

Community Empowerment Association, Inc. (CEA)

*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the
Violence Community Investment Grants*

Community Empowerment Association, Inc.

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FollowUp Form

City of Pittsburgh STOP the Violence Mid-Year Progress Report

The City of Pittsburgh established the STOP the Violence grants as part of the City's comprehensive approach to ending violence. Through the STOP the Violence Community Investment Fund, the City partnered with your organization to build new insights and stride toward our mutual goals. Thank you for your efforts to take proactive steps with individuals who exhibit risk factors for violent behavior, support those individuals to overcome the risk factors, avoid violence, and lead healthy and productive lives.

With these grants come the expectations of midterm and final reports. This interim report provides space for your organization to tell the City about the progress of your originally-stated activities, outcomes, and goals. It also offers an opportunity to share any challenges and triumphs thus far. This critical feedback helps us:

1. Keep focused on the investment made and the anticipated project results;
2. Understand if our grantees are on track for success to bring about their anticipated project results (midterm reports), and
3. Analyze our work, learn from your experiences, and make choices for the future.

WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY REPORT?

This report should include grant-related activities and projects from when your organization received funds through the first six months.

We are interested in knowing

1. what you did;
2. what you learned;
3. what questions your work answered, and what questions remain;
4. what follow-up work do you plan to do?

When reading the narrative report, we understand that no project proceeds entirely as planned. Some strategies work better than hoped; others do not. An honest assessment of what worked and what did not gives us additional context to gauge the impact of the grants and consider the implications for future collaboration.

Put your project into a larger context of reflection and interrogate its assumptions and method. Your report should include these considerations.

1. How did your strategies and design work?
2. What might you or others do differently in the future?
3. What do you see now about your problem or question that would press you to do things differently?
4. Progress and Results: Please briefly describe (in 300 words or fewer) the key actions, activities, or products resulting from the grant funding, as well as any resulting benefit to the organization or the people it serves.
5. Please explain any significant variance from your planned use of funds as stated in your grant proposal. For example, have there been changes in your project timeline or expenditures?
6. Please describe the challenges the funded project encountered, and explain how you overcame them (or plan to overcome them).
7. Photos, Stories, Social Media Posts/Reels, and Testimonials: Your participant/event stories, reels, and photographs provide a critical piece of the puzzle for us. They give us the materials needed to inspire others to engage, celebrate, and continue to support your violence prevention and intervention efforts.

Organization Name*

Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.

Community Empowerment Association, Inc. (CEA)

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

01/01/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

05/01/2024

Grant Information

Grant Amount Awarded*

\$45,000.00

Award Amount Spent*

Has your organization spent the awarded STOP the Violence funds in their entirety?

No

Population Served

Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)*

50

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

89

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

57

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

7

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

25

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

East Hills
East Liberty
Garfield (The Valley, The Hilltop)
Homewood North
Homewood South
Homewood West
Larimer
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar
Middle Hill
Point Breeze/Park Place

Participant Contact Information*

Our team maintains a list of complete names, addresses, and contact information for all or almost all of the program participants in the project/initiative.

Yes

Police Zone Served*

Zone 5

Work Conducted

Proposed Project/Program Activities*

Provide a list of project activities/initiatives from your proposal.

CEA's proposed project focuses on providing a violence prevention intervention program series which promotes prevention through healing, social support, community and civic engagement. Our project includes hosting educational workshops in 2 neighborhood schools, recreational safety net activities for youth and family engagement activities utilizing the public health model with appropriate violence prevention and intervention strategies.

CEA will identify malleable risk factors which are predictive of latent violent behavior in participating youth, utilize a risk and protective factor assessment to identify barriers and strengthen protective factors, address those issues and strengthen protective factors. Essential components include marketing, assessing and enrolling participants, participation in workshops and activities, and evaluation.

Collaborations

Please comment on the collaborations presented in your project proposal. Did you collaborate as anticipated in the proposal?

Circumstances to consider:

- Have roles and responsibilities shifted?
- What unanticipated changes did you experience?
- What impact does the collaboration make on the project and the population served?
- What circumstances would improve collaboration among STOP the Violence grantees?

CEA has collaborated with the teachers and counselors in the schools where we have participants.

Status of Project Plan*

What activities/events from your proposed project plan have been implemented?

Staff visited 2 schools – Obama and the Student Achievement Center. Program was presented to youth, teachers and counselors at those schools. Staff also began working with identified youth from CEA's afterschool program. Staff conducted risk and protective factor assessments, and from those, with the students, created a service plan of what goal the student wanted to achieve as a participant. Staff has been conducting workshops on:

- Understanding the risk factors and behaviors that can potentially lead to violence
- Developing strategies to reduce and eliminate know risk factors
- Developing appropriate coping, impulse control, problem solving and ways to avoid violent interactions
- Developing skills for self-care, cultural awareness and positive interactions
- Understand the importance of community service

Staff also has been available for one-on-one sessions with youth when needed. All participants and their families were invited to CEA's annual Kwanzaa celebration which is a celebration of an annual holiday affirming African family and social values. The Kwanzaa principle that was the theme was Ujima – collective work and responsibility. As violence prevention and intervention is at the core of all of CEA's program and service offerings, it was also highlighted at the celebration, especially as related to the theme.

