



OPEN SPACES | SAFE PLACES

E·C·G·R·A
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

2019-2020 Annual Report



“Community assets like parks, fields, and trails are a source of civic pride in Erie County and will help preserve our local culture of togetherness — even when we are social distancing — while improving our local quality of life for years to come.”

—State Representative Ryan Bizzaro

This report is being issued as Erie County is simultaneously facing the worst health and economic crisis of our time. The COVID-19 global pandemic is also pushing local governments like counties, cities, and boroughs to their limits, with Erie County leaders earning strong reviews across the board.

As this fiscal year closed, Erie County Council utilized ECGRA’s grantmaking expertise and infrastructure to create the Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund. So far, that Response Fund has moved the needle, garnering national attention for Erie County. The story of FY 2020-21 will most certainly be a look back at that effort, and reflect on how #OurErie has thrived in the face of crisis.

As we review 2019, though, a story of community investment has emerged. The Parks, Fields & Trails grant was established at a time when accessing outdoor space has become paramount to our health and happiness. Erie County’s Parks, Fields & Trails network is growing, making #OurErie a better place to live, work, and play.

An impact investor, ECGRA’s mission is to elevate Erie County by galvanizing nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development. Since February 2008, ECGRA has invested more than \$60 million in Erie County.

Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing, ECGRA has made and reported on 1,156 grants and loans to 260 nonprofits and municipalities totaling over \$60 million of investments of local share gaming revenue.

2019-20 Financial Report

Assets:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Checking Account | \$55,350.85 |
| Savings Account | \$10,483,291.85 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$5,258,846.25 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$9,345.00 |

Total Assets: \$15,033,423.61

Equity:

Beginning Balance \$12,103,948.28

Net Income \$766,835.47

Grants Issued: \$3,492,277.45

Anchor Building (\$340,276.20)

Community Assets (\$433,708.60)

Covid-19 Immediate Human Relief (\$125,025.00)

Local Government Development (\$1,109,704.17)

Mission Main Street (\$683,840.00)

Multi-Municipal Collaboration (\$295,655.00)

Pilot Program (\$55,000.00)

Renaissance Block (\$119,920.00)

Special Events (\$175,515.39)

Summer Jobs (\$153,633.07)

Total Equity: \$12,870,783.75



Board of Directors

Chair **Michael J. Paris**
owner
Paris Homes

Vice Chair **David M. Bagnoni**
instructor
University of Phoenix

Treasurer **Dale E. Barney**
community engagement and growth specialist
Gateway Health

Secretary **David S. Sample**
owner
Corry Lumber Company Inc.

Ronald Cleaver
retired

Dominick D. DiPaolo
retired

Kelly Hess
Superintendent, Harborcreek School District

Andre Horton
(ex-officio), chairman
Erie County Council

Gary N. Lee
(ex-officio), director of administration
County of Erie

ECGRA Staff

Executive Director **Perry N. Wood, Ed. D.**

Grants Manager **Tom M. Maggio**

Office Manager **Tammi L. Michali**

Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund

The Erie County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund’s first and primary goal is to save lives by supporting those on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle. Grantmakers are uniquely positioned in a crisis because they are regularly in touch with nonprofit institutions that provide a range of life-saving and -enhancing services. Rapid communication with the leaders in this sector led to an early conclusion: capital was not flowing and, therefore, they could not help the people who depend on them.

| Recipient | Program | Date | Amount |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Erie Family Center | Immediate Human Relief | 3/26/20 | \$7,500.00 |
| Mercy Center for Women | Immediate Human Relief | 3/31/20 | \$9,525.00 |
| Metro-Erie Meals on Wheels | Immediate Human Relief | 3/31/20 | \$2,000.00 |
| North East Community Food Pantry | Immediate Human Relief | 3/26/20 | \$1,000.00 |
| Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA | Immediate Human Relief | 3/26/20 | \$84,000.00 |
| The Upper Room | Immediate Human Relief | 3/31/20 | \$5,000.00 |
| YMCA of Greater Erie | Immediate Human Relief | 3/31/20 | \$16,000.00 |

Anticipating that the food bank and pantry system would quickly run out of food, ECGRA reached out to the Second Harvest Food Bank and asked them to quantify the challenges that lie ahead. The first grant awarded supported 6,000 meals to be distributed to those in need throughout Erie County over the coming weeks. The ECGRA staff connected their team with Meals on Wheels to work on home delivery to the homebound seniors. The swift action of Erie County Council and the ECGRA Board of Directors allowed for a solution in anticipation of a problem—not a life boat when the ship has already sunk.



