$250,000 in Gaming Funds Announced to Implement the Erie Downtown Streetscape Master Plan via ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 14, 2019, 10:00 AM—Erie, Pa.— At the Mayor’s weekly press conference held at City Hall, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) announced a Mission Main Street grant of $250,000 in gaming funds to the City of Erie for their efforts to implement Phase I of the Erie Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. The project entails:

- Enhancing the physical appearance and streetscapes of the downtown
- Engaging with businesses, civic groups, government, transportation systems, and individual citizens for consistency and support throughout the project
- Reflect a welcoming, consistent image of downtown streetscapes and corridors
- Encourage existing businesses to expand and new businesses to locate in buildings around State Street

The Streetscape Master Plan is an effort to implement recommendations from Erie Refocused, the City’s Comprehensive Plan, and the recent Urban Land Institute Study which call for investments in the downtown central business district to help Erie reimagine its future.

Mission Main Street Grants were established in 2013 by the ECGRA board of directors to support any area recognized as a “main street” — a distinct geographic area host to small businesses, special events, historic structures, green spaces, and parks. Today’s announcement marks the beginning of the 6th round of Mission Main Street Grants and a total of $1.2 million of gaming revenue invested this way by ECGRA. Mission Main Street grantees are required to match ECGRA’s investments, ensuring that no less than $2.4 million has been spent to revitalize main streets across Erie County in six years.

ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants is one of three IMPACT: Neighborhoods & Communities initiatives invested in and measured by the ECGRA board of directors with the purpose of reinvigorating neighborhoods and main corridors, boosting buy-local efforts, and combating blight.

Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing, ECGRA has made and reported on 1,004 grants and loans to 244 nonprofits and municipalities totaling $56 million of investments of local share gaming revenue.

Mission Main Street grant guidelines are available at www.ECGRA.org.
City awarded gaming grant for streetscape upgrades

$250,000 grant will be matched by city

By Matthew Rink
matthew.rink@timesnews.com

The city of Erie now has $250,000 in casino gaming money to beautify a downtown stretch of State Street.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority grant allows the city to implement the first phase of its 2010 Erie Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. It will use the money to target a stretch of State Street from Third to 12th streets.

"We're going to remove broken and settled brick pavers and concrete between the curb and the sidewalk," John Tushak, city engineer, said. "We're going to construct green space between the curb and the sidewalk with sufficient area for street trees, landscaping and stormwater management, compliant with the complete streets concepts."

Some trees will be trimmed and others will be replaced so that they no longer impede light from ornamental fixtures, Tushak said. Broken and settled sections of sidewalk will also be replaced.

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Executive Director Perry Wood and Mayor Joe Schember announced the grant, which is from ECGRA's Mission Main Street program, at the mayor's weekly news conference Thursday morning.

"There are dozens of main streets all across Erie County, from North East to Girard, from Independence Hill to the city of Corry," Wood said. "But the central business district that we're in right now is the largest of these groups. They're places of great economic impact. They host small businesses. They're the central place for government services. They're central parks. They have parades and events."

Schember said, "This streetscape master plan is an important step for us in realizing our vision of a world-class downtown."

See GRANT, A3

GRANT

From Page A1

Erie's Downtown Streetscape Master Plan is part of the city's multi-year comprehensive plan, Erie Refocused. It also aligns with recommendations in a recent report by the Urban Land Institute.

The Mission Main Street program started in 2013 with the aim of supporting areas where there are small businesses, historic structures, green spaces, parks and where special events occur.

Thursday's announcement marked the start of the sixth round of Mission Main Street grant funding.

ECGRA grants require a dollar-for-dollar match. The city is matching the grant with the $1 million it received for streetscape improvements from the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program in 2017. City Planning Director Kathy Wyrospick said RACP funds will target improvements around French and State streets, North Park Row and Third Street.