Proposed Outcomes*

(1) To assist youth participants to decrease the tendency for inappropriate behaviors by understanding the causes of violent behavior and ways to address such behaviors in school, family and community.

(2) To engage parents of identified youth through workshops and educational forums in ways to increase protective factors and decrease risk factors related to the causes of violence.

Progress*

Please provide an overview of the project achievements/highlights to date. Provide any appropriate data supporting your statements.

- CEA Staff have engaged participants from 2 schools and its afterschool program
- Risk and Protective factor assessments have been conducted on several participants

- Parents have been invited to participate in CEA activities and events, i.e. Annual Health Summit, BookBag Give Away, Turkey Give Away, Coat, Hat & Glove Giveaway, Memorial Planting for those who have lost loved ones to violence, Ancestor's Day, family night educational workshops, events, and Kwanzaa.

Do you believe that your project or program impacted violence?*

Do you believe that your project or program contributed to violence prevention or violence intervention rates in the communities served?

Yes

What has this project done to reduce or prevent violence?*

1. Describe your actual outcomes.
2. Describe the impact of your project.

As mentioned, violence prevention and intervention paramount to CEA and is threaded in all of its programs and services. In 2011, CEA's President and CEO authored a booklet on the need to approach violence as a public health issue – doing so will bring about the necessary resources, interventions and prevention strategies to reinforce the methods used. This project has given CEA the opportunity to reach more at-risk and resistant youth and families who are often the population affected, as the scale of the need is so great. In doing so, we are bring more awareness and prevention strategies to this issue, and we hope to be able to continue to do so.

Learning and Adapting

Are there any changes to any aspect of your proposed plan? If "Yes", please explain.*

At this time, one of the schools that we were visiting will not be able to have weekly groups due to the students being backed up in the academic work that they need to complete before June. We do have these students contact information and will be contacting them to participate in events and activities that are scheduled after school.

Because of funding limitations, we were not able to conduct the boxing component of the project, so we are focusing more on creating activities and workshops around the topics mentioned.

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

No challenges to report.

Budget

Current Budget Overview*

1. Click [here](#) to download the Budget Reporting Form.
 2. Complete the form.
 3. Upload the completed form. https://www.grantinterface.com/Documents/Download/f17c57b0-f6cc-4be9-a9d5-2dce30b11bcbhttps://docs.google.com/document/d/1jM3sEoOobpMJQUc8W-irhCr_7KXZVtRM/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101637342679599276330&rtpof=true&sd=true
- CEA Stop the Violence 2024 Mid Year Financial Report.pdf

Share Your Story

For services supported in whole or in part by your **STOP the Violence** grant, share a story about a client (without sharing any personally-identifying information), service, or community initiative that could be shared with other stakeholders.

*

A participant in our program reported being impacted by the death of a cousin who had been shot and killed, as well as some other friends who had passed away. She had not had any real outside help with processing her grief as she was extremely reluctant to share her feelings. Staff was able to assist her in being comfortable enough to share her feelings, help her with her grieving process, including her acceptance with the reality that there was minimum that she could have done to prevent those deaths. She said she had been wondering if she could have done anything to help a friend who had committed suicide the prior year and had some guilt about that, but through sharing her feelings, she now feels that she has done her best to help her friend and she thanked staff for taking the time to listen.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

T. Rashad Byrdsong

Title of Organizational Representative*

President & CEO

Authorization*

By entering your signature information above and clicking "*I agree.*" you certify that: I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that all information included in this report is correct. The tax-exempt status of this organization (*or fiscal sponsor organization*) is still in effect.

I agree.

Date of Submission*

01/09/2025

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- CEA Stop the Violence 2024 Mid Year Financial Report.pdf

Grant Financial Report

This is a protected worksheet. Complete only those sections that are shaded. See additional instructions below, indicated by corresponding number.

Organization: [1]

Community Empowerment Association, Inc.

Grant Process

[4]

ACH

\$45,000.00

Grant Start / End Dates: [2]

01-May-24 to 30-Apr-25

Report Period: [5] 01-May-24 to 31-Dec-24

Approved Grant Amount: [3]

\$ 45,000

(in US\$)

Budget Category [7]	Approved POISE Fdn Budget [8]	Amount Spent in Previous Periods [9]	Amount Spent in Current Period [10]	Total Spent to Date	Unexpended Balance	Please explain significant budget variances where indicated [11]
General Operations	\$ 45,000	\$ 0	\$ 29,914	\$ 29,914	\$ 15,086	
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Subtotal Direct Costs	\$ 45,000	\$ 0	\$ 29,914	\$ 29,914	\$ 15,086	
Indirect Costs		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Totals	\$ 45,000	\$ 0	\$ 29,914	\$ 29,914	\$ 15,086	

The line-by-line budget should match those specified in your proposal.

A red "*" indicates that you must include an explanation of the budget variance. This variance will require Foundation approval.

Name and Title: [12]

T. R. Byrdsong
President

Date:

1/9/2025

E-mail Address: [13]

T.R.Byrdsong@ceapittsburgh.org

Phone Number: [14]

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