“These are unprecedented times in which families are in desperate need of food. This crisis is affecting our entire community and ECGRA quickly answered our call to purchase life sustaining food to help our neighbors.”

—Karen S. Seggi, Chief Executive Officer
Erie Second Harvest Food Bank



IMPACT

Neighborhoods and Local Communities

To reinvigorate neighborhoods and commercial corridors, boost buy-local efforts, and combat blight. Current projects include Mission Main Street, Renaissance Block, and Anchor Building grants.

| Recipient | Program | Impact Category | Date | Amount |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Inc. | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 1/7/20 | \$42,000.00 |
| City of Corry | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 8/26/19 | (\$5,225.00) |
| Erie Center for Arts & Technology | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 1/7/20 | \$14,000.00 |
| Grace Church | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 10/9/19 | \$20,000.00 |
| Housing & Neighborhood Development Services | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 1/7/20 | \$10,000.00 |
| Impact Corry | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Mercy Center for Women | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 1/7/20 | \$80,000.00 |
| Our West Bayfront | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 2/4/20 | \$80,000.00 |
| Performing Artists Collective Alliance | Anchor Building | Neighborhoods & Communities | 6/11/19 | \$69,501.20 |
| Borough of Edinboro | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 4/10/19 | \$95,350.00 |
| Borough of Girard | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 10/3/19 | \$80,000.00 |
| Borough of Union City | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 5/23/19 | \$75,000.00 |
| Impact Corry | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 10/3/19 | \$115,200.00 |
| Our West Bayfront | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 6/11/19 | \$116,190.00 |
| Preservation Erie | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 6/11/19 | \$28,000.00 |
| Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 6/11/19 | \$90,500.00 |
| Waterford Borough | Mission Main Street | Neighborhoods & Communities | 10/3/19 | \$83,600.00 |
| Borough of Union City | Renaissance Block | Neighborhoods & Communities | 4/24/19 | \$25,000.00 |
| Our West Bayfront | Renaissance Block | Neighborhoods & Communities | 8/21/19 | \$40,000.00 |
| Preservation Erie | Renaissance Block | Neighborhoods & Communities | 12/16/19 | \$26,920.00 |
| Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network | Renaissance Block | Neighborhoods & Communities | 8/15/19 | \$28,000.00 |
| | | | | \$1,144,036.20 |



ECGRA was presented the 2020 Greater Erie Award from Preservation Erie for its ongoing advocacy for preservation efforts and initiatives in Erie County.

2019 MISSION MAIN STREET EFFORTS EARNS RECOGNITION

Studies show that improving main streets can drive job creation and promote tourism – two critical economic growth components. Mission Main Street funding is sparking collaboration and building local capacity through an effort by Preservation Erie to help small and rural communities prepare to access these funds.

In an era when funding for historic preservation activities can be hard to come by, ECGRA is a reliable source of local support for preservation work. The authority's grant programs have provided funding to historical societies, museums, municipalities, and neighborhood revitalization organizations for adaptive reuse projects, re-grant programs for commercial and residential property improvements, cultural programming, streetscape initiatives, preservation planning, and more. By investing in historic preservation projects, the authority is protecting and enhancing Erie County's built environment, as well as the quality of place that makes Erie County a source of pride for residents and a destination for visitors.

—Melinda Meyer
Preservation Erie



IMPACT Small Business

To catalyze our region’s private sector and develop Erie’s entrepreneurial ecosystem by spurring small business development, building collaborations for business acceleration, and offering a broader spectrum of financing products for starting, growing, and reinventing small business. Learn more about the programs that support this effort: Beehive Network, Erie Innovation District, TechCelerator, Erie Inclusive Fund, and Ignite Erie™.

Following the launch Drexel University recognized ECGRA as a "first mover" in the United States on the front lines of small business stabilization thanks to its commitment to Small Businesses. The \$2.35 million Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund, established by ECGRA and Erie County Council in the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic, included \$1.6 million of loans to small businesses and non-profits to help meet rapidly rising needs generated as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis. These ECGRA loans were administered through Bridgeway Capital.

The ECGRA framed the funds as a local stimulus package to get the local economy through the next 30 days until state and federal government money arrived. It was a local rescue package.

—Nowak Metro Finance Lab, Drexel University



IMPACT Quality of Place

Community development happens successfully when the public and civic sectors work together to strengthen the social fabric of the community. This synergy generates investment and improves the quality of life for residents. You must look no further than Erie County’s beautiful parks, fields and trails to understand the value of investing in their maintenance and providing opportunity to expand them.

