<b>One-Year Grants</b>
<b>October 1, 2026</b>	<b>Progress Report Due</b>	<b>Final Report Due</b>
<b>October 1, 2027</b>	<b>Final Report Due</b>	<b>N/A</b>

#### F. Eligibility and Priorities

This competitive grant program is open to all nonprofit afterschool and summer learning programs that serve middle school students and meet the requirements laid out below. Organizations that currently receive funding from the New York Life Foundation, either directly or indirectly, are ineligible to apply for any of these grants. If you are an affiliate of a national organization receiving Foundation dollars and are unsure if you are supported by the grant, check with your national office before applying. The New York Life Foundation prioritizes states in targeted areas in order to diversify their giving. Organizations in the target states will receive an additional five points for their application. The target states for this cycle are Alaska, Hawai’i, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

##### 1) 501(c)(3) status

Organizations applying for these competitive grants must be 501(c)(3) organizations and will be required to submit their Employer Identification Number (EIN) to verify their status. See the list of documents that must be submitted with each grant application in Appendix A. List of Attachments (page 29).

## **2) Middle school youth (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> graders) served**

Programs must serve participants in middle school. For the purposes of this grant program, middle school youth are defined as students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Applicants for this grant program may serve students outside of this grade range, but grant funds, if awarded, are for supporting middle school youth.

## **3) 75% or more of population served is low income**

Applicants for this grant program must serve a high percentage—at least 75%—of low-income youth. For the purposes of this grant program, “low-income” is defined as students who qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program (FRPL). Serving a high-need population is a priority area for this competitive grant program. This requirement applies to the aggregate population served by the program(s) that would receive Aim High grant funds.

## **4) Organizational budget requirements**

To apply for the one-year grant, applicants must have an annual budget of \$200,000 or more. To apply for the two-year grant, applicants must have an annual budget of \$500,000 or more.

## **5) Organizations that are ineligible to apply**

The following organizations are not eligible to apply for Aim High grants:

- Colleges, universities, and university foundations
- Schools and school districts
- Organizations that plan to sub-grant or regrant all of the Aim High grant funds
- Intermediaries that do not directly provide afterschool or summer programming
- Local governments
- Houses of worship/religious organizations that are not registered as 501(c)(3) organizations
- Organizations currently receiving funding from the New York Life Foundation are ineligible to apply. This includes:
  - National or regional organizations that currently receive New York Life Foundation funding directly
  - Local affiliate organizations or programs that receive any financial support from their national headquarters that originates from New York Life Foundation grants
  - Current and recent NYLF grantees.
    - Note that Former NYLF grantees (including previous Aim High grantees) whose most recent grant ended before August 2024 are eligible to apply for this year’s grants.

**NOTE:** 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.

**Link to Grant Applications:** <https://afterschoolalliance.smapply.io>

**NOTE:** Please review the application and prepare your answers and all attachments before submitting the application. **All application submissions are final. Applications cannot be revised or edited by applicants or Aim High staff once submitted.**

**For additional information, contact the Afterschool Alliance:**  
[aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org).



# Section II. Overview: Two-Year Educational Attainment Grants

## A. Overview of \$100,000 Two-Year Grants

15 grants of \$50,000 per year, for a total two-year grant award of \$100,000 will be awarded. Only afterschool and summer programs with organizational budgets of \$500,000 or more are eligible to apply. For the purposes of the Aim High grant program, annual organizational budget is defined as the full organization's operating expenses from the most recently completed fiscal year.

## B. Use of Funds

Grants will support increased educational attainment by helping programs reduce school absences or chronic absenteeism. Funding requests should directly address how funding will help address school absences or chronic absenteeism.

Examples of the types of activities that could be funded include:

- Sustaining or enhancing program offerings;
- Expanding program to more students;
- Development of staff;
- Stronger school partnerships/communications; and/or
- Data collection.

**NOTE:** Grant recipients will not be able to reapply for any of the grants described herein for a period of at least one year after the end of each grant period. You will need to include in your application an explanation and concrete plan of how you would sustain funding the program after our grant ends.

The Two-Year Grant Application can be found in Section IV on page 11.

# Section III. Overview: One-Year General Operating Grants

## A. Overview of One-Year Grants

15 one-year general operating grants of \$20,000 will be awarded. Applicants for all one-year grants will be required to describe how they support middle school youth in the transition to high school. **To be eligible, organizations must have an annual organizational budget of \$200,000 or more.** For the purposes of the Aim High grant program, annual organizational budget is defined as the full organization's operating expenses from the most recently completed fiscal year. Quality applicants should have strong student engagement components and student outcomes data.

