



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION

Request for Proposals

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

RFP Due:

Friday, February 6, 2026 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 applicants or Aim High staff once submitted.**

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

Application Questions? Contact the Afterschool Alliance: aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
A. Aim High Grant Purpose & Eligibility Criteria	4
B. Use of Funds	5
C. Priorities and Characteristics of Quality Applicants	6
D. Selection Timeline & Reporting Requirements	6
Section II. Application: One-Year General Operating Grants	7
◇ Eligibility Checklist	7
A. Organizational information	8
B. Organizational overview and program description	9
C. Community demographics and needs	10
D. Program impact and outcomes	11
E. Verification	12
Appendix A. Required Attachments	14
Appendix B. Frequently Asked Questions	15

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 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 8th to 9th grade has a significant impact on students' long-term academic trajectory. Enriching OST afterschool and summer programs are an effective means of helping middle school students successfully transition from 8th to 9th 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 for middle school students to build a brighter future by becoming better prepared to complete high school and go on to college. 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 2026 Aim High Grant Program

40 general operating grants of \$20,000 will be awarded. **Applicants must be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations providing afterschool *and* summer programming for middle school youth, with at least 80% of those served from families with low incomes.** Programs must demonstrate outcomes for middle-school youth that support the transition to high school. Grants will be made in mid-July 2026 and end on September 1, 2027.

Application deadline: 5 p.m. ET, Friday, February 6, 2026

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 at the beginning of July 2026.

Section I. Overview

A. Aim High Grant Purpose & Eligibility Criteria

40 one-year general operating grants of \$20,000 will be awarded. The program is open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that provide afterschool **and** summer learning programs for disadvantaged middle school students and meet the requirements laid out below.

Organizations with active grants from the New York Life Foundation are not eligible to apply.

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 9th grade and how they are providing academic, social, and emotional supports.

Please note that the eligibility requirements have changed this year, so read them carefully.

2026 Eligibility Criteria:

1) 501(c)(3) status

Organizations 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 16).

2) Middle school youth (6th, 7th, 8th 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) 80% or more of population served is low income

Applicants for this grant program must serve a high percentage—at least 80%—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. This requirement applies to the aggregate population served by the program(s) that would receive Aim High grant funds.

If programs serve low-income populations but do not have access to FRPL data from their school or school district, they may estimate their FRPL rate based on other data relating to the percentage of low-income families that they serve. For more details on how to estimate your FRPL rate, see Question 20 of the FAQ on page 17.

4) Organizational budget requirements

Applicants must have an annual budget – as defined by total operating expenses in the most recently-completed fiscal year - of \$200,000 or more.

5) Afterschool and summer programming

Applicants must currently provide afterschool and summer programming for middle school-aged youth.

6) School year program dosage

Applicants must offer at least 9 hours of programming per week for a minimum of 20 weeks during the school year. Summer programming length and hours may vary, but all applicants must be currently offering summer programming.

7) Geographic scope

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.

8) 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 direct or indirect 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. 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.

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.

B. Use of Funds

Aim High general support grants are intended to provide flexible funding that organizations may use in whatever way best supports their efforts to prepare middle school youth for success. Grantees may choose to allocate funds toward direct services, professional

development, capacity building, technical assistance, or program expansion. Funds may not be used for capital projects. No specific timeline or project outcomes are required.

C. Priorities and 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, well-trained and prepared staff, and meaningful and relevant experiential learning opportunities. **Strong applicants should exhibit characteristics such as:**

- Strong attendance rates (e.g. >60% 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;
- Demonstrated program outcomes for youth that align with the Aim High objective of preparing students in middle school for a successful transition to high school;
- 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 grantees at the bottom of the Aim High Awards homepage](#).

Priority Areas. 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, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawai'i, Idaho, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

D. Selection Timeline & Reporting Requirements

The Aim High grant program is highly competitive, with an average of 5% of applicants winning an award in the last two competitions. Applications are reviewed by a panel of experts in the OST and youth development fields, including past winners. 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.

Grants will be announced at the beginning of July 2026. Grants will be made in mid-July 2026 and end on September 1, 2027. Grant recipients will be required to review and consent to the Foundation's terms and conditions prior to receiving their grant payments. Grantees will be required to submit a final report on October 1, 2027, sharing highlights of the program's work to support youth.

