

**Request for ECGRA Funding – 2021 Erie County Summer Jobs and More (JAM) Program**

Since 2014, Erie County government has worked with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and The Erie Community Foundation to provide funding for the Summer JAM Program, which creates employment opportunities for young adults. These participants – all ages 16 to 21 – receive training in the soft skills needed to become successful employees, and then apply those skills on the job at area businesses.

Entering its eighth year, Summer JAM has a solid record of success that proves its value to its employers. In 2020, the program saw a 91% success rate, with 81 young participants successfully completing the summer employment. Also, the program had to adjust its procedures and protocols while navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, approximately \$2.215 million has been invested into this initiative by assisting nearly 1,000 youths in the county.

With more employers joining the effort, participants are exposed to a greater variety of industries and operations. It is these on-the-job experiences, which can lead young people to pursue paths to education or pique their interest in future careers – scenarios that reflect not just the goal of Summer JAM, but an essential outcome for our community overall.

The young participants have pledged to attend training and to become positive, creative and dedicated working members of the local workforce.

Erie County and other leaders are committed to securing this future with continued funding that provides for the training and employment of Summer JAM’s young participants. We need your support to continue this winning formula for our community’s future.

Projected 2021 Major Funding Commitments:

Erie County	\$150,000
ECGRA	\$150,000
Erie Community Foundation	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
	\$360,000