## B. Use of Funds

As general support grants, funds may be used to support the program's ability to operate and best prepare youth for success and the critical transition to high school. For example, a program may decide to direct funds to support direct service activities, professional development, capacity building, technical assistance, and/or program expansion. Funds may not be used for capital projects. Awardees are required to provide a program budget; no timeline or project outcomes are required.

**NOTE:** Grant recipients will not be able to reapply for any of the grants described herein for a period of at least one year after the end of each grant period. You will need to include in your application an explanation and concrete plan of how you would sustain funding the program after our grant ends.

The one-year grant application can be found in Section V on page 21.

## Section IV. Application: Two-Year Educational Attainment Grants

The following serves as the application for the two-year, \$100,000 grants. Grant applications must address how funding will help reduce school absences or chronic absenteeism. Applications must also describe in a meaningful way how the applicant helps youth build the foundational skills that support a successful transition to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The project descriptions and funding requests should reflect the two-year time span of the grants and should focus specifically on indicators of success such as on-time promotion to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, school attendance rates, improved behavior, grades and test scores, the development of social and emotional skills, and fostering well-being.

### **Increasing Educational Attainment by Reducing School Absences or Chronic Absenteeism:**

Afterschool programs work to provide young people the high-quality educational opportunities and supports that help them reach their full potential. Programs serving middle school youth are particularly important in preparing youth for a successful transition to high school. The transition can be challenging, and research shows it has a significant impact on student's educational attainment. Youth in low-income and disadvantaged communities have less access to programs and therefore face greater challenges to educational attainment.

Absenteeism is another key indicator impacting educational attainment. With the increase in school absences and chronic absenteeism posing a significant challenge in communities today, the two-year grants will support programs' efforts to address this challenge. Research shows that participation in OST programs can boost school attendance and engagement.

Applicants need to specifically describe the ways in which their OST program and proposed activities would help address school absences or chronic absenteeism. Applicants will also be required to describe how they support youth in the transition to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

This section is for two-year grant applications only. For the one-year grant application questions, see Section V on page 21.

**Application Link:** <https://afterschoolalliance.smapply.io>

**NOTE:** Please review the application and prepare your answers and all attachments before submitting the application. **All application submissions are final. Applications cannot be revised or edited by applicants or Aim High staff once submitted.**

## Eligibility Checklist

**1. Are you currently operating an afterschool program, summer program, or year-round program?**

- Yes
- No

**2. Is the organization a 501(c)(3) organization? Please note that organizations that are tax exempt, but do not have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, are not eligible to apply. Religious organizations are only eligible to apply if they also have 501(c)(3) status.**

- Yes
- No

**3. Colleges, universities, and their foundations are not eligible to apply. Is the organization applying for this competitive grant program a college or university?**

- Yes
- No

**4. Schools (public and private) and school districts are not eligible to apply. Is the organization applying for this competitive grant program a school or school district?**

- Yes
- No

**5. Are at least 75% of the students currently served by this program considered low-income, as defined in Section I of this application?**

- Yes
- No

**6. Is this organization currently receiving funding from the New York Life Foundation? This includes receiving funding as an affiliate of a national entity that receives funding from the New York Life Foundation.**

- Yes, this organization currently receives funding from the New York Life Foundation
- No, this organization is not currently receiving funding from the New York Life Foundation
- Unsure

**7. Does the organization currently serve middle school youth in grades 6, 7 and/or 8?**

- Yes
- No
- Not currently, but the grant will allow us to begin serving middle school youth

**8. Provide the following information from the organization's most recent approved budget, which should also be attached to your application as a supplemental document:**

- **Range of organization's total annual expenses:**
  - Less than \$200,000
  - Between \$200,000 and \$499,999
  - \$500,000 or more

#### **A. Organizational information**

**A1. Provide the following information for the applying organization and program:**

- Organization name:
- Program name (if different from organization):
- Organization website (if applicable):
- Address:
- City:
- State:
- Zip Code:
- Organization Facebook page (if applicable):
- Organization Twitter handle (if applicable):

**A2. Provide the contact information for the applicant:**

- First name:
- Last name:
- Title:
- Email address:
- Work phone number:

**A3. Provide the following contact information for the applying organization's Executive Director or CEO:**

- First name:
- Last name:
- Title:
- Email address:
- Work phone number:

**A4. Does your program currently receive funding from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**B. Program description (20%)**

**B1. Provide a brief description of the history and mission of the organization (150 words or less)**

**B2. Provide a detailed description of the afterschool and/or summer programs you offer for middle school students. Include activities, schedules, target outcomes, and impact. (300 words or less; if you like, you may add a link to a piece that reflects your program’s work.)**

**B3. How does your program support students’ successful transition to high school? Describe any specific activities, evidence-based practices, outcomes, and/or program structures. (200 words or less)**

