

Tech 25 fka 25 Carrick Ave Project

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

25 Carrick Ave Project

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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.

Tech 25 fka 25 Carrick Ave Project

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

01/01/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

05/01/2024

Grant Information

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

Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)*

500

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

500

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

500

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

30

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

60

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

Arlington
Arlington Heights
Beltzhoover
Carrick
Duquesne Heights
East Allegheny (also known as Deutschtown)
Garfield (The Valley, The Hilltop)
Hazelwood
Knoxville
Mount Oliver
Saint Clair

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 3

Work Conducted

Proposed Project/Program Activities*

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

Tech25's Teen Summer Apprenticeship Program directly addresses workforce development needs for underserved youth while providing structured opportunities to gain skills, work experience, and economic support. Targeting high-risk individuals in neighborhoods.

Engages teens in hands-on training across live event production, sound engineering, lighting design, and video production.

Focuses on both technical and soft skill development, such as teamwork, problem-solving, and project coordination.

Incorporates mentorship from industry professionals to build career readiness and provide a pathway to long-term employment.

Reduces risk factors for violence by creating safe, structured environments with positive reinforcement and economic opportunities for youth during critical out-of-school periods.

During the most recent summer, over 30 students successfully completed apprenticeships, contributing to local community events and festivals while gaining employable skills.

The Start On Success Program, in collaboration with Partner4Work and local high schools, specifically serves high school juniors and seniors, helping to ensure a successful transition into post-secondary opportunities or the workforce.

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?

Collaborated with PA State Parks, the Mayor's Office, Light Up Night Downtown, and the City's Arena Video Gaming Initiative, exceeding initial expectations and creating impactful programming for underserved youth.

Roles and Changes:

PA State Parks: Delivered outdoor STEAM workshops combining event technology training and nature-based learning

Mayor's Office: Expanded involvement in community events, increasing opportunities for youth mentorship and workforce exposure.

Light Up Night Downtown: In partnership with other STOP the Violence grantees, Tech25 supported youth-driven performances and event production, providing hands-on learning while promoting violence-free community spaces.

Impact:

Created safe spaces for youth through public events and outdoor programming.

Provided real-world workforce training, including event production, live streaming, and digital media.

Strengthened community pride and youth representation through collaboration with city initiatives and events.

Recommendations to Improve Collaboration:

Shared Resources: Establish equipment/resource-sharing among grantees to address program gaps.

Joint Events: Expand large-scale, violence-free events like Light Up Night to amplify impact.

Centralized Communication: Improve outreach and impact measurement for unified program reporting.

Status of Project Plan*

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

We implemented all of our planned programs and will continue well beyond this grant.

Proposed Outcomes*

The STOP THE VIOLENCE grant enabled Tech25 to provide paid training to 12 teens through workforce development programs, equipping them with technical and soft skills for future careers. Additionally, we delivered workshops to over 500 area school-aged youth, introducing STEAM concepts and career pathways in the event and entertainment industry. Our programs also supported community events like Carrick Community Day, fostering safe, positive spaces for youth and families while strengthening neighborhood pride and engagement. These efforts have created meaningful opportunities and contributed to reducing risk factors for violence in the Hilltop neighborhoods.

Progress*

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

Tech25's STOP THE VIOLENCE project has achieved significant milestones in workforce development, youth engagement, and community impact.

Youth Workforce Development:

Students gained skills in event production, live streaming, lighting, audio engineering, and digital media, with 25% securing pathways to paid internships or employment.

Safe and Positive Community Engagement:

Tech25 helped create violence-free spaces where youth showcased their skills in performances and production roles.

Outdoor workshops at PA State Parks provided safe learning environments for 15 youth, blending STEAM education with emotional well-being initiatives.

Tech25 to deliver over 160 hours of mentorship and skill-building sessions for at-risk youth.

These achievements highlight Tech25's success in reducing risk factors for violence by creating economic opportunities, structured learning environments, and career pathways for underserved populations in Pittsburgh's Hilltop neighborhoods.

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.

Tech25's STOP THE VIOLENCE initiative has had a measurable impact on preventing violence and improving outcomes for at-risk youth in Carrick, Mt. Oliver, Knoxville, Beltzhoover, and Allentown through structured workforce development, STEAM-based education, and positive community engagement.

We were awarded an award by South Pittsburgh's Coalition for Peace.

Workforce Development and Teen Programs

30 teens participated in workforce development programs focusing on event production, live streaming, lighting design, and digital media.

Teens gained technical and soft skills while contributing to real-world events like Light Up Night Downtown and the City's Arena Video Gaming Initiative, creating pathways to future employment.

