



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

For Immediate Release
December 10, 2025

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**The New York Life Foundation and Afterschool Alliance
Invite Grant Proposals from Out-of-School Time Programs
Serving Middle School Youth**

Competitive grants made in 2026 will bring 10-year awards total to \$14.15 million

The New York Life Foundation and the Afterschool Alliance released a national Request for Proposals for the Aim High grant program today. Aim High is awarding grants next year to organizations across the country that provide both afterschool and summer programs for disadvantaged middle school youth. The Foundation will award \$800,000 to out-of-school time (OST) programs next year. With these awards, the total amount awarded to OST programs nationwide over the ten years of the grant program will climb to \$14.15 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.

A competitive application process will determine recipients of the 40 new Aim High grants of \$20,000 each for general operating support to organizations that provide both afterschool and summer programs for middle school youth in 2026.

"A powerful and growing body of research demonstrates that youth benefit tremendously from OST programs. Participating in quality afterschool and summer learning programs boosts students' academic achievement, school engagement and attendance, and overall well-being," said Jan Brown, Senior Program Officer of the New York Life Foundation. "These programs are especially important during middle school, as students prepare for the often-challenging transition to high school. Aim High offers support to afterschool and summer programs so they are positioned to help youth build skills and ensure their success during pivotal transitions, including the move from middle to high school."

The Afterschool Alliance is convening experts in the OST field, including youth, to assess applications and make recommendations. Applications are due by February 6, 2026. Grant winners will be notified in early July.

"Afterschool programs help students succeed in school and in life, keeping them safe, inspiring them to explore and learn, and giving working 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 so proud to continue partnering with the New York Life Foundation on the Aim High grant program, which provides critically important support for these programs. The focus on programs serving middle school students is

especially important since children that age need the opportunities out-of-school time programs provide to build work and life skills, connect with peers and caring adults, and stay safe and out of trouble.”

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$100M in national middle school OST efforts.

Information for prospective applicants is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/awards.cfm, 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 over \$470 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 and Grief-Supportive Workplace Initiatives. To learn more, please visit www.newyorklifefoundation.org.