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## NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION AND THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE OPEN COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

*The Aim High grant program will help middle school youth in out-of-school time programs*

*Program funding increases by \$300,000 in its second year and  
select grants will support special needs students*

The Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation today issued a Request for Proposals for the second year of the “Aim High” grant program. This program will award \$1.35 million to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged middle school youth.

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. This year, 26 awards will be made to afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide through a competitive application process. Ten of the grants will be targeted to help programs better serve youth with disabilities or other special needs, in addition to the overall focus on the transition to 9th grade. These grants may support programs inclusive of youth with and without disabilities, or programs primarily serving youth with disabilities or special needs.

Research has shown that for disadvantaged students, more learning time in the form of high-quality afterschool, expanded-day and summer programs leads to greater academic achievement, better school attendance and more engaged students.

“Partnering again with the Afterschool Alliance means we will have the opportunity to support even more high-quality out-of-school-time programs that are helping youth successfully transition to high school,” said Marlyn Torres, Senior Program Officer, New York Life Foundation. “Last year, the Afterschool Alliance’s extraordinary reach helped attract hundreds of solid proposals from programs. We’re looking forward to expanding our reach even further this year.”

Twenty-six grants will be awarded this year in three categories:

- Ten awards of \$15,000 over one year will go to OST programs with annual organizational budgets of \$150,000 or more to help them better serve and support youth with disabilities or special needs.
- 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.

In addition, eight grantees from last year will receive the second payment of their two-year grant.

Grant recipients may use funds for technical assistance, enhancing direct service activities, and/or program expansion. The recipients of two-year grants will be chosen on the strength of their support for youth in the transition to the ninth grade, specifically around such indicators of success as on-time promotion; school attendance rates; improved behavior, grades and test scores; and/or the development of social and emotional skills. The Afterschool Alliance will convene a panel of reviewers, including leaders in the OST field, researchers, program directors, and experts on quality programming, to assess applicants and make grant awards.

Grant recipients will be notified in May 2018.

“We’re deeply grateful to the New York Life Foundation for its commitment to supporting children and families in out-of-school time programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Throughout its history, the Foundation has made an enormous difference in so many lives, and the extension of its grantmaking to out-of-school-time programs has reached hundreds of thousands of children across the nation already. We’re very proud to continue our association with the New York Life Foundation.”

Grantees in the first year of the program received funds in summer of 2017. The funds are supporting OST programs in a variety of ways, such as:

- In Flint, Michigan, the YouthQuest Afterschool Initiative used grant funds to support joint programming for middle and high school students, high school preparation training, leadership skills training, mentoring, and social and emotional learning programming aimed at helping students cope with stressors at school, home and in the community.
- In Monona, Wisconsin, the Simpson Street Free Press, an OST program that produces a newspaper written by students, used grant funds to emphasize writing proficiency and literacy in addition to math support, using college-age educators, credentialed volunteers and OST staff. The program employed a variety of lesson plans aimed at supporting the transition to high school.
- In Chandler, Arizona, the ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth used grant funds to teach youth to make positive choices, set goals, and be responsible members of the community, helping children from disadvantaged backgrounds prepare for healthy transitions.

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$32 million in national middle school OST efforts, supporting organizations that provide nearly 500,000 middle school youth with afterschool and summer programming. Foundation grants have supported an additional 6 million hours of OST programming.

Information for prospective applicants is available at <http://afterschoolalliance.org/awards.cfm>, including [the application and eligibility requirements](#). The deadline for applications is January 26, 2018. A [webinar](#) for prospective applicants is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2:00 PM ET. 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 more than \$250 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. To learn more, please visit [www.newyorklifefoundation.org](http://www.newyorklifefoundation.org).