Matthew Rink can be reached at 870-1884 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/ETRink.
$250,000 in Gaming Funds Invested to Improve Erie’s Downtown Experience and Placemaking via ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 27, 2019, 12:00 NOON—Erie, Pa.— At a press conference held at the Bayfront Convention Center, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) board of directors invested $250,000 in gaming funds to the Erie Downtown Partnership for their efforts to do the following:

1. Accelerate efforts to revitalize small business through façade grants
2. Begin work on new placemaking projects such as murals
3. Purchase maintenance equipment and street furniture as part of the clean and safe efforts
4. To attract new business to the downtown through marketing efforts

Mission Main Street Grants were established in 2013 by the ECGRA board of directors to buttress any area recognized as a “main street” — a distinct geographic area host to small businesses, special events, historic structures, green spaces, and parks. Today’s announcement marks the beginning of the 6th round of Mission Main Street Grants and a total of $1.2 million of gaming revenue invested this way by ECGRA. Mission Main Street grantees are required to match ECGRA’s investments, ensuring that no less than $2.4 million has been spent to revitalize main streets across Erie County in six years.

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Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing, ECGRA has made and reported on 1,004 grants and loans to 244 nonprofits and municipalities totaling $56 million of investments of local share gaming revenue.

Mission Main Street grant guidelines, available at www.ECGRA.org, were originally written in collaboration with a volunteer committee made up of 19 municipal, nonprofit, and business leaders from across the county. Applicants applied online at https://ECGRA.eGrantusa.com for up to $250,000 over three years for an implementation project and up to $10,000 for a one-year planning project. All projects require a 1:1 cash match.
Downtown Partnership gets funding boost

By Kevin Flowers
kevin.flowers@timesnews.com

The push to reinvent downtown Erie has received a $350,000 financial boost.

John Buchna, the Erie Downtown Partnership's executive director, made that announcement Wednesday afternoon during the organization's annual meeting at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Buchna explained to the roughly 150 people who attended the luncheon meeting, including Erie Mayor Joe Schember, that the money will help fund such things as facade improvements for downtown businesses; public art projects; maintenance equipment; downtown marketing efforts, and pedestrian and bicycle-friendly gateways to the district.

The Erie Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit that serves a 70-block area from Sassafras to Holland Streets, between the bayfront and 14th Street. The organization is among several working to make myriad improvements downtown.

"Everything that happens downtown impacts the surrounding neighborhoods and the community," Buchna said. "The road ahead is full of innovation, investment and opportunity."

The Downtown Partnership will receive $250,000, over the next three years from the Erie County Gaming Revenues Authority's Mission Main Street grant program. That program was established by the Gaming Revenues Authority in 2013 to improve commercial and business districts throughout Erie County.

The grants require matching funds.

Most of the Mission Main Street grants have been much smaller in the past — up to $10,000.

Perry Wood, the Gaming Revenues Authority's executive director, said GGRA "recognizes that funding at scale requires larger strategic and multi-year commitments" to help organizations like the Downtown Partnership complete projects that enhance downtown districts and main streets.

The grant will help fund facade grants; placemaking public art projects such as murals; new maintenance equipment and outdoor furniture downtown, and help pay for the Downtown Partnership's marketing efforts aimed at bringing in new business.

In addition, UPMC is contributing $100,000, by way of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s Neighborhood Assistance Program, that will be used to help create a new gateway near Third and State streets.

The Downtown Partnership plans gateways at several downtown locations that are designed to help create a sense of place in each downtown neighborhood. Those gateways could include archways, benches or other elements.

The DCED program encourages private-sector investment into projects that help improve communities. Businesses that invest in such projects get a percentage of their financial investment back via tax credits.

Initiatives such as the new gateways, public art projects and facade improvements were all included in the Downtown Partnership’s multiyear master plan for downtown enhancements, unveiled in 2016.

Recommendations in the downtown plan include creating and linking four distinct downtown districts, each with its own character, function, target markets and design; improvements to the physical environment; housing upgrades; economic development involving the arts, offices, technology and tourism; transportation improvements, and more aggressive marketing of downtown.

The downtown plan was completed by CMK Planning at a cost of $52,000, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Businessman and restaurateur John Melody said he’s looking forward to seeing downtown grow and improve.

Melody owns U Pick 6 Tap House, 333 State St., where the Third and State Gateway would be located.

"There's an excitement about downtown that's palpable," he said.