**B4. How does your program address the unique developmental needs of middle school students? (100 words or less)**

**B5. Provide the number of students served by your afterschool/summer program:**

**Number of Students – Summer 2024**

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Middle School Students</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		
<b>Average Attendance</b>		

**Number of Students – 2024 School Year**

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Middle School Students</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		
<b>Average Attendance</b>		

**B6. Provide numerical responses about the program’s hours of operation during the school year and/or summer. If this does not apply to your program, please answer N/A.**

**Dosage**

	<b>Number of Weeks</b>	<b>Days per Week</b>	<b>Hours per Day</b>
<b>Summer 2024</b>			
<b>2024 School Year</b>			

**C. Proposed project and expected outcomes (25%)**

**C1. Summarize the purpose of the funding request. Address why it is important, key activities, and target outcomes related to addressing school absences or chronic absenteeism. (200 words or less)**

**C2. Number of youth who will be served during the grant period:**

**C3. Using the Goals and Outcomes template, provide a detailed and clear explanation of the goals, activities, and anticipated outcomes resulting from the grant investment.**

**Upload the Project Goals and Outcomes Chart using the template charts found in Appendix B (page 30). The chart in its entirety should contain 800 words or less. Provide clear and specific descriptions of the proposed goals, activities, expected outcomes, and measures of success. In Appendix B, you can find a template chart that provides the proper formatting and an example of what a completed chart could look like. If grant funds are awarded, any changes to the proposed activities under the grant must be reviewed by the Foundation.**

The chart should address:

- *Main goals, specific activities that advance those goals, and the timeframe for execution*
- *Projected, measurable outcomes for each goal area/set of activities*
- *How outcomes will be measured*
- *Outcomes specifically related to reducing school absences or chronic absenteeism*
- *Outcomes specifically related to supporting the transition to high school*
- *Differentiation of activities between years 1 and 2*

This question is intended to gain insight into the activities that will be supported by the Aim High grant, not to understand how the program operates as a whole. Your goals should be SMART meaning they should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.

Download the chart template by copying and pasting the following URL into your internet browser:

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AimHighGoalsAndOutcomesTemplate2025.docx>

For illustration purposes, a sample goals and outcomes chart can be found in Appendix B on page 30.

#### **D. Budget and narrative (15%)**

**D1. Provide the following information from the organization’s most recent approved budget, which should also be attached to your application as a supplemental document:**

- Organization’s total annual revenue:
- Organization’s total annual expenses:
- Program’s total annual revenue:
- Program’s total annual expenses:

**D2. Upload budget chart. Using the template budget chart found in Appendix C on page 32, we ask that you include the project budget breakdown for the grant funds requested, allocations for how the requested grant funds will be used, and descriptions of each type of expense. You may change, edit, or add budget lines as needed.**

- *Use the format and guidelines provided in Appendix C to clearly delineate how the program will use grant funds to implement the proposed project.*
- *A full proposed budget for year one and a separate full proposed budget for year two should be included to describe how funding in year one and year two will be dispersed.*
- *In the column entitled “Cost/Revenue Explanation,” provide an explanation of and justification for each expenditure category, including information about roles, salaries of the staff and consultants, equipment specifications and justification, and a clear description of services to be contracted.*
- *If the cost of the proposed project exceeds the amount of the grant, please be sure to include descriptions of the additional sources of public and/or private funding (including in-kind) that the program will use to fully implement the proposed project.*

You can also download the budget chart template by copying and pasting the following URL into your internet browser:

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AimHighBudgetTemplate2025.docx>

For illustration purposes, a sample budget chart can be found in Appendix C on Page 32.



## **E. Community demographics and needs (15%)**

**E1. How would you characterize the community served by the program? Select all that apply.**

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban
- Military Base
- Federal or state Indian reservation
- Other (please specify):

**E2. Briefly describe the community served by the program and the role that the program plays in meeting community needs. Include any relevant statistics that may further illustrate community needs and challenges, such as: (250 words or less)**

- *Student demographics, including income and education levels of students, families, and the community*
- *Estimates of students performing below grade level, graduation rates, juvenile crime rates, and attendance and truancy rates*
- *Available information on the services or the lack of services available to students and families in the area*

**E3. What percentage of the program's current students:**

- Qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program:
- Have limited English proficiency:

**E4. Provide information on the demographic representation of youth served by the program (by percentage):**

- African American:
- Asian/Pacific Islander:
- White:
- Hispanic/Latino:
- Native American:
- Multi-Race/Other:

**E5. Provide information on the demographic representation of your organization's staff (by percentage):**

- African American:
- Asian/Pacific Islander:
- White:
- Hispanic/Latino:
- Native American:
- Multi-Race/Other:

**E6. Provide information on the demographic representation of your organization's leadership (by percentage):**

- *Consider positions with significant leadership, authority, and/or responsibilities within the organization, including but not limited to: Chiefs, Presidents/Vice Presidents, and Deputy Directors.*
- What % of the Board are women?
- What % of senior leadership positions are held by women?
- What % of the Board are people of color?
- What % of senior leadership positions are held by people of color?

