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# Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by* our volunteers *to* our volunteers *about*  
our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 16, Issue 4 - April 2024



[OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

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Thompson Pharmacy  
UPMC Altoona  
Value Drug Company  
Ward Transport & Logistics Corp.



## Operation Our Town - Annual Funding Opportunity

**Grant Cycle Opens: May 1, 2024**

**Grant Application Deadline: June 7, 2024**

**Funding Announcement: 2024 Prevention Grant Cycle**

**Funding Available:** A total of \$75,000 is available to fund programs aimed at preventing and/or reducing drug abuse and/or crime in Blair County.

**Eligible Applicants:** 501(c)(3) Non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies. Previous grant recipients are also eligible to apply.

**There are two grant applications to choose from:**

- Funding requests under \$3,000 or
- Funding requests over \$3,000

**Grant Application:** Visit [www.OperationOurTown.org](http://www.OperationOurTown.org) go to the "Grants" tab on the homepage, click on "Apply Now" in the drop-down menu to download the grant application.

**\*\*\* Please note that both grant applications have been revised and updated, so the updated versions (with the revised date of 4/27/2021 in the bottom right corner) must be used to apply for funding \*\*\***

**Due Date:** One (1) original and ten (10) copies of applications must be delivered or mailed to Operation Our Town (5508 6th Avenue, rear Altoona, PA 16602) by **June 7, 2024**. Any applications that are mailed must be postmarked by this date.

**Grant Application Notification:** Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by the middle of August.

For questions, please contact:  
(814) 296-8730 or  
[shawna@operationourtown.org](mailto:shawna@operationourtown.org)

## Mission

To facilitate partnerships between community and business to fight drug abuse and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.



## Month of April - Meetings

4/1	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Rec & Park Commission
4/2	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	The Bull Pen restaurant
4/17	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
4/18	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships and Zoom
4/19	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom
4/25	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	U.S. Hotel

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY  
**PUSH OUT THE PUSHER**  
814-693-3020



Pennsylvania  
Get Connected. Get Help.™

PA 2-1-1 is a comprehensive database that includes information about health & human services.

PA 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone 24/7 or the web at:

[www.pa211.org](http://www.pa211.org)

## Operation Our Town Grant Training



**Friday, April 5, 2024**  
**9:00am to 10:15am**  
**at Park Hills Golf Club**  
**(219 Highland Terrace Altoona, PA)**

**Free to attend**

**Coffee and water provided**

Reviewing the Under \$3,000 and Over \$3,000 Operation Our Town grant application process and highlighting information needed under each section

**Register:**

Email: [oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org) OR  
Call: (814) 296-8730

**Grant Cycle Opens: May 1**  
**Grant Cycle Deadline: June 7**



*Empowering Healthy Lifestyles*

814-381-0921

# Grant Recipient Highlight: Northern Blair County Recreation Commission Sponsored Youth Program

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town  
Community Outreach Coordinator



The NBCRC's Sponsored Youth Program affords opportunities to two- to twelve-year-olds, whose families otherwise would not be able to afford programming, providing a diverse range of activities. Since their facilities offer both indoor and outdoor activities, youth are able to explore and grow with one another year-round in some way, shape, or form. Whether playing outside on the soccer field or inside on the basketball court, there is a sense of camaraderie shared by all.

Logistically speaking, in order to cover the cost of each program, there is typically a fee to participate, averaging around \$55 per program. Through grant funding from Operation Our Town, however, this fee is able to be covered for youth who otherwise would not be able to participate in programming. Central to the program's mission is providing a safe space, free of the influences of drugs, where at-risk youth can thrive, grow, and develop.

Not only is the mission of the NBCRC's Sponsored Youth Program important, but the variety of programming offered is also noteworthy. The NBCRC offers scholarships for Youth Soccer, Youth Developmental Basketball, Kinder-sports, and Little Kickers, allowing for a wide range of interests and opportunities for youth to flourish.

Youth sports programming is crucial for fostering physical health, social skills, and character development in young individuals. Through participation, children learn teamwork, discipline,

and resilience, setting a foundation for success in various aspects of life. This, as well as the friendships that are formed, contribute to the overall well-being and personal growth of youth.

In essence, the NBCRC's Sponsored Youth Program is more than just a recreational outlet, as it embodies a commitment to community enrichment. The program strives to nurture the aspirations of young individuals, and volunteers who help out are always welcomed as one way to partner with them.

The main requirement to volunteer with the NBCRC in their programming is providing the necessary Child Abuse Clearances and background checks. For more information about any of the services the NBCRC offers or to inquire about their Sponsored Youth Program, please reach out at the contact info below.



4080 East Pleasant Valley Blvd Altoona, PA 16601

Website: [nbcrc.com](http://nbcrc.com)

Contact: Stefanie Daratany, General Manager

Phone: 814-742-9500

Email: [sdaratany@nbcrc.com](mailto:sdaratany@nbcrc.com)

See Website for Hours of Operation

