

## Operation Better Block, Inc.

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

### *Operation Better Block, Inc.*

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801 N. Homewood Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

O: 412-731-1908

### *Mr. Jay A Gilmer*

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Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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O: 412-592-9472

# FollowUp Form

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## *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.*

Operation Better Block, Inc.

**Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)\***

06/03/2024

**Project Start Date (Actual)\***

06/03/2024

***Grant Information***

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**Grant Amount Awarded\***

\$15,000.00

**Award Amount Spent\***

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

No

***Population Served***

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**Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)\***

15

**Number of Program Participants (Actual)\***

40

**Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)\***

30

**Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)\***

10

**Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)\***

0

**What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?\***

East Hills

Homewood North

Homewood South

Homewood West

Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar

**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*

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**Proposed Project/Program Activities\***

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

We have introduced innovative ways to secure and retain 5 more youth through programming.

Utilized the Safe Passage program to engage in a 6 week "Self-Love" conflict resolution course to provide students support during the half-way mark of the school year. Continued our relationship with Universities to provide post secondary education support.

Assessed and Measured students' mental and cultural awareness multiple times throughout the program using surveys and group conversations presenting long term holistic methods.

Knife skills to life skills is a hands-on cooking class introduced to teach students self sufficiency, proper hygiene and food handling skills through community partnership.

## 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?

## Status of Project Plan\*

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

In November we held a "Friends-giving" to convene youth in a safe and healthy environment. During this time we held discussions about goal setting.

In the month of November we also held financial awareness sessions provided by First National Bank to discuss how good financial well-being is a good mental health practice. In December we started creating vision boards for 2025 that aligned with students individual identities

Exposed students post secondary opportunities

Participated in RECAST Research Project with University of Pittsburgh

## Proposed Outcomes\*

Our proposed outcome was to empower students' individual identities to allow them to create a communal identity that prioritizes self care.

## Progress\*

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

Students were selected to participate in a pitch contest by a member of 100 Women of Pittsburgh and won \$20,000 to replace stolen farm equipment.

Two students were awarded graduation stipends totaling \$2,500 after successfully graduated and completed our program by enrolling into Community College of Allegheny County.

Four students flew for the first time to Houston, for the Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers Conference at the University of Houston- this experience exposed students to multiple college campuses including HBCU, Texas A&M where students interviewed and engaged current college students that reflected their backgrounds.

Four students obtained their state identification cards.

5 of our students transitioned to alternative education sites to increase chances of graduation.

Our program was named a CTC Co-op site to help high school students complete PA State graduation requirements upon completion of our program.

## 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.

Through this program we have been able to have a proactive approach to reduce violence by empowering our students' strengths and giving them the resources to resolve conflict with self care in mind.

## Learning and Adapting

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

No

## Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

## Budget

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### 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](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)

STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx

## Share Your Story

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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.

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One of our most impactful stories is our camping trip. Most of our students spend most of their time within city limits and haven't experienced sleeping outside with limited modern technology. Twice this year we took 20-30 students to Raccoon State Park to study and compare what the trails and creeks looked like from the spring/ early summer to fall. During this trip our students also had discussions about relationships and self sufficiency through learning how to cook on an open fire and pitching a tent. Students were challenged with preparing for the change in elements in case of rain. This opportunity gave students an opportunity to strengthen the group's sense of community, giving them tangible skills to resolve conflict. Team building was the biggest component of this trip as students only had each other to depend on with limited resources in the woods. Students hiked over 5 miles of trails overcoming different challenges, but continuing to press forward. "It's harder to go backward than to move forward after all that we've been through" was a statement made by one of our students that propelled to finish what they started.

## Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

## Verification

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### Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report\*

Jay Gilmer

### Title of Organizational Representative\*

Executive Director

### 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\*

01/29/2025

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx

# 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] Operation Better Block Grant Process [4] Stop the Violence

Grant Start / End Dates: [2] 02-May-24 05-Feb-05 Report Period: [5] 01-Mar-24 to 1/19/25

Approved Grant Amount: [3] \$ 15,000 (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 variances v
General Operations	\$ 7,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,050	\$ 4,950	This category includes operations, student stipends, and related costs.
Materials and/or Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Consultants	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,000	
	\$ 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	
<b>Subtotal Direct Costs</b>	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 4,050	\$ 4,050	\$ 10,950	
Indirect Costs		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 4,050</b>	<b>\$ 4,050</b>	<b>\$ 10,950</b>	

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]

Jay Gilmer, Executive

Date:

12/31/2024

E-mail Address: [13]

jgilmer@obbins

Phone Number: [14]

(412) 731-19

## **Instructions**

1. Enter the organization's legal name.
  2. Enter the approved start and end dates of the grant.
  3. Enter the approved grant amount.
  4. Enter your grant program or process for which you received funding.
  5. Enter the current reporting period from and to dates.
  6. Enter the total amount of POISE Foundation funds received through the end of the reporting period. Specify amount in US\$.
  7. Select Budget Categories which match your proposed grant budget. Select categor(ies) from drop down menu on right of cell
  8. Enter the approved POISE Foundation budget for each budget category. All figures should be reported in US\$.
  9. Enter the sum of amounts spent in each budget category for all previous reporting periods. All figures should be reported in US\$.
  10. Enter the amount spent in each budget category for this reporting period. All figures should be reported in US\$.
- The total spent to date and unexpended balances will be computed automatically.
11. If the expended amount in a budget category significantly exceeds the total direct costs by 35%, an explanation is required. Lines requiring explanations will be indicated by a RED "\*\*\*".
  12. Enter the name and title of the individual who certified the information contained in the report.
  13. Enter the e-mail address for that person.
  14. Enter the phone number for that person.

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plain significant budget  
where indicated [11]

ory includes all  
for salaries, events,  
pends and travel  
sts.

ve Director

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