**E7. How does your program ensure equitable access for all students, including those from underserved communities? (100 words or less)**

**E8. What strategies do you use to engage and retain diverse participants? (100 words or less)**

**F. Program evaluation, quality assurance, and data collection (10%)**

**F1. Which of the following data does your program collect? Check all that apply.**

- School attendance
- Program attendance
- Behavior in school
- Behavior in program
- School grades
- School test scores
- School retention and on-time grade promotion in middle school
- School retention and on-time grade promotion to 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Data relating to social and emotional learning (SEL) skills and well-being
- Youth/family experiences and satisfaction
- Program staff and/or volunteer experiences and satisfaction
- Other (please specify):

**F2. Provide details on the data collected by the program, as referenced in the previous question (250 words or less). For example:**

- *Methods used to collect the various data (e.g., school databases, parent surveys, student surveys, interviews, focus groups, program observations, etc.)*
- *How often data is collected (e.g., daily/monthly/quarterly, pre- and post-surveys, etc.)*
- *How data is used*

**F3. Does your organization have a quality assurance/evaluation system or process in place?**

- Yes.
- No.
- No, but we have plans to establish a quality assurance/evaluation system in the future.

**F4. Elaborate on your answer in F3. If “Yes,” please describe what the system or process involves. If “No, but we have plans in the future to establish a quality assurance/evaluation system,” please describe what your plans involve. (200 words or less)**

**F5. Aim High grant recipients are required to track on-time youth transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Please briefly describe how the program is currently tracking, or has the capacity to begin tracking, students’ ability to successfully transition to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade should you receive a grant. (150 words or less)**

#### **G. Program administration, capacity, and sustainability (5%)**

**G1. Provide a detailed explanation regarding the program’s capacity to manage and administer this competitive grant, as well as sustain the program once the grant ends. What is the program’s experience managing a grant of this size? What is your program’s proven capacity to raise funds? (200 words or less)**

#### **H. Verifications (0%)**

**H1. Relationship to federal officials: Is (or was) your nonprofit named for, or established, maintained, financed, or controlled by a federal official (such as a member of the U.S. Congress, a federal agency official, or a staff member of either?)**

- Yes.
- No.
- I don’t know.

**H2. Use of contribution for an event: Will this contribution be used for an event honoring or recognizing a federal official, as defined above (this includes, but is not limited to, events where such an official is a named honoree or featured speaker), or for an event held by, or in the name of, a federal official, as defined above?**

- Yes.
- No.

**H3. Describe your vetting process (criminal background and reference checks) to ensure that staff and volunteers who work with youth are cleared to work with youth. (50 words or less)**

#### **H4. Discrimination Verification**

**By submitting this application, you warrant that your organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, citizenship, color, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran or other protected status. Confirmed by (*sign your name in the box provided using your cursor*):**

## I. New York Life Relationship (5%)

### I1. Do you have a volunteer relationship with a New York Life employee or agent?

- Yes.
- No.

### I1A. If so, please list the individual's name and office location:

## J. Scoring rubric: 2-Year Grants

Below is an overview of the scoring rubric reviewers will use to evaluate your application.

Rubric Sections	Percentage
A. Organizational information and eligibility checklist	0
B. Program description	20
C. Project goals & outcomes chart	25
D. Budget and narrative	15
E. Community demographics and needs	15
F. Program evaluation, quality assurance, and data collection	10
G. Program administration, capacity, and sustainability	5
H. Verification	0
I. New York Life Relationship	5
Geographic Location*	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
*NOTE: The New York Life Foundation reserves the right to provide up to 5 points to certain applications based on the location and geographic distribution of applicants.	

## Section V. Application: One-Year General Operating Grants

Applicants for the one-year \$20,000 grants must describe in a meaningful way how the applicant helps middle school youth in low-income communities build the foundational skills that support a successful transition to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Proven indicators of preparedness for the transition to high school include but are not limited to on-time promotion to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, school attendance rates, improved behavior, grades and test scores, the development of social and emotional skills, and fostering well-being. Quality applicants should have strong student engagement components and data on student outcomes.

This section is for one-year grant applications only. For the two-year grant application questions, see Section IV on page 11.

Link to Grant Application: <https://afterschoolalliance.smapply.io>

**NOTE:** Please review the application and prepare your answers and all attachments before submitting the application. **All application submissions are final. Applications cannot be revised or edited by applicants or Aim High staff once submitted.**

## Eligibility Checklist

**1. Are you currently operating an afterschool program, summer program, or year-round program?**

- Yes.
- No.

