



Allegany County Department of Human Services

RFP Response Form

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK INFORMATION

Eligible Community(ies): Mt. Oliver Borough

Proposer/Community Quarterback Name :South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace

Authorized Representative Name & Title: Rev. Eileen O. Smith, Executive Director

Address: 320 Brownsville Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa., 15210

Telephone: 412-481-2777

Email: revesmith@spcoalitionforpeace.org

Website: www.southpittsburghcoalitionforpeace.org

Legal Status: For-Profit Corp. Nonprofit Corp. Sole Proprietor Partnership

Date Incorporated: June 2012

Partners, stakeholders and/or subcontractors included in this Proposal: Mt. Oliver Borough; Divine Intervention Ministries; Voices Against Violence; Brashear Association; Birmingham Foundation; Center for Victims; Lighthouse Cathedral ;Pgh. Steelers; Dr. Sam Lonich; Compassion Fatigue Workshops

How did you hear about this RFP? *Please be specific.* Joanna Taylor, Mayor of Mt. Oliver

Does your organization have a telecommunications device to accommodate individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing? Yes No

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK REQUIRED CONTACTS

	Name	Phone	Email
Chief Executive Officer	Rev. Eileen O. Smith	412-481-2777	revesmith@spcoalitionforpeace.org
Contract Processing Contact	Rev. Eileen Smith	412-481-2777	revesmith@spcoalitionforpeace.org
Chief Information Officer	Rev. Eileen Smith	412-481-2777	revesmith@spcoalitionforpeace.org
Chief Financial Officer	Alice Logan, The Pgh. Contingency	412-241-1805	Alice.logan.tpc@gmail.com
MPER Contact*	Alice Logan	412-241-1805	Click here to enter text.

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

* MPER is DHS's provider and contract management system. Please list an administrative contact to update and manage this system for your agency.

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK BOARD INFORMATION

Provide a list of your board members as an attachment or in the space below.

Attached a list of Fiscal Sponsor board. Steering Committee for SPCP list:

Mark Bibro, Chair
Andrea Matthews
Rev. Maurice Trent

Board Chairperson Name & Title: Mark Bibro, Chair, ED, Birmingham Foundation

Board Chairperson Address: 320 Brownsville Rd., Pgh., Pa. 15210

Board Chairperson Telephone: 412-481-2777

Board Chairperson Email: mbibro@bfpgh.org

SPCP has a Fiscal sponsor, The Pittsburgh Contingency. Board Members for Them:

Robert W. Amend [Redacted] [Redacted] White-male Member at Large-ad hoc Retired-Four Coins Investment	Alvin Griffin, Jr. [Redacted] [Redacted] Black-male Member at Large Honorably Discharged- U.S.Army Intelligence Branch	Toni DeCesare [Redacted] [Redacted] White-female Board Secretary Retired-Greensburg School Dist	Robert P. Karol [Redacted] [Redacted] White-male Board President Retired-Comcas
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Alice L. Logan
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
President & CFO
White-female

REFERENCES

Provide the name, affiliation and contact information [include email address and telephone number] for three references who are able to address relevant experience with your organization.

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Please do not use employees of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services as references.

Tim Stevens, CEO, B-PEP / Coalition Against Violence (CAV)

Email [REDACTED] 412-412-758-7898

Patrick Hodge, member, South Pittsburgh coalition for Peace /CeasefirePA board.

Email [REDACTED]

Dr. Katherine “Micki” McDonough, Perry Hilltop Citizens Council Board; Moms Demand Action; Email: [REDACTED]

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Date Submitted 5/6/2022

Amount Requested: \$293,302.27

CERTIFICATION

Please check the following before submitting your Proposal, as applicable:

I have read the standard County terms and conditions for County contracts and the requirements for DHS Cyber Security, EEOC/Non-Discrimination, HIPAA and Pennsylvania’s Right-to-Know Law.

By submitting this Proposal, I certify and represent to the County that all submitted materials are true and accurate, and that I have not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value for the receipt of special treatment, advantaged information, recipient’s decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or any other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP.

Choose one:

My Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information and I have included a written statement signed by an authorized representative identifying those portions or parts of my Proposal and providing contact information.

OR

My Proposal does not contain information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information.

ATTACHMENTS

Please submit the following attachments with your Response Form. These can be found at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations>.

- Partner and stakeholder commitment letters

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- MWDBE and VOSB documents
- Allegheny County Vendor Creation Form
- Audited financial reports or other financial documentation for the last three years
- W-9

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REQUIREMENTS

Please respond to the following. The maximum score a Proposal can receive is 160 points. Your response to this section should not exceed 20 pages.

A. Stakeholder Commitment (35 points possible)

1. Please list the partners and stakeholders that support your CVRP. For each, provide an explanation of how they participated in developing the CVRP and how they will support its implementation. Attach a signed letter of commitment from each partner and stakeholder listed.
 1. **Mt. Oliver Borough**- Mayor Joanna Taylor advised me of the CVRP grant and requested the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace be the Community Quarterback. Mayor Taylor assisted me in developing the CVRP by providing input, meeting with Borough Manager to assess their needs and submitting their request in writing. She met with me to discuss the needs of the community and to formulate the Plan and provided stats and researched data for Mt. Oliver borough. Mayor Taylor will assist in the implementation of the Plan by serving as an advisor and introducing police and other members of her Administration to the Community Quarterback to assist in the implementation of the Plan. Selected for CVRP. Letter of commitment attached.
 2. **Birmingham Foundation** – Met with Mark Bibro, Executive Director of the Birmingham foundation and Chair of the SPCP Steering Committee to discuss the CVRP and obtain input regarding the needs of the community what is essential to the Plan. The foundation provides office space and meeting rooms for the SPCP and any technical assistance needed. Letter attached.
 3. **Moms Demand Action** – Moms Demand Action is a national organization that the SPCP has been affiliated with for the past few years that does violence prevention and gun policy work. As the Executive Director of SPCP, I am also serve as a member of “Moms” and they are a very strong partner that will continue to work with SPCP to implement the CVRP in supporting our violence reduction efforts as well as a source for educational resources such as gun locks for distribution at our community events and for the Peacemakers to distribute in the community. Letter attached.
 4. **CeasefirePA** - Since CeasefirePa began their policy /advocacy work in 2002, they’ve become a trusted voice, definitive resource, and galvanizing force for member organizations, SPCP, the general public, members of the media and policymakers alike. We will continue to use their platform and network to ensure that the voices most impacted by gun violence are heard by those with the power to impact the most change. CeasefirePA was apprised of the CVRP and added their input to the proposed EBP and other programs by the SPCP and committed to assistance in implementing the CVRP in the manner consistent with their strong partnership with SPCP to reduce gun violence. Letter of support attached.

