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## Upriver Youth Leadership Council Receives \$15,000 Grant Award For Afterschool Program

Jul 2, 2020



KAMIAH - The Upriver Youth Leadership Council (UYLC) in Kamiah announced Thursday that it has been awarded a one year, \$15,000 grant from the New York Life Foundation to support its Teen Center program. The grant program is focused on supporting middle school students as they transition to 9th grade.

The main purpose of this funding is to incorporate Botvin Life Skills Curriculum, Botvin Prescription Drug Abuse Module Curriculum, Strengthening Families Program, Mini-YAB program, and healthy snack and meal preparation skills components into services already provided by UYLC to aid in their objectives of reducing youth drug and alcohol misuse.

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 organizations were selected from a total of 542 applicants.



The grants mark the fourth 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 \$4.8 million.

The grant to UYLC will support:

**Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST)** is an evidence-based substance abuse and violence prevention program. LST has been extensively tested and proven effective at reducing tobacco, alcohol, opioid, and illicit drug use by as much as 80%. Long-term follow-up studies show it produces prevention effects that are durable and long-lasting.

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The advertisement is a green rectangular graphic with white and black text. At the top, it says 'REACH MORE LOCAL CUSTOMERS' in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below that, it lists '250,000+ Monthly Website Views' and '400,000+ Monthly Facebook Engagement' in black text. At the bottom, there are two logos: 'BIG COUNTRY NEWS' on the left and 'NEWLY BROADCASTING DIGITAL MARKETING' on the right. Below the logos, it says 'CALL (509) 751-0976' in bold black text.

**Strengthening Families Program (SFP)** is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social competencies and school performance.

“We are excited to receive this funding to help us expand our prevention efforts in the community,” said Sharlene Johnson, UYLC Executive Director, “our Teen Center is essential to youth safety, especially in these uncertain times related to COVID, and we are happy to be able to add expanded programming through this partnership.”

“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.”

“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.”

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. Afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs nationwide are selected for grants through a review process run in collaboration with the Afterschool Alliance. Winners were selected based on the strength of their support for youth in transition to 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 – by a panel of reviewers that included representatives from the New York Life Foundation, the Afterschool Alliance, and previous award winners.

This year's grant applicants were asked to submit plans for supporting youth in expanded or enhanced ways to help them successfully transition to high school. As in years past, applicants seeking one-year, \$15,000 grants had a special focus: supporting opioid misuse prevention. Across the country, in communities struggling with the misuse of opioids and other substances, afterschool and summer learning programs are playing a critical role by fostering protective factors, increasing resilience among young people, supporting positive youth development, and reducing risk factors among children and youth. Grants will help programs build protective and preventive factors, reduce risk factors for youth and provide other supports for young people and families impacted by substance misuse and the opioid epidemic.