Section II. Application: One-Year General Operating Grants

Applicants 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 9th grade. Proven indicators of preparedness for the transition to high school include, but are not limited to, on-time promotion to the 9th 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 student outcomes data.

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 applicant or Aim High staff once submitted.**

Eligibility Checklist

1. Are you or will you be operating afterschool programming for middle school-aged youth during the 2025-2026 school year?

- Yes.
- No.

2. Do you plan to offer summer programming for middle school-aged youth in summer 2026?

- Yes.
- No.

3. 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 only eligible to apply if they also have 501(c)(3) status.

- Yes.
- No.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Are at least 80 percent of the students currently served by this program considered low-income, as defined in Section I of this application?

- Yes.
- No.

7. 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.

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

- Yes.
- No.

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

- Our organization's total annual expenses from the most recent approved budget are less than \$200,000.
- Our organization's total annual expenses from the most recent approved budget are \$200,000 or more.

10. During the school year, do your middle school programs offer at least 9 hours of programming per week to each participant?

- Yes, we offer 9 or more hours of programming per week during the school year.
- No, we offer less than 9 hours of programming per week during the school year.

11. During the school year, do your middle school programs offer at least 20 weeks of programming to each participant?

- Yes, we offer at least 20 weeks of programming during the school year.
- No, we offer less than 20 weeks of programming during the school year.

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 X (formerly 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 21st Century Community Learning Center grant?

- Yes.
- No.

B. Organizational overview and program description (50%)

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 summer programs.

Number of Students Served Last Summer (2025)

Note: In order to be eligible to apply for the Aim High program,

applicants must have operated a summer learning program in 2025.

	Number of Students	Middle School Students
Total Enrollment		
Average Attendance		

Number of Students Enrolled in the Current School Year (2025-2026)

	Number of Students	Middle School Students
Total Enrollment		
Average Attendance		

B6. Provide numerical responses about the program’s hours of operation during the current school year (2025-2026) and last summer (2025).

Program Dosage

	Number of Weeks	Days per Week	Hours per Day
Summer 2025			
2025-26 School Year			

B7. 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 revenues:
- Organization’s total annual expenses:
- Afterschool & summer programs’ total annual revenues:
- Afterschool & summer programs’ total annual expenses:

C. Community demographics and needs (15%)

C1. 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):

C2. 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: (300 words or less)

- Demographics of the students served and the broader community in which the program operates, such as poverty rates, income levels, and educational attainment levels;
- Estimates of the percentage of students performing below grade level, graduation rates, juvenile crime rates, attendance and truancy rates, if applicable; and / or
- Information available on the services, or the lack of available services to students and families in the area.

C3. What percentage of the program's current students:

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

C4. How does your program ensure that you are reaching the students that could benefit the most from your programming? (100 words or less)

D. Program impact and outcomes (25%)

D1. 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 9th 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):

D2. 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?

D3. 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)

D4. What challenges have you faced in delivering your programs, and how have you addressed them? (150 words or less)

E. Verification (0%)

E1. 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.

E2. 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.

E3. 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)

E4. 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, veteran, or other protected status. Confirmed by (*sign your name in the box provided using your cursor*).

F. New York Life Relationship (5%)

F1. Do you have a volunteer relationship with a New York Life employee or agent?

- Yes.
- No.

F1A. If so, please list the individual's name(s) and office location(s):

H. Scoring rubric

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

Rubric Sections	Percentage
A. Organizational information	0
B. Organizational overview and program description	50
C. Community demographics and needs	15
D. Program impact and outcomes	25
E. Verification	0
F. New York Life Relationship	5
G. Geographic Location	5
Total	100

Appendix A. Required Attachments

Applicants must submit the following information and materials as supplemental documents:

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 recent 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.*
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. Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: How many grants will be given?

- 40 one-year grants of \$20,000 will be awarded.

Question 2: 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) to benefit from this grant opportunity.

Question 3: Are colleges or universities eligible to apply?

- Colleges and universities are not eligible to apply. This 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.

Question 4: Are non-profit organizations that are not 501(c)(3) eligible to apply?

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

Question 5: 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.
- Organizations that are categorically prohibited from applying by the eligibility requirements – such as schools, school districts, colleges, universities, and municipal governments – may serve as fiscal sponsors for other applicants so long as they are registered as 501(c)(3) organizations with the IRS.

Question 6: 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.

Question 7: What are the target states that will receive the 5 bonus points on their applications?