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5. **State Representative Jessica Benham**– Rep. Dr. Jessica Benham –Rep. Benham serves as a member of the PA House of Representatives, 36th District which is the SPCP service area for the CVRP and has been a member of the SPCP for the past 5 years. Rep. Dr. Benham advised SPCP in the selection of programs and EBP for the CVRP and has committed to continued support and advocacy to implement the Plan. Will provide any technical support from her office as well as information on existing grants. Letter of support attached.
6. **Divine Interventions Ministry** - Divine Intervention Ministries (DIM) is committed to serving citizens returning to their communities following incarceration. They are a Greater Pittsburgh faith-based agency. Their project is designed to provide employment services and the wraparound supportive services necessary for successful re-entry. DIM has been a part of the SPCP since its inception in 2005 and has been a strong referral partner as well as provided speakers for our events and workshops. DIM Executive Director provided me with information that would present them as the selection for the CVRP EBP program. Letter of commitment attached.
7. **Center for Victims (CVV)** - The CVV has been a member of the SPCP for several years and is the main referral source for victim services for our clients that we encounter who are victims of gun violence. They work closely with the SPP Chaplain and Resource Referral Coordinator to provide these services. Letter of Support attached.
8. **Brashear Association /Center Safe Places Youth Program.** Brashear youth programs focuses on education and enrichment for children from K-12. Provided technical assistance for CVRP RFP. Selected for RFP. Letter of Commitment attached.
9. **Voices Against Violence 27th Annual Summer Youth Program.** Letter of commitment attached. Provided tech assistance for their project. Selected for RFP.
10. **Everytown for Gun Safety** –National partner and partial funder. Provides ongoing technical assistance and advisor for CVRP RFP.. Letter of support attached.
11. **Ceasefire Philadelphia** – Partner and technical adviser for CURE Violence. Letter of support attached.
12. **Dr. Sam Lonich** -Suicide Awareness Workshops –Letter of commitment Attached
13. **Pittsburgh Steelers** –Pgh Steelers has selected SPCP as a community partner and is involved in our activities.

B. Summary of Community Violence Reduction Plan (75 points possible)

2. Specify the Eligible Community(ies), and any specific focus areas within them, included in your CVRP. Describe the characteristics and strengths that you see as defining the community.

Mt. Oliver Borough- Mount Oliver is a borough in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, United States. It is a largely residential area situated atop a crest about 3 miles west of the Monongahela River. The borough is surrounded entirely by the city of Pittsburgh, having resisted annexations by the city, as it prefers to manage its own local needs and finances.

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Mount Oliver is completely surrounded by six Pittsburgh neighborhoods, including the South Side Slopes to the north, Arlington to the northeast, Mt. Oliver to the southeast, Carrick to the south, Knoxville to the west, and Allentown in the northwest corner.

Mt. Oliver Borough was incorporated in 1892 and with more than 125 years of history as an independent Borough, Mt. Oliver has maintained many of the same values since its founding. Most notably, the community has a certain sense of pride and independence that is deeply rooted in the Borough's history.

Mt. Oliver Borough is a largely residential area with single-family homes and an old-fashioned main street dotted with locally owned and operated enterprises. Mt. Oliver boasts two neighborhood parks that accommodate a wide range of recreational activities and community events. We like to think of Mt. Oliver as the perfect mix of old and new, of urban and suburban, and a special place that never fails to inspire with its hometown charm.

Mt. Oliver Borough has its own police and fire departments. The Brashear Association is the premier community service organization in South Pittsburgh. They provides a spectrum of services to strengthen individuals and families, including immediate, short-term assistance such as food, holiday, and utility assistance. The **Hilltop Economic Development Corporation (HEDC)** is a 501(c)(3) community development corporation dedicated to serving Mt. Oliver Borough and City of Pittsburgh's Knoxville neighborhood. The mission of the organization is to serve as the community resource in strengthening and developing the Brownsville Road Business District and neighborhoods. The HEDC works with Mt. Oliver Borough and the Hilltop Alliance to complete real estate development projects, as well as design and implement programs for businesses. The Mt. Oliver Area Business Owners Association (MOABOA) is a loose organization of area businesses that meet monthly to learn about resource and share ideas. Meetings are normally held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 5:00 PM at Don's Bar (151 Margaret Street).

Mount Oliver Demographics

As of the census^[13] of 2000, there were 3,970 people, 1,681 households, and 983 families residing in the borough. The population density was 11,720.0 people per square mile (4,508.3/km²). There were 1,864 housing units at an average density of 5,502.8 per square mile (2,116.7/km²). The racial makeup of the borough was 83.75% White, 11.74% African American, 0.23% Native American, 1.64% Asian, 0.03% Pacific Islander, 0.68% from other races, and 1.94% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 1.08% of the population.

3. Describe the Community Violence that you see in your community(ies) and the factors you think are driving it.

Homicide and non-fatal shooting victims inside the City of Pittsburgh during 2021. These statistics from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.

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- There have been officially 56 homicides and 162 non-fatal shooting incidents in 2021.
- Homicides are up 5% from 2020 and up 62% from 2019.
- The 3 homicides in December occurred during one incident on New Year's Eve in Zone 5. No other police zone had any homicides in December.
- Non-fatal shooting incidents are up 19% from 2020 and up 44% from 2019.
- During December Zone 3 had 3 non-fatal shooting incidents, Zones 1 and 2 had 2 incidents, Zones 3 and 6 had 1 incident and Zone 4 had no incidents.

A few items of note from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police analysis of victims:

Ages 0 through 17 had 11 homicides and 20 non-fatal shooting incidents in 2021; Ages 18 through 34 had 33 homicides and 100 non-fatal shooting incidents in 2021. Age 20 had the most homicides and non-fatal shooting victims. Victims were 90% male and 92% black.

South Side Shooting Victims March –April 4, 2022

March 30, 2022- 29 y.o. black male shot in Brookline multiple shots, found on someone's front yard, no suspects

March 30, 2022- Lower Mt. Washington –23 y.o. black male, shot several times in the head while people were walking their dog, and right across from the Rec Center where children were playing, running and screaming from the scene.

March 31, 2022 –Arlington Heights-4pm, black man shot in leg, in serious condition. Someone opened fire as he was leaving his apt., people around.

April 2 -Man shot on Sarah St, S. Side Flats outside Walker's Pub –black shot in the shoulder, perhaps aiming for his heart critical condition, mid 20's, black male (15 minutes before that a 16 y.o black boy shot while riding their bikes).

April 3- Maytide St. in Carrick, 48 y.o., shot in the chest.

2021 South Pittsburgh Shootings and Homicides:

Non-fatal Shooting:31

Carrick -8; Allentown-3; Knoxville -6; Beltzhoover -2; South Side Flats -10; South Side Slopes -1; Arlington Heights –1

Aggravated Assaults With Firearms:

Carrick -15; Allentown 4; Knoxville -6; Beltzhoover -5; South Side Flats- 6; South side slopes - 1; Arlington Heights -1; Arlington -3; Mount Oliver -1

Mt. Oliver Police –Stats From January 1, 2020 –April 24, 2022

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- Total Arrests by Year (1,619 total)
 - 106 (2022); 678 (2021); 837 (2020)

Firearms Arrests

- 2022 -1; 2021(16) ; 2020 -15

Homicides by Firearm

2021 -8 shot; 2 killed

Robbery

2022 -6; 2021 -8

Assaults

2022- 7; 2021 -15; 2020 -26

Youth living in areas where there are high levels of violence exposure may often feel that they are caught in a cycle of violence. Early exposure to an array of traumatic events such as shootings, gang activity, and death can lead to a range of social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive problems. It is important that individuals working with these youth develop the skills to identify the signs that youth are struggling with trauma and the best ways that they can provide support. Other issues across the nation have proven to be a driving force, such as COVID and its aftermath, lack of jobs, affordable housing, recreation, drugs, gang activity, illegal guns. These shootings are horrific, intentional, brutal, cold and callous, and the perpetrators are fearless and mean to kill, regardless of anyone else's safety around them, including women and our beloved youth who tend to witness these crimes and carry those moments inside of them for the rest of their lives and perhaps become perpetrators themselves unless someone sees to it that they receive the help that they need. Let us not forget about our children. Many of them without fathers and positive role models because our jails are full of black men, and mothers are left to fend for themselves, many needing help themselves.

Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Analysis of victims: Ages 0 through 17 had 11 homicides and 20 non-fatal shooting incidents in 2021; Ages 18 through 34 had 33 homicides and 100 non-fatal shooting incidents in 2021; Age 20 had the most homicides and non-fatal shooting victims; Victims were 90% male and 92% black. Although we know that the data shows gun violence and homicides disproportionately effects the Black community and is the leading cause of death of Black males age 44 and younger in the U.S., we have the same concern for all victims of homicides.

4. Identify the strategies you have chosen to implement to address Community Violence. Be sure to include at least one EBP listed in the RFP. For each strategy, please include:
 - a. If the strategy is currently in place or if it will be new.
 - b. If the strategy is: 1) one of the EBPs listed in the RFP, 2) a current violence prevention effort that shows results or promise or 3) a group or activity that brings people together.
 - c. If you are asking DHS to fund the strategy and/or if you have other funding to support it. If a strategy is already funded, please provide details on this funding.
 - d. The names and roles of the partners/stakeholders who will carry out the strategy.
 - e. An explanation of why you chose the strategy and how you think it will make a measurable difference on the Community Violence that you see in your community.

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1. CURE Violence –An EBP that addresses violence through a disease control model by detecting and treating those most at risk for violence and changing norms. The strategy is listed as one of EBP's in the RFP and is currently in place with the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace, but without using the brand of Cure violence. We are using a public health community violence intervention evidence-based model. Attachment –SPCP Activity Report. We are asking DHS to fully fund it. We are partially funded for south Pgh. by PCCD (one year grant).

Everytown for Gun Safety (one year partial grant); Pittsburgh Foundation (partial one year grant for 1 SPP).

Partners /Stakeholders :

- CeasefirePA –Provide strategies for gun violence prevention and advocacy
- Phila. Ceasefire –Technical assistance
- Center for Victims –Counseling for victims, funeral benefits
- Birmingham Foundation –In-kind office space, technical support, event space, phones, Steering Committee oversight
- Mt. Oliver Borough –Technical support
- Moms Demand Action –Educational material for violence prevention; event and meeting support; collaboration for special events.
- Brashear Association –In-kind venue for events and community meetings and trainings; Technical support
- Steel Smiling- Resource referral for victim and mental health counseling.
- Lighthouse Cathedral –Funerals for victims of gun violence
- Everytown for gun Safety- Regular training and technical support.
- Cities United –Regular technical support and workshops.

This strategy was chosen because Mt. Oliver borough and South Pittsburgh is a hot spot for violence and although the South Pittsburgh Peacemakers are currently servicing all of South Pittsburgh, CURE Violence will allow a more extensive outreach especially with the additional Peacemakers. We expect a significant impact on the community of Mt. Oliver Borough especially.

2. **Readi Chicago** –An EBP listed in the RFP. This program responds to gun violence by connecting men that are highest risk of gun violence CBI, transitional employment, job training, and wrap around service, which is what the existing program of Divine Intervention Ministries does with excellence. They were selected because of their proven track record and working with Renewal. The primary goal of this project is to achieve its mission of promoting empowerment, self-sufficiency, and improved quality of life for our citizens returning to the community following incarceration. They expect to achieve this goal through the provision of resources and support services. Their focus is on producing positive outcomes and staying in alignment with our mission. Ultimately, participants will complete training and maintain employment. We are asking full funding for this ongoing project. They receive partial funding from a grant source that is for 1 year. This program will provide this excellence service for south Pittsburgh and Mt. Oliver with many staff and volunteers already in place and make a measureable impact on violence reduction.

Stakeholders:

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- Lighthouse Cathedral –Venue for the meetings /classes
- Renewal and Court System – Referrals
- SPCP –Referrals
- Steel Smiling –Referral for MH, drug and alcohol, sex offender assessment
- Bureau of Drug and Alcohol –Assessments
- PAR –Assessments

3. Brashear Center Safe Places Youth Program –This an existing evidence-based program, but not one listed in the RFP. This is a youth violence prevention program that is held at the Brashear Association Center on Brownsville Rd. 5 days a week after school and in the summer. It focuses on educational enrichment for youth K-12 and includes Family table, afterschool meals, homework help, meals and a variety of programs in collaboration with various organizations and initiatives. The program was chosen because of its observed excellence and what it brings to many youth who otherwise would be in the streets and may not have a good home situation and supportive positive role models to keep them out of trouble. Research shows that early childhood intervention is essential to youth outcomes and violence prevention.

Stakeholders:

- Venture Outdoors – Outdoor activity, field trips
- Strong Women/Strong Girls –Mentorship program for girls
- Tech Coding Lab –IT training
- Hilltop Urban Farm –Planting, gardening, nutrition, cooking, etc.; Agricultural and ecological lab for children;
- SPCP –Mentoring , speaking and on street experience for young men.
- Brashear Association /center –Venue for the program

4. Voices Against Violence Annual Free Summer Program. This is an ongoing 3-month summer program not on the list of EBP in the RFP, that is free to children 4-14 years old. It was selected because of its observed excellence and formerly funded by the Birmingham foundation for the older youth and now is only funded for preschoolers due to the change of focus of the Birmingham Foundation. The Summer Camp program began in 1995 as a means to actively engage Beltzhoover-Allentown-Knoxville (BAK) area youth during the summer months, while they were out of school and had few positive activities available. McKinley Park and its Community Center, a neighborhood resource, is the location for Voices Against Violence (VAV) meetings, as well became the perfect natural setting from which to host a summer experience for urban youth. It is a primary mission of the camp to ensure participants (ages 4-14) have a positive sense of self and their cultural heritage, develop a personal vision for future goals and accomplishments, and become contributing members of the community, as well as enjoy new experiences and good, old-fashioned summer camp fun. Workforce Development is also a key component of the camp's mission. The counselors acquire valuable skills, as well as to develop into positive role models. The camp is developed with a focus of Comprehensive Well-Being (physical & mental) . Diverse programs, especially those related to STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) for both girls and boys, is a priority. Creative Programs like art, dance, and cultural exploration are also vital activities for the children. This program continues to make a significant impact on south Pgh. Youth and youth violence and suicide prevention.

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Stakeholders –

- Warren Rec. Center and Mckinley Park –Venues for the program
- Allegheny County’s “Learn & Earn” -Summer Youth Employment Program
- Free an Reduced Lunch Program –Meals
- Birmingham Foundation –Partial Funding and versite
- Tech. companies –Supplies and Equipment

5.Mt. Oliver Borough Safe Neighborhoods Project- This project was selected because of its dire need to prevent violence in the community. The Mt. Oliver Borough requests some crucial equipment to keep our community safe and to reduce crime and violence in our community. We are in dire need of security cameras and lights in the most frequented areas of our borough. The cameras that were installed along the section of Brownsville Road that runs through our borough have not worked for years. They need functioning cameras to replace the ones that are not functioning. Most critically, they need one at the Arlington/Brownsville intersection and three at the Hays/Brownsville intersection, as that is a 5-way intersection that needs various angles to view the entire area. They request a total of 6 for the Brownsville Road area, to cover the critical areas, and to put up others in the business district of Brownsville Road such as Margaret/Brownsville and the middle way parking lot. They request 3 additional cameras for the parks. One for Ormsby Park and two to cover the larger Transverse Park. Finally, they request security lighting for our middle way parking lot and our Walnut Street parking lot. These resources would deter those who might otherwise choose to commit crimes, as well as allow the Mt. Oliver Borough to find and hold accountable those who are disrupting peace and infringing on the safety of our neighborhood. See stats on Mt. Oliver Borough Description Narrative.