In 2019 ECGRA launched Parks, Fields, & Trails grants to provide funding for capital projects to create, protect, or improve publicly accessible parks, athletic fields, and trails throughout Erie County. Funding can also be used to increase or improve access to recreational facilities. These spaces have become more important than ever, as our new normal drives residents outside, but requires a safe distance from others.

PARKS, FIELDS, & TRAILS

| ORGANIZATION | PROJECT | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Asbury Woods | Meadow Trail Restoration | \$14,918.23 |
| Bayfront Eastside Taskforce | The Three Forts of Presque Isle | \$20,000.00 |
| Borough of Edinboro | Thompson Park Renewal | \$25,000.00 |
| Headwaters NRC Trust | Headwaters Park Nature Play Area | \$25,000.00 |
| Humane Society of NWPA | Erie Humane Society "Bark Park" Project | \$15,000.00 |
| Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier | 2020 LEAF Pathways Project | \$14,712.37 |
| Lake Erie Region Conservancy | West Road Access Area Trail Improvement | \$12,459.00 |
| Platea Borough | Platea Borough Park Improvement Project | \$2,500.00 |
| Springfield Township | Bicentennial Park Improvements | \$3,750.00 |
| Washington Township | Inspiration Park Trail Project | \$16,500.00 |
| TOTAL Requested | | \$149,839.60 |



IMPACT Quality of Place



“Developing our communities helps make Erie County a better place to live, work, and play. ECGRA has a keen focus on strategic investment that supports economic and neighborhood growth. These dollars are working from the ground up, and I’m proud of the work they are doing to stimulate the economy and elevate the quality of life in Erie County.”

—Andre Horton, District-2
Erie County Council Chair

| Recipient | Program | Date | Amount |
|--|------------------|---------|-------------|
| Academy Neighborhood Association | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$3,000.00 |
| AmeriMasala | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$8,000.00 |
| Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc. | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$14,918.23 |
| Bayfront Eastside Taskforce | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$20,000.00 |
| Booker T. Washington Center | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Borough of Edinboro | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$25,000.00 |
| Borough of Girard | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$5,000.00 |
| Borough of North East | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$10,000.00 |
| Community Access Media | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$7,000.00 |
| Community Health Net | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Fest | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$10,000.00 |
| Eagle’s Nest Leadership Corporation | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Edinboro Highland Games | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$8,000.00 |
| Edinboro Legion Pool, Inc. | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Erie Yesterday | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$12,250.00 |
| Film Society of Northwestern PA | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$15,000.00 |
| Goodell Gardens & Homestead | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$10,000.00 |
| Greater Erie Alliance for Equality | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$7,000.00 |
| Headwaters Natural Resource Center Trust | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$25,000.00 |
| Humane Society of NWPA | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| Impact Corry | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$10,000.00 |
| JFK Center | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$2,954.00 |
| Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF) | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$14,712.37 |
| Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc. | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$10,000.00 |
| Lake Erie Region Conservancy | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$12,459.00 |
| League of Women Voters Erie County Chapter | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$15,000.00 |
| Martin Luther King Center | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |
| North East Community Fair Association | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$3,150.00 |
| Northwestern Community Youth Center | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$3,000.00 |
| Platea Borough | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$2,500.00 |
| Presque Isle Chapter, NSDAR | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$15,000.00 |
| Springfield Township | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$3,750.00 |
| Urban Erie Community Development Corporation | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$15,000.00 |

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To promote well-being, foster civic pride, drive tourism, and attract, retain, and mobilize creative talent and innovative businesses through cultural, heritage, service, and recreational organizations and projects.

Currently, grant and endowment funds are at work for Lead Assets, Special Events, and Community Assets.



IMPACT

Quality of Place

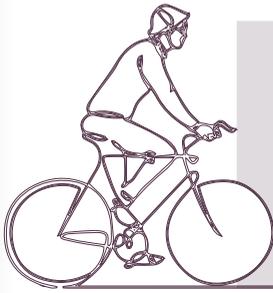


Supporting local events helps support the economies, residents, and businesses in small and large communities across Erie County. Events like parades and festivals are part of the social fabric that enhance the attractiveness of a region, while elevating our pride in Erie County. Special events grants are driving tourism, attracting talent to the region, and helping sustain some quintessential Erie traditions that have helped make Erie County a special place to visit and to call home.

