

Voices Against Violence

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

The Pittsburgh Contingency

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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.

Voices Against Violence

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

01/15/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

01/15/2024

Grant Information

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

Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)*

60

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

53

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

7

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

43

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

3

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

Allentown
Arlington
Arlington Heights
Beltzhoover
Carrick
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.

Expanding deliberate engagement with high-risk individuals to reduce the risk factors for violence.
Community engagement after violent incidents to reduce trauma and discourage future violence.
Teaching non-violent conflict resolution and violence prevention methods.
Services to high-risk individuals to facilitate successful futures and discourage violence.
Encouraging utilization or normalization of mental health care.
Support for citizens reentering the community from incarceration.
Providing services to people identified by the City's street outreach contractor.
Fostering positive engagement with law enforcement officials.
Encouraging the pursuit of law enforcement careers among underrepresented populations.

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 collaborative partnership with Center for Victims proved to be a valuable partnership. We were able to work with all participants around grounding themselves mentally and emotionally. They also provide training with conflict resolution and mediation. One of our biggest challenges in this area was the amount of participants who were on medication and refused to take it for various reasons.

We also used resources we were unaware of at the time we completed the application process. Such as Reggie Goode who has worked for decades assisting the Pittsburgh communities and its reentry people with getting training and jobs. we also utilized job assistance programs located in south Pittsburgh to help get entry level jobs for some of our participants,.

In my opinion i believe it would be beneficial to all Stop the Violence recipients and participants if we knew who all received funding so we could pull resources from each other. Also, if we all met at the beginning of the funding to acquaint ourselves with each other and feed off each other or duplicate the efforts that proved themselves fruitful. Everyone dose not have the same resources, so sharing knowledge would be beneficial to the mission.

Status of Project Plan*

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

- 1) Recruiting individuals in need of services.
- 2) Orientation and overview of the program services.
- 3) Meet and greet and a sharing of a meal.
- 4) One on one interviews with participants by mental health services to determine the needs and stability of participants.
- 5) Weekly groups sessions and assistance by staff to help participants manage stress, develop coping skills, learn how to handle conflict and seek resolution., self care, mental well being, intergenerational trauma and find employment.
- 6) biannual meals and information sessions with participants and family members.

Proposed Outcomes*

- 1) Support group to improve interpersonal conflict as it relates to grief, Intergenerational trauma, managing daily stress in a positive and productive way.
- 2) One on one interviews and counseling sessions to prepare individuals for the group sessions. a majority of the participants struggled with sharing in a group setting. We overcame this issue when they all found out the majority of the participants shared some of the same traumatic stories.
- 3)The main focus of the group sessions focused on intrapersonal/interpersonal conflict, emotional regulation, self care, mental wellbeing and intergenerational trauma.

We are not naive enough to believe that a lifetime of issues can be worked through or solved in a years time. It took a lifetime to create these issues and it will take years to work through a lot of this trauma. Additional training and funding will be necessary if we as a city are to help participants cope/work through these issues.

Progress*

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

ACHIEVEMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

All full-time participants completed training in Conflict resolution and mediation techniques.
 All full-time Participants completed Trauma training.
 All full-time participants completed professional development training.
 All full-time participants engaged in at least one community service project.
 All full-time participants engaged in at least one session with community police in order to have better relations with the local police.
 12 Individuals secured full time work.
 7 Individuals enrolled in counseling through DHS
 9 Individuals enrolled in schooling at CCAC or trade school.
 4 Individuals secured part-time work with local contractors.
 This is a 70% placement rate for the 45 consistent participants.

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.

OUTCOMES

- 1) Improve interpersonal conflict amongst participants in and around our communities.
- 2) Work with the multiple violence prevention efforts in this region and decrease violence in our neighborhoods by helping residences cope with emotional trauma, develop better communication skills and find gainful employment.
- 3) Provide a safe and healthy environment for returning convicted felons to get services in their community with individuals they trust.

PROJECT IMPACT

- 1) Participants who were reluctant to communicate or share their stories became mentors to one another and assisted each other with issues they had lived themselves. Thereby allowing them to feed off each others energy.
- 2) The city as a whole has decreased violence by 34% due to the efforts of the non-violent organizations and programs funded by foundations such as the POISE Foundation. In the South Pittsburgh communities (South

Hilltop) by 40% according to the police statistics for our neighborhoods. Also violent crime in this region is down by almost 50% in the same time period.

3) One of our primary goals was to provide a safe and healthy environment for returning felons to be able to start to get back on their feet, with community members they know and trust. We were able to accomplish this which was evident to us by the 75% attendance we maintained throughout the course of the grant. Normally programs with this population rarely maintain a 50% attendance rate due to lack of trust and enthusiasm.

Learning and Adapting

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

No

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

- 1) One of our biggest challenges was the need to provide incentives to participants to attend on a consistent basis. People who are caught up in generational trauma are not like to participate in any healing sessions consistently because the trauma can be too overwhelming as well as overcoming the "shame" of their situations.
- 2) Sharing their experiences in an open setting proved extremely difficult at first but, once a few individuals shared openly, honestly and freely, it made it easier for others to follow. However there were about 20-25% of participants who only shared in individual sessions.
- 3) Having enough reliable resources for participant to feel comfortable asking for help. When a resource doesn't do what they claim to do it makes it frustrating for all involved. At that point the trust of the providing agency comes into question.
- 4) Having enough funding to provide some sort of light meal or snack would have helped a lot. Most participants did not eat on a daily basis.

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 GRANT.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 had a young man (BM), 28 years of age (Marvin C) who returned to the neighborhood from prison (after serving 7 years) and was assigned to a halfway house in downtown Pittsburgh until he found employment and a residence. Upon his return he headed right back to the streets and within 3 days he was returned back to prison for breaking multiple rules. His family began to search for programs that could assist him in this area and help him cope with the various issues surrounding trauma in his life. A month later the family contacted our program and informed us that he had a new court date and they would greatly appreciate it if we would appear in court with them and explain the program to the judge and the support services available to him through the program. The judge released him back to the halfway house and assigned him to our program. The final result is that he has remained out of prison for the entirety of the program, secured two jobs which he maintains to this day and has secured housing. These results are the reason programs like this must continue. The evidence is in the numbers.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Richard Carrington

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*

05/08/2025

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- STV GRANT.pdf

The Pittsburgh Contingency, Inc
General Ledger-STV 2024
January 1 - November 25, 2024

	Date	Transaction Type	Num	Class	Name	Memo/Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
Individ, Business Contributions									
	07/31/2024	Receipt	1311	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise	Poise Foundation	Grant-STV-vav		20,000.00	20,000.00
Total for Individ, Business Contributions								\$ 20,000.00	
66000 Payroll Expenses									
66100 Gross payroll									
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	4,500.00		4,500.00
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	4,500.00		9,000.00
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	4,000.00		13,000.00
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	4,500.00		17,500.00
Total for 66100 Gross payroll							\$ 17,500.00		
66200 FICA/IT									
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	344.25		344.25
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	306.00		650.25
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	344.25		994.50
	09/13/2024	Journal Entry	13	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		8/26-9/08/24	344.25		1,338.75
Total for 66200 FICA/IT							\$ 1,338.75		
66400 PA Worker's Comp									
	09/30/2024	Journal Entry	21	VAV:STV 2024 CoP/Poise		Book expense-VAV Inv#1346 9.2024	234.40		234.40
Total for 66400 PA Worker's Comp							\$ 234.40		
Total for 66000 Payroll Expenses							\$ 19,073.15		

Monday, Nov 25, 2024 08:57:54 AM GMT-8 - Accrual Basis