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Operation Our Town Reporter

A monthly newsletter about our efforts to help prevent
and reduce drug abuse and crime in Blair County

Volume 18, Issue 5 - May 2026



OperationOurTown.org

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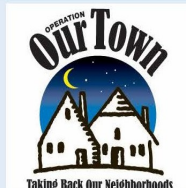
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Operation Our Town - Annual Funding Opportunity

Grant Cycle Opens: May 1, 2026
Grant Application Deadline: June 5, 2026

Funding Announcement: 2026 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 in Blair County. 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 go to the "Grants" tab on the homepage, click on "Apply Now" in the drop-down menu to download the grant application.

***** The updated versions of both grant applications
(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 5, 2026**. 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

Grant Recipient Highlight: Tyrone-Snyder Public Library Read to Rise

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town
Community Outreach Coordinator



The Read to Rise program, offered by the Tyrone Snyder Public Library, serves youth ages 12–22 in Tyrone Borough and surrounding communities. In particular, it focuses on teens and young adults who may be at risk of disengagement from school, substance use, or involvement with the justice system.

The mission of Read to Rise is to empower teens with knowledge, resilience, and real-world skills. The program provides free access to non-fiction resources centered on prevention, mental health, life skills, and career readiness. By connecting authentic stories and practical tools, it helps young people make informed, positive choices for their futures.

A key emphasis is reducing stigma around challenging topics like addiction and mental health. The program highlights real voices and experiences while stressing hope and future planning, helping teens visualize clear pathways to success through education, careers, and stronger community connections.

What sets Read to Rise apart from similar programs is its integrated approach. It uniquely combines prevention education with career readiness in a welcoming, library-based setting. Rather than treating these areas separately, the program creates a bridge between knowledge and action, connecting real-life stories with real-world tools and local opportunities.

By making prevention, mental health, and career resources easily accessible in a non-judgmental environment, Read to Rise helps teens build resilience and see a brighter path forward. The program not only equips young people with knowledge but also fosters community connections that turn awareness into real opportunity and lasting positive change. For more information about any of the services that the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



Tyrone-Snyder Public Library
1000 Pennsylvania Ave Tyrone, PA 16686
Contact: Jennifer Powell
Phone: 814-684-1133
Website: www.tyronelibrary.org
Email: director@tyronelibrary.org
Hours: M, T, W 10am-5pm; TH 10am-7pm;
Fri, Sat 10am-3pm

