

Homewood Childrens Village

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

Homewood Children's Village

Mr. Walter Lewis Lewis
801 N Homewood Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

info@hcvpgh.org
O: 412-727-7605
M: 412-522-3450

Mr. Walter Lewis Lewis

801 N Homewood Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

w.lewis@hcvpgh.org
O: 412-727-7605
M: 412-522-3450

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.

Homewood Childrens Village

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

01/01/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

05/01/2024

Grant Information

Grant Amount Awarded*

\$50,000.00

Award Amount Spent*

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

Yes

Population Served

Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)*

125

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

357

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

348

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

9

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

0

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

East Hills

Homewood North

Homewood South

Homewood West

Larimer

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

Proposed Project/Program Activities*

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

HCV proposed to reduce violence among Homewood youth by delivering high-quality, year-round out-of-school-time (OST) programming. Our plan focused on providing safe, structured environments during high-risk hours, supported by caring adults and intentional youth development strategies.

During the school year, we proposed a 3-hour afterschool program at Westinghouse Academy, operating Monday through Thursday. The program would offer academic support, life skills education, STEM enrichment, and dinner. Additional components included college and career exploration, SAT tutoring, postsecondary planning, and support for families navigating financial barriers.

We also proposed to support student-athletes through our Men of the House initiative in partnership with the Westinghouse Football program, providing mentorship, group discussions, and workshops centered on healthy masculinity and identity development.

Our summer programming was designed to extend these supports and engage youth in workforce readiness, enrichment, and mentorship. Across all programming, we emphasized trusted adult relationships, trauma-informed practices, and goal-setting to help youth build positive identities and stay on a path to success.

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?

HCV proposed to implement this work in collaboration with several key partners. Westinghouse Academy was expected to support the afterschool program by providing space and instructional staff. However, due to changes in their grant funding, they were unable to provide the anticipated teaching support, which required us to adjust our OST model at Westinghouse. In response, we pivoted to focus more heavily on our College and Career Success programming, delivered both in-school and after school, to ensure continued engagement and outcomes for students.

All other partnerships occurred as planned. HCV partnered with the Westinghouse Football team to implement Men of the House, offering mentorship and healthy masculinity programming to student-athletes. We also worked with Awaken Pittsburgh to provide staff training in mindfulness and trauma-informed care. During the summer, we collaborated with Faison Elementary to deliver a structured enrichment camp for 126 students, supporting literacy, STEM, and social-emotional growth. While the changes presented above forced us to change our original plans to a degree, we were still able to greatly exceed our student service targets.

Status of Project Plan*

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

During the first half of the year, HCV successfully launched and implemented several key components of our STOP the Violence strategy, providing both summer and school-year programming to reduce youth violence and increase access to supportive, high-quality opportunities.

In summer 2024, we implemented:

Learn and Earn, which engaged 85 youth in paid summer work experiences. STV funds enabled us to provide additional staff and coaches who mentored youth, prevented early exits, and supported postsecondary planning.

VG+, a program for middle school students that offered career exploration through creative projects like game design.

A partnership with Faison Elementary, where 126 elementary students participated in a structured summer camp focused on literacy, STEM, and social-emotional learning.

Support for Westinghouse Football, including mentoring and life skills development for 52 student-athletes during summer practices and camp. Youth participated in a multi-day stay at Camp Kon-O-Kwee, where they

engaged deeply with coaches and mentors in a structured environment that included leadership workshops, emotional skill-building, and athletic training. This immersive experience strengthened positive relationships and modeled healthy behaviors, helping youth build trust, discipline, and vision for their futures.

As the school year began, we expanded our College and Career Success work, which provides in-school and afterschool support for high school students. Activities include academic tutoring, college and career exploration, SAT prep, and one-on-one mentoring. This pivot was necessary due to changes in Westinghouse Academy's ability to provide instructional staff for our other planned OST programming. While it shifted the original afterschool model, we were still able to serve more youth than anticipated and maintain alignment with the goals of the STV grant.

Proposed Outcomes*

HCV proposed to engage at least 125 youth through OST programming that reduces risk factors for violence and supports long-term success. Our intended outcomes included improved school attendance, behavior, and academic performance; development of postsecondary plans; and increased access to mentoring and supportive adult relationships. Through high-quality programming and consistent engagement, we aimed to help youth build positive identities, set and achieve personal goals, and remain connected to caring adults and opportunities that steer them away from violence and toward long-term stability.