**2. Is the organization a 501(c)(3) organization? Please note that organizations that are tax exempt but are not designated as 501(c)(3) by the IRS are not eligible to apply. Religious organizations are eligible to apply only if they also have 501(c)(3) status.**

- Yes.
- No.

**3. Colleges, universities, and their foundations are not eligible to apply. Is the organization applying for this competitive grant program a college or university?**

- Yes.
- No.

**4. Schools (public and private) and school districts are not eligible to apply. Is the organization applying for this competitive grant program a school or school district?**

- Yes.
- No.

**5. Are at least 75% of the students currently served by this program considered low-income, as defined in Section I of this application?**

- Yes.
- No.

**6. Is this organization currently receiving funding from the New York Life Foundation? This includes funding as an affiliate of a national entity that receives funding from the New York Life Foundation.**

- Yes, this organization currently receives funding from the New York Life Foundation.
- No, this organization is not currently receiving funding from the New York Life Foundation.
- Unsure.

**7. Does the organization currently serve middle school youth in grades 6, 7, and/or 8?**

- Yes.
- No.
- Not currently, but the grant will allow us to begin serving middle school youth.

**8. Provide the following information from the organization's most recent approved budget, which should also be attached to your application as a supplemental document:**

- **Range of organization's total annual expenses:**
  - Less than \$200,000
  - Between \$200,000 and \$499,999
  - \$500,000 or more

#### **A. Organizational information**

**A1. Provide the following information for the applying organization and program:**

- Organization name:
- Program name (if different from organization):
- Organization website (if applicable):
- Address:
- City:
- State:
- Zip Code:
- Organization Facebook page (if applicable):
- Organization Twitter handle (if applicable):

**A2. Provide the contact information for the applicant:**

- First name:
- Last name:
- Title:
- Email address:
- Work phone number:

**A3. Provide the following contact information for the applying organization's Executive Director or CEO:**

- First name:
- Last name:
- Title:
- Email address:
- Work phone number:

**A4. Does your program currently receive funding from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant?**

- Yes.
- No.
- I don't know.

**B. Organizational overview and program description (45%)**

**B1. Provide a brief description of the mission and vision of the organization. (100 words or less)**

**B2. Provide a brief history of your organization, including years of operation, key accomplishments, and experience working with middle school youth. (200 words or less)**

**B3. Provide a detailed description of the afterschool and summer programs you offer for middle school students. Include activities, schedules, and target outcomes. You may include a link to an existing resource about your program. (300 words or less)**

**B4. How does your program address the unique developmental needs of middle school students and their successful transition to high school? (100 words or less)**

**B5. Provide the number of students served by the afterschool and/or summer program.**

**Number of Students – Summer 2024**

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Middle School Students</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		
<b>Average Attendance</b>		

**Number of Students – 2024 School Year**

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Middle School Students</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		
<b>Average Attendance</b>		

**B6. Provide numerical responses about the program’s hours of operation during the school year and/or summer. If this does not apply to your program, please answer N/A.**

**Dosage**

	<b>Number of Weeks</b>	<b>Days per Week</b>	<b>Hours per Day</b>
<b>Summer 2024</b>			
<b>2024 School Year</b>			



### **C. Budget (10%)**

**C1. Provide the following information from the organization's most recent approved budget, which should also be attached to your application as a supplemental document:**

- Organization's total annual revenue:
- Organization's total annual expenses:
- Program's total annual revenue:
- Program's total annual expenses:

### **D. Community demographics and needs (15%)**

**D1. How would you characterize the community served by the program? Select all that apply.**

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban
- Military Base
- Federal or state Indian reservation
- Other (please specify):

**D2. Briefly describe the community served by the program and the role that the program plays in meeting community needs. Include any relevant statistics that may further illustrate community needs and challenges, such as: (200 words or less)**

- *Student demographics, including income and education levels of students, families, and the community*
- *Estimates of students performing below grade level, graduation rates, juvenile crime rates, and attendance and truancy rates*
- *Available information on the services or the lack of services available to students and families in the area*

**D3. What percentage of the program's current students:**

- Qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program:
- Are limited English proficient:

**D4. Provide information on the demographic representation of youth served by the program (by percentage):**

- African American:
- Asian/Pacific Islander:
- White:
- Hispanic/Latino:
- Native American:
- Multi-Race/Other:

**D5. Provide information on the demographic representation of your organization's staff (by percentage):**

- African American:
- Asian/Pacific Islander:
- White:
- Hispanic/Latino:
- Native American:
- Multi-Race/Other:

**D6. Provide information on the demographic representation of your organization's leadership (by percentage):**

- *Consider positions with significant leadership, authority, and/or responsibilities within the organization, including but not limited to: Chiefs, Presidents/Vice Presidents, and Deputy Directors.*
- What % of the Board are women?
- What % of senior leadership positions are held by women?
- What % of the Board are people of color?
- What % of senior leadership positions are held by people of color?