Kevin Flowers can be reached at 870-1693 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNflowers.
Preservation pays

Local award winners demonstrate architecture-economy connection

The renovated steel emergency Intake gear tower is shown at its new location at Presque Isle State Park on Jan. 29. (PAT RYBAK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS)

As Erie enters a period that may involve the most significant changes in its built environment in decades, local preservationists are positioned to show policymakers and the public that honoring historic buildings makes sense — dollars and cents.

The latest contribution to this effort are the Greater Erie Awards, organized by Preservation Erie this year under the theme “Preservation Works.”

Each of the five winners — to be honored April 24 at 5:30 p.m. at The Last Laugh — show how preservation of historic structures and economic development go hand-in-hand.

Honorees Velocity Network and Woda Companies offer very different examples of how the renovation of old buildings can fit today’s needs, point out Preservation Erie board members Eric Dablsbrand and Erin Wincek. Velocity’s renovation transformed a neglected brick building into a sleek, modern structure fitting for the headquarters of a tech company, Woda’s repurposing of a 1919 school as apartments “shows the possibilities” for vacant schools and churches that now dot the landscape, Wincek pointed out.

Other awardees demonstrate the importance of preservation to the kind of place-making that draws visitors, shoppers, grants and tax incentives. Here are each of the winners:

Velocity Network — design excellence

Velocity Network — adaptive reuse

The renovation of Waterworks Intake Tower — preservation excellence

The deteriorating tower, a popular landmark often mistaken for a lighthouse by peninsula visitors, was built in 1906, but was removed in November 2017 after Erie Water Works, Dan and Sallie Shipley launched the renovation effort and fundraising through their St. Louis-based foundation, the Dan and Sallie Shipley Charitable Fund. It was no longer being used. The $5.3 million development was made possible in part by through tax credits.

Lawrence Park Historical Society — education and advocacy

In spring 2018, the Lawrence Park Historical Society’s efforts to collect information and educate residents about the benefits of historic designation paid off when the Lawrence Park Historic District was accepted for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The district includes the parts of Lawrence and Port usernames that signature row houses that were designed by the nation’s first recognized city planner, John Nolen.

The designation may open the way for preservation grants, tax credits and tourism promotion.

Pat Rybak can be reached at 870-1722 or prybak@eriemnew.com. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Pat_Rybak.
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
11:00am – 1:00pm
5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510

