



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION



Afterschool Alliance  
AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

For Immediate Release  
June 21, 2018

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## **New York Life Foundation Awards Grants to Two New Orleans Afterschool Programs to Support Middle School Students' Transition to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **Awards to Girls on the Run New Orleans and Community Works of Louisiana Are Among 26 New Aim High Grants Nationally, Totaling \$1.35 Million**

The New York Life Foundation and the Afterschool Alliance today announced a total of \$30,000 in grant awards to two New Orleans afterschool programs: \$15,000 each to Girls on the Run New Orleans and Community Works of Louisiana. In 2018, a total of \$1.35 million in grants will be awarded to a total of 34 youth development organizations across the country to support middle school youth during the out-of-school time (OST) hours. New this year, 26 OST programs won grants and eight organizations received continuing grants announced in 2017. These programs serve disadvantaged youth in 17 states and the District of Columbia. The grants mark the second year of awards made under the Foundation's Aim High education initiative. Responding to strong demand in the first year of the program, the New York Life Foundation increased funding for the second year of the program from \$750,000 to \$1.35 million, and awarded an additional eight grants.

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. In consultation with the Afterschool Alliance, grants were awarded to afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs through a competitive application process.

Girls on the Run New Orleans will use the New York Life Foundation funding to foster equity and inclusion in the Greater New Orleans region through the provision of fun, experience-based programming free of charge to 6th through 8th grade girls, specifically focusing on girls with disabilities. The programming will create a positive, structured space for middle school girls to learn about themselves, explore new ideas, cultivate empathy, strengthen connections and develop life skills that will help them as they move through adolescence and beyond.

Funding from the New York Life Aim High Grant will support increasing the number of special needs students enrolled with Community Works of Louisiana and improve the quality of 6th through 8th grade programs for all students, including those with special needs, as they transition into high school.

"Aim High grantees provide important youth development programs in their communities," said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. "OST programs help middle school youth develop critical social and emotional skills and keeps them engaged in school, which in turn leads to better academic outcomes. The programs receiving grants will help children make the all-

important transition from middle school to high school, and to succeed once they get there. We value the Afterschool Alliance's considerable expertise and their broad-based network of afterschool providers, educators and youth development experts."

"The support of the New York Life Foundation will be life-changing for girls in our community," said Jody Braunig, Executive Director of Girls on the Run New Orleans. "We're deeply appreciative and look forward to using this generous support to expand our reach to provide girls in New Orleans the opportunity to develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and unleash their limitless potential."

"We're absolutely delighted by this grant, and what it will mean to the families and children in our program," said Chandler Nutik, Executive Director of Community Works of Louisiana. "This will make a genuine difference in our students' lives, and we plan to make the most of it."

Ten of this year's grants go to help programs better serve youth with disabilities or other special needs, in addition to the overall focus on the transition to 9th grade. Both New Orleans programs received one of these ten grants. The Foundation added this element to the grant program in 2018 in response to the demonstrated needs of grant applicants last year. The grants support programs inclusive of youth with and without disabilities, and programs primarily serving youth with disabilities or special needs.

In addition, in response to unusually strong demand in the first year of the program, the New York Life Foundation elected to increase total funding for the second year of the program from \$750,000 in 2017 to \$1.35 million in 2018, and to award an additional eight grants. This year's Aim High grants bring the total amount awarded to \$2.1 million.

The following 10 organizations are being awarded \$15,000 grants over a one-year period to serve students with disabilities or special needs:

- Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama, Huntsville, AL
- Community Works of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
- Eleven 21, Inc., Hebron, MD
- Family & Children's Place, New Albany, ID
- Girls on the Run New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- Jubilee Park & Community Center, Dallas, TX
- LAUNCH, East Syracuse, NY
- Phipps Neighborhoods, Inc., New York, NY
- Project Create, Washington, DC
- Spring Initiative, Clarksdale, MS

The following eight organizations are being awarded two-year grants totaling \$50,000 for program enhancement and/or expansion:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Truckee Meadows, Reno, NV
- Code in the Schools, Baltimore, MD
- Community Action Network, Ann Arbor, MI
- Delaware Futures, Inc., Wilmington, DE
- Improve Your Tomorrow, Sacramento, CA
- Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago, IL

- Native American Community Academy Foundation, Albuquerque, NM
- Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, Detroit, MI

The following eight organizations have been awarded two-year grants totaling \$100,000 for program enhancement and/or expansion:

- Adelante Mujeres, Forest Grove, OR
- Afterschool All-Stars - Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
- Breakthrough Greater Boston, Boston, MA
- Harlem Lacrosse & Leadership, Baltimore, MD
- Providence After School Alliance, Providence, RI
- Safe Passages, Oakland, CA
- The Wooden Floor Youth Movement, Santa Ana, CA
- Youth and Opportunity United, Evanston, IL

“We’re proud to have partnered with the New York Life Foundation in this effort, and we commend the Foundation for its deep and long-ranging commitment to supporting youth and families in out-of-school time programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “These grants will change young lives, allowing afterschool and summer learning programs to do what they do best: keeping kids safe, inspiring learning, and giving families peace of mind.”

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.

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.

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$25 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.

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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).

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