

*Thank you for joining us. The webinar will begin shortly.*

# The New York Life Foundation's *Aim High* Grant Program: *Tips to Apply*



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

## Re-Recording the Q&A



# Speakers:



- **Marlyn Torres**, Senior Program Officer,  
New York Life Foundation
- **Dan Gilbert**, Project Manager,  
Afterschool Alliance



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Agenda

**AWARD OVERVIEW**

**TOP 5 TIPS**

**COMMON QUESTIONS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE FIRST ROUND**

**WHAT TO REMEMBER**

**Q&A**



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Overview



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# The Aim High RFP Program

- **Grants Targeted Towards:**

- Afterschool, Summer, & Expanded Learning Programs
- Serving Disadvantaged Youth
- Supporting the Transition to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade



- **3<sup>rd</sup> Year:** \$1.35 Million in Grant Funds will be Disbursed



# National Middle School OST Investments

- Research shows that students who get to 9<sup>th</sup> grade prepared and on-time are 4 times more likely to graduate from high school. This important step puts students on the right path for academic and financial success.
- Since 2013, the Foundation has invested more than **\$38 million** in grants to support middle school youth in OST programs



# Aim High RFP Program

*The Aim High Grant Program is modeled after the Foundation's national grantmaking strategy.*

## Indicators of Success:

- All Grants:
  - Academic Success
  - School Attendance
  - On-Time Promotion to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Development of Social & Emotional Skills





# Aim High: New in 2019

## **1-Year Grants: Focused on Supporting Professional Development Opportunities:**

This year's ten 1-year, \$15,000 grants will be focused on helping programs to provide additional professional development supports to their staff.



# Timeline



- The RFP is currently **OPEN**
- The RFP will close at **5:00 PM ET** on **Friday, January 25, 2019**
- Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by a diverse team of experts.
- Grant awards will be announced in **May, 2019**
- The **two-year grant period** will begin in May 2019 and end in May 2021
- The **one-year grant period** will begin in May 2019 and end in May 2020



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Grant Tiers

		Number of Grants Awarded	Individual Grant: Year 1	Individual Grant: Year 2	Total 2-Year Grant Amount	Annual Budget
	Tier 1	8	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	Annual <i>Program</i> Budget Must Be At Least \$250,000 <u>AND</u> Annual <i>Organizational</i> Budget must be at least \$500,000
	Tier 2	8	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	Annual <i>Organizational</i> Budget must be at least \$250,000
	Tier 3	10	\$15,000	N/A	N/A	Annual <i>Organizational</i> Budget must be at least \$150,000



# Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicants must be registered **501(c)3** organizations.
2. Applicants must either serve **middle school youth** (grades 6, 7, and 8) or use grant funds to begin serving middle school youth.
3. Applicants must serve a **high percentage (75%) of low-income youth**, as determined by Free & Reduce Price Lunch (FRPL) rates.
4. Applicants must **not currently receive funding** from the New York Life Foundation, either directly or as 'pass-through' funding.



# Eligible Uses for Funds

Grant funds may be used for **technical assistance** and/or **enhancing direct service activities**.

- **Technical assistance** includes:

- *Program enhancements*
- *Operations enhancements*
- *Governance enhancements*
- *Professional Development (1-year grants)*

- **Direct service components** include:

- *Expanding program capacity*
- *Adding a new program component*
- *Enhancing programming* to better support students' *transition to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade*.



# Reporting

## Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports Due	<u>1-Year Grants</u>	<u>2-Year Grants</u>
December 1, 2019	Progress Report Due	Progress Report Due
May 1, 2020	Progress Report Due	Progress Report Due
December 1, 2020	Final Report Due	Progress Report Due
May 1, 2021	N/A	Progress Report Due
December 1, 2021	N/A	Final Report Due



# Top 5 Tips



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

## Tip #1

# Tip #1: All Questions Have A Purpose



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION



## Tip #2

# Tip #2: Be an Advocate for your Program



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

## Tip #3

# Tip #3: Provide Lots of Details



## Tip #4

# Tip #4: Keep it Relevant



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

## Tip #5

**Tip #5:**  
**Read, Re-Read**  
**Have Someone Else Read**  
**And Read Again**



# Templates & Samples:

- **Section D: Project Description and Expected Outcomes**
- **Section F: Budget and Narrative**
- Links to the templates and samples are available in the PDF of the Request For Proposals, and are also linked to from within the application.



# Common Questions



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Common Questions

## How many grants will be given?

- 8 grants of \$50,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$100,000.
- 8 grants of \$25,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$50,000.
- 10 1-year grants of \$15,000.

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

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



# Common Questions

## Can multiple affiliates from the same organization submit applications separately?

- **Yes**, multiple affiliates of the same parent organization may apply for funding so long as each affiliate is currently not receiving grant funds – either directly or indirectly – from the New York Life Foundation, and so long as the applying affiliate meets all of the eligibility requirements laid out in the RFP.

## Can multiple programs or program sites from the same organization submit applications separately?

- **No**, each organization or affiliate may submit only one application across all of their program sites.



# Common Questions

## 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 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.

## Are schools, school districts, and/or government agencies eligible to apply?

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



# Common Questions

**Can 501(c)3 organizations serve as a fiduciary agent for programs run by organizations that are not 501(c)3?**

- **No**, the 501(c)3 organizations must be the applying program provider.

**Can I get a recording of this webinar?**

- **Yes**, this webinar is being recorded. The link will be both sent to you via email and posted on the Afterschool Alliance's Webinars Page

**Are organizations with annual budgets of less than \$150,000 eligible to apply for any of the grants?**

- **No**, they are not. The minimum organizational budget to be eligible for the grants is \$150,000.



# Common Questions

## Is it the program budget or the organizational budget that will need to meet the budget requirement?

- For the 1-Year, \$15,000 grants and the 2-Year, \$50,000 grants, it is the full organization's operating budget from the most recent fiscal year that determines eligibility. For most organizations this will be the final FY16 budget.
- For the 2-Year, \$100,000 grants, applicants must meet the budget minimum for both the organizational budget and the program budget (See RFP).

## 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.



# Feedback from Past Years



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Feedback from Previous Rounds:

## High Turnout:

- 350+ applications received both years
- Highly competitive; 5% of applicants funded



# Feedback from Previous Rounds:

## Lessons from the review process:

- ***Remember:*** Reviewers are on your side
- Reviewers' job is narrow the field - don't give any reason to deduct points



## Feedback from Previous Rounds:

Applicants that did best typically made a compelling argument that they were a **good fit** for the stated objectives of the Aim High Grant Program.



## Feedback from Previous Rounds:

The **#1 reason** applicants lost points:  
responses did not address specifics of  
questions as they were posed





# What to Remember



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

# Remember:

**Due Date:** Nominations must be submitted by ***Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2019*** at 5:00 PM EST.

**Draft, Edit, Review:** Download the application, review the questions, and draft your answers with time to spare. Make sure your questions provide clear answers to the questions they correspond to.

**Data Matters:** The strongest applications often include robust program data.

**Don't Assume:** Reviewers ***will*** be unfamiliar with your program; provide detailed information that will help reviewers gain a stronger understanding of the supports your program provides.



# Q&A

More questions? Email Dan Gilbert at  
[dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org)



Afterschool Alliance



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION