



Community Assets Grant Parks, Fields, and Trails Grant Program Guidelines

January 2026



Impact Area: Quality of Place

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

Section I. Introduction & Purpose

About ECGRA

An impact investor, ECGRA's mission is to elevate Erie County by galvanizing nonprofits and small business toward economic and community development. Since February 2008, ECGRA has invested more than \$85 million in Erie County.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was incorporated in February 2008 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the purpose of creating and administering a grantmaking process for gaming funds that come from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Our mission is to elevate Erie County by galvanizing nonprofits and small business toward economic and community development.

Purpose of the Funding

The Community Assets Grant Program supports capital improvements which provide social, educational, cultural, health, recreation, and/or economic benefits to residents of Erie County.

Erie County is fortunate to possess many natural landscapes and features as well as a green infrastructure that enables residents and visitors to enjoy abundant four-season outdoor recreation opportunities. Underlying these assets, the county also benefits from a strong social fabric that nurtures, comforts, and guides residents of all ages.

Several recent county-wide planning efforts, such as the Erie County Greenways Plan (2009), Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan (2017), and Emerge 2040 (2015), call for the protection of these assets and an investment in the development of new ones. ECGRA recognizes the need to invest in the organizations that make Erie County unique and in creating a sense of satisfaction that strengthens the economy and social network of the community.

Parks, Fields, & Trails

Purpose: 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.

Erie County health assessments continue to show a decline in physical activity and an increase in preventable illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes. Investment in parks, fields, and trails can encourage physical fitness, move towards equitable distribution of park opportunities, and even attract athletic competitions which enhance local tourism. Additionally, an investment in parks can help rejuvenate neighborhoods and Main Streets throughout Erie County.

- Projects exceeding \$25,000 are subject to Pennsylvania's Prevailing Wage Law.
- Construction of trails for motorized uses is not eligible. Sponsors of trail projects must have a restriction on e-bikes over Class 1. (<https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov>)
- Project sponsors should discuss construction requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with their local authorities. More information about the ADA can be found here: (www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities)
- ECGRA grant assisted projects shall be open and accessible to the general public.
- A 501 c 3 non-profit organization that supports a government-owned park may apply for funds to improve the park with an executed agreement authorized by the governing body of a municipality, municipal authority, or county.
- Community engagement is encouraged prior to application.
- Park plans and feasibility studies are not eligible. Design and engineering costs are eligible as grant and match costs providing the project will be completed by the end of the contract period.
- Purchase or repair of maintenance equipment and vehicles is not eligible for funding at this time.
- The maximum grant award is \$25,000.

Section II. Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria

-  Applicant is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3), municipal authority, or a municipality.
-  Applicant's headquarters is located in Erie County.
-  Applicant is in good standing with the IRS and state and local taxing bodies.
-  Applicant is in good standing with ECGRA's reporting requirements to date.
-  Applicant is current on payment of any mandated workers compensation, payment of unemployment or other required employee related insurances, and real estate taxes.
-  Applicant is making sole request on behalf of organization.
-  Applicant will be the recipient of the grant. Pass through grants are not permissible.
-  Only one application per entity, per project, per funding cycle will be accepted.
-  Applicant must either own or lease property to be improved. Non-profit groups may complete projects on property owned by local government with an executed agreement authorized by the governing body of a municipality, municipal authority, or county.

Ineligible Organizations

-  A state or federal park
-  An airport or transportation facility
-  A public safety organization/facility or volunteer fire department
-  An institution that predominantly provides primary or secondary education/training
-  Any organization that was part of the settlement agreement with ECGRA, entered into 12/13/10

Eligible Uses of Funds

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|  Administration (15% maximum of the amount requested from ECGRA) |  Contracted services (E.g., Design and engineering) * |
|  Facility expense related to the project |  Construction – see Appendix for policy on Prevailing Wage |
|  Equipment and supplies |  Outcomes measurement |

* Design and engineering cannot be the sole purpose of the project.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

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|---|---|---|
|  Personnel |  Fundraising |  Meals |
|  Conference attendance |  walks/runs |  Flowers |
|  Debt service |  Memberships/ |  Food/drink |
|  Golf/sports tournaments |  subscriptions |  Executive/Board |
| |  Research |  Insurance |
| |  Travel |  Personal cell phone |
| |  Awards |  Gifts |

Section III. Budget Form & Cash Match

Each application shall be complete in its entirety in order to be eligible. It will also demonstrate the following in the form of a budget:

-  Requested amount from ECGRA
-  Your agency contribution in the form of cash (do not list in-kind)
-  Other agency or funder contribution – include source; cash only
-  Total project or programming cost – cash only
-  A 1:1 cash match.

The following are generally considered cash-match contributions:

-  Cash contributed by your organization
-  Equipment or supplies to be purchased by your organization for project, program, or event activities
-  Grants from other government agencies or foundations (not gaming funds)

The following are generally considered in-kind contributions:

-  Personnel time given to the project
-  Person on loan from another organization
-  Use of existing equipment or supplies
-  Use of existing laboratory equipment or facilities
-  Waived or unrecovered indirect cost amount
-  Office space

Section IV. Approval Process & Terms

Application Assistance

Application for ECGRA Community Assets Grants shall be completed online at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=ecgra>.

Program inquiries should be directed to:

Tom Maggio
ECGRA Grants Manager
(814) 897-2694
tmaggio@ecgra.org

Pre-approval Process

Receipt: Upon submission of the application and required supporting material, ECGRA staff, working with the ECGRA board of directors' review committee, will determine eligibility.

Review: The review committee will evaluate the application and determine if it meets the required parameters outlined by the board.

Approval: ECGRA's board of directors will receive funding recommendations from the review committee.

Notification: ECGRA will notify all applicants via email.

Post-approval Process

Following approval by the ECGRA board of directors, the executive director will issue a letter of agreement, which must be electronically signed by an officer of the organization within 30 days of the date of said letter. Sign into your account to access the letter. The agreement may detail additional requirements with which the grantee 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:

-  The grantee 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.
-  The grantee must provide all supplemental documentation requested by ECGRA.
-  The grantee must be in compliance with IRS reporting standards.
-  The grantee must be current in payment of all federal, 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.
-  The grantee must not discriminate against any employee or against any applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, handicap, national origin, age, or sex.

After the grant agreement has been fully executed and the proper documentation provided to ECGRA, the payment to the grantee will be made by check.

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

Contract Terms

-  Grant contracts for Community Assets Grants funding shall be for a period of 12 months.
-  One (1) option to extend the terms of the contract for a period of six (6) months may be granted by ECGRA. Detailed, written justification for the contract extension shall be submitted to ECGRA for review and consideration.
-  If the funds allocated to the applicant are not expended on or before the expiration of the grant contract, including the extension period, the unused portion of funds shall be returned to ECGRA.

Closeout Requirements

-  All recipients of funds are required to submit an online closeout report quantifying the progress toward accomplishing approved deliverables.
-  Closeout reports are due no later than 12 months after the grant agreement is signed.
-  All grant recipients will be required to submit financial documentation as part of the online closeout report.
-  **Non-compliance** with these requirements may prevent the grantee from obtaining funding or payment from any ECGRA grant program and/or funding from ECGRA's programmatic partners.
-  If it is determined that the grantee 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.

Section V. 2026 Grant Schedule

Parks, Fields, and Trails

-  8/1/2026 – Grant application period begins.
-  9/30/2026 – Applications must be submitted by midnight.
-  11/19/2026 – ECGRA's board of directors will make the final review and approve funding recommendations. *

*** Board action subject to change without notice.**

Summary of Applicable Provisions of the

PREVAILING WAGE ACT

43 P.S. §§ 165-1 et seq
34 Pa. Code §§ 9.101 et seq

The Prevailing Wage Act (the “Act”), 43 P.S. §§ 165-1 et seq., and the various laws and regulations governing the Act apply to Public Works projects funded by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (“ECGRA”). A Public Work is defined as including construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration and/or repair work other than maintenance work, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body where the estimated costs of the entire project exceed \$25,000.

ECGRA fund recipients shall require their contractor, if any, and contractors shall agree to require their subcontractors, to comply with the Act and the associated laws and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Wage rates paid workmen employed in the Work shall not be less than the rates determined in the applicable wage rate determination by the Secretary of Labor and Industry for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and no workmen may be employed in the Work except in accordance with the classifications in Secretary’s determination.

The recipient of ECGRA funds shall be required to obtain the aforementioned public wage minimum rate determination prior to drafting project specifications or engaging in a contract with a contractor on a Public Work project.

Workmen employed or working in the Work shall be paid unconditionally, regardless of whether a contractual relationship exists or the nature of the contractual relationship. Payments shall be at least once a week and be the full amounts due at the time of payment, computed at the rates applicable to the time worked in the appropriate classification, without deduction or rebate, on any account, either directly or indirectly, except authorized deductions.

The contractor and each subcontractor shall post, for the entire period of construction, the wage determination decisions of the Secretary, including the effective date of changes thereof, in a prominent and easily accessible place or places at the site of the Work and at the places used by them to pay workmen their wages. The posted notice of wage rates shall comply with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Code, Title 34.

The contractor and subcontractor shall keep an accurate record showing the name, craft or classification, number of hours worked per day and the actual hourly rate of wage paid, including employee benefits, to each workman employed by him in connection with the Public Work. The record shall include deductions from each workman. The record shall be preserved for two (2) years from the date of payment and shall be open at reasonable hours to the inspection of ECGRA and to the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry or his authorized representatives.

Apprentices shall be limited to the numbers in accordance with a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with and approved by The Pennsylvania Apprenticeship and Training Council and only apprentices whose training and employment are in full compliance with the Apprenticeship and Training Act (43 P.S. §§ 90.1 – 90.10), as approved July 14, 1961, and the regulations issued thereto, shall be employed on the Public Work project. A workman using the tools of a craft who does not qualify as an apprentice shall be paid the rate predetermined for journeymen in that particular craft or classification.

Payment of compensation to workmen for work performed on a Public Work in a lump sum basis, or a piece work system, or a price certain for the completion of a certain amount of work, or the production of a certain result shall be deemed a violation of the Act and associated regulations, regardless of the resulting average hourly wage.

Each contractor and subcontractor shall file a statement each week and a final statement at the conclusion of the work with the recipient of ECGRA funds, under oath and in a form satisfactory to the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry, certifying that workmen have been paid wages pursuant to the contract and the Act, or if wages remain unpaid, to set forth the amount of wages due and owing to each workman respectively.

The provisions of the Act, and its associated regulations shall be incorporated by reference in each contract.

This document is provided solely for informational purposes only and is not for the purpose of providing legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to compliance with the Prevailing Wage Act. Use of this document does not create an attorney-client relationship between the user and legal counsel to ECGRA.

Revised June 14, 2018