Stakeholders: Mt. Oliver Municipal Borough and residents. Requesting full funding.

6.South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace Initiatives. SPCP The SPCP provides an array of services and educational opportunities for community residents and is a voice and a vehicle for all community members in South Pittsburgh. The SPCP and its providers seek to build communities that are peaceful and nurturing by offering relevant workshops and events to its members, other organizations and the South Pittsburgh community at-large. These relationships continue to craft and further develop a sustainable organizational structure and to sustain training and violence prevention opportunities for youth and community members. The Coalition does aggressive community outreach which is one of the corner stones of our program and what makes the SPCP unique and irreplaceable to the communities that we service. We target active gang members, shooters and violent offenders through the **South Pittsburgh Peacemakers (SPP)** component (EBT CVRP)

SPCP Initiatives:

Quarterly Meetings and Workshops

- The South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace holds quarterly meetings per year and an annual forum, *“The Effects of Violence on the Community.”* Through these initiatives we

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address the violence in the community and implement strategies that come out of these group meetings and awareness forums.

- The ***Dare to Dream Annual Youth Session*** in partnership with the Lighthouse Cathedral is designed to focus on positive youth initiatives. Youth talent and accomplishments are showcased as well as the presentation of recognition awards and have presented scholarships to college bound students that graduate from high school with a grade point average of 3.0 or above. National recording rap artists have donated their services and brought a positive message to the youth. Each year we service 100-150 youth
- **3 SUICIDE WORKSHOPS:** This initiative was selected because suicide is a major public health problem. Nearly 45,000 people per year in the United States die by suicide and more than 1 million people per year attempt suicide. The last 50 years of suicide research has provided substantial information in furthering our understanding for why individuals die by suicide. However, research and preventative discoveries have done little to reduce the suicide rates with suicides projected to increase 25% by 2030. The aim of this workshop is to increase a clinician's ability to investigate and treat the suicidal clients progression from suicidal ideation thru postvention. Letter of Commitment.
TARGET AUDIENCE: Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists, School Psychologists, Case Managers, Therapists, School Administrators, School Nurses, Clergy, First Responders and other Mental Health professionals. Requesting full funding. No other funding presently.
Stakeholders: Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists, School Psychologists, Case Managers, Therapists, School Administrators, School Nurses, Clergy, First Responders and other Mental Health professionals. Attend and become proficient in suicide prevention.
Brashear Center and Lighthouse Cathedral –Venues for Workshops beginning September, Suicide Prevention month

2 Compassion Fatigue Workshops - This project was selected because of the great success of implementing it to over 400 people virtually in march. It was conducted by Sharise nance, LCSW, nationally renowned presenter and author The evaluations were an outcry of the need for such workshops especially since the impact of COVID. The south Pittsburgh Peacemakers and other outreach workers found it to be extremely beneficial but cannot stop at just one workshop. Goal of the workshop: The nature of helping people who are experiencing trauma, pain, suffering and loss is heavy and providing continued support to the healers is imperative. Ensuring healers are aware of the signs of compassion fatigue, vicarious and secondary trauma. Learning and implementing trauma informed strategies to prevent and/or manage compassion fatigue. With the climate of the world, all the trauma, loss, suffering and pain; it is imperative that the healers/helpers are receiving the support they needed to take care of themselves and provide quality care to help the community.

Benefits of continuing to offer these workshops on a regular basis: It takes more than one workshop on a delicate yet important topic to effect change. Repeated exposure to

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difficult content can have a negative impact on the functioning and overall mental health of helping professionals. Repeated exposure to difficult content can have a negative impact on the functioning and overall mental health of helping professionals.

To build stronger communities, we must begin with supporting those in the trenches and those who do outreach and witness crimes and are at crime scenes as well as providing aftercare for the families of victims. Participants included a diverse audience of frontline workers (outreach workers, violence prevention personnel, trauma specialists, faith-based providers, law enforcement, first responders, healthcare providers, medical professionals) managers, human service providers, community-based organizations, case managers, etc.

Requesting full funding. No additional funding presently.

Stakeholders:

University of Pgh –Partners and CEU’s.

Brashear Center –Venue for in-person workshops.

5. Describe the process you used to choose the Community Quarterback.

The process used to choose the community Quarterback was a meeting with Mt. Oliver Mayor Joanna Taylor and the Borough Manager. SPCP /Rev. Eileen Smith, RN was asked and agreed to lead the Community Quarterback. This selection was made because of the vast experience and expertise of the Executive Director, credibility and evidence-based practice of the SPCP.

6. How will the Community Quarterback ensure that the CVRP is well implemented?

The Community Quarterback will meet regularly with the CVRP participants and have oversight of all initiatives in the Plan. The Community Quarterback will also have periodic site visits and required reports. The Fiscal Sponsor will oversee all monies and disbursements concerning the CVRP. The Community Quarterback will engage various stakeholder for ongoing technical support and assistance in implementing the CVRP for the success of the Plan. The Steering Committee /Board of the SPCP will meet regularly with the ED Community Quarterback for oversight and reports regarding the CVRP.

7. Provide an implementation plan and timeline for your CVRP that describes how the community will organize and carry out its strategies over time. If your CVRP includes adopting one of the EBPs, please include time to work with the model developers and participate in their technical assistance and training.

July –Meet with CVRP Convener and other Community Quarterbacks as determined by DHS.

CURE Violence EBP

- June-July -Negotiate budget with DHS
- June -The Community Quarterback will select the additional Peacemakers for Mt. Oliver Plan.

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- June -Order additional Peacemaker gear
- July -Meet with the Allegheny County Health Department /CURE to get further instructions and await the training that is expected.
- September –Begin implementation of CURE EBP.

Meanwhile the existing Peacemakers will continue with their street outreach of Mt. Oliver Borough.

Readi Chicago –Implemented by Divine Intervention Ministry:

- June –Meet staff and volunteers of Divine Intervention Ministry and review Readi Chicago objectives
- June -Meet with Lighthouse staff to determine fee for use meetings rooms and secure venue. Walk-through of facility.
- June -Assist in determining budget for the implementation of Readi Chicago.
- July -Prepare Divine intervention for training.
- July -Review DHS process with Divine Intervention Ministry and review evaluation process.
- Timeline for implementation –September or October, 2022, depending on Readi Chicago training.
- November – site visit and initial report.

Voices Against Violence Free Summer Youth Program

- July -Meet with ED of Voices against Violence to review implementation and DHS process.
- July -Determine budget for implementation.
- Timeline for implementation –May, 2023
- May, 2023 –Review DHS process and evaluation process.
- July –Site visit and report.
- August –Report due
- September final report and evaluation due.

Brashear Center Safe Places Youth Program

- June –Meet with ED to review DHS grant process
- June –Meet staff and visit program for familiarity
- July –Assist in determining budget for implementation.
- July – Review project evaluation process with Brashear according to DHS Plan.
- September -Timeline for implementation via DHS Plan.
- October –site visit and initial report.