- Target states for the 2026 grant cycle are: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawai'i, Idaho, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Question 8: What budget should be used to determine whether an organization meets the budget requirement?

- 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. For most organizations this will be the FY24 budget.

Question 9: Are organizations that do not yet have an IRS Form 990 available to submit with their application eligible to apply, so long as they meet the budget requirement?

- No, only organizations that have an IRS Form 990 ready to submit by the application deadline are eligible to apply.

Question 10: Are new organizations and programs eligible to apply?

- So long as they meet the budget requirement, have an IRS Form 990 they can submit, and meet all of the other eligibility requirements, new programs are eligible to apply.

Question 11: 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 12: 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 13: 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 14: The Request for Proposals says that organizations currently receiving 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’s employee matching gift program are also eligible to apply for the Aim High grants.

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 (EIN) 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 80% low-income eligibility requirement apply if they use the funds to serve a population that meets the 80% low-income requirement?

- No, programs must already meet the 80% low-income minimum.

Question 17: Can Aim High grant funds be used for capital improvements?

- No, funds cannot be used for capital/building improvements.

Question 18: Are programs that only serve youth during the school year or only serve youth during the summer eligible to apply?

- No. Programs must currently operate during the school year and during the summer.

Question 19: 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.
- Programming that occurs during the school day cannot be included when determining whether an applying organization meets the required dosage laid out in the eligibility requirements.

Question 20: Can we receive feedback on our applications from previous years?

- No, unfortunately the Afterschool Alliance cannot provide individualized feedback to applicants.

Question 21: Does the school served by the OST program need to meet the 80% free and reduced-price lunch requirement?

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

Question 22: 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 23: Where can we find a list of Aim High awardees from previous years?

- You can find links to the news releases announcing the recipients of previous rounds of the Aim High program below:
 - [2025 News Release](#)
 - [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 24: Is there a minimum or maximum number of students that must be served by an applying program?

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

Question 25: Can past Aim High winners reapply?

- Yes, past recipients can reapply for grants that would be outlaid one year after their grant ends. For example, past recipients whose awards ended in summer 2025 may reapply for the 2026 grant cycle.

Question 26: Are there any eligibility requirements relating to a minimum number of days per week or hours per day that applying programs must operate?

- In order to be eligible to apply, organizations must operate programs that are available to each middle school-aged participant at least 9 hours per week for at least 20 weeks during the school year.
- In order to be eligible to apply, organizations must currently operate some form of summer programming, but there are no specific requirements for the hours per day, days per week, or number of weeks for the summer programming that is offered.
- Aside from the hours per week requirement described above, there is no minimum number of days per week that a program must be open to participating students, nor is there a minimum number of hours per day.

Question 27: For the dosage requirement stating that programs need to operate 20 weeks during the 2025-2026 school year, do the 20 weeks need to be consecutive/continuous?

- No, the 20 weeks do not need to be consecutive. Summer programming does not count towards this requirement.

Question 28: 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 29: When I submit my Employer Identification Number (EIN) in the application, an error occurs. What should I do?

- Please email aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org for all EIN-related issues.

Question 30: Are school-based programs that are operated by independent 501(c)(3) organizations eligible to apply?

- Yes, programs that operate partially or entirely on school grounds are eligible to apply so long as they are not run by the school or district (or any of the other prohibited types of entities listed in the eligibility requirements).

Question 31: Are any types of programming or programs with any particular focus prioritized?

- Applicants are not required to provide or focus on any particular type of programming or content area.
- Grantees are selected based on their ability to impact middle school-aged participants' readiness for the high school transition. Indicators of readiness for this transition include – but are not limited to – on-time promotion to the 9th grade, school attendance rates, improved behavior, grades and test scores, the development of social and emotional skills, and fostering well-being.

Question 32: Do applying programs need to serve only middle school-aged youth, or can they also serve elementary or high school-aged participants?

- Applying organizations and programs may serve non-middle school-aged young people. Selections are made solely based on quality of programmatic offerings and positive outcomes for middle school-aged youth.

Question 33: Given that grant recipients are required to report on participants' matriculation from 8th to 9th grade, what types of data sources are acceptable for tracking matriculation?

- We do not have a definitive list of acceptable data sources for 8th to 9th grade matriculation rates. The most common data sources are schools and districts, report cards provided by parents, and parent survey data.