

Project Destiny Inc.

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

Project Destiny, Inc.

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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.

Project Destiny Inc.

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

05/04/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

07/01/2024

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)*

70

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

83

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

60

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

4

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

19

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

Allegheny Center
Allegheny West
Brighton Heights
California-Kirkbride
Central Northside (Mexican War Streets)
Chateau
East Allegheny (also known as Deutschtown)
Fineview
Manchester
Marshall-Shadeland (also known as Brightwood and Woods Run)/Brunot Island
North Shore
Northview Heights
Perry North (also known as Observatory Hill)
Perry South (also known as Perry Hilltop)

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 1

Work Conducted**Proposed Project/Program Activities***

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

1. Trauma Recovery Support for High School Students
2. Enhancing Community Involvement through Boys Scout Services
3. Establishing Partnerships with Local Law Enforcement Agencies

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?

While we did not propose any collaborations with other Stop the Violence grantees, we did anticipate continuing our partnership with Pressley Ridge. However, that partnership was discontinued in May of 2024 at the conclusion of the Creating Peace program at Allegheny Traditional Academy. Consequently, an MOU for clinical services was created and entered into with Aleysa Bulls, LPC to continue serving the behavioral health needs of families in March 2024. She was contracted to conduct a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Group for mothers of targeted youth who were served through the Youth and Family Engagement Program and Thrive 18. A total of 19 women participated in a 26-week program from March until October 2024. In August 2024, additional mental health staff in the person of Robert Tedder, MSW was onboarded to provide individual and family counseling. We are continuing to collaborate with a variety of community partners to serve our population, including the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, and Pittsburgh Police Zone 1. These collaborations/partnerships have helped to reduce the number of crisis incidences among individuals and their families facing social complexities and community violence. Moreover, the project has provided approaches to model peaceful relationships between youths, their peers, and within their social networks.

Status of Project Plan*

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

Law enforcement officers from Pittsburgh Police Zone 1 visited with Summer Camp participants multiple times during our six-week camp experience and interact with youth twice per month at our after-school program to foster mutual understanding and trust among youth, families, and law enforcement. Police have been well received by our students and are developing relationships with participants as they mentor and play with those who are in attendance. We still plan to implement joint workshops on conflict resolution and community policing. Youth are also receiving trauma recovery support through the development and nurturing of social relationships at the afterschool program and summer camp. Perry Traditional Academy has been identified as a site that Project Destiny can provide individual and group trauma informed sessions for. However, internal developments at Perry have delayed implementation. We will be participating in Curriculum Night at Perry on 1/16/25 to engage families that may benefit from our services. Currently, Project Destiny staff is on site at Clayton Academy (alternative school) providing 1:1 mentoring and will be providing two support groups per week (one male and one female) using the Expect Respect curriculum designed by and facilitated through the University of Pittsburgh Center for Adolescent and Young Adult Health beginning the week of 1/6/25. Additionally, Project Destiny will be facilitating groups at CAPA

Middle/High School and Propel Braddock Hills. Marketing has begun to recruit participants and adult volunteers for the Scouting America program which is slated to begin early spring 2025.

Proposed Outcomes*

Trauma Recovery Support for High School Students: Initiate sessions with a trauma therapist to engage 15-20 students per grant quarter. Group dynamic is expected to foster a sense of belonging, reduce feelings of isolation, and provide a safe space for individuals to process their traumas. Furthermore, group sessions will offer a platform for individuals to learn from each other, develop coping strategies, and build resilience.

Enhancing Community Involvement through Scouting America Services: increase participation opportunities and achieve a 10% attendance increase at After-school program by December 2024. Participants are expected to build leadership, resilience and life skills.

Establishing Partnerships with Local Law Enforcement Agencies: By June 2025, establish partnerships with local law enforcement agencies to implement joint workshops on conflict resolution and community policing, fostering mutual understanding and trust among youth, families, and law enforcement.