South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace Programs

Suicide Workshop

- July –Determine budget for program implementation
- July –Secure venue for suicide Workshop.
- July –Acquire contract with Dr. Lonich for 4 3 hr.suicide workshops and request U. Pitt. CEU's

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

- August -Registration for Suicide Workshop; Media /Social Media Advertisement for suicide workshop
- September –Suicide Workshop for Suicide Prevention Month and evaluation. Report to Community Quarterback. Workshops will be held quarterly.

10th Annual Dare to Dream Youth Session

- June –Secure venue for Dare to Dream Youth Session. Select recipients of scholarships and Youth Awards
- June -Determine budget for program.
- July- Select caterer for food.
- July –Select performers, speakers and obtain sound technician; Request Mayoral /County /State proclamations
- August –Promotion of event; Request media coverage.
- Timeline –August for implementation and evaluation and submit report to community Quarterback.

Compassion Fatigue Workshop

- July -Determine budget for program.
- August -Obtain contract for 2 Compassion Fatigue Workshops.
- September –Secure venue; Apply for U. Pitt CE's
- November -Promote workshop via emails /social media; Begin registration process for first workshop.
- December –First Compassion Fatigue workshop, evaluation and report to Community Quarterback. Second workshop will be June, 2023.

Mt. Oliver Borough Safe Neighborhood Project

- June –Meet with Mt. Oliver Borough Mayor and Borough Manager to determine vendors and budget for equipment.
- July –Secure vendors
- September - October –Timeline for implementation.
- November -Site visit and report to Community Quarterback.

C. Community Quarterback's Organizational Experience (40 points possible)

8. Why does the Community Quarterback want to serve in the role for the Eligible Community(ies)? Which parts of the CVRP will the Community Quarterback directly implement?

I (The Community Quarterback for the SPCP) in the role of Executive Director want to serve in the role for the Eligible community of Mt. Oliver Borough because, as the Co-founder of SPCP and board member of the Birmingham Foundation, Pastor, former nurse /Injury and Violence Prevention Consultant for the PA Dept. of Health, I have seen way too many deaths by homicide, particularly gun violence and desire to be a part of public health model to prevent /cure violence in the various ways that is needed to solve the problems and issues related to it. I have the desire and the expertise to be the selected Community Quarterback and the best person /initiative in south Pittsburgh to get the job done.

The Community Quarterback Agency:

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

Has the trust of the people most impacted or currently involved in community Violence; Has demonstrated support from named partners, highest level stakeholders in local government and other relevant stakeholders; Committed to and proven to provide high-quality services regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identification, etc. Attached Monthly Activity Report; History of being a collaborative, communicative partner through the SPCP initiative; Willingness and capacity to work with other Community Quarterback agencies and Convener, other municipalities and communicate to learn, innovate and do what it takes to prevent violence. SPCP will directly implement CURE Violence and SPCP Programs and initiative.

9. Provide two examples of how the Community Quarterback has successfully served the target population/community.

1. **The South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace (SPCP)** was founded in 2005 by the Birmingham Foundation in conjunction with several community grassroots organizations, local service providers and faith-based institutions in response to a shooting death of a Carrick High School student. The SPCP is a conglomerate of volunteers and agencies that are committed to the prevention of violence in the South Pittsburgh communities. The SPCP provides an array of services and educational opportunities for community residents and is a voice and a vehicle for all community members in South Pittsburgh. The SPCP and its providers seek to build communities that are peaceful and nurturing by offering relevant workshops and events to its members, other organizations and the South Pittsburgh community at-large. Its members support the community holistically and work to strengthen partnerships that aid the efforts of the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace. These relationships continue to craft and further develop a sustainable organizational structure and to sustain training and violence prevention opportunities for youth and community members. The Coalition does aggressive community outreach which is one of the corner stones of our program and what makes the SPCP unique and irreplaceable to the communities that we service. We target active gang members, shooters and violent offenders through the **South Pittsburgh Peacemakers (SPP)** component which consists of four South Pittsburgh intervention specialists and a chaplain, who are trained peace makers, violence interrupters and outreach workers designed to prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in our communities. A registered nurse, Revered Eileen O. Smith retired in 2014 from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, where she was a Community Health Nurse Consultant. She was responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating and directing the Violence and Injury Prevention Services program element of the Chronic Disease Program in the twelve counties of Southwest Pennsylvania. In this position she provided consultation and collaboration with local and regional community groups, work sites, schools, public, private and professional organizations involved in intentional and unintentional injury prevention including coalition building activities, and youth initiatives.

2. The South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace holds quarterly meetings per year and an annual forum, ***“The Effects of Violence on the Community.”*** SPCP has had a successful event, **Compassion Fatigue workshop with over 400 virtual attendees.** Through these initiatives we address the violence in the community, self care, etc. and implement strategies that come out of these group meetings and awareness forums.

The ***Dare to Dream Annual Youth Session*** in partnership with the Lighthouse Cathedral is designed to focus on positive youth initiatives. Youth talent and accomplishments are showcased

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

as well as the presentation of recognition awards and have presented scholarships to college bound students that graduate from high school with a grade point average of 3.0 or above..

10. Quarterback's organizational structure and how the CVRP responsibilities will fall and be managed within it. Please include:
- a. The staff positions needed to implement the CVRP and if you will need to hire and/or reassign staff.
 - i. If the Community Quarterback will hire staff, include the education and/or experience you will require and the traits you will emphasize in hiring decisions.
 - ii. If the Community Quarterback has already identified individuals to staff the CVRP, include their names and a short description of their qualifications.
 - b. Examples of specific strategies the Community Quarterback uses to retain staff.
 - c. How the Community Quarterback uses IT to track and report service delivery data and outcomes.

See attachment of the current Organizational Chart and positions of the SPCP. We will need to hire two additional Peacemakers in order to service Mt. Oliver Borough appropriately and to compensate the racial makeup. We will need to increase the exiting hours of all staff in order to implement the Plan:

- Executive Director -40 hrs. /week –Rev. Eileen Smith, RN
- Executive Assistant -25 hrs. /week –Stacey Randolph
- Administrative Assistant II -15 hrs. /week - Teresa Seh
- Administrative Assistant I -15 hrs. /week –Marion Schafer
- Multi Media Consultant -10 hrs /week
- Community Resource Referral Coordinator -10 hrs. /week
- 4 South Pittsburgh Peacemakers (SPP) -25 hrs /week each: Richard Carrington (Team I Leader) ;Larry Harris Team II Leader; Rick Bigelow; Jonah Tyus;
- SPP Chaplain -15 hrs. /week
- Add 2 Peacemakers at 25 hrs /week

The staff of the South Pittsburgh Peacemakers has combined over 75 years of intervention experience. Trained culturally -appropriate outreach workers work with the highest risked youth (shooters) to make them less likely to commit violence by meeting them where they are, (streets/gang house, etc.) talking to them about the consequences of violence (jail/death), and helping them to obtain the social services they need such as job training and drug treatment. The Peacemakers have college degrees or some college education including extensive mental health training and conflict resolution as well as CVI training. SPCP requires monthly continuing education and relevant workshops for all staff. SPP is hand-picked due to the nature of the work, background, confidentiality, required clearances and a desire to risk their lives in the streets preventing violence.

