

As the representative of Berkeley Heights (municipality), I hereby authorize the project submitted for this proposed "Kids Recreation Trust" Grant Program.

Signature

October 6, 2014

Date

Angie Devanney, Berkeley Heights Police Athletic League, Board Member

Requested Grant Amount:	\$18,000
Matching Dollar Amount	\$18,000

Total Project Costs	\$36,000

Project description and summary (you may attach additional pages):

The Township of Berkeley Heights Police Athletic League (PAL) is dedicated to the youth of the community through recreational sports and activities by providing a safe and positive environment for our children. The BHPAL not only helps to offer a wide variety of sport activities for children through the community but also helps provide financial assistance for those in need that otherwise would prevent those children from participating in our programs.

Proudly, we continue to grow in our mission and in our programs. In 2014, the Berkeley Heights PAL launched several girls (though it is open to boys as well) program not previously offered including Volleyball and Field Hockey. Both sports opened registration to resounding numbers indicating a deep need for additional girls sports programs in town. The BHPAL also unveiled its Running program this year involving both seasoned athletes as well as boys and girls in the sport of running that had not previously participated in any organized sports.

Many of our established program continue to grow and the Board of Commissioners is dedicated to opportunities for young women to participate and flourish in team sports within Berkeley Heights Township. Softball, one of the popular sports, is growing exponentially each year even boating an outside Fall league because of interest in the sport from Berkeley Heights girls of all ages. Registration for softball witnessed a 20% increase in the last year alone. The program presently has 80-90 girls playing fall Softball, an astounding number. The 8U and 10U age groups boast the biggest number of participants, which will help to create a forceful program in the coming years.

Further, the PAL Board envisions in embarking on Berkeley Heights Softball Tournament with Upper Columbia and Hendrick has the corner stone to the event. Tournament play brings economic value not just to the community but also the greater Union County area. Proceeds from the tournament will continue to off set future PAL projects designed to facilitate recreational play and/or financial assistance for Berkeley Heights' youth.

To improve play on our softball field, the BHPAL would need to embark on two major improvements: 1) dugout installation and 2) drainage improvements. Therefore respectfully, the BHPAL requests \$5,000 for drainage field improvements to Upper Columbia field and Hendrick Field, the two most predominant fields for softball. These improvements will extend playing time and create a safer playing surface for all. Likewise, the PAL is requesting \$5,000 in funding to upgrade dugouts toward these improvements.

Lastly, The Berkeley Heights PAL is enthusiastic about its partnership with the County of Union to repurpose the field at Horseshoe Road on County property. This endeavor will allow the Berkeley Heights Baseball program to create two 50/70 feet fields. In the spirit of true partnership the BHPAL has joined with the Recreation Commission, in addition to the generosity of the County of Union, who will provide labor to allow for the installation of greatly needed backstops on these two new fields. The BHPAL will make a financial match to the backstop project. Moreover, we request an additional \$8,000 from the Recreation Trust Fund grant program to finalize this field project.

As required, Mr. Arthur Barbera, BHPAL Treasurer, has supplied a letter of matching funds for your perusal.

The Berkeley Heights Police Athletic appreciates your consideration to our request.

BUDGET:

Drainage Improvements	\$5,000
Softball Dugout Improvements	\$5,000
Baseball Backstop Improvements	\$8,000
TOTAL GRANT REQUEST	\$18,000

**UPPER COLUMBIA SOFTBALL FIELD
DUGOUT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

FALL 2014

JOINTLY FUNDED BY:

BERKELEY HEIGHTS POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

BERKELEY HEIGHTS RECREATION COMMISSION

BERKELEY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROJECT CONTACT: MIKE TOMICH (908) 472-4112