

ECGRA's Infrastructure
**Supports Erie
County**

Annual
Report

2020-2021



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

In 2020, COVID-19 laid bare the vulnerability of communities across America. Here in Erie County, the ECGRA impact investor infrastructure was invaluable in quickly deploying local resources to help keep Erie County moving, while the world stood still.

The COVID-19 Response Fund expeditiously offered aid to small businesses, nonprofits, and humanitarian aid by creating three nimble programs to address the COVID-19 crisis that wreaked havoc on communities and small businesses across the country. The Immediate Human Relief Fund was established to offer urgent relief to the populations served by food pantries, homeless shelters, childcare centers, and elder care centers. The first grant, which launched the fund, awarded \$168,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank and supported 6,000 meals to be distributed throughout Erie County. A total of \$708,794 was awarded to additional organizations.

The Nonprofit Loan Fund and Small Business Loan Fund included \$1.6 million that helped meet the rising needs of small businesses and non-profits. The loans, administered through Bridgeway Capital, included flexible payment schedules and closed on 26 loans in just seven weeks.

“American communities without a public agency like ECGRA, built to connect and invest at all levels of a community, are at a distinct disadvantage in a post-COVID world,” said Bruce Katz, co-founder

and inaugural director, Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University.

“ECGRA was built to move swiftly and with public accountability allowing Erie County to get ahead in the crisis, which saved many local organizations from closing their doors to the residents they serve.”

Financials

Assets:

Checking	\$47,128.58
Savings	\$10,042,449.42
Accounts Receivable	\$6,148,846.25
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,100.00
Total Assets	\$16,247,524.25

Equity:

Begin	\$12,952,783.75
Net Income	\$365,556.80

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, Gateway Health

Secretary David S. Sample

owner, Corry Lumber Company Inc.

Kelly Hess

Superintendent, Harborcreek School District

Ronald Cleaver

retired

Dominick D. DiPaolo

former district judge

Carol J. Loll

retired

Andre Horton (ex-officio)

chairman, Erie County Council

Gary N. Lee (ex-officio)

director of administration, County of Erie

ECGRA Staff

Perry Wood, Ed. D.

Executive Director

Tom M. Maggio

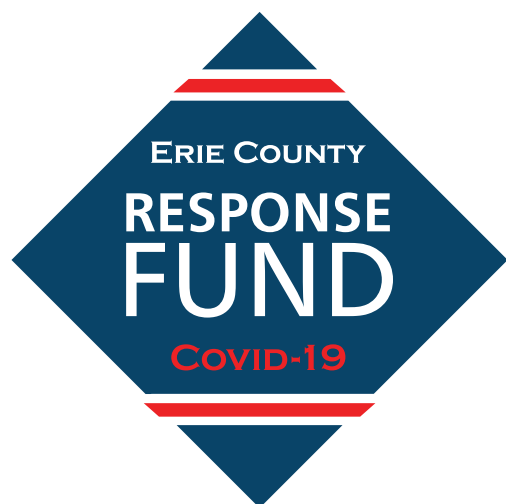
Grants Manager

Tammi L. Michali

Office Manager

ECGRA

FIRST ON THE GROUND



The Erie County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund's primary goal was to support those on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle. ECGRA grant makers were 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 a rapid response that allowed organizations to keep the lights on.

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 **\$65 million** in Erie County.

Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing, ECGRA has made and reported on **1,319 grants** and loans to **278 nonprofits** and municipalities totaling over **\$65 million** of investments of local share gaming revenue.



Recipient	Category	Amount	Date
Bethany Outreach Center	Immediate Human Relief	\$7,600.00	4/17/20
Bridgeway Capital	Immediate Human Relief	\$620,000.00	4/6/20
Christian Cupboard of Girard	Immediate Human Relief	\$3,000.00	5/5/20
Community Shelter Services	Immediate Human Relief	\$30,750.00	4/1/20
Corry Salvation Army	Immediate Human Relief	\$9,500.00	4/27/20
County of Erie MH/ID	Immediate Human Relief	\$12,500.00	5/5/20
Edinboro Community & Economic Development Corporation	Immediate Human Relief	\$9,370.00	5/11/20
Ella Cochran Food Pantry	Immediate Human Relief	\$1,000.00	5/5/20
Elmwood Food Pantry	Immediate Human Relief	\$2,000.00	5/11/20
Erie City Mission	Immediate Human Relief	\$39,085.00	4/6/20
Erie DAWN	Immediate Human Relief	\$10,000.00	4/2/20
Erie Family Center	Immediate Human Relief	\$20,500.00	3/26/20
Erie United Methodist Alliance	Immediate Human Relief	\$45,480.00	4/8/20
Gannon University	Immediate Human Relief	\$23,000.00	4/15/20
Harbor Creek High School	Immediate Human Relief	\$1,000.00	5/8/20
HVA Senior Living Alliance	Immediate Human Relief	\$6,800.00	4/16/20
International Institute of Erie	Immediate Human Relief	\$17,210.00	6/10/20
Meals on Wheels	Immediate Human Relief	\$2,000.00	3/27/20
Mercy Center for Women	Immediate Human Relief	\$9,525.00	3/27/20
MECA, Inc.	Immediate Human Relief	\$3,850.00	4/17/20



Recipient	Category	Amount	Date
Millcreek Counseling & Mental Health Associates	Immediate Human Relief	\$2,500.00	4/17/20
North East Community Food Pantry	Immediate Human Relief	\$1000.00	3/26/20
Northwestern Food Pantry	Immediate Human Relief	\$5,000.00	5/5/20
Pennsylvania State University	Immediate Human Relief	\$63,321.00	4/1/20
Project Face Shield	Immediate Human Relief	\$45,480.00	4/21/20
Sacred Heart Church	Immediate Human Relief	\$2,000.00	5/18/20
Safe Journey	Immediate Human Relief	\$9,000.00	4/2/20
Sarah A. Reed Children's Center	Immediate Human Relief	\$11,000.00	4/9/20
Sarah A. Reed Senior Living	Immediate Human Relief	\$5,200.00	6/4/20
Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA	Immediate Human Relief	\$168,000.00	4/21/20
ServErie	Immediate Human Relief	\$8,710.00	5/15/20
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Immediate Human Relief	\$25,400.00	5/15/20
St. Martin Center	Immediate Human Relief	\$7,300.00	4/7/20
St. Patrick's Haven	Immediate Human Relief	\$2,500.00	4/1/20
The Upper Room of Erie	Immediate Human Relief	\$5,000.00	3/27/20
Union City Family Support Center	Immediate Human Relief	\$2,000.00	5/4/20
Urban Erie Community Development Corporation	Immediate Human Relief	\$76,408.00	4/24/20
Waterford Food Pantry	Immediate Human Relief	\$5,000.00	5/4/20
YMCA of Greater Erie	Immediate Human Relief	\$38,960.00	6/4/20
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Immediate Human Relief	\$13,960.00	5/15/20
TOTAL HUMAN RELIEF FUND		\$1,328,794.00	

IMPACT

Small Business



“I was able to fully conceptualize my company, Taste and See: All Things Fruits & Vegetables, and step into the Erie renaissance effort by working with Bridgeway Capital,” said Krystal Robinson, CEO, Taste and See: All Things Fruits & Vegetables.

Since 2016, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has partnered with Bridgeway Capital to advance its mission to develop Erie’s entrepreneurial ecosystem by spurring small business development.

Sparked by an initial \$1 million dollar investment from ECGRA, Bridgeway has made \$8 million in business loans available to 32 small business in Erie County since 2016 - that’s a 700% return on investment. Important loans were granted in communities where businesses have helped create sustainable wages and revitalized the local economies they serve. The support of ECGRA’s initial investment also spurred an additional \$3.2 million in private capital for small businesses



With funding from ECGRA, Bridgeway also helps minority entrepreneurs which includes women as well as people of color, to develop and launch business through its Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator (EMOBA). EMOBA is designed to provide developing businesses a strong foundation to launch and grow.

Recipient	Category	Amount
Edinboro University Foundation	Beehive	\$57,000.00
Erie Center for Arts & Technology	Small Business Financing	\$500,000.00
Erie Regional Library Foundation	Beehive	\$62,123.00
Gannon University	Beehive	\$90,500.00
Mercyhurst University	Beehive	\$97,500.00
TOTAL SMALL BUSINESS		\$807,123.00

IMPACT

Neighborhoods & Local Communities



“This is a real thing,” said Linda Brown, School House Block homeowner. **“I just hope anyone who wants to take advantage of these grants makes the decision to do so. I’d like to see as many people as possible benefit from this.”**

The ECGRA impact investor infrastructure is engrained across rural and urban Erie County, serving as a mighty economic development tool consistently reinvigorating neighborhoods and main corridors, boosting buy-local efforts, and combatting blight. Through the Mission Main Street grants, Renaissance Block and Anchor Building programs, ECGRA invests in partnerships with communities to revive aging storefronts so new and existing businesses thrive.

Impact Corry was awarded \$100,000 through the local Renaissance Block project specifically focused on the neighborhood of School House Block. Rick and Linda Brown, residents in the neighborhood, received a portion of the grant to help improve their home. The couple recently installed 21 energy-efficient windows that totaled \$16,000, but with the \$5,000 matching grant, they ended up spending \$11,000 out of pocket.



Recipient	Category	Amount
Borough of Edinboro	Mission Main Street	\$119,750.00
Borough of Girard	Renaissance Block	\$25,625.00
Borough of Girard	Mission Main Street	\$45,000.00
Borough of North East	Renaissance Block	\$30,000.00
Borough of Union City	Renaissance Block	\$30,000.00
Borough of Union City	Anchor Building	\$49,375.00
Borough of Union City	Mission Main Street	\$121,000.00
Borough of Union City	Renaissance Block	\$20,000.00
Erie Center for Arts & Technology	Anchor Building	\$60,000.00
Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation	Anchor Building	\$56,000.00
Gaudenzia Erie	Anchor Building	\$50,000.00
Grace Church	Anchor Building	\$80,000.00
Impact Corry	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Impact Corry	Mission Main Street	\$59,200.00
Mercy Center for Women	Anchor Building	\$20,000.00
Our West Bayfront	Renaissance Block	\$25,000.00
Sisters of Mercy	Renaissance Block	\$25,000.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Mission Main Street	\$104,000.00
Waterford Borough	Mission Main Street	\$81,600.00
Woman's Club of Erie	Anchor Building	\$100,000.00
YMCA of Greater Erie	Renaissance Block	\$25,000.00
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$1,176,550.00

IMPACT

Quality of Place



“Without the support of ECGRA we might not have been able to maintain the infrastructure in place that supports the Erie Food Truck Festival – an Erie County event that might have ended up among the stories of cultural and heritage events that didn’t survive COVID-19.” Janet Peters, Iroquois School District Foundation, Executive Director

As part of its core mission to improve Erie County’s livability, ECGRA strategically invests to promote well-being, foster civic pride, drive tourism, and attract, retain, and mobilize creative talent and innovative businesses through cultural, heritage, and recreational organizations and projects.

In 2020, ECGRA continued to invest in Erie County’s special events, community, human and lead assets.



