



# Operation Our Town Reporter

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

Volume 17, Issue 4 - April 2025



[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, 2025**

**Grant Application Deadline: June 6, 2025**

### Funding Announcement: 2025 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 6, 2025**. 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	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	The Bull Pen restaurant
4/7	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Rec & Park Commission
4/16	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
4/17	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships & Zoom
4/24	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	U.S. Hotel Tavern



Click on the image above to view the 2025 OOT Annual Report!

## Operation Our Town Grant Training



Friday, April 11, 2025  
9:00am to 10:15am  
at American Legion Social Hall  
(1501 N. Juniata St., Hollidaysburg)

Free to attend  
Bottled 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 6



# Grant Recipient Highlight:

## JMC Altoona

### Rise Above Athletic Program

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town  
Community Outreach Coordinator



The Rise Above Athletic Program, hosted by JMC Altoona, supports students in grades 1-12, offering a structured and nurturing environment. The program helps young athletes develop their skills on the basketball court while fostering personal growth off the court. Operating year-round on weekday evenings and Sundays, Rise Above ensures accessibility for students with diverse schedules, making it a consistent resource for the community.

At its core, Rise Above is driven by a powerful mission: using basketball as a vehicle to educate youth about the dangers of drug abuse. Grounded in the belief that it's never too late to learn but never too early to educate, the program instills life lessons alongside athletics. Services include competitive basketball leagues that build teamwork and discipline, instructional clinics that teach fundamental skills and provide mentorship, and open gym access to encourage physical activity and community connection.

With the help of volunteers, the program thrives by welcoming coaches, mentors, and community members eager to share their expertise. Recently, high school and collegiate coach Chris Drenning led free instructional clinics, exemplifying the kind of talent that enriches Rise Above. The program remains open to anyone whose skills align with its mission of inspiring and educating young people.

Founded in 1949, JMC Altoona has had a legacy of meeting the social, recreational, and educational needs of the community. Though it has evolved over decades, it remains a cornerstone sports facility, particularly for basketball. For generations, it has helped young athletes' growth, both as players and individuals. Today, through Rise Above, JMC Altoona continues to leave a lasting impact by blending athletics with prevention and education, inspiring the next generation to "rise above" challenges and build brighter futures. For more information about any of the services JMC Altoona offers or to learn more, please check out their info below.



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