



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

For Immediate Release
June 20, 2017

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

**New York Life Foundation, Afterschool Alliance
Award \$750K in Grants to Middle School Out-of-School Time Programs**

Awards Go to Programs in AZ, CA, DC, IL, MI, NY, OH, OK, OR, TX, WA, WI

The New York Life Foundation and the Afterschool Alliance today announced \$750,000 in grant awards to 18 middle school out-of-school time (OST) programs serving disadvantaged youth in communities across the nation. The grants mark the first awards made under the Foundation's new \$1.95M "Aim High" initiative.

The Aim High grant recipients are receiving support for their outstanding work helping underserved middle school students reach ninth grade on time. Recipients are all afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs, selected for the awards as part of a nationwide competitive application process.

In all, \$750,000 went to 18 Aim High grant recipients this year in 11 states and the District of Columbia, including awards ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000, with grant periods of either one year or two years.

Recipients are:

- After-School All-Stars DC (**Washington, DC**)
- America SCORES Chicago (**Chicago, IL**)
- America SCORES Cleveland (**Cleveland, OH**)
- Arab-American Family Support Center (**Brooklyn, NY**)
- Communities in Schools - San Antonio (**San Antonio, TX**)
- Communities in Schools of Tacoma (**Tacoma, WA**)
- Genesee Area Focus Fund (**Flint, MI**)
- Greater Seattle Techbridge (**Seattle, WA**)
- Harlem RBI, Inc. (**New York, NY**)
- ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth (**Chandler, AZ**)
- Kids Club of Harney County (**Burns, OR**)
- Latin American Youth Center (**Washington, DC**)
- Mission Graduates (**San Francisco, CA**)
- Seven Tepees Youth Program (**San Francisco, CA**)
- Simpson Street Free Press (**Monona, WI**)
- South Asian Youth Action (SAYA) (**Elmhurst, NY**)
- TOUCH (**Tulsa, OK**)

- YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids (**Grand Rapids, MI**)

“These 18 programs are all doing important work in their communities,” said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. “In small communities, big cities, and everything in between, afterschool programs are working to meet the needs of middle schoolers, helping them during that critical transition time between 8th to 9th grade. We are pleased to partner with the Afterschool Alliance in this effort, and value their considerable expertise on afterschool issues and their broad-based network of afterschool providers, educators and other youth development experts.”

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.

The grant recipients may use funds for capacity building, to enhance direct service activities, and/or for program expansion. The recipients of two-year grants were 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 convened a panel of reviewers, including leaders in the OST field, researchers, program directors and experts on quality programming, to assess applicants and choose grant awardees.

“We’re deeply grateful to the New York Life Foundation for its commitment to supporting youth and families in out-of-school time programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Their support makes an enormous difference in so many lives, and we’re delighted to help extend their reach with this new initiative. The recipients are doing inspiring work across the nation, doing what afterschool does best: keeping students safe, inspiring them to learn, and helping working families.”

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.

#

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.

###