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New York Life Foundation Awards \$50K Grant to MT Conservation Corps' All Nations Service Learning Program

Will Support Out-of-School-Time Programs to Help Middle School Students Transition to 9th Grade

Jul 26, 2019

Award is one of 26 Aim High Grants Nationally, Totaling \$1.35M

The New York Life Foundation in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance today announced a \$50,000 grant to Montana Conservation Corps' (MCC) All Nations Service Learning program, 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.



New York Life's Montana General Office presents a \$50,000 Aim High check to Montana Conservation Corps Director of Development Donna Lawson. Aim High is the New York Life Foundation and Afterschool Alliance's grant program that was awarded to Montana Conservation Corps and 25 additional youth development organizations across the country to support middle school youth during the out-of-school time hours

“We are beyond grateful that New York Life Foundation is leaning in with us to help middle school American Indian youth in Billings, Montana make a successful transition to high school,” said President/CEO for the Montana Conservation Corps Jono McKinney. “The New York Life Foundation’s support of this innovative partnership with Billings Public Schools enables us to weave together the expertise of teachers in their Indian Education for All program with the passion, energy and leadership skills of MCC's young adult AmeriCorps project leaders - all while providing opportunities for hands-on service learning for the youth on nearby ancestral lands. We're deeply thankful for the New York Life Foundation’s support.”

“Montana Conservation Corps 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 All Nations Outdoor Service Learning 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:

- Sitka Sound Science Center, Sitka, AK
- Girls Inc. of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Presidio YMCA, San Francisco, CA
- New American Pathways, Atlanta, GA
- My Place Teen Center, Westbrook, ME
- Cypress Hills Development Corporation, Brooklyn, NY

- Community College of Philadelphia Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
- Breakthrough Central Texas, Austin, TX

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

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

- Heartland Human Care Services, Chicago, IL
- Developing K.I.D.S., Detroit, MI

- Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Delta, Yazoo City, MS
- Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands, Omaha, NE
- Hands in For Youth, West Milford, NJ
- South Bronx Overall Economic Dev. Corp. (SOBRO), Bronx, NY
- Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns, Buffalo, NY
- Sunnyside Community Services, Sunnyside, NY
- Girls, Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern NJ, Philadelphia, PA
- Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro, Brattleboro, VT

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.