

## Phase 4 Learning Center, Inc.

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

### ***Phase 4 Learning Center, Inc.***

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## FollowUp Form

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### *City of Pittsburgh STOP the Violence Mid-Year Progress Report*

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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.*

Phase 4 Learning Center, Inc.

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

04/30/2024

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

06/01/2024

***Grant Information***

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**Grant Amount Awarded\***

\$20,000.00

**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)\***

100

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

288

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

191

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

95

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

2

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

Allegheny Center  
Arlington Heights  
Beechview  
Beltzhoover  
Bloomfield  
Brighton Heights  
Carrick  
Central Lawrenceville  
Central Northside (Mexican War Streets)  
Central Oakland  
East Hills  
East Liberty  
Friendship  
Garfield (The Valley, The Hilltop)  
Greenfield (Four Mile Run)  
Hazelwood  
Highland Park  
Homewood North  
Homewood South  
Homewood West  
Knoxville  
Larimer  
Lincoln Place  
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar  
Manchester  
Mount Oliver  
Perry North (also known as Observatory Hill)  
Perry South (also known as Perry Hilltop)  
Saint Clair  
South Side Flats/SouthSide Works  
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 5

## Work Conducted

### Proposed Project/Program Activities\*

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

Outreach team will begin recruiting. Rolling enrollment; Month 1: Recruitment; Month 1-2: Youth begin fitness training; access the Phase 4 Tech Center; begin to learn technology; form Youth Leadership Team; vote on community project & plan the project; make T-shirts. Month 3-4: filmmaking/recording studio activities; group activities in communities; Months 5-6: Fitness; youth write anti-violence PSA skits; prepare skits for filming; engage in public outreach events; use music production to spread anti-violence method; Months 7-8: Editing PSA films; engage outreach events (ex. help in community gardens & community clean-up events); continue music production; participate in Hack-a-thon; Months 9-10: youth plan film debut event & send invites; youth promote films; continue outreach; second Hack-a-thon; Months 11-12: film debut event; music projects recorded/edited; final Hack-a-thon.

## 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?

The collaborations outlined in the project proposal were largely carried out as anticipated, with some adjustments to roles and responsibilities to accommodate evolving needs. For example, the partnership with the International Computer Technology Clubhouse to deliver Project Impacts 3.0 allowed for seamless integration of trauma-informed mentoring into the program, enhancing support for youth with incarcerated or substance-dependent family members. P4:247 complemented this by broadening the scope to include youth affected by violence and adding team-building and self-care components through Ultimate Fitness Training, which has been well-received by participants.

Unanticipated challenges included scheduling conflicts and resource allocation, which occasionally required flexibility from partners to ensure program continuity. For example, the collaboration with Partner4Work and The REACH program demanded additional coordination to align youth transitioning between programs and ensure they could access workforce development and violence intervention services without disruption. These collaborations significantly enriched the project by offering pathways for skill development, employment opportunities, and holistic support.

The impact of these partnerships on the population served has been profound. Youth participants benefited from a broader network of resources, mentoring, and opportunities to build resilience and skills, contributing to their overall growth and stability.

## Status of Project Plan\*

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

Several key activities and events from the proposed project plan have been successfully implemented, aligning with the outlined timeline. Recruitment efforts began promptly, with the outreach team engaging youth and initiating rolling enrollment. During the first two months, participants were introduced to fitness training and gained access to the Phase 4 Tech Center, where they started learning technology skills. A Youth Leadership Team was formed, Voices for Change, empowered young people to share their perspectives on gun violence through podcasting and video.

Months three and four saw the introduction of creative projects, such as filmmaking and recording studio activities, alongside group activities in the community. Participants actively engaged in these hands-on experiences, which helped build teamwork and fostered their understanding of technology-driven storytelling.

As the program progressed, youth began working on anti-violence PSA skits, combining civic engagement and creative expression. Additional opportunities were introduced as college bound identified youth were able to participate on a HBCU tour of 14 different schools in 5 states. The timeline remains on track, with the next phases focusing on PSA editing, further outreach events, and hackathons, ensuring the program's goals are met effectively.

## Proposed Outcomes\*

**Youth Empowerment:** Participants gained leadership, teamwork, and decision-making skills by forming and participating in Voices for Change. They also strengthened their confidence through involvement in community projects, public outreach, and creative activities.

**Skill Development:** Participants acquired foundational skills in technology, filmmaking, music production, and public speaking. These skills enhanced their career readiness and personal development, making them competitive for future educational and employment opportunities.

**Community Impact:** Through public outreach events & anti-violence PSAs the program fostered a culture of positive change, spreading awareness of violence prevention and promoting community unity.

**Trauma-Informed Support:** By offering mentorship and activities that addressed trauma, the program provided emotional support to youth impacted by violence, addiction, and incarceration within their families, fostering resilience and mental well-being.

## Progress\*

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

The project has made significant progress toward its goals, with several impactful achievements and milestones. A key highlight was the HBCU Tour, which provided participating youth with an invaluable opportunity to explore Historically Black Colleges and Universities and gain exposure to post-secondary education options. The tour was life changing and brought a sense of pride and ambition among participants as they connected with the rich history, culture, and opportunities these institutions offer. Several participants expressed newfound interest in pursuing higher education. Beyond the HBCU Tour, the program successfully launched its Voices for Change, which has empowered participants to be heard. This team

facilitated decision-making processes for community projects, such as clean-up initiatives and public outreach events. These activities have provided valuable technical skills and platforms for youth to express their voices on violence prevention and community 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.