| Recipient | Program | Date | Amount |
|---|------------------|----------|---------------------|
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| Washington Township | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$16,500.00 |
| West Erie County Emergency Management Agency | Community Assets | 9/15/19 | \$6,655.00 |
| WQLN Public Media | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$6,000.00 |
| YMCA of Corry | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$12,000.00 |
| YMCA of Greater Erie | Community Assets | 1/7/20 | \$11,515.00 |
| Young Artists Debut Orchestra | Community Assets | 10/3/19 | \$10,000.00 |
| Jefferson Educational Society | Pilot Program | 11/14/19 | \$5,000.00 |
| Partnership for a Healthy Community | Pilot Program | 6/11/19 | \$50,000.00 |
| Achievement Center | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,449.48 |
| Albion Area Fair, Inc. | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$10,351.80 |
| AmeriMasala | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,070.28 |
| Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc. | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$876.60 |
| Borough of North East | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,540.80 |
| Borough of Union City | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$454.10 |
| Boy Scouts of America / French Creek Council | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$492.03 |
| CAFÉ | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$12,085.20 |
| Corry Area Arts Council | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$277.20 |
| Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc. | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$2,000.02 |
| Downtown North East | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$4,558.50 |
| Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$9,626.09 |
| Edinboro Highland Games | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$2,124.00 |
| Edinboro University Foundation | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$7,668.00 |
| Erie Asian Pacific American Association | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$684.00 |
| Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$5,847.55 |
| Erie County Fair/Wattsburg Agricultural Society | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$10,575.14 |
| Erie Downtown Partnership | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$4,014.00 |
| Erie Homes for Children and Adults | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$2,367.00 |
| Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,204.14 |
| Goodell Gardens & Homestead | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$810.00 |
| Harborcreek Township | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$881.96 |
| Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$4,982.40 |
| Iroquois School District Foundation | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,171.60 |
| Jefferson Educational Society | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$11,340.00 |
| Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF) | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,476.00 |
| Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc. | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,801.60 |
| Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$5,076.00 |
| Mercy Center for Women | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,629.00 |
| The Nonprofit Partnership | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,510.00 |
| Preservation Erie | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$448.20 |
| Presque Isle Partnership | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,500.82 |
| Roar on the Shore, Inc. | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$17,421.75 |
| SafeNet | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,620.00 |
| Saint Joseph Church | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,600.00 |
| Saint Patrick's Church | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$4,181.40 |
| ServErie | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,060.00 |
| Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$3,310.80 |
| Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$608.40 |
| Union City Pride, Inc. | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$722.14 |
| Waterford Community Fair Association | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$6,118.67 |
| WQLN Public Media | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$1,722.96 |
| YMCA of Greater Erie | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$8,535.42 |
| Young Artists Debut Orchestra | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$2,214.54 |
| Youth Leadership Institute of Erie | Special Events | 4/10/19 | \$505.80 |
| | | | \$789,033.99 |



IMPACT Municipalities



To foster progress and functional cooperation among Erie County's 38 municipal governments. Current programs include Multi-Municipal Collaboration grants and Local Government Development.

| Recipient | Program | Impact Category | Date | Amount |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| County of Erie | Local Government Development | Municipalities | 2019 | \$122,067.50 |
| Greene Township | Local Government Development | Municipalities | 2019 | \$122,067.50 |
| McKean Township | Local Government Development | Municipalities | 2019 | \$122,067.50 |
| Millcreek Township | Local Government Development | Municipalities | 2019 | \$122,067.50 |
| Summit Township | Local Government Development | Municipalities | 2019 | \$499,366.90 |
| Waterford Township | Local Government Development | Municipalities | 2019 | \$122,067.50 |
| Borough of North East | Multi-Municipal Collaboration | Municipalities | 9/15/19 | \$82,000.00 |
| Erie Area Council of Governments | Multi-Municipal Collaboration | Municipalities | 2019 | \$20,000.00 |
| Girard Township | Multi-Municipal Collaboration | Municipalities | 9/15/19 | \$17,000.00 |
| Jefferson Educational Society | Multi-Municipal Collaboration | Municipalities | 5/23/19 | \$100,000.00 |
| West County Paramedic Association | Multi-Municipal Collaboration | Municipalities | 9/15/19 | \$70,000.00 |
| West County Emergency Management Agency | Multi-Municipal Collaboration | Municipalities | 9/15/19 | \$6,655.00 |
| | | | | \$1,405,359.17 |



IMPACT Youth and Education



To educate Erie's workforce, strengthen schools and employers, and abate poverty. Initiatives include the Go College Initiative, Tech After Hours, Eagle's Nest Leadership, Summer Jobs and More, Erie's Community College Plan, and Community Schools.

| Recipient | Program | Impact Category | Date | Amount |
|---|-------------|-------------------|------|---------------------|
| Greater Erie Community Action Committee | Summer Jobs | Youth & Education | 2018 | \$3,633.07 |
| Greater Erie Community Action Committee | Summer Jobs | Youth & Education | 2019 | \$150,000.00 |
| | | | | \$153,633.07 |



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