**D7. How does your program ensure equitable access for all students, including those from underserved communities? (100 words or less)**

**D8. What strategies do you use to engage and retain diverse participants? (100 words or less)**

**E. Program impact and outcomes (20%)**

**E1. Which of the following data does your program collect? Check all that apply.**

- School attendance
- Program attendance
- Behavior in school
- Behavior in program
- School grades
- School test scores
- School retention and on-time grade promotion in middle school
- School retention and on-time grade promotion to 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Data relating to social and emotional learning (SEL) skills and well-being
- Youth/family experiences and satisfaction
- Program staff and/or volunteer experiences and satisfaction
- Other (Please specify):

**E2. Provide details on the data collected by the program, as referenced in the previous question (250 words or less). For example:**

- *What methods do you use to collect the various data? (e.g., school databases, parent surveys, student surveys, interviews, focus groups, program observations, etc.)*
- *How often is data collected? (e.g., daily/monthly/quarterly, pre- and post-surveys, etc.)*
- *How is data used?*

**E3. How do you measure the effectiveness of your programs? Describe the impact your program has had on participating students. Provide data or examples that demonstrate success, and specifically address the transition to high school. (200 words or less)**

**E4. What challenges have you faced in delivering your programs, and how have you addressed them? (150 words or less)**

## **F. Verification (0%)**

**F1. Relationship to federal officials: Is (or was) your nonprofit named for, or established, maintained, financed, or controlled by, a federal official (such as a member of the U.S. Congress or a federal agency official or a staff member of either?)**

- Yes.
- No.
- I don't know.

**F2. Use of contribution for event: Will this contribution be used for an event honoring or recognizing a federal official, as defined above (this includes, but is not limited to, events where such an official is a named honoree or featured speaker), or for an event held by, or in the name of, a federal official, as defined above?**

- Yes.
- No.

**F3. Describe your vetting process (criminal background and reference checks) to ensure that staff and volunteers that work with youth are cleared to work with youth. (50 words or less)**

## **F4. Discrimination Verification**

**By submitting this application, you warrant that your organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, citizenship, color, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran or other protected status. Confirmed by (*sign your name in the box provided using your cursor*).**

## **G. New York Life Relationship (5%)**

**G1. Do you have a volunteer relationship with a New York Life employee or agent?**

- Yes.
- No.

**G1A. If so, please list the individual's name and office location:**

**H. Scoring rubric: 1-Year Grants**

Below is an overview of the scoring rubric reviewers will use to evaluate your application.

Rubric Sections	Percentage
A. Organizational information and eligibility checklist	0
B. Organizational overview and program description	45
C. Budget	10
D. Community demographics and needs	15
E. Program impact and outcomes	20
F. Verification	0
G. New York Life Relationship	5
Geographic Location*	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
*NOTE: The New York Life Foundation reserves the right to provide up to 5 points to certain applications based on the location and geographic distribution of applicants.	

# Appendix A. List of Attachments

For both the 1-year and 2-year competitive grants, applicants must submit the following information and materials as supplemental documents in addition to this RFP:

1. EIN Verification (Verification of the organization's 501(c)(3) status)
2. The most recent board-approved organizational budget
3. The organization's most recently available form 990
  - a. *Please upload your most recent form 990. The form should not be older than two years; submitted 990 forms should be no older than 2022.*
  - b. *If your organization does not have a form 990 available, please contact the Afterschool Alliance at [aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org).*
4. Financial audit
  - a. *Please upload your most recent official financial audit. Your audit should be no older than two years.*
  - b. *If you do not have a financial audit to submit, please provide a letter stating that an audit isn't required for your organization.*
5. Board list, with affiliations
6. List of key staff

## Appendix B. Goals and Outcomes Template Chart

*This template chart should be used for question C3 in the 2-year, \$100,000 grant application. For an example, see Sample Goals and Outcomes Chart below.*

Aim High Grant Proposal: Goals and Outcomes Chart		
Organization Name		
Program Name		
Goals	Activities and Timeframe	Expected Outcomes
Goal #1:		
Goal #2:		
Goal #3:		
Goal #4:		
Goal #5:		

**Notes:**

*The chart is a requirement only for the 2-year grants and should contain 800 words or less. The template can be downloaded here: <https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AimHighGoalsAndOutcomesTemplate2025.docx>*

