



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

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NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION AND THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE ANNOUNCE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS TO HELP MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Grants to focus on out-of-school time programs that support youth well-being and racial and social justice

Seventh year of program to bring awards total to \$9.75 million

The Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation today announced a new Request for Proposals for the Aim High grant program, which makes grants to organizations providing afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs across the nation. In this seventh year of Aim High, the Foundation will award \$1.8 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged middle school youth. Once these awards are issued in spring of 2023, the total amount awarded over the seven-year life of the grant program will climb to \$9.75 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.

Forty new grant awards will be made for afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs nationwide through a competitive application process. Of the 40 grants, 10 will focus on supporting OST programs' racial equity and social justice work, and 10 will focus on supporting and sustaining youth well-being.

"Out-of-School Time programs nurture students' well-being and academic growth, which suffered over the last several years. Afterschool and summer programs are essential for pandemic related recovery and beyond," said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. "The Aim High grant program focuses on supporting programs that support middle school students so they can succeed in high school, college, and in life."

The New York Life Foundation recently adopted social justice as a third focus area, joining the longstanding pillars of childhood bereavement and educational enhancement for middle school students.

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 of the pandemic and the ongoing need to address racial and social justice issues, the Foundation last year increased the overall Aim High program budget by 20% – from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million – and established a permanent grant category to support OST programs’ efforts around racial and social justice efforts.

The four Aim High grant categories for 2023:

- Ten grants of \$50,000 per year over the span of two years (for total awards 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 total awards of \$50,000) will go to OST programs with annual organizational budgets of \$250,000 or more.
- Ten 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 work to advance racial equity and social justice.
- Ten 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 work to support and sustain youth well-being.

The Afterschool Alliance will convene a selection committee of experts in the OST field including youth ambassadors, to assess applications and make grant recommendations. Applications are due by February 1, 2023. Grant winners will be notified in May 2023.

“Afterschool programs are playing a vital role in helping children and communities recover from the pandemic,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “They give young people the freedom to explore new interests and passions, to build life skills, and to connect with peers and mentors. Unfortunately, even as afterschool programs are helping students recover academic and social ground lost during the pandemic, programs across the nation are facing funding difficulties and 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, and we're proud to partner with the Foundation. Afterschool programs keep our kids safe, give parents peace of mind, and help young people reach their full potential.”

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$68 million in national middle school OST efforts. Information for prospective applicants is available at <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>, including the application and eligibility requirements and previous winners. Potential applicants should direct questions to aimhigh@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 \$390 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, childhood bereavement and social justice. 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.