Progress*

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

Please see Status of Project Plan above. Trauma Recovery Support for High Schoolers at Perry Traditional Academy has been delayed due to Student Assistance Program receiving priority implementation. Opportunity to connect directly with parents who may have students needing support will occur on 1/16/25 at Perry's Curriculum Night. Services can be provided in-home or at our Manchester Resource Center location at 1810 Fulton Street, if school-based intervention is not an option. Scouting America program will begin in the spring of 2025 after recruitment efforts for participants and leaders is completed. Marketing strategy targeting parents of after-school program participants and community/church members will be implemented in January. Officers from Zone 1 Police Station have engaged with Camp Destiny youth during our 2024 summer camp and twice monthly at the after-school program since September 2024. Average daily attendance at the after-school program is 35 youth out of 50 enrolled.

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.

During this grant period, Project Destiny has positioned itself and the families we serve to reduce and prevent violence in the future by:

- 1) Training four staff members to be community facilitators of the Expect Respect comprehensive, researched-based violence prevention program designed to promote safe and healthy relationships; assigned to three Pittsburgh area schools to date for implementation beginning January 2025.
 - 2) Certifying four staff members in Strong Resilient Youth/Mental Health First Aid
 - 3) Participation of 19 parents in a 26-week Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) program
 - 4) Securing two Master of Social Work Students from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work to engage in related clinical and community organizing tasks
 - 5) Creation of OST/Family Coordinator role to enhance relationships and increase communication with students, families and schools
 - 6) Hiring of Director of Children and Family Initiatives to build capacity to carry out programs/project
- The impact of the project is to be determined. However, it is reasonable to assume that students who participate in Expect Respect support groups or receive individual therapy will gain an ability to regulate emotions, develop skills for healthy relationships, increase in ability to heal from exposure to trauma, develop coping skills, and become proponents of non-violence. Moreover, households participating in DBT are likely to manage emotions, tolerate distress, and avoid harmful behaviors.

Learning and Adapting

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

While we remain committed to our initial goals and objectives, the timeline of carrying out the project has changed significantly. This is largely due to the change in leadership. The writer of this report was not employed by Project Destiny when the proposal was written and did not become aware of the agreed upon outcomes until late in the transition. Hence, it was discovered that capacity had to be built to implement the proposed interventions. Grant funding has assisted Project Destiny in elevating its Youth and Family Engagement and Out of School Time Programs with the hiring of a Children and Family Initiatives Director who is responsible for overseeing strategy, building capacity, implementing evidenced-based best practices, and staff development. Moreover, the director is providing individual and family counseling for Project Destiny YFE clients who are in need of mental health interventions. All of which will ultimately result in the fulfillment of promised deliverables.

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

The biggest challenge was not having a clinician to conduct the trauma recovery support for high schoolers at the onset of the grant. We were able to pivot by utilizing a contracted LPC to work with parents of students who are impacted by community violence. We are still challenged in having enough available clinical hours but are in a better position with the addition of an MSW student who can see some clients and the community facilitator training for the Expect Respect program. We were further challenged by the delay in having access to Perry Traditional Academy which had previously agreed to partner with us. Moreover, there was a lack in response from parents whose children attended summer camp when encouraged to register for Scouting program. A more concerted effort will be made in the new year as well as expanding recruitment efforts to the larger community.

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 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.

*

One particular family benefited from our behavioral health interventions. A single mother of two boys in middle and high school, was overwhelmed and depressed. She participated in a 26-week dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) group provided by our contracted licensed professional counselor and gained skills to manage her emotions needed to function daily. As a result, her relationships with her sons have greatly improved and she has successfully returned to the workforce as an employee of UPMC. Moreover, her oldest son who attends a downtown charter high school, began therapy with our clinical social worker and has experienced significant benefits from sessions. He now reports that he is less withdrawn and adopting a healthier sleeping pattern. When he first engaged in counseling, he was retiring to his bedroom at 5:30 pm and sleeping until morning. While still preferring to participate in solitary activities in his room, he is delaying his bedtime by four hours.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

IMG_8509.jpg

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Rev. Robert Tedder

Title of Organizational Representative*

Director, Children and Family Initiatives

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*

12/31/2024

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx
- IMG_8509.jpg

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

30-Nov-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	\$ 0	\$ 9,794	\$ 9,794	-\$ 905
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	\$ 0	\$ 6,328	\$ 6,328	-\$ 5,217
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Subtotal Direct Costs	\$ 18,182	\$ 0	\$ 16,122	\$ 16,122	\$ 2,060

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

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.

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.

ommunications, Systems, and Organizational Strategy Leader

12/6/2024

okelley@yespgh.org

443-761-4822

US\$.

