

Mount Ararat Community Activity Center

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

Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center

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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.

Mount Ararat Community Activity Center

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

07/20/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

07/01/2024

Grant Information

Grant Amount Awarded*

\$10,000.00

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)*

75

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

43

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

26

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

0

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

17

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

Bloomfield
East Liberty
Friendship
Garfield (The Valley, The Hilltop)
Highland Park
Homewood North
Homewood South
Homewood West
Larimer
Lincoln Place
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar
Lower Lawrenceville
Morningside
Point Breeze/Park Place
Stanton Heights
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.

- Weekly Mentoring meeting serving dinner every Thursday
- Curriculum designed to discuss self-growth, reflection, and purpose
- Monthly activities and outing such as theater plays, bowling, and sporting events

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?

Collaboration within our project evolved beyond initial expectations. Unanticipated staff changes, including the departure of Michelle and Jeff in April 2024, required a realignment of roles. Ashley Smith's arrival as Director of Youth Programs brought fresh leadership, enhancing our youth-focused initiatives.

Partnerships played a critical role in our success. Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) facilitated student recruitment, enabling us to identify and support students who benefit most from our programs. Automated Website and IT4ME expanded their tech offerings, providing robotics, coding, and computer literacy classes, which have been invaluable. PBJ Customs introduced visual arts training, enriching our creative curriculum, while Reading is Fundamental continued to strengthen academic performance through focused reading support. The Mentoring Partnership of SWPA provided essential training, ensuring our mentors are well-equipped.

Despite these shifts, the impact on the population served remains positive. Strong collaboration improved student outcomes, but enhanced coordination among STOP the Violence grantees could further streamline efforts and amplify our collective impact.

Status of Project Plan*

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

The proposed project plan has been implemented as follows:

Month 1: Conducted a comprehensive Needs Assessment and engaged the community to identify specific needs and gather support for the project.

Month 2: Successfully recruited mentors and developed the curriculum. Key resources were acquired to support mentoring sessions and planned activities.

Month 3: Launched regular mentoring sessions and began implementing workshops and activities designed to engage participants and address identified needs.

Months 4 – 12: Continued the mentoring sessions, workshops, and activities as planned. Ongoing evaluation and assessment of program impact and performance have been integral, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation of the program.

Proposed Outcomes*

Increased Engagement: Students will actively participate in mentoring sessions, workshops, and activities, boosting attendance and involvement.

Enhanced Academic Performance: Students will improve in reading comprehension and STEM skills through partnerships.

Improved Social-Emotional Skills: Mentoring and workshops will help students develop better interpersonal skills and emotional resilience.

Career and Technical Skill Development: Students will gain practical skills in robotics, coding, computer literacy, and visual arts, preparing them for future opportunities.

Stronger Community Connections: Collaborations with PPS and community partners will enhance student recruitment and program support.

Positive Mentor-Student Relationships: Mentors will foster meaningful relationships, promoting personal and academic growth.

Effective Program Evaluation: Continuous assessment will ensure program objectives are met and improvements are made.

Progress*

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

Project Achievements/Highlights:

Mentor and Mentee Engagement: 17 mentors have been recruited, actively supporting 26 mentees in regular sessions, fostering strong relationships.

Consistent Participation: Over 90% of students have attended mentoring sessions and workshops, showing high engagement and commitment.

Academic Excellence: The average GPA of participating students is 3.25, reflecting their dedication to academic success despite only one report card so far.

Skill Development: Students have gained valuable skills in robotics, coding, and visual arts, with over 80% completing courses through Automated Website, IT4ME, and PBJ Customs.

Strong Community Ties: Collaborations with 9 PPS schools have been pivotal in recruiting students and providing essential support.

Positive Feedback: Surveys show a 95% satisfaction rate, indicating significant impact on students' academic and personal growth.

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.

Reducing/Preventing Violence: The project has focused on reducing violence by providing structured mentoring, skill-building, and positive role models for 26 students. By fostering strong mentor-mentee relationships and engaging students in meaningful activities, the program has created a supportive environment that promotes conflict resolution, emotional resilience, and positive peer interactions.

Actual Outcomes:

Mentor Engagement: 17 mentors have consistently guided students, helping them develop critical life skills.

High Participation Rates: Over 90% attendance in mentoring sessions and workshops.

Academic Achievement: Students have maintained an average GPA of 3.25, demonstrating their commitment to education.

Skill Development: Significant engagement in robotics, coding, and visual arts courses, equipping students with valuable technical and creative skills.

Impact: The program has positively impacted students by reducing their exposure to negative influences and providing constructive outlets for their energy and creativity. Through community partnerships and consistent support, students have shown improved social-emotional skills, academic dedication, and readiness for future opportunities, contributing to a safer, more positive community environment.

Learning and Adapting

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

Yes, there have been changes to the proposed plan. Two key leadership staff, Michelle and Jeff, left the organization in April 2024, leading to a realignment of roles. Ashley Smith joined as the Director of Youth Programs, bringing new direction and energy. Despite these changes, all core activities, including mentoring sessions, workshops, and skill-building programs, have continued as planned. Additionally, the scope of technical training has expanded with more emphasis on coding and robotics, reflecting the evolving needs and interests of the students. These adjustments have strengthened the program and its impact.

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

More Middle School aged students wanting to be involved.

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

STV Budget Reporting Form MACAC.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.

*

One of our mentees, a middle school student, joined the program struggling with low self-confidence and limited social connections. Through consistent mentoring and participation in workshops, particularly in coding, he discovered a passion for technology. With guidance from his mentor, he created a website to showcase his art. This transformation highlights the impact of mentorship and skill-building, demonstrating how positive engagement can empower students, reduce their risk of involvement in violence, and set them on a path toward success.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Denise L Head

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*

01/08/2025

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- STV Budget Reporting Form MACAC.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]

Mount Ararat Community Activity Center

 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

30-Nov-24

Approved Grant Amount: [3]

\$ 10,000

 (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 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 0 |
| Professional Development/Training | \$ 2,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 0 |
| Subgrants to Organizations | | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Materials and/or Supplies | \$ 1,500 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 0 |
| | | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Subtotal Direct Costs | \$ 10,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 0 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Indirect Costs | | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Totals | \$ 10,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 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] \$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.

Costs that were going to be incurred by partner organizations where instead incurred by Youth Enrichment Services for the 2024 Violence Intervention Symposium

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.

Denise L. Head Executive Director

1/8/2025

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US\$.