As far people in mind for the SPP, we do have several in mind and checking references and clearances. No confirmed names available at this time. Regarding the Multi Media coordinator, the present coordinator is on sick leave and will return. If not, we do have someone else in mind. Qualifications include media and social media experience.

Specific Strategies to Retain Staff :

- Appreciate them for what they do for less than adequate pay and commend them frequently. Work with them if they have personal issues /family problems and help solve them and provide needed resource referral.

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

- Since they work part time, many have morning jobs. SPCP works with them regarding their schedules. Provided needed safety gear and PPE for the street outreach workers.
- Treat them to lunch meetings from time to time as the budget allows, especially holidays. Daily encouragement, bi-weekly staff meetings and be accessible to issues and problems .
- Provide ongoing self-care through Chaplain, CVV and self-care workshops. Encourage mental health days off. Continually write grants to compensate them for the incredible and risky jobs that they do.

Service Delivery Tracking –Currently we are using an Excel sheet to track daily service delivery for SPP, Chaplain and Resource Referral Coordinator with monthly outcomes according to their bi-weekly Activity Time and Report sheets. See attachment –Activity Report Sheets.

11. Describe and provide examples of how the Community Quarterback is committed to providing high-quality services to all individuals and families so that everyone who feels welcomed, well-served and supported regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), intellectual or physical ability, English language proficiency or life experiences.

As a black-led organization we are very careful not to discriminate against anyone or any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, intellectual or physical ability, language proficiency or life experiences. As a coalition for peace, that is important to us. As a public health nurse I have and still encounter people in the community from all walks of life, race, etc. and treat them with love and respect, and impress upon all staff to do the same. Our Resource Referral Coordinator is a Social worker and receives referrals from our Peacemakers for all people and services them well. Our Chaplain is committed to the same ideal. Although violence disproportionately affects blacks, we are attempting to hire a non-black Peacemaker since Mt. Oliver borough is predominantly Caucasian and non-black crimes are committed there.

+Regarding life experiences, we have two Peacemakers that have been through several negative life experiences including brief jail times in their younger days. We have hired them, trained them and embrace them to continue to walk respectfully, and they do an outstanding job in relating to those who we target to reduce the violence in the streets. We also sign a non-discriminatory note that we are happy to sign and renew when required.

D. Budget and Participant Estimates (10 points possible)

12. Complete the following chart for all violence reduction strategies that you are asking DHS to fund. (Add rows as necessary. **Please do not** provide a budget, just the number of participants by strategy, by year.)

Strategy Name	Estimated number of participants served	
	Year 1	Year 2
CURE Violence	200	300
Readi Chicago	100	150
Brashear Center Safe Places Youth Program	150	200

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

Annual Voices Against Violence Free Summer Program	150	250
South Pgh Coalition for Peace Program Initiatives	450	550
Mt. Oliver Safe Neighborhood Project	3000	3500

13. Provide a line-item budget for the Community Quarterback’s coordination work for years one and two. Include a narrative to explain the line-item budget.
- a. **Please do not** include any program costs. For example, if the Community Quarterback will be implementing BAM, do not include those costs. Just include expenses and revenues related to the Community Quarterback’s coordination.
 - b. **Please do** include additional revenues you can bring to the CVRP. List the sources and amounts of money local government, community-based organizations, foundations or other entities will contribute during the first two years.

Please see attachment SPCP DHS Quarterback Line Item Budget. Grid wouldn’t take cel document.

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

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RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

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Please see attachment SPCP DHS Quarterback Line Item Budget. Grid wouldn’t take cel document.

JESSICA BENHAM, MEMBER
36TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES

EMAIL: REPBENHAM@PAHOUSE.NET
WEBSITE: WWW.REPJESS.COM

To: Erin Dalton, Director
Allegheny County Department of Human Services
1 Smithfield Street, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

April 26, 2022

Dear Director Dalton,

I am writing this letter in support of the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace (SPCP) and their application for a Community Violence Prevention Grant (CVPG). The SPCP, led by Rev. Eileen Smith, has been an instrumental partner for the reduction and prevention of violence in chronically underserved south Pittsburgh neighborhoods. The Peacemakers have a detailed plan for various programs focused on Mt. Oliver and surrounding neighborhoods which will begin to address the serious problem of community violence that causes such lasting, significant harm.

I know the SPCP and Rev. Eileen Smith personally and have witnessed their excellence in action. Their group is one that cares deeply for the Hilltop neighborhoods of Pittsburgh and has demonstrated their success countless time before. I have every confidence that with a CVPG, the SPCP will extend their effective reach and help foster community-based and community-focused preventative solutions to ongoing violence.

If you or any member of the reviewing committee has questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office – and thank you, on behalf of south Pittsburghers, for your consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jessica Benham".

Representative Jessica Benham



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Roberta F. Smith

320 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Phone: 412.481.2777

Fax: 412-235-6773

info@bfpgh.org

www.birminghamfoundation.org

May 4, 2022

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
1 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

To Whom It May Concern:

The Birmingham Foundation was founded in 1996 by the purchase of South Side Hospital by UPMC. The corpus created our foundation to serve the communities of South Pittsburgh.

One of our earliest projects was the creation of South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace (SPCP) in response to a tragic killing of a young student at Carrick High School. We appointed the Reverend Eileen O. Smith, R. N. to head this new intuitive. Rev Smith, then a public health nurse, was already well recognized and respected in the community. Since then, the SPCP has been aggressively engaged in violence prevention. Through conferences, seminars, collaborations and having “peacekeepers” on the streets, SPCP has effectively kept the peace. The peacekeepers on the streets are men and women who are all well-known and respected in the community and are a visible presence of peaceful authority. They know the streets and are aware of “street talk” of potential violence. I am fearful of thinking what our neighborhoods would have been like over the past three decades without our SPCP and the peacekeepers.

We continue to support SPCP through Reverend Eileen, sharing office space, sitting on the steering committee, recommending additional resources, and bringing all interested parties to the table. We are committed to continue those efforts.

Reverend Eileen Smith’s proposal to you comes at a critical time. As you know too well, violence is on a dramatic increase all over the country, especially in the inner city neighborhoods. To date in 2022, there have been 7 murders in South Pittsburgh alone. A more aggressive intervention is needed now. Rev Eileen and SPCP brings a long history of effective and trusted intervention.

We urge you to consider Rev. Eileen’s proposal for the Community Violence Reduction Plan. It will save lives.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Bibro
Executive Director

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320 BROWNSVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15210
(412) 431 2236
BRASHEARASSOCIATION.ORG

Rev. Eileen O. Smith, RN, Executive Director
South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace
320 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA. 15210

March 31, 2022

Dear Rev. Eileen:

I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support and that of the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace in your proposal to the Department of Human Services, supporting children and youth in the Mt. Oliver Borough.

It has been my pleasure to work with you personally and to observe the value that your organization brings to the community. Given the history of consistent, high quality and impactful programs, Brashear is uniquely suited and well positioned to accomplish every aspect of this new opportunity as it relates to youth programs supporting their growth and development, preparation for high school, college and career.

Brashear youth programs focuses on education and enrichment for children from K-12. Afterschool programs include the Family Table, afterschool meal program, homework helpers and a variety of programs in collaboration with Venture Outdoors, Strong Women, Strong Girls, the Tech Coding Lab, and the Hilltop Urban Farm, among others. The Young Adult Enrichment Program is a modular program offered year-round, engaging youth in grades 6-8 and 9-12 preparing them for the real world through interactive learning and engagement sessions.

