

## Pittsburgh Hardball Academy After School Program

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

### *Pittsburgh Hardball Academy*

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# 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.*

Pittsburgh Hardball Academy After School Program

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

01/01/2024

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

09/01/2024

***Grant Information***

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**Grant Amount Awarded\***

\$30,000.00

**Award Amount Spent\***

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

Yes

***Population Served***

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

250

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

300

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

250

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

50

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

0

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

Allegheny Center  
Allegheny West  
Allentown  
Arlington  
Arlington Heights  
Beechview  
Beltzhoover  
Bloomfield  
Bon Air  
Brighton Heights  
Brookline  
Carrick  
Central Lawrenceville  
Central Northside (Mexican War Streets)  
Central Oakland  
Chartiers  
Cultural District  
East Liberty  
Garfield (The Valley, The Hilltop)  
Greenfield (Four Mile Run)  
Hazelwood  
Highland Park  
Homewood North  
Homewood South  
Homewood West  
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar  
Lower Lawrenceville  
Manchester  
Middle Hill  
Morningside  
Mount Oliver  
Mount Washington/Chatham Village  
North Oakland  
North Point Breeze  
North Shore  
Northview Heights  
Overbrook  
Perry North (also known as Observatory Hill)  
Perry South (also known as Perry Hilltop)  
Point Breeze/Park Place  
Polish Hill  
Regent Square

Shadyside  
Sheraden  
South Oakland/Panther Hollow\Southshore/Station Square  
South Side Slopes  
Spring Hill–City View  
Squirrel Hill NortSquirrel Hill South  
Stanton Heights  
Strip District  
Troy Hill/Washington's Landing  
Upper Hill  
Upper Lawrenceville  
West End  
West Oakland

### 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 1  
Zone 2  
Zone 3  
Zone 4  
Zone 5  
Zone 6

## Work Conducted

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### Proposed Project/Program Activities\*

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

Our proposal listed the following activities:

1. Launch a daily after-school program providing academic support, physical activity, and mentorship.
2. Use sports mentorship to teach teamwork, discipline, and resilience through baseball and softball.
3. Incorporate conflict resolution and anti-violence training using the "Cure Violence" model.
4. Expand access to underserved youth through partnerships with schools and community organizations.
5. Lay the foundation for girls' programming with softball teams and clinics.
6. Monitor and evaluate program effectiveness using surveys, sign-in sheets, and feedback.

The proposed activities aim to engage at-risk youth through structured programs that combine mentorship, sports, and education. By fostering teamwork, promoting nonviolence, and providing opportunities for underserved populations, Pittsburgh Hardball Academy strives to reduce violence and build stronger, more inclusive communities.

## 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?

Collaborations outlined in our proposal have been successfully implemented, with additional partnerships enhancing our programs. We have maintained strong relationships with the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), and organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA, which provide vital infrastructure for youth programming.

A key collaboration has been with 210ths Speed & Agility, another Stop the Violence awardee, to deliver speed and agility clinics. These clinics have added value by promoting physical development, teamwork, and discipline. This partnership highlights the power of collaboration within the Stop the Violence cohort, leveraging shared expertise to maximize impact.

Additionally, Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's attendance at our Sayo Grays showcase event reinforced the city's commitment to reducing violence. His participation elevated the visibility of our efforts and inspired participants with a message of unity and community engagement.

To further strengthen collaboration among grantees, more shared events, co-hosted programs, and discussions on best practices would enhance the collective impact and ensure efficient use of resources in creating safer environments for youth.

## Status of Project Plan\*

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

We have successfully launched our daily after-school program at the Pittsburgh Hardball Academy Training & Education Center, fulfilling a key component of our proposed project plan. This program provides a safe, structured environment for at-risk youth during critical after-school hours. By combining academic support, mentorship, and physical activity, we aim to reduce the risk factors associated with violence and engage students in positive, meaningful activities. Our program ensures that participants have a consistent space where they can receive guidance, build relationships, and develop essential life skills.

In addition to the foundational aspects of our program, we have expanded our sports mentoring programs and educational workshops to align with the after-school initiative. Through baseball and softball training, we foster teamwork, discipline, and resilience among participants. Our mentoring approach not only develops athletic skills but also emphasizes personal growth, helping youth navigate challenges and make positive choices in their lives.

Our educational workshops further strengthen the after-school program by addressing critical areas such as academic enrichment, career readiness, and life skills. Topics include conflict resolution, goal setting, and leadership, equipping participants with strategies to succeed both on and off the field. These workshops are

designed to complement the physical training, creating a holistic model that supports the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of the youth we serve.

By expanding these elements into our after-school setting, we are increasing access to structured, impactful programming that benefits underserved youth across Pittsburgh.

## Proposed Outcomes\*

We aim to sustain and grow our after-school program, continuing to serve at least 250 youth annually while maintaining consistent and dedicated staffing. Our focus is on providing structured, impactful programming that supports academic growth, life skills development, and nonviolent conflict resolution. By ensuring the stability of our staff and resources, we plan to deepen our impact in the community and expand opportunities for more youth to engage in safe, supportive, and empowering activities.

