



The Challenge

The Erie School District Foundation Endowment Challenge
Impact Investing in Education & the Erie Economy
Matching Grant Guidelines | January 2015



Empowering the nonprofit sector toward economic & community development

Section I. Introduction

About ECGRA.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was incorporated in February of 2008 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the purpose of creating and administering a grant-making process for gaming funds that come from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Funding projects that act as a catalyst for economic development is central to the Authority's mission.

The Challenge Summary.

The Challenge has been created to jump-start the 13 school districts of Erie County, Pennsylvania in creating and growing their endowments. Foundations that choose to enroll in The Challenge will be eligible to apply for matching funds of up to a maximum of 5 dollars per student. Eligible foundations and the maximum Challenge amounts are listed in Appendix A.

Enrollment in The Challenge is simple. The eligible foundation fills out in its entirety the Enrollment Application found in Appendix B. The deadline for enrollment is 4:30 p.m., Thursday, January 8, 2015.




Upon enrolling in the program, eligible foundations may begin fundraising within the designated Challenge period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 to reach their Challenge match. Two milestones trigger the distribution of ECGRA matching funds. First, when the eligible foundation reaches 50% of its Challenge match, and a Grant Reporting Form (Appendix C) is submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the ECGRA staff. Second, when the eligible foundation reaches 100% of its Challenge match, and a second Grant Reporting Form is submitted and processed.

If an eligible foundation fails to reach its maximum match by the December 31, 2016 deadline, a pro-rated grant will be processed equal to the amount of funds raised.

The Challenge's Purpose.

The Erie School District Foundation Endowment Challenge (The Challenge) was created to fortify public schools as ECGRA recognizes the link between the strength of public schools and the health of the local economy.

The intended impact of The Challenge is to:

-  Start public school districts down the path of establishing a flexible source of long-term funding to invest in their students' education and skill level.
-  Position Erie County as a competitive region for new and existing business because of investments in public education that will increase productivity levels of the upcoming workforce.
-  Increase the viability of neighborhoods, especially in distressed areas, by investing in the public school as a community anchor.

Funding Authority.

The Authority is formed pursuant to the provisions of the Economic Development Financing Law, Act of August 23, 1967 P.L. 251, as amended, 73 P.S. &371, et seq., the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, Act of July 5, 2004 P.L. 572, as amended, 4 PA.C.S.A. &1403(c)(2)(v) and the Home Rule Charter of the County of Erie. Funding for the Authority is contingent upon receipt of funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

Section II. Grant Requirements & Terms

Eligibility Criteria.

The applicant for funding shall be an IRS designated Section 501(c)(3) organization acting as a foundation on behalf of one of Erie County's 13 public school districts. The applicant will have successfully enrolled in The Challenge before the deadline to participate expires.

Ineligible Organizations.

Any organization that is not one of the public school district foundations in Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Eligible Uses of Funds.





The creation and growth of an endowment for the school district served by the applicant.

Geographic Focus.

The applicant must be a foundation that is headquartered and serving a public school district in Erie County, Pennsylvania and included on the Eligible Foundations list in Appendix A.

Enrollment & Match.


Each enrollment form shall be completed before the stated deadline in its entirety in order to be eligible. It will also demonstrate an understanding of the following:


-  A 1:1 cash match is required for this program.
-  The applicant's required cash match will be placed into a designated endowment account established by the applicant.
-  Current endowment funds do not constitute match.
-  Agency match must be in the form of cash (in-kind does not count toward match).

Section III. Grant Approval & Compliance

Enrollment Details.

The enrollment application for The Challenge shall be submitted to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority via email or mail.

 All submissions must be received by ECGRA no later than 4:30 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2015.

 Program Inquiries should be directed to:

Diane Kuvshinikov
ECGRA, Grant Compliance
5240 Knowledge Parkway
Erie, PA 16510
(814) 897-2690
dianek@ecgra.org

Challenge Terms.

The approved list of applicants shall be eligible to participate in The Challenge for a period of no more than twenty-four (24) months. There shall be no extensions granted. For the exact period of The Challenge, refer to the Grant Schedule in Section IV.

Post-Enrollment Process.








Following approval by the ECGRA Board of Directors, the Executive Director will issue a letter of agreement to the applicant, which must be signed by an officer of the organization and returned. The agreement may detail additional requirements with which the applicant must comply, including but not limited to: project audit, financial grant closeout report, maintenance of records, public relations, and any other information the Board or staff deem relevant.

The grant contract agreement and any subsequent amendments will not be executed until all of the following have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Executive Director:

1. The applicant must be in compliance with ECGRA's policies on audits relative to the submission of closeout reports on any previous contracts with ECGRA, regardless of the program or funding source.
2. The applicant must be current in payment of all state and local taxes unless it has entered into an agreement satisfactory to the respective taxing authority and is fully in compliance with the terms thereof.
3. The applicant must certify that it will not discriminate against any employee or against any applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, handicap, national origin, age, or sex.

