

Center of Life

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

Center of Life

Mr. Timothy Smith
161 Hazelwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

contact@centeroflife.net
O: 412-521-3468

Mr. Patrick Ohrman

161 Hazelwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

patrick.ohrman@centeroflife.net
O: 412-521-3468
M: 412-608-6795

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.

Center of Life

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

01/01/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

05/30/2025

Grant Information

Grant Amount Awarded*

\$25,000.00

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)*

400

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

423

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

247

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

113

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

63

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

Beechview
Brighton Heights
Brookline
Carrick
Central Business District (also known as Downtown and the Golden Triangle)
Central Oakland
East Liberty
Glen Hazel
Greenfield (Four Mile Run)
Hazelwood
Highland Park
Homewood North
Knoxville
Larimer
Manchester
Marshall-Shadeland (also known as Brightwood and Woods Run)/Brunot Island
Middle Hill
Mount Oliver
Mount Washington/Chatham Village
New Homestead
Perry North (also known as Observatory Hill)
Perry South (also known as Perry Hilltop)
Point Breeze/Park Place
Shadyside
Sheraden
Squirrel Hill North/Squirrel Hill South
Stanton Heights
Swisshelm Park/Duck Hollow
Terrace Village
Troy Hill/Washington's Landing
Upper Hill
Upper Lawrenceville

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 4

Work Conducted

Proposed Project/Program Activities*

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

Center of Life has implemented a comprehensive range of activities aimed at violence prevention and community support. These efforts have included violence prevention education through a series of workshops, each designed to address different facets of violence prevention, such as conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and peer mediation strategies. COL has also infused violence prevention lessons into its existing programs, ensuring that all participants, from early childhood through adolescence, receive consistent messaging about safety and community responsibility.

Additionally, COL has conducted Chill Sessions in collaboration with Steel Smiling. These sessions provide a safe and supportive space for mental health discussions and emotional healing, particularly for Black community members who have been disproportionately affected by violence and trauma. COL has further supported community resilience through wellness workshops, which cover topics ranging from stress management to understanding trauma responses, and crisis support services that offer assistance during crises. The musical education and social-emotional development lessons integrated within COL's regular programming remain crucial in helping students process their emotions and develop constructive outlets for self-expression. Mentorship programs and leadership development activities for students have also been expanded, emphasizing empowerment and personal growth as violence prevention tools.

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 with Steel Smiling and the Monongahela and Marsden Block Association have been successfully maintained as planned. Steel Smiling's Chill Sessions have become a cornerstone of COL's mental health initiatives, offering safe spaces for candid conversations about stress, trauma, and healing, and providing training for community leaders in mental health first aid. The Monongahela and Marsden Block Association's involvement has been equally impactful, especially through their contributions to the Stop the Violence Event, which created a space where community members could share personal experiences and begin the healing process collectively.

Roles and responsibilities within these collaborations have remained stable, with COL leading the programming while Steel Smiling offers mental health expertise and the Monongahela and Marsden Block Association provides community outreach and event coordination support. There have been no significant

shifts in these partnerships, but their continued collaboration has had a profound impact on the program's effectiveness. Expanding data sharing practices and creating more opportunities for cross-program collaboration among grantees could further strengthen these partnerships and expand the positive impact on the community.

Status of Project Plan*

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

Regarding the status of the project plan, COL has successfully completed key activities, including the impactful Stop the Violence Event, which attracted 80-85 attendees and featured a range of activities designed to promote healing and raise awareness about violence prevention. The event included impactful speakers, such as community leaders and violence survivors, who shared their experiences and insights into breaking the cycle of violence. Additionally, mental health resources were provided to all attendees, and opportunities for community sharing were facilitated through storytelling circles and interactive activities.

Chill Sessions have continued on a regular basis, offering a consistent platform for emotional support and mental wellness. Family and Community Engagement programs have provided ongoing wellness workshops and crisis support services, ensuring that families in the Hazelwood community have access to resources during difficult times. The integration of violence prevention lessons throughout COL's youth programs has remained a key focus, with content adapted to be age-appropriate and culturally relevant. These lessons are reinforced with experiential learning activities and guest speakers who provide real-world context for violence prevention strategies. Additionally, COL has effectively employed data collection tools, including participant surveys and progress tracking, to measure the ongoing impact of these initiatives.

Proposed Outcomes*

In terms of proposed outcomes, COL has made significant strides toward achieving its goals. The Stop the Violence Event was successfully executed and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, many of whom reported feeling more informed and empowered to address violence in their community. Partnerships have been further strengthened, allowing COL to reach a broader audience with its violence prevention messaging. Multiple violence prevention workshops have been conducted across various COL programs, with a focus on skill-building, emotional intelligence, and conflict de-escalation techniques.

Feedback from both students and parents has highlighted the importance of these programs in fostering emotional growth and providing tools for managing conflict. Additionally, COL's initiatives have resulted in stronger community healing initiatives, with greater participation in support groups and increased interest in mental health education.

