



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance  
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

**For Immediate Release**  
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**NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION AND THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE OPEN  
COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO HELP MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH  
IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS**

*Fourth year of grants to bring awards total to \$4.8 million*

*Targeted grants will focus on opioid and substance misuse prevention*

*Deadline for applications is January 24, 2020 and a webinar for prospective applicants will take place on December 5, 2019 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time*

The Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation today issued a Request for Proposals for the Aim High grant program. In this fourth year the Foundation will award \$1.35 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged middle school youth, bringing the total amount awarded over the life of the grant program to \$4.8 million.

Aim High is part of the New York Life Foundation's ongoing investment in OST programs to help underserved 8th graders reach the 9th grade on time and prepared for high school level work. In 2020, 26 awards will go to afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide through a competitive application process.

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 communities struggling with opioids and other substance misuse, afterschool and summer learning programs play a critical role by helping youth develop protective factors such as problem-solving skills, emotional regulation and providing support for children and families impacted by trauma and adverse experiences. Select grants will be dedicated to helping programs with this work to help address the impact of the opioid crisis.

"The New York Life Foundation is deeply committed to sustaining the critical role of out-of-school time programs in supporting children, families and communities," said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. "In recent years, it became clear that thousands of children are being negatively impacted by opioid misuse in their families and communities. Afterschool programs

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play a key role in combating this crisis, helping to foster conditions or attributes that help steer youth away from opioid and substance misuse, and our focus area for this year's Aim High one-year grants will center on building capacity for programs combatting this epidemic."

Twenty-six grants will be awarded in 2020 in three categories:

- Eight grants of \$50,000 per year over the span of two years (for a total award 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.
- Eight grants of \$25,000 per year over the span of two years (for a total award 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 addressing opioid and other substance misuse in their community by helping youth develop protective factors and employing approaches that support youth affected by trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACES).

The Afterschool Alliance will convene a selection committee comprised of experts in the OST field to assess applications and make grant recommendations. Grant winners will be notified in May 2020.

"Middle school is a critical inflection point for youth in terms of their physical, social and academic development. Afterschool programs keep our kids safe, give parents peace of mind, build foundational skills and provide a supportive environment where youth have a sense of belonging," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Notably, these factors also play a key role in strengthening risk preventive practices helping to address the opioid crisis."

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$45 million in national middle school OST efforts. Information for prospective applicants is available at <http://afterschoolalliance.org/awards.cfm>, including the application and eligibility requirements and previous winners. Questions from applicants should be directed to [dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:dgilbert@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](http://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 \$280 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 and childhood bereavement. 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](http://www.newyorklifefoundation.org).