



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

For Immediate Release
January 10, 2017

CONTACT: [Lacey S. Siegel \(NYLF\)](#)
212/576-7937
[Luci Manning \(AA\)](#)
202/371-1999

Helping At-Risk 8th Graders: New York Life Foundation, Afterschool Alliance to Open \$1.95M Grant Competition for Middle School Out-of-School Time Programs

The Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation today opened a new grant competition – the Aim High program - that will provide \$1.95 million over three years to out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged youth.

Aim High is part of the New York Life Foundation’s ongoing investment in middle school OST programs to help underserved eighth-graders reach ninth grade on time. This year, 18 awards will be made to afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide through a competitive application process.

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.

“We’re pleased to partner with the Afterschool Alliance on this vitally important project,” said Marlyn Torres, Senior Program Officer, New York Life Foundation. “The Afterschool Alliance’s years of work on OST issues affords them extraordinary reach and access in the field, which makes them ideal partners for the New York Life Foundation on this initiative. We’re looking forward to this collaboration, and we’re excited about the opportunity to help deserving afterschool programs expand their outstanding work.”

Under the program, grants will be awarded in three categories:

- Four awards of \$100,000 over two years will be made to organizations with annual budgets of \$500,000 or greater.
- Four awards of \$50,000 over two years will go to organizations with annual budgets of \$250,000-\$500,000.
- Ten awards of \$15,000 over one year will go to programs that demonstrate promising family engagement strategies managed by organizations with annual budgets of more than \$150,000.

-more-

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 2017.

“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. “Their support has made an enormous difference in so many lives, and we’re delighted to help extend their reach with this new initiative.”

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$24 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 February 17, 2017. A [webinar](#) for prospective applicants is scheduled for January 25, 2017. Questions from applicants should be directed to dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org.

#

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 more than \$240 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.

###