We will work with the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace, providing youth programs for children from K-12. I am also delighted to serve on the Advisory Committee for the project.

I look forward to actively continuing the excellent professional and personal relationships that we have enjoyed in the past with the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace. We wish you the best of luck in your application.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Matthews
Executive Director

**BRASHEAR CARES
CENTER**
320 BROWNSVILLE RD
PITTSBURGH, PA, 15210
TELEPHONE (412) 431-2236

**20TH STREET
OFFICE**
1926 SARAH STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA, 15203
TELEPHONE (412) 742-4068

**HENRY KAUFMANN
CENTER**
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PITTSBURGH, PA 15210
TELEPHONE (412) 431-0557

**NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPLOYMENT CENTER**
730 E. WARRINGTON AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15210
TELEPHONE (412) 390-3588

Sammy P. Lonich, M.S., Ed.S.
Psychologist

May 6, 2022

Rev Eileen O. Smith, RN
Executive Director
South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace
320 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15210

Dear Rev. Smith,

This letter serves as my official commitment to the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace. I will provide a minimum of six (6) training workshops on suicide awareness and prevention. The length of the workshop will be determined by the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace with my consultation and input. The presentations will begin approximately September 2022 and run through July 2023. South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace will provide and maintain the necessary audio and visual equipment and materials necessary to complete the workshops.

Respectfully,



Sammy P. Lonich, M.S., Ed.S.
Psychologist



May 5, 2022

Re: Funding Support for South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of funding for the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace (SPCP). Everytown for Gun Safety is the largest violence prevention organization in America. Supporting sustainable funding for community-based and locally-led violence intervention programs is a priority for Everytown. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the impact of our country's gun violence crisis, and programs like SPCP have been on the frontlines of community gun violence, through their evidence-based community outreach and violence interruption programs.

Over the past few years, several of our Everytown Community Safety Fund grantees have taken advantage of both federal and state grant opportunities to further their violence prevention work in their strategy communities. Recently, we became aware that Rev. Eileen Smith of SPCP, one of our grantees, is planning to submit a grant application for the Community Violence Prevention Grant (CVGP). As you may already be aware, Rev. Eileen has extensive experience providing evidence-based community outreach and violence interruption programs in the South Pittsburgh community.

Throughout our long-standing relationship with Rev. Eileen Smith and SPCP, Everytown has admired her passion and desire to save lives within her target community and other communities in need of support. The SPCP is a conglomerate of volunteers and agencies that are committed to the prevention of violence through many programs, including community anti-violence workshops and violence intervention as part of Pittsburgh's Group Violence Intervention strategy.

Everytown has partnered with SPCP since 2019 when we initially launched our Community Safety Fund Support Grant to community-based organizations around the country and have had proven results and needed support to continue their efforts in reducing gun violence at the hyperlocal level. SPCP was one of Everytown's first grantees through this initiative and has gone on to receive continued grants and support over the years. As a valued and long-standing partner, Everytown asks that you invest in the city of Pittsburgh's most impacted communities by supporting SPCP's RFP and its efforts to reduce gun violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devenray Rivera". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the word "Sincerely".

Devenray Rivera
Program Manager, Community Safety Fund



**320 Brownsville Rd.
Pittsburgh, Pa., 15210
412-481-2777**

March 7, 2022

Michael Pennington
Executive Director, PCCD
PO Box 1167
Harrisburg, PA 17108
RE: TLC Support Letter-Statewide VIP Technical Assistance Project

Dear Mr. Pennington,

I am writing this letter of support for the Temple University TLC (Temple, LaSalle, Cure Violence Global) VIP application led by Marla Davis Bellamy, JD, MGA. I have known Ms. Davis Bellamy for many years since her appointment at the PA Dept of Health in Harrisburg, PA. Since that time, we have served together on the Giffords PA VIP Coalition and we are both community grantees of Everytown for Gun Safety.

Marla has always been supportive of our program which is located in Pittsburgh and many programs across the Commonwealth of PA that address gun violence prevention. She has a wealth of knowledge, resources and experiences that she freely shares in an effort to make certain that all grass roots organizations have the same opportunities for growth and expansion in our perspective communities.

We continue to learn from each other and through our training together we recognize the value of collaboration, which is a concept that she fully embraces and believes is key to moving the needle and saving lives.

Marla has established the trust and respect of our colleagues which I believe is a necessary leadership trait for this project. But more importantly, no matter what she sets out to do, she won't give-up and she won't let others around her throw in the towel either.

The partnership she has established with LaSalle Non-Profit Center and Cure Violence Global will help all of us to build capacity, achieve better outcomes, meet our deliverables and provide further insight into the public health approach to violence and the value of replicating evidenced based programs.

I am grateful for the funding support recently received from PCCD and hope the Commonwealth will continue to invest in programs like ours as well as embrace the leadership of Marla Davis Bellamy and the diverse experts of the TLC program that have made a significant contribution to violence prevention, but also look like our staff and clients that we serve throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eileen O. Smith, RN
Executive Director
[Redacted Signature]

May 3, 2022

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Re: Community Violence Prevention Grant

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of the grant request made by Reverend Eileen Smith, the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace and the Peacemakers outreach program.

I am currently the Local Group Co-lead for the Pittsburgh Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I assumed this role in late 2021. Moms Demand Action is a national, grass-roots group of volunteers who are committed to ending gun violence. I met Reverend Eileen at a rally and vigil she hosted in February 2022. It was immediately clear to me that she is a passionate advocate who is uniquely positioned to curb the pandemic of gun violence in our city.

One of the priorities of our Moms Demand Action group is to support the work and amplify the voices of community partners. Reverend Eileen, the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace and the Peacemakers Outreach program are one of our most essential community partners in the fight to end gun violence. They are out in the neighborhoods everyday identifying risks, providing resources and diffusing dangerous situations. This approach is effective and meaningful. A sustained funding stream is essential to maintaining relationships and expanding their work.

As a result, I strongly support the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace in this grant request. I would be happy to discuss further and answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

Hadley Beck Haas
Volunteer / Pittsburgh Local Group Co-Lead
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

██████████

████████████████████



BOROUGH OF MT. OLIVER

(INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 9, 1892)

150 Brownsville Road Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Ph: 412-431-8107 Fax: 412-431-0184

www.MtOliver.com

To Allegheny County Department of Human Services,

May 3, 2022

As the Mayor of Mt. Oliver Borough, this letter is to show my support of the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace in their endeavor to reduce violence and restore safety to our community regarding their grant application. We have worked together to formulate a plan that will benefit not only our neighborhood, but the entire Hilltop area.

I have worked with the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace and have seen the positive outcomes from their efforts. They have brought visibility to our area through meetings, peace rallies, and prayer vigils. Numerous leaders and elected officials have attended these events; learning about our struggles, walking into our neighborhoods, and committing to provide support.

The South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace also works with the violence interrupters in our area and supports the activity they do on the streets to encourage and persuade community members to act without violence. They also have facilitated programs for the youth in our area, as they are again aiming to do now, to provide educational and safe spaces for teens to learn and grow. These programs help our youth to know that they have options, they have potential, and they have value.