## Progress\*

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

Our after-school program has engaged over 300 youth to date, providing a safe and structured environment for academic support, mentorship, and physical activity. A major highlight has been incorporating the CAP program in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Through this partnership, medical student students have become mentors engaging with participants, offering guidance on academics, career preparation, and goal setting. Their involvement has provided valuable role models and expanded the program's focus on holistic youth development.

Feedback from participants and families has been overwhelmingly positive, with testimonials highlighting the program's role in fostering personal growth and providing a safe space for youth. These achievements demonstrate the program's success in advancing our mission to reduce violence and empower the next generation.

## 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.

The after-school program has been central to reducing and preventing violence by providing a safe, structured environment for over 300 youth since its launch. Operating daily, the program offers academic support, mentorship, and physical activity, engaging participants in positive activities that reduce exposure to

negative influences. The consistency of the program fosters accountability and provides participants with a reliable, supportive space where they can develop teamwork, discipline, and life skills.

Over the winter break, we expanded our efforts by offering programming every day, ensuring that youth continued to have a safe and engaging space even during school closures. This initiative not only kept participants positively engaged during a critical time but also extended opportunities to our college alumni, who returned to utilize the facility as a safe and productive environment. This demonstrates our commitment to providing continuity and fostering long-term connections within the community.

The overall results of the program have been significant. Participants report improved behavior, stronger conflict-resolution skills, and increased confidence. Parents have shared how the program has positively influenced their children's focus and decision-making. By creating a consistent, inclusive environment, the after-school program has actively reduced risk factors for violence and helped build a foundation for long-term personal and community growth.

## *Learning and Adapting*

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

There have been no significant changes to the core aspects of our proposed plan. The after-school program continues to operate as envisioned, providing daily academic support, mentorship, and structured activities for at-risk youth. However, there has been a slight adaptation to enhance the program's impact during school breaks. Over winter break, we expanded our operations to offer programming every day, ensuring that participants had a safe and engaging space even when school was not in session. This adjustment also allowed us to open the facility to our college alumni, providing them with a supportive environment to stay connected and productive. These changes align with our mission and have further strengthened the program's ability to meet the needs of our participants and community.

## **Challenges**

Describe any ongoing challenges.

One significant challenge we encountered was the departure of our initial Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator, Demetrius Haskins, who transitioned to another role. His departure required us to adapt quickly to ensure the continuity of our after-school program. We successfully addressed this by hiring Aric White, a Pittsburgh Hardball Academy alum, as our new Youth Engagement Coordinator. Aric's familiarity with the program, strong connection to the community, and dedication to our mission allowed him to seamlessly step into the role and maintain the program's momentum.

This staffing transition was managed effectively to ensure there was no disruption to the daily operations of the after-school program, which serves as a critical resource for youth in our community. Aric's leadership has reinforced our commitment to providing a safe, structured, and supportive environment for participants. While the change presented an initial challenge, it led to a better overall end result.

## Budget

### Current Budget Overview\*

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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 - PHA.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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A high school senior and long-time participant of Pittsburgh Hardball Academy benefited significantly from the introduction of the after-school program. While he had been part of our organization for years, the daily academic support, mentorship, and structured training provided through the program allowed him to continue growing and thriving during a critical time in his life.

The program gave him a consistent, safe space to refine his baseball skills, focus on his academics, and build confidence in preparation for the next stage of his journey. His participation in the Sayo Grays showcase event, and his ongoing development through the after-school program helped him gain valuable exposure to college coaches. This exposure ultimately earned him the opportunity to join the baseball team at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, an HBCU where he will continue his education and athletic career.

His story highlights how the after-school program supports ongoing growth and creates pathways for life-changing opportunities. Through the program's structure and the visibility of events like the Sayo Grays showcase, he turned years of hard work into a meaningful next step, showing how impactful these initiatives are for underserved youth in our community.

### Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

*[Unanswered]*

## Verification

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### Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report\*

Nelson Cooper IV

### 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\*

12/29/2024

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- STV Budget Reporting Form - PHA.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] Pittsburgh Hardball Academy Grant Process [4] Stop the Violence

Grant Start / End Dates: [2] 01-May-24 to 31-Dec-24 Report Period: [5] 01-May-24 to 31-Dec-24

Approved Grant Amount: [3] \$ 30,000 (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
General Operations	\$ 25,000	\$ 0	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 0
Professional Development/Training	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Subgrants to Organizations	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Materials and/or Supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 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>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 0

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.

By submission of this report you hereby certify that the individual submitting this report is authorized to submit it on behalf of you compliance with the requirements of the grant letter, and that any funds expended have been expended in accordance with the |

Name and Title: [12]

Date:

E-mail Address: [13]

Phone Number: [14]

## **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.

Total received to date (US \$): [6] \$30,000.00

Please explain significant budget variances where indicated  
[11]

\$25,000 has been allocated to general operations, including staffing costs. These funds supported the hiring and retention of our Youth Engagement Coordinator, who oversees the after-school program. This allocation also covers facility maintenance and administrative expenses.

N/A

N/A

This includes sports equipment, educational resources, and workshop materials that directly benefit the youth in our after-school program.

ur organization, that the organization is in  
purposes of the grant.

Nelson Cooper IVExecutive Director

12/29/2024

[nelson.cooper@pittsburghhardball.org](mailto:nelson.cooper@pittsburghhardball.org)

206-380-2044

US\$.