ECGRA will monitor the activities of the applicant and the grant contract agreement to ensure that the applicant fulfills the conditions of the agreement. This may include a site visit or random audit of income and expenses. Upon request and as required by the agreement, the applicant must furnish ECGRA with all data, reports, contracts, documents, and other information relevant to the activities of the applicant.

Grant Reporting & Drawdown.

-  All applicants are required to provide a Grant Reporting Form (see Appendix B) upon reaching 50% of their stated fundraising goal **and** at 100% of their stated fundraising goal.
-  A completed Grant Reporting Form is a prerequisite to drawing down funds.
-  All applicants will be required to include financial documentation in the form of a bank statement at the time they submit the Grant Reporting Form.
-  In addition, the applicant must sign a Schedule A Form.
-  Awards will be made on a rolling basis.
-  Funds will be placed into a designated endowment account immediately.
-  Non-compliance with these requirements may prevent the applicant from obtaining funding or payment from any ECGRA grant program and/or funding from ECGRA's programmatic partners.

ECGRA staff will promptly advise the ECGRA Board of Directors of any failure in performance by the recipient. If it is determined that the recipient provided any material misrepresentations or that funds were used for activities not permitted under the terms of the grant contract agreement, the grant contract agreement will be considered in default and immediate repayment will be demanded. In addition, the matter may be referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation.

Additional Documentation.

- IRS 501(c)3 determination letter
- Foundation Board of Directors list
- Electronic copy of your logo (preferably a .pdf)

Section IV. 2014-16 Grant Schedule

- Thursday, December 11, 2014 – ECGRA releases The Challenge Application & Guidelines, and the enrollment process opens.
- Thursday, January 8, 2015 – Applications are due by 4:30 p.m.
- January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016 – The Challenge participation period.

Appendix A

School District Foundation Challenge Grant

Summary Statistics

(last updated 10/30/13)

<u>School District</u>	<u>Foundation</u>	<u># of Students</u>		<u>50% of Challenge Goal</u>	<u>100% of Challenge Goal</u>
Corry Area School District	Corry Area School District Foundation (23-2889136)	2,448	\$	6,120	\$ 12,240
Erie City School District	Partnership for Erie's Public Schools (46-1062651)	12,500	\$	31,250	\$ 62,500
Fairview School District	Fairview School Foundation (25-1678801)	1,670	\$	4,175	\$ 8,350
Fort LeBoeuf School District	Fort LeBoeuf School District Foundation (25-1777291)	2,131	\$	5,328	\$ 10,655
General McLane School District	General McLane Foundation (20-2910382)	2,192	\$	5,480	\$ 10,960
Girard School District	Girard School District Foundation (20-2176086)	2,035	\$	5,088	\$ 10,175
Harborcreek School District	Harborcreek School District Foundation (25-1814554)	2,100	\$	5,250	\$ 10,500
Iroquois School District	Iroquois School District Foundation (56-2386782)	1,400	\$	3,500	\$ 7,000
Millcreek Township School District	Millcreek School Foundation (25-1437926)	7,464	\$	18,660	\$ 37,320
North East School District	North East Education Foundation (26-3524028)	1,700	\$	4,250	\$ 8,500
Northwestern School District	Northwestern Education Community Foundation	1,637	\$	4,093	\$ 8,185
Union City Area School District	Union City Area School District Foundation (25-1850661)	1,313	\$	3,283	\$ 6,565
Wattsburg Area School District	Wattsburg Area School District Foundation	1,614	\$	4,035	\$ 8,070

Totals

40,204 \$ 100,510 \$ 201,020

Appendix B



Enrollment Application:

Organization information:
Name of organization:
Date of application:
Contact name:
Contact title:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone <i>(please indicate work, cell, other)</i> :
Fax:
Email:
Website:
Funding information:
Amount of request (total number of students in your school district x \$5):
Describe how the matching funds will be used <i>(write it here as you would like it to appear on our website)</i> :

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information in this application is correct and has been approved by the board of directors or equivalent body, and that I have the delegated authority to sign this application. I acknowledge that ECGRA has the right to withdraw any grant awarded and/or demand the return of any funds already paid if it is discovered that any of the information provided is false.

Name (print): _____

Title: _____

School District Foundation: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit your application, along with the documents listed below, to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Attn: Diane Kuvshnikov, 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510, dianek@ecgra.org, by **4:30 p.m. January 8, 2015**.

- IRS 501(c)3 determination letter
- Foundation Board of Directors list
- Foundation **and** school district logos (pdf, jpeg, png)

Appendix C



Grant Reporting Form

Organization information:
Name of organization:
Contact name:
Contact title:
Phone:
Email:

Grant information:
What fundraising goal has your organization reached? <input type="checkbox"/> 50% <input type="checkbox"/> 100%
Describe the most significant results and greatest successes of The Challenge for your School District Foundation:

Describe your biggest obstacle(s):

Please list any additional information you would like ECGRA to know:

Submit the Grant Reporting Form to:

Diane Kuvshinikov
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5240 Knowledge Parkway
Erie, PA 16510
dianek@ecgra.org
For assistance call: (814) 897-2690