



NYLF Awards \$1.35 Million in Grants to OST Programs



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CONTACT: [Stacey Palevsky Lewis](#)  
415.652.4196

## Aim High Receives \$100,000 Grant Award for Summer Learning Program

*Grant strives to support underserved middle school students as they transition to 9th grade*

SAN FRANCISCO – Aim High announced today that the New York Life Foundation awarded a two-year grant to the nonprofit in support of its summer learning program. This program provides 500+ rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students across Northern California with five weeks of project-based learning, social and emotional skill building, college and career awareness, and enrichment activities. The funding will help mitigate the summer slide and prepare these students for the upcoming school year and a smooth transition to high school.

“We are thrilled to partner with New York Life, an organization that shares our values and is investing significant resources in local communities,” said Aim High Co-Founder and Executive Director Alec Lee. “During these unprecedented times, summer learning matters more than ever. We are committed to providing our students with the social, emotional and academic support they need to regain lost academic ground and be prepared to succeed when school begins again. We are deeply grateful for the New York Life Foundation’s partnership in these efforts.”

The grant is one of 26 new grants this year from the New York Life Foundation’s “Aim High” program, a partnership with the Afterschool Alliance. This year’s new grants total \$1.35 million, and went to youth development organizations in 16 states and the District of Columbia. The 26 organizations were selected from a total of 542 applicants.

In addition to these new grants, 16 programs received continuing grants first announced in 2019. Together, these programs support underserved youth in 24 states and the District of Columbia. The grants mark the grant program’s fourth year, and this year’s grants bring the total awarded under the program to \$4.8M.

“Students and families are facing immense hardships as a result of COVID-19 and they need additional academic and social emotional support now more than ever,” said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. “Middle school students benefit greatly from the support and engaging opportunities provided by afterschool and summer programs, so it’s critical that these programs have the funding and flexibility to continue this important work.”



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Research has shown that for under-resourced students, additional learning time in the form of high-quality afterschool, expanded day and summer programs leads to greater academic achievement, better school attendance and higher engagement. Further, a successful transition from 8th to 9th grade – middle school to high school in most cases – is particularly critical to student success.

“We’re proud to partner with the New York Life Foundation in this effort,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Afterschool providers across the nation have been true heroes during the pandemic. Many have continued to provide full services to children of essential workers, others are conducting programming online, and many are delivering food to low-income families in their communities and connecting them to health and social service providers. I’ve never been prouder of the afterschool movement, so the Foundation’s continued support at this time of great peril is especially gratifying.”

For a complete list of this year’s grant recipients, visit

<https://www.newyorklife.com/newsroom/2020/foundation-grants-out-of-school-time-programs>.

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#### **About Aim High**

*Aim High provides a nationally recognized, results-driven, multi-year summer enrichment program that teaches middle-school students from low income households the skills they need to succeed in high school and beyond. Aim High is the largest free academic summer program in Northern California—serving over 2,300 students annually at 18 campuses located in San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Novato, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Napa, San Rafael and Tahoe/Truckee. To learn more, please visit [www.aimhigh.org](http://www.aimhigh.org). Media contact: [Marianne Evans](#).*

#### **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 \$340 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 Initiative. To learn more, please visit [www.newyorklifefoundation.org](http://www.newyorklifefoundation.org). Media contact: [Lacey S. Siegel](#).*

#### **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). Media contact: [Lisa Lederer](#).*