*You may add or remove lines from the template in accordance with the number of goals associated with your proposed project.*

# Aim High Grant Proposal: Sample Goals and Outcomes Chart

[Organization Name]

[Program Name]

Goals	Activities and Timeframe	Expected Outcomes
<p><b>Goal #1:</b> Students in the program will be more engaged and gain a sense of voice and agency. Additionally, students will have an increased ability to clearly and effectively communicate their opinions, listen, and work collaboratively with their peers and adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timeframe: August-October 2025</b></li> <li>• Survey students on activities and/or areas of interest they would like incorporated into the program</li> <li>• Work with middle schoolers to become peer mentors to the younger students in the program</li> <li>• Establish a 7-member youth advisory board for the program</li> <li>• Monthly one-on-one meetings between program staff and youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of students surveyed in October 2025 will report positively on outcomes such as feelings of belonging, their ideas count, they have opportunities for leadership within the program</li> <li>• Adjustments to school-year programming will result in a 5% increase in daily attendance in the fall semester</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #2:</b> Program staff will feel more confident in their knowledge of positive youth development. The quality of program development and fidelity of implementation will increase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timeframe: September 2025-May 2026</b></li> <li>• Create a staff development plan for the 2022-2023 school year</li> <li>• Program staff will participate in ongoing professional development opportunities on how to best support youth voice and on positive youth development</li> <li>• Full-staff meetings will address the new youth voice component of programming and ensure that the professional development opportunities provided are relevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By May 2026, all members of program staff will complete at least 3 professional development sessions over the course of the school year, and 75% of staff will complete 4 sessions</li> <li>• Program staff surveys administered in May 2026 will find that 100% of staff feel confident in their ability to impart leadership skills, and 95% of staff feel that professional development opportunities are relevant to their work</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal #3:</b> The program will have more and stronger relationships with school day staff and administrators, and more youth will attend the program every day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timeline: June 2026-May 2027</b></li> <li>• Hire 1 additional FTE staff member to be onboarded by the start of the school year</li> <li>• Develop sustainability plan for the continuity of the new position beyond the end of the grant period</li> <li>• Leadership will deepen existing relationships with and develop an outreach plan for middle schools</li> <li>• Leadership will form at least one new relationship with a middle school in the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle school students served starting in September 2026 will increase by 30 students</li> <li>• By early September 2026, the program will retain at least 90% of its middle school students</li> <li>• Additional grant funds will be secured throughout the school year to make the expansion permanent</li> </ul>

# Appendix C. Budget Format Template Charts

This template chart should be used for question D2 in the 2-year, \$100,000 grant application.

## 2-Year Budget Chart Template:

Organization Name, Grant Time Period

### 2-Year Budget Part I: Budget Chart

\*Please note that no more than 20% of this grant can be used towards indirect or administrative costs.

	Year 1 Project Budget Request (Aim High Funds Only)	Year 1 Total Program Budget	Year 2 Project Budget Request (Aim High Funds Only)	Year 2 Total Program Budget	Cost/Revenue Explanation
<i>Program Revenue/Income:</i>					
Program Fees	N/A	\$	N/A	\$	[Insert Explanation of Revenue/Income Here]
Grant Funding	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Revenue/Income Here]
Other Revenue Sources	N/A	\$	N/A	\$	[Insert Explanation of Revenue/Income Here]
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Revenue/Income Here]
<i>Program Expenses:</i>					
Salaries and Fringes (include FTE's)	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Program Services	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Program Travel and Meetings	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Program Event Expenses	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Program Materials	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Field Trip and Admissions	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Program Food	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Other Direct Costs	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
Indirect Costs	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]
<b>Total Costs</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	[Insert Explanation of Expense Here]

NOTE: You may add, delete, or rename line items according to what is appropriate for your program. For an example, see below.



## Sample Program Budget Chart – 2-Year Grant

(For Illustration Purposes Only)

Project Title					
2-Year, \$100,000 Grant Proposal Budget					
	Year 1 Budget Request (Aim High Grant Funds Only)	Year 1 Total Program Budget	Year 2 Budget Request (Aim High Grant Funds Only)	Year 2 Total Program Budget	Cost/Revenue Explanation
<b>Program Revenue/Income:</b>					
<b>Program Fees</b>	N/A	\$0	N/A	\$0	We do not charge any program fees.
<b>Grant Funding</b>	\$50,000	\$633,281	\$50,000	\$643,983	In addition to the requested grant funds, we will be dedicating approximately \$583,281 in other grant funding to supporting this program in year 1 and \$593,983 in year 2; these funds will come from a combination of federal and local grant programs and funding from private foundations.
<b>Other Revenue Sources</b>	N/A	\$282,441	N/A	<b>298,839</b>	Our organization receives substantial support through individual donations, fundraisers, and through the generosity of our board members. These estimates are based on recent trends in giving, which have seen sustained year-over-year increases since FY 2012.
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$915,722</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$942,822</b>	
<b>Program Expenses:</b>					
<b>Salaries and Fringes (include FTE's)</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$759,103</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$766,808</b>	Salary expenses from the Aim High grant program are reasonable and directly related to the delivery of programming to middle school aged youth. We compensate our staff with salaries that are consistent with the salaries for similar positions in other [LOCATION]-based nonprofit organizations. This funding will go towards supporting the salaries of 1 full-time program director, 1