P4:247 effectively reduced and prevented violence by providing youth with structured opportunities to channel their energy, develop critical skills, and engage in community activities. By addressing the root causes of violence such as lack of access to resources, mentorship, and positive outlets the program has empowered youth to make better decisions & contribute to their communities. Actual outcomes include sustained engagement of over 85% of participants in activities like fitness training, filmmaking, and leadership development. Youth-led initiatives, such as anti-violence PSAs, music production projects, and podcasts have fostered a sense of purpose and responsibility among participants. Partnerships with organizations like Partner4Work have provided pathways to employment and education, reducing the likelihood of youth engaging in violence-related activities. The HBCU Tour was pivotal, inspiring participants by exposing them to higher education and positive role models. This experience broadened their horizons and instilled a sense of possibility for their futures. P4:247's trauma-informed approach has helped participants manage stress, build resilience, and address underlying factors that contribute to violence. Community involvement, such as outreach campaigns, has strengthened bonds and created safer environments. Overall, the project has fostered a culture of positivity, skill-building, and leadership, reducing violence and creating pathways for long-term success.

## *Learning and Adapting*

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

Yes, several adjustments were made to the proposed plan to enhance program effectiveness. First, the timeline for filmmaking and music production activities was extended to provide participants with more time to develop their technical skills and create better projects. This change was implemented after receiving feedback from youth who expressed a desire for more in-depth learning. Second, we expanded our community partnerships to address the needs of participants and their families. Collaborations with local organizations now provide access to additional mental health services, career counseling, and resources for families impacted by violence. These partnerships have enriched the program's holistic approach by addressing underlying factors that contribute to violence. These changes have allowed the program to remain flexible and responsive, ensuring alignment with the goal of reducing violence while empowering participants with the skills and support needed to make a lasting impact.

## Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

The program has faced ongoing challenges that required creative problem-solving. One of the primary issues is participant retention, as many youth face unstable home environments, transportation barriers, and competing responsibilities such as school, work, or family obligations. While partnerships with local organizations have provided some transportation and flexible scheduling options, maintaining consistent engagement remained a struggle for some participants. The emotional toll of violence and trauma posed a significant challenge. Youth in the program have experienced firsthand or secondary trauma due to violence or incarceration of family members. The depth and scope of some participants' needs exceeded the resources currently available, highlighting a need for more intensive long-term support. The program remained committed to overcoming these barriers through innovative strategies, strengthened partnerships, and continuous feedback from participants and stakeholders.

## 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](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)

Phase 4 - STV Budget Reporting Form B.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.

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One of the most impactful stories from the STOP the Violence-supported Voices for Change program centers around a group of high school students who came together to create a PSA series focused on ending gun violence in Pittsburgh. These students, initially unsure of how to express their thoughts on such a heavy topic, were given the platform and guidance to use their voices creatively through podcasting and video production.

They explored their personal experiences with violence in their neighborhoods, the emotional toll it took on their families, and the community's response to violence prevention. Through mentorship, the students were trained in storytelling, podcast production, and digital media, allowing them to create a series of powerful episodes that highlighted not just the problem, but potential solutions. One episode focused on how local community centers and youth-led initiatives could offer alternatives to violence, while another shared a poignant conversation with a local activist advocating for gun reform.

The Voices for Change program gave these students the opportunity to not only learn valuable skills but to also be catalysts for change in their community. Their work has sparked conversations across schools and

local organizations about youth involvement in violence prevention. This initiative underscores the power of youth voices in addressing social issues and highlights the importance of providing them with the tools to drive positive change.

## Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Ate that Final.mov

## Verification

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### Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report\*

Eric Raphael

### Title of Organizational Representative\*

Business Management 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\*

12/30/2024

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Phase 4 - STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx
- Ate that Final.mov

# 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]

Youth Enrichment Services

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]

\$ 20,000

(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	\$ 8,889	\$ 9,794	\$ 2,060	\$ 11,854	-\$ 2,965
Professional Development/Training	\$ 3,333	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,333
Subgrants to Organizations	\$ 4,848	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,848
Materials and/or Supplies	\$ 1,111	\$ 6,328	\$ 0	\$ 6,328	-\$ 5,217
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Subtotal Direct Costs</b>	\$ 18,182	\$ 16,122	\$ 2,060	\$ 18,182	\$ 0

Indirect Costs		\$ 1,818	\$ 0	\$ 1,818	\$ 1,818	\$ 0
Totals	*	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,122	\$ 3,878	\$ 20,000	\$ 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]

Olivia KelleySenior Co

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] \$20,000.00

Please explain significant budget variances where indicated  
[11]

More than was initially budgeted was spent supporting staff salaries and benefits. As a result, more was spent in this line item and less in other line items.

Summer programming efforts were focused more on the Violence Intervention Symposium than was expecting when creating the budget for the STV grant. As a result, we did not spend any funds on professional development.

These costs went towards the HBCU, and are included in General Operations above.

The Violence Intervention Symposium required more funds than initially budgeted for. As a result, this spending in this line item is higher than expected and lower in other line items.

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

ommunications, Systems, and Organizational Strategy Leader

12/6/2024

[okelley@yespgh.org](mailto:okelley@yespgh.org)

443-761-4822

US\$.