



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New York Life Foundation awards \$100,000 grant
to Breakthrough Central Texas to support out-of-school-time programs
to help middle school students transition to 9th grade**

Award is one of 26 Aim High Grants nationally, totaling \$1.35 million

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The New York Life Foundation in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance today announced a \$100,000 grant to Austin’s own Breakthrough Central Texas, one of 26 grants to be awarded to youth development organizations across the country to support middle school youth during the out-of-school time (OST) hours. Twenty-six OST programs won new grants, and 16 organizations received continuing grants first announced in 2018. These programs serve underserved youth in 18 states. The grants mark the third year of awards made under the Foundation’s Aim High education initiative, and this year’s grants bring the total awarded under the program to \$3.45 million.

Aim High is part of the New York Life Foundation’s ongoing investment in OST programs to help 8th graders reach the 9th grade on time and prepared for high school level work. Afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide are selected for grants through a competitive application process managed in collaboration with the Afterschool Alliance.

“The generous support from the New York Life Foundation will have a profound impact on the students we serve. This support enables us to engage more students in year-round learning and propel their journey toward earning a college degree,” said Breakthrough Central Texas Executive Director Michael Griffith. “We are beyond grateful and look forward to putting this grant to good use serving local youth and families.”

“Breakthrough Central Texas and our other 25 grantees do vital work in their communities. Middle school is a vulnerable time for students, and without these programs children and youth would be without a safe, productive and enriching place to go after school or during the summer,” said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. “The New York Life Foundation supports OST programs like Breakthrough Central Texas that help children develop social, emotional and academic skills, which are essential for the transition to high school. We value the Afterschool Alliance’s expertise and vast network of OST providers and youth development experts in helping us administer the Aim High program.”

The following eight organizations received grants of \$100,000 payable over two years:

- Breakthrough Central Texas, Austin, TX
- Community College of Philadelphia Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
- Cypress Hills Development Corporation, Brooklyn, NY
- Girls Inc. of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- My Place Teen Center, Westbrook, ME
- New American Pathways, Atlanta, GA
- Presidio YMCA, San Francisco, CA
- Sitka Sound Science Center, Sitka, AK

The following eight organizations received grants of \$50,000 payable over two years:

- ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students), Minneapolis, MN
- Adult Friends for Youth, Honolulu, HI
- Apex for Youth, New York, NY
- Brookside Community Development Corp., Indianapolis, IN
- High Jump, Chicago, IL
- LEAP (Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership), New Haven, CT
- Montana Conservation Corps, Bozeman, MT
- PAIR Houston (Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees), Houston, TX

The following ten organizations received one-year awards of \$15,000 to support their programs, with a focus on providing professional development opportunities for OST staff.

- Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro, Brattleboro, VT
- Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns, Buffalo, NY
- Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands, Omaha, NE
- Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Delta, Yazoo City, MS
- Developing K.I.D.S., Detroit, MI
- Girls, Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern NJ, Philadelphia, PA
- Hands in For Youth, West Milford, NJ
- Heartland Human Care Services, Chicago, IL
- South Bronx Overall Economic Dev. Corp. (SOBRO), Bronx, NY
- Sunnyside Community Services, Sunnyside, NY

Research has shown that for underserved 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 more engaged students. 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 delighted to partner with the New York Life Foundation in this effort,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The Foundation continues to do terrific work in this area, supporting children at a vital time in their development. These grants change lives by supporting OST programs that keep kids safe, inspire learning, and give working parents peace of mind in the afternoon and during the summer.”

In 2017, the first year of the Aim High program, the New York Life Foundation awarded \$750,000 to 18 recipients, with grant periods of one or two years. In 2018, the Foundation expanded the program,

awarding \$1.35 million to 26 additional organizations. This year's \$1.35 million in Aim High grants brings the total amount awarded to \$3.45 million, given to 70 organizations, in all. Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$41 million in national middle school OST efforts.

ABOUT BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

Breakthrough Central Texas is a student-centric education nonprofit that creates a path to and through college for students from low-income communities. From sixth grade through to college, the organization offers out-of-school learning experiences, leadership skills, and comprehensive advising to students. The organization makes a 12-year commitment to students and their families to guide them through the process of preparing for, enrolling in and completing college. The long-term model ensures the success of students and families from middle school to high school graduation to college diploma and beyond. Join the conversation on Twitter [@BreakthroughCTX](#), Instagram [@BreakthroughCTX](#) and at [Facebook.com/BreakthroughCTX](#). To learn more, visit [www.breakthroughctx.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 nearly \$280 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](#).

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