AGENDA

1. Special Events Review

2. Mission Main Street – Round 2 Review
# 2019 Special Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Charity Check Verification Date</th>
<th>Name of Event</th>
<th>Amount Requested from ECGRA</th>
<th>What is the total budget for your programs</th>
<th>County Council District</th>
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<td>Roar on the Shore Inc</td>
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<td>2019 Roar on the Shore Bike Week</td>
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<td>CAFE</td>
<td>03/02/2018</td>
<td>CelebrateErie 2019</td>
<td>$16,000.00</td>
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<td>Jefferson Educational Society</td>
<td>02/28/2019</td>
<td>JES Programming/Global Summit</td>
<td>$19,500.00</td>
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<td>Wattsburg Agricultural Society. Inc.</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>Wattsburg Agricultural Society Inc. 2019 Erie County Fair at Wattsburg</td>
<td>$14,688.00</td>
<td>$293,754.00</td>
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<td>Albion Area Fair</td>
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<td>Dr. Gertrude A Barber Foundations</td>
<td>03/07/2019</td>
<td>Barber Events 2019: 12th Annual Art Show and Sale; 7th Annual Barber Beast on the Bay; 55th Annual Christmas Ball</td>
<td>$13,370.00</td>
<td>$267,391.26</td>
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<td>YMCA of Greater Erie</td>
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<td>Edinboro University Foundation</td>
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<td>Centennial Celebration/Art 100</td>
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<td>Waterford Community Fair Association</td>
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<td>2019 Waterford Community Fair</td>
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<td>Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre</td>
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<td>Regional Dance America Northeast Dance Festival 2019</td>
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<td>Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society</td>
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<td>Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>26th Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival</td>
<td>$6,920.00</td>
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<td>Downtown North East, Inc.</td>
<td>02/13/2017</td>
<td>North East Area Chamber of Commerce Events 2019</td>
<td>$6,350.00</td>
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<td>ServErie</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>ServErie Saturdays, ServErie Spring Soiree, ServErie School Initiative</td>
<td>$6,292.00</td>
<td>$125,834.00</td>
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<td>Saint Patrick's Church</td>
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<td>Erie Irish Festival</td>
<td>$5,807.50</td>
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<td>Erie Downtown Partnership</td>
<td>02/14/2017</td>
<td>Erie Downtown Event Programming</td>
<td>$6,250.00</td>
<td>$111,500.00</td>
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<td>Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.</td>
<td>02/17/2017</td>
<td>36th Annual Drum Corps Competition; 23rd Annual German Heritage Festival</td>
<td>$5,280.00</td>
<td>$105,600.00</td>
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<td>Mercy Center for Women</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>Celebration of 25 Years Serving Women and Children on the Road to Recovery</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>Saint Joseph Church Bread of Life Community</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>Oktoberfest 2019</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>The Nonprofit Partnership</td>
<td>01/26/2016</td>
<td>Nonprofit Day 2019</td>
<td>$4,875.00</td>
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<td>Presque Isle Partnership</td>
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<td>2019 Special Events</td>
<td>$4,862.00</td>
<td>$97,245.00</td>
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<td>Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>Saint Paul's Annual Italian Festival</td>
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<td>Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership</td>
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<td>Erie Regional Chamber 2019 Events</td>
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<td>The Iroquois School District Foundation</td>
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<td>Erie Food Truck Festival</td>
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<td>EHCA Foundation/Erie Homes for Children and Adults</td>
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<td>EHCA 2019 Special Events</td>
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<td>Young Artists Debut Orchestra</td>
<td>09/04/2018</td>
<td>Four Seasons Performances</td>
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<td>Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>March Against Crime, Victims' Rights Speaker Series and Conference, Moonlight on the Bay</td>
<td>$3,071.55</td>
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<td>Edinboro Highland Games</td>
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<td>Edinboro Highland Games &amp; Scottish Festival</td>
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<td>SafeNet</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>Scrabble Tournament, Garden Party, Intimate Partner Violence Conference, Big Backyard Children's Parties</td>
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<td>WQLN Public Media</td>
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<td>Sounds Around Town Summer Concert Series and TV &amp; Radio Broadcasts</td>
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<td>Borough of North East</td>
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<td>Light Up North East</td>
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<td>Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF)</td>
<td>03/06/2018</td>
<td>2019 LEAF Events</td>
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<td>Achievement Center</td>
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<td>Over the Edge &amp; Trivia Night</td>
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<td>AmeriMasala</td>
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<td>The AmeriMasala</td>
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<td>Harborcreek Township</td>
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<td>Harborcreek Community Concert &amp; HC Light Up Night</td>
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<td>Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc</td>
<td>02/04/2019</td>
<td>Maple Festival, Honey Harvest, Scary Creature Feature and Winter Wonderland</td>
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<td>The Goodell Project, d/b/a Goodell Gardens &amp; Homestead</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>2019 Schedule of Educational and Cultural Events</td>
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<td>Union City Pride, INC</td>
<td>01/20/2018</td>
<td>Gathering at French Creek</td>
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<td>Erie Asian Pacific American Association</td>
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<td>Asian Festival 2019</td>
<td>$950.00</td>
<td>$19,000.00</td>
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<td>Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>Sunset Celebration</td>
<td>$595.00</td>
<td>$16,900.00</td>
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<td>Youth Leadership Institute of Erie</td>
<td>07/18/2018</td>
<td>Global Youth Service Day &quot;Say it, Say it Loud&quot;</td>
<td>$7,025.00</td>
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<td>French Creek Council, BSA</td>
<td>03/08/2019</td>
<td>2019 Scouting Series</td>
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<td>Borough of Union City</td>
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<td>Annual Fireworks Extravaganza</td>
<td>$631.00</td>
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<td>Pareservation Erie</td>
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<td>Independence Hill District Flea Market</td>
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<td>Duran's Down