Progress*

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

Many of the highlights over this period of time come directly from participants in the event that was held. Some testimonials are below:

What struck me most about what Darnell spoke about was that the Center of Victims has been asking the people they serve to speak about harm for the last 50 years. Now, they are re-focusing their efforts and

narratives on care, love, and the future. He also mentioned they have a public display that people can come and visit with a guided walk through. These are not Darnell's exact words but it was what I came away with.

I think overall the luncheon, which is more than a luncheon, is a gathering of care and love. A supportive, safe space that you and your team create anywhere you go whether it is at the Spartan Center or outdoors or on the streets. It is clear everyone is welcome. They are able to share with others their loss, grief, love, and support. It is an emotionally intense and inspiring support network that brings people closer together.

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.

Consistent data collection efforts have provided valuable insights into program effectiveness, showing a reduction in behavioral incidents among program participants and increased engagement in social-emotional learning activities. Feedback from both students and parents has highlighted the importance of these programs in fostering emotional growth and providing tools for managing conflict. Additionally, COL's initiatives have resulted in stronger community healing initiatives, with greater participation in support groups and increased interest in mental health education.

Learning and Adapting

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

No significant changes have been made to aspects of our project plan.

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

While the project plan has remained largely on track, several challenges have persisted. Inconsistent program attendance has continued to affect continuity and the ability to measure long-term impact, particularly in younger age groups. Staff turnover has also presented challenges, as maintaining a consistent team is vital for building trust and ensuring high-quality program delivery. Additionally, attention span difficulties among younger participants have required adjustments to lesson delivery and activity pacing.

Retention of students across multiple program years has also been identified as a challenge, with some families disengaging after a single program cycle. This pattern has made it difficult to sustain long-term mentorship relationships and reinforce the violence prevention strategies being taught.

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
2025_STV_Report.xlsx

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.

*

From the event organizer:

During the event we had several family members speak about their loved ones who have passed away. Some even brought along photos of their family members. One grandmother had her grandson's picture displayed on her hat. Leon Ford spoke about forgiveness and what some young people go through.

Artist from AEU brought jewelry with them so that our guest could make bracelets in memory of their family members as part of therapy. Darnell Drewery from Center for Victims also spoke of encouragement.

We had about 80-85 people attend the event.

It was a great event and uplifting for so many that attended.

Something exciting that happened during the event, Leon Ford said that the event was nice and that he wanted to sponsor us for next year. We are hoping to hear from his office soon so that we can arrange to meet and discuss next year's event.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Patrick Ohrman

Title of Organizational Representative*

Director of Development

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*

01/03/2025

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- 2025_STV_Report.xlsx

Grant Financial Report

This is a protected worksheet. Complete only those sections that are shaded. See additional instructions below.

Organization: [1] Center of Life Grant Process Grant Number: [4]

Grant Start / End Dates: [2] 1-May-24 to 31-Dec-24

Approved Grant Amount: [3] \$25,000 (in US\$)

Budget Category [7]	<A> Approved POISE Fdn Budget [8]	 Amount Spent in Previous Periods [9]
General Operations	\$8,616	\$0
Professional Development/Training	\$588	\$0
Subgrants to Organizations	\$3,500	\$0
Materials and/or Supplies	\$1,215	\$0
		\$0
	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Direct Costs	\$13,919	\$0
Indirect Costs	\$1,818	\$0
Totals	\$15,737	\$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 is not allowed for the POISE Fdn.

By submission of this report you hereby certify that the individual submitting this report is authorized to submit this report on behalf of the organization.

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.
7. Select Budget Categories which match your proposed grant budget. Select category(ies) for each budget category.
8. Enter the approved POISE Foundation budget for each budget category. All figures should be in dollars.
9. Enter the sum of amounts spent in each budget category for all previous reporting periods.
10. Enter the amount spent in each budget category for this reporting period. All figures should be in dollars. 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, a note must be entered. 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.

low, indicated by corresponding number.

Stop the Violence

Total received to date

Report Period: [5]		1-May-24 to	30-Nov-24
<C>		<D> = B + C	
Amount Spent		<E> = A - D	
in Current		Total Spent	
Period [10]		to Date	
		Unexpended	
		Balance	
\$8,616		\$8,616	
\$588		\$588	
\$0		\$0	
\$1,215		\$1,215	
\$0		\$0	
\$0		\$0	
\$0		\$0	
\$0		\$0	
\$0		\$0	
\$10,419		\$10,419	
\$0		\$0	
\$10,419		\$10,419	
		\$5,318	

ance will require Foundation approval.

authorized to submit it on behalf of your organization, that the organization is in complianc

Name and Title: [12]	Patrick Ohrman - Director of Develo
Date:	12/31/2024
E-mail Address: [13]	patrick.ohrman@centeroflife.org
Phone Number: [14]	412-521-3468

orting period. Specify amount in US\$.

;) from drop down menu on right of cell
ould be reported in US\$.

ods. All figures should be reported in US\$.

hould be reported in US\$.

3 by 35%, an explanation is required.

3 report.

\$25,000.00

<F>

Please explain significant budget variances where indicated [11]

We simply did not list this as a subgrant to another organization, because we are the fiscal sponsor for the a

be with the requirements of the grant letter, and that any funds expended have been exper

ment

association.

ded in accordance with the purposes of the grant.