Progress*

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

HCV has exceeded our initial goal of serving 125 youth, reaching 296 participants through a combination of summer and school-year programming. Youth engaged in paid work experiences, college and career exploration, mentoring, literacy and STEM enrichment, and life skills development. Through programs like Learn and Earn, VG+, the Faison Summer Program, and the College and Career Success Academy, youth remained in safe, structured environments supported by trusted adults. Coaches and mentors helped prevent early program exits, provided redirection, and supported youth through personal and academic challenges. Our partnership with Westinghouse Football included a multi-day stay at Camp Kon-O-Kwee, deepening relationships and reinforcing social-emotional learning through immersive mentoring and training. Across all programs, students set goals, created postsecondary plans, and developed skills that promote long-term resilience.

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.

HCV's year-round programming helped reduce violence by creating consistent, supportive environments for youth during out-of-school hours, which are often when risk factors are highest. Through our summer and afterschool programs, we provided safe spaces, trusted adult relationships, and engaging opportunities that diverted youth from high-risk situations.

In Learn and Earn, STOP the Violence-funded youth coaches helped redirect students experiencing behavioral challenges, enabling them to stay in the program and complete their summer employment. These coaches also served as mentors, helping youth navigate personal issues that may have otherwise led to conflict or disengagement.

The Faison Summer Program offered younger students a structured, nurturing environment that focused on literacy, STEM, and social-emotional development. VG+ gave middle school youth a creative outlet through game design while reinforcing goal-setting and future orientation. Our work with the Westinghouse Football team included mentoring and leadership development, reinforced by an immersive camp experience at Camp Kon-O-Kwee. There, students deepened connections with adult mentors and practiced discipline, teamwork, and communication.

Across all programs, youth were supported in building positive identities and decision-making skills, reducing their exposure to and likelihood of engaging in violent or disruptive behavior.

Learning and Adapting

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

The most significant change to our proposed plan was the reduction in instructional support from Westinghouse Academy, due to changes in their grant funding. This required us to adjust our original afterschool model and increase our focus on in-school and afterschool College and Career Success programming for high school students. While some mechanisms shifted, we were able to support significantly more youth during the summer than originally anticipated. This was accomplished through a multi-faceted approach that included Learn and Earn, VG+, the Faison Summer Program, and our partnership with Westinghouse Football. These programs provided a range of touchpoints for youth of different ages and interests while remaining aligned with our overall violence prevention goals.

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

In December, HCV faced a major funding reduction that led to the loss of several OST staff, our Director of Development, and data team members. These changes impacted program delivery, communication, and internal tracking. Westinghouse Academy was also unable to provide expected instructional support, which limited our ability to implement the original afterschool model.

Despite these setbacks, we expanded our in-school and afterschool College and Career Success programming, reaching 84 high school students, which was more than originally projected for OST participation. Combined with our summer programs, including Learn and Earn, VG+, the Faison Summer Program, and Westinghouse Football partnership, we were able to serve more youth than anticipated. We are proud of our team's adaptability and ongoing commitment to youth in our community.

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&ouid=101637342679599276330&rtpof=true&sd=true

HCV Budget 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.

*

One student in our College and Career Success program demonstrated the profound impact of consistent support and mentorship. Throughout the school year, she worked closely with staff to complete a detailed postsecondary plan, ultimately deciding to attend North Carolina A&T to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering with a focus on robotics. Her passion for STEM was paired with strong creative skills, and through our program she was connected to paid opportunities to apply her talent in graphic design. While preparing for this next chapter, she also navigated a deeply personal loss following the passing of her aunt. Program staff provided emotional support and flexibility during this difficult time, helping her stay focused on her goals while processing her grief. This student not only stayed on track but became a peer leader and role model within the program. Her journey reflects the core of our work. By offering trusted relationships, structured guidance, and real opportunities, we help youth overcome personal and systemic challenges and move toward a successful future.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Walter Lewis

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*

06/13/2025

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- HCV Budget Report.pdf

BUDGET REPORT

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

Organization: [1] Grant Process [4]

Grant Start / End Dates: [2] Report Period: [5] to

Approved Grant Amount: [3] (in US\$)

Budget Category [7]	Original request POISE Fdn Budget [8]	Amount in Previous Periods [9]	Amount Spent in Current Period [10]	Total Spent to Date	Diff between orig request & expenditures' Balance	Please explain significant budget variances where indicated [11]
Personnel	\$ 62,000	\$ 0	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 17,000	The difference is just due to the requested amount and the amount actually awarded
Materials and/or Supplies	\$ 8,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 8,000	with less funds we focused on staffing costs
Other		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Professional Development/Training	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,000	with less funds we focused on staffing costs
Professional Development/Training	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Subtotal Direct Costs	\$ 80,000	\$ 0	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 35,000	
Indirect Costs	\$ 8,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000	
Totals	* \$ 88,000	\$ 0	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 38,000	

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]

Walter Lewis

Date:

6/13/2025

E-mail Address: [13]

wlewis@hcvpgh.org

Phone Number: [14]

412-522-3450