Recipient	Category	Amount
Albion Area Fair, Inc.	Community Assets	\$9,375.00
AmeriMasala	Community Assets	\$12,000.00
Booker T. Washington Center	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Erie	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Corry Area Arts Council	Special Events	\$900.00
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation	Community Assets	\$10,000.00
Erie Bird Observatory	Community Assets	\$10,000.00
Erie Center for Arts & Technology	Community Assets	\$14,307.90
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	Community Assets	\$7,700.00
Erie Police Athletic League	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Erie Yesterday	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	Community Assets	\$7,901.49
Holy Trintiy Roman Catholic Church	Special Events	\$1,250.48
Impact Corry	Community Assets	\$14,000.00
International Institute of Erie	Special Events	\$350.00
International Institute of Erie	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Jefferson Educational Society	Special Events	\$2,055.22
JFK Center	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Special Events	\$1,215.00
Martin Luther King Center	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Mission Empower	Community Assets	\$6,441.09
Nonprofit Partnership, The	Special Events	\$662.50
North East Arts Council	Community Assets	\$6,500.00



Recipient	Category	Amount
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	Community Assets	\$14,000.00
Presque Isle Partnership	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Saint Joseph Church Bread of Life Community	Special Events	\$3,359.25
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Special Events	\$1,993.49
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Urban Erie Community Development Corporation	Community Assets	\$14,773.77
WQLN Public Media	Community Assets	\$12,000.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	Community Assets	\$2,750.00
Wesleyville Museum of Armed Forces Small Boats	Community Assets	\$3,837.50
YMCA of Greater Erie	Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	Community Assets	\$14,000.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	Special Events	\$1,889.65
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Community Assets	\$10,954.00
TOTAL QUALITY OF PLACE		\$334,216.34

IMPACT

Municipalities



As an impact investor, ECGRA's infrastructure provides deep relationships that reach beyond the daily headlines to help find ways to strengthen communities at their roots. The Multi-Municipal Collaboration Program works to catalyze functional cooperation among Erie County's 38 municipalities and to support economic growth and vibrancy in the community.

Impact Corry received \$ 25,000 that will help will bring together the City of Corry, Concord Township, Corry Redevelopment Authority, and regional thought leaders in aeronautics, technology, education, and business to develop a strategic business plan for the Corry-Lawrence Airport to transition from a hobbyist airfield to a revenue-generating transportation hub and training center.

"The Corry Municipal Airport is an invaluable economic development and community asset that, with Multi Municipal funds, will keep our community progressing at a very high speed." Dave Mitchell, Mayor City of Corry

Recipient	Category	Amount
City of Erie	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	(\$18,000.00)
County of Erie	Local Government Development	\$121,888.22
Girard Township	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	\$17,000.00
Greene Township	Local Government Development	\$121,888.22
Jefferson Educational Society	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	\$100,000.00
McKean Township	Local Government Development	\$121,888.22
Millcreek Township	Local Government Development	\$121,888.22
Summit Township	Local Government Development	\$498,633.59
Waterford Township	Local Government Development	\$121,888.22
TOTAL MUNICIPALITIES		\$1,207,074.69

IMPACT

Youth & Education



Strengthening the Erie County workforce and schools is key to economic development efforts and reducing poverty. As part of its impact investing in Youth & Education, ECGRA invested \$250,000 in the Erie County Community College of Pennsylvania, helping to cement a foundational block in Erie’s educational infrastructure.

ECGRA was an investor in the effort to bring a community college to Erie County. Its support helped with education efforts at the state level that led to the ultimate approval of the Erie County Community College.

Recipient	Category	Amount
Empower Erie, LLC	Shaping Tomorrow	\$150,000.00
Erie's Public Schools	Shaping Tomorrow	\$66,666.50
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Summer Jobs	\$31,395.34
TOTAL MUNICIPALITIES		\$248,061.84

“Our leading business organizations, philanthropists, county government, our mayor, religious organizations, nonprofit leaders, school superintendents, other grant makers, including ECGRA, countless citizens, even local higher education has come on board in support of a local community college. Clearly, our time is now.” Mike Batchelor, President of Erie Community Foundation.



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