



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance  
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

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**The New York Life Foundation and Afterschool Alliance  
Invite Grant Proposals from Out-of-School Time Programs  
Supporting Middle School Students in Disadvantaged Communities**  
*Ninth year of competitive grant program will bring awards total to \$13.35 million*

The New York Life Foundation and the Afterschool Alliance today released a national Request for Proposals for the Aim High grant program. Aim High awards grants to organizations across the country that provide afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs for disadvantaged middle school youth. The Foundation will award \$1.8 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs this year. With these awards, the total amount awarded to OST programs nationwide over the nine years of the grant program will climb to \$13.35 million. Aim High 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.

Thirty new grants will be made to afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs through a competitive application process. Fifteen one-year grants will support OST programs that have demonstrated impact in supporting student engagement and the transition to high school. Fifteen two-year grants will support programs implementing strategies to improve educational attainment by reducing school absences and chronic absenteeism.

"A large body of research shows that youth benefit greatly from OST programs. Participating in quality afterschool and summer learning programs boosts students' educational attainment, well-being, engagement in learning, and attendance at school," said Maria Collins, Vice President of the New York Life Foundation. "OST programs are an especially critical support during middle school and the challenging transition to high school. Aim High emphasizes the value of providing holistic support through afterschool and summer programs to foster foundational skills and ensure success during pivotal transitions, such as the move from middle to high school."

The Aim High grant categories for 2025 include:

- Fifteen one-year general operating grants of \$20,000 for OST programs that demonstrate successful student engagement strategies and have strong impact data.
- Fifteen two-year grants of \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year) for OST programs that are implementing strategies to improve young people's educational attainment by reducing school absences and chronic absenteeism.

The Afterschool Alliance is convening experts in the OST field, including youth, to assess applications and make recommendations. Applications are due by March 7, 2025. Grant winners will be notified by the end of June.

“Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to explore and learn, and give parents peace of mind that their children are safe and supervised after the school day ends,” said Jodi Grant, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance. “The Afterschool Alliance is proud and honored to partner with the New York Life Foundation on Aim High, which provides vital support for these programs. Middle school students in particular need the opportunities out-of-school time programs provide to engage in learning, build work and life skills, and connect with peers and caring adults.”

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$94.6M in national middle school OST efforts. Information for prospective applicants is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/awards.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/awards.cfm), including the application and eligibility requirements and previous winners. Potential applicants should direct questions to [aimhigh@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto: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](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 more than \$470M 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](http://www.newyorklifefoundation.org).