25% of participating teens transitioned into paid apprenticeships or job opportunities, directly addressing economic instability and providing positive alternatives to violence.

Learning and Adapting

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

no

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

Our main challenges this past summer were access to funding (outside of this grant) to pay for programmatic staff, facilities, and equipment.

Other challenges included students not being able to supply the proper paperwork to gain employment (workers permit, identification, bank account information, etc)

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

Tech25 STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx - Exempt (1).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.

*

We were able to include a few of our Start On Success graduates from 2024 in our paid teen summer program as well as partner with Homeless Childrens Education Fund. A few of these students have gone on to work for IATSE Local 3 on many of the political campaigns that happened this fall. Some of the students we trained were making between \$27 - \$90 per hour. These students got to work alongside Union Stagecrew setting up, breaking down, and operating stages, lighting, and audio equipment.

Attached in our photos and digital clips are a variety of shots from our STV programming.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Press Promo Support (17).pdf

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Pete Spynda

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*

01/02/2025

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Tech25 STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx - Exempt (1).pdf
- Press Promo Support (17).pdf

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]

Tech 25 (25 Carrick Ave Project)

Grant Process

[4]

Stop the Violence

Grant Start / End Dates: [2]

01-Jan-24

to

31-Dec-24

Report Period: [5]

01-May-24

to

30-Nov-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 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 0 |
| Professional Development/Training | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Subgrants to Organizations | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Materials and/or Supplies | \$ 182 | \$ 0 | \$ 182 | \$ 182 | \$ 0 |
| | | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Subtotal Direct Costs | \$ 28,182 | \$ 0 | \$ 28,182 | \$ 28,182 | \$ 0 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Indirect Costs | \$ 1,818 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,818 | \$ 1,818 | \$ 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 your organization, requirements of the grant letter, and that any funds expended have been expended in accordance with the purposes of the grant.

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]

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.

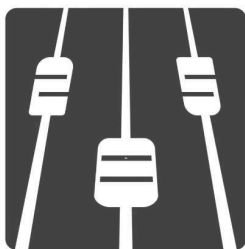
that the organization is in compliance with the

Pete Spynda Executive Director

12/6/2024

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TECH 25

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112 St Joseph Street Pittsburgh PA 15210
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Tech25.org. EIN 84-2121534

Board Members

President - Stephan Koledin
Dr Sherry Miller Brown
Mike Fertig
Traci Jackson
Dave Bjornson
Pete Spynda

WE ARE TECH 25 VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/FIOF36kC1do?si=dEnFcF157kQ4ebCm>

Summer Programs 2024 Recap

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EY-CumtWYQU>

KDKA Feature

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/video/daisy-visits-tech25-to-learn-how-theyre-steering-students-to-a-brighter-louder-future/>

Pipeline to Success

<https://youtube/S47ikkuDTLE>

Youth Programs/Pipeline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2S7uo38Q8s>

Navigate the Site

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUA6VwqwNSc>

Adult Workforce

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPixYnx6dzQ>

Sports Broadcast for Youth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InBeAbcwSJg>

Market Square STV

<https://youtu.be/9En4ORXl1g8>

Stop the Violence RECAP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPbjLdZR9QE>

Socials @tech25pgh

<http://linktr.ee/tech25pgh>



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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/tech25pgh/>

Overview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S47ikkuDTLE>

Articles and Press

The Warhol remixes workforce development with its Teen DJ Academy

January 2023

<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/the-warhol-remixes-workforce-development-with-its-teen-dj-academy/Content?oid=23233927>

Forging Forward: The Future Is Now!

Table Magazine July 2022

<https://www.tablemagazine.com/blog/2021/6/29/tech25>

Fill the hill with music': 25 Carrick Ave aims to connect people to careers and amplify a neighborhood's future

Public Source 2/28/22

<https://www.publicsource.org/25-carrick-ave-audio-technology-hearcorp-workforce-development-pittsburgh-hilltop/>

WESA The Confluence with Kevin Gavin

<https://www.wesa.fm/show/the-confluence/2022-03-31/applications-close-today-to-get-rental-assistance-in-allegheny-county-what-resources-remain>

Videos



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Sports Audio Broadcast Youth Workshop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InBeAbcwSJg>

iHeart Visit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frbkq6hL_44

Overview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww-ECcgPEHQ&t=1s>

Audio Basics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYuhQhMDdSk&t=8s>

CARRICK COMMUNITY PAVILION

Light Up Carrick

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg1mXdeC_tl

Halloween

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZdHZKOc5Rc&t=11s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JcjChJpQig>