I hope you will consider the application from the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace. They are working tirelessly to support our community in critical ways to reduce violence and make our neighborhoods safer. Anything we can do to eliminate even one more needless death, to allow even one more beautiful soul the right to grow up and learn and change and become – that is worth it. And this plan will do even more than spare just one.

Again, I fully endorse the work of the South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace and I look forward to a continued partnership with them to reduce and even end violence in our amazing Hilltop neighborhoods.

Thank you,

JoAnna Taylor
Mayor, Mt. Oliver Borough
joanna.taylor@mtoliver.com





May 6, 2022

RE: School District Letter of Intent to Partner with Becoming A Man (BAM) Program

Pittsburgh Public Schools is pleased to formally express our interest in partnering with Youth Guidance to implement its evidence based Becoming a Man (BAM) social-emotional learning and mentoring program for students in grades 7-12.

We acknowledge that Youth Guidance will employ and train BAM staff, as well as deliver programming in selected school sites, working in partnership and coordination with each school ensure that BAM is integrated into their existing structure. Pittsburgh Public Schools agrees to support implementation of BAM with high quality and fidelity through the following:

Allowing BAM to be implemented during the school day, requiring that participating students be excused from one class period each week to participate in BAM.

Each school site will provide access to appropriate program space and furniture (i.e. desks, chairs) on campus;

School administrators and staff will collaborate with BAM by facilitating program referrals, assistance with program scheduling, and coordinating additional support services for youth participants as needed;

The school district will enter into a data sharing agreement with Youth Guidance for program implementation and evaluation purposes;

Based on the criteria above, the school site(s) where we seek to implement BAM include: Carrick High School.

Sincerely,

Sala Udin
Name

President, School Board
Title

Pittsburgh School Board
School District Name

Sala Udin
School Board Director–District 3
Pittsburgh Public Schools

341 S. Bellefield Avenue
Room 239
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

sudin1@pghschools.org
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412-529-HELP (4357)

If the root is strong, the fruit will be sweet. ~ Robert Nesta Marley



Richard M. Carrington, Sr., Executive Director
McKinley Park Community Center
900 Delmont Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
www.vavpgh.org
412-670-0121

May 4, 2022

Dear DHS Grant Review Panel:

Voices Against Violence is pleased to offer this letter of support on behalf of the *South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace* and *South Pittsburgh Peacemakers*, as it applies to the Department of Human Services Grant for Community Violence Interventions and program opportunities to further benefit the City of Pittsburgh. **Voices Against Violence (VAV)** was one of the founding members of the *South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace*, and I am the Senior Team Leader of the *South Pittsburgh Peacemakers*. Our organizations have collaborated for many years, and we know with complete confidence the *South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace* and its leadership are committed to making a positive impact in South Pittsburgh through their Community Violence Reduction Plan (CVRP). VAV is committed to this CVRP as well.

South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace (SPCP) was founded in 2005 by the Birmingham Foundation in conjunction with several community grassroots organizations, local service providers, and faith-based institutions in response to a shooting death of a Carrick High School student. Outreach, education, and advocacy are key components to reducing the prevalence of violence and its devastating impact on society. The cornerstone of the Coalition's program is extensive community outreach. The *South Pittsburgh Peacemakers (SPP)* component of SPCP is a trained group of violence interrupters which focuses on active gang members, shooters, and violent offenders. These initiatives are designed to prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in our communities, as well as providing follow up to mitigate retaliation and ensure conflicts not reignite.

Voices Against Violence takes a holistic approach to antiviolenence and violence disruption. Over the last 25+ years, this grassroots, community-focused organization has developed and implemented a wide variety of initiatives to serve area youth including restorative justice programs, school-based retention and after school programs, conducted conflict mediations, facilitated parent groups, managed summer employment programs, and cultivated other leaders who have since branched off to start their own programs. This year will be the 27th annual FREE Summer Camp for youth ages 4 to 14 years-old. South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace is committed to providing support to the anti-violence and comprehensive wellbeing initiatives of VAV's Summer and After School Programs.

It is my belief that the implementation of the **South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace's** plan proposal will be impactful in the reduction of violence in Allegheny County. I fully support the funding of their work via this grant and look forward to the successful implementation of our joint initiatives.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Carrington, Sr.



239 Fourth Avenue Suite 1401 #341
Pittsburgh, PA 15222,
info@vitaminhealing.com
412.414.7782

To:
Whom It May Concern

May 6 2022

On behalf of Vitamin C Healing I am pleased to provide this letter expressing our organization's commitment to helping your organization carry out its Community Violence Prevention programs by providing workshops for the development of the staff outreach team and South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace members and partner agencies

To support the successful outcome of the proposed goals objectives and outcomes our organization will continue to contribute the following resources

- Contribution 1 Facilitation of new and previously presented workshops including the workshop "When Helping Hurts Understanding the Impact of Compassion Fatigue" which was presented for South Coalition for Peace on March 18 2022 for nearly 400 participants
- Contribution 2 The workshops are relevant for past and present participants including a diverse audience of frontline workers (police officers therapists outreach workers violence prevention personnel trauma specialists faith-based providers law enforcement first responders health care providers medical professionals) managers customer service representatives
- Contribution 3 Workshop participants will recognize the nature of helping people who are experiencing trauma pain suffering and losses heavy and providing continued support to the healers's imperative Ensuring healers are aware of the signs of compassion fatigue vicarious and secondary trauma learning and implementing trauma informed strategies to prevent and/or manage compassion fatigue
- Contribution 4 Workshop participants will understand with the climate of the world all the trauma loss suffering and pain it's imperative that the healers/helpers are receiving the support they needed to take care of themselves and provide quality care to help the community



VITAMIN C HEALING, LLC

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- Contr but on 5 Benef ts and real ty of cont nu ng to offer these workshops on a regular bas s t takes more than one workshop on a del cate yet mportant top c to effect change Repeated exposure to d ff cult content can have a negat ve mpact on the funct on ng and overall mental health of help ng profess onals Repeated exposure to d ff cult content can have a negat ve mpact on the funct on ng and overall mental health of help ng profess onals

V tam n C Heal ng s here to help bu ld stronger communit es by pr ort z ng the support of those n the trenches nclud ng the frontl ne workers (pol ce off cers therap sts outreach workers v olence prevent on personnel trauma spec al sts fa th-based prov ders law enforcement f rst responders health care prov ders med cal profess onals) managers customer serv ce representat ves



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These workshops are helping to refill and reenergize front line workers. Below are the responses from the past participants of the workshop *When Helping Hurts*.

Understanding the impact of *Compassion Fatigue*

- 100% felt better equipped to manage emotionally charged situations
- 100% would recommend workshop to friends
- The facilitator was knowledgeable about topics presented 80% strongly agree 20% agree
- The workshop met my expectations 50% Strongly agree 40% agree 10% disagree
- I feel better equipped to practice good self-care habits on a consistent basis
- 40% strongly agree 60% agree
- The workshop will help me practice more effective ways of managing and preventing *Compassion Fatigue* 50% Strongly agree 50% agree
- The workshop was useful for me as a service provider and/or caregiver 60% Strongly agree 40% agree

Overall, how would you rate the workshop?

70% Excellent

20% Very Good

10% Good

Vitamin C Healing looks forward to working with the staff outreach team and South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace members and partner agencies.

Sincerely,

Sharise Nance CSW CCTP

Founder/Owner Vitamin C Healing, LLC