					full-time program manager, and 10 full-time program coordinators.
<b>Program Services</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$39,750</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$41,250</b>	This funding would go towards invaluable program features such as enhanced test prep, individual advisement sessions, parent meetings and information sessions, and specialized tutoring sessions, among others.
<b>Program Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,600</b>	No funding from the Aim High grant program would be put towards our program travel and meeting expenses.
<b>Program Event Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$9,650</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$10,120</b>	Every year our program hosts two family game nights and one <i>Lights On Afterschool</i> celebration, all of which require additional funding to cover technology, food, and additional support services. A small amount of Aim High grant funds would go towards covering these expenses.
<b>Program Materials</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$31,285</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$33,665</b>	Every year we do an overall assessment of our program materials – including but not limited to items like crayons, white boards, tablets and software, and sports materials – and replace those that are in bad condition or require updating.
<b>Field Trip and Admissions</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$20,825</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$22,175</b>	Every year we do two program-wide field trips to places like museums, science centers, or libraries. A small amount of Aim High grant funding would go towards covering the costs of upcoming field trips.
<b>Program Food</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,725</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$18,275</b>	We give all youth in our programs a snack every afternoon. No Aim High grant funds would go towards this expense.
<b>Other Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	No Aim High grant funding would be put towards our other direct costs.
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12,184</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,227</b>	Fringe costs for full-time staff is set at 9% .
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$915,722</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$932,120</b>	

# Appendix D. Frequently Asked Questions

## **Question 1: How many grants will be given?**

- 15 grants of \$50,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$100,000.
- 15 1-year grants of \$20,000.

## **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. This also includes foundations of universities. 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 2025 grant cycle are: Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

**Question 7: 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?**

- 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 FY23 budget.
  - For the \$100,000, 2-year grant the organization’s annual budget must be at least \$500,000.
  - For the \$20,000, 1-year grant the organization’s annual budget must be at least \$200,000.

**Question 8: 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 9: 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 10: 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 11: 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 12: 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 13: Can organizations submit applications for both of the Aim High grants?**

- No, organizations must choose to apply to either the one-year grant or two-year grant.

**Question 14: 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 15: Can programs that do not currently meet the 75% low-income eligibility requirement apply if they use the funds to serve a population that meets the 75% low-income requirement?**

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

**Question 16: 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 17: 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 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% 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 OST program that determine the eligibility for the Aim High grants.

**Question 23: 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 24: 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 the Community demographics and needs Sections.
- 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 25: 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 26: 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 program below:
  - [2024 News Release](#)
  - [2023 News Release](#)
  - [2022 News Release](#)
  - [2021 News Release](#)
  - [2020 News Release](#)
  - [2019 News Release](#)
  - [2018 News Release](#)
  - [2017 News Release](#)

**Question 27: Can recipients use Aim High funding to support programming at multiple locations?**

- Yes, a single Aim High 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 program are eligible to receive funding.

**Question 28: 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 program.

**Question 29: Can past Aim High winners reapply?**

- Yes. Grant recipients will not be able to receive any of the grants described herein for a period of at least one year after the end of their previous grant period. This means that former NYLF grantees (including previous Aim High grantees) whose most recent grants from the Foundation ended before August 2024 are eligible to apply for this year's grants.

**Question 30: Are there any eligibility requirements relating to a minimum number of days per week or hours per day that applying programs must operate?**

- No, there are no eligibility requirements relating to the dosage of applying programs.

**Question 31: Do 75% of all young people that our organization serves need to meet the free or reduced-price lunch (FRPL) rate in order to be eligible?**

- No. 75% of the young people served by the *applying program* – not the applying organization – must meet the FRPL requirement in order to be eligible.

**Question 32: Can the Aim High funds be sub-granted or regranted to other organizations?**

- Aim High funds can not be sub-granted or regranted for more than 50%.

**Question 33: I need to edit my application but I've already submitted it. Can I go back in to revise it?**

- No. All submitted applications are final. Applicants and Aim High staff cannot edit or revise applications once submitted.

**Question 34: When I submit my EIN in the application, an error occurs. What should I do?**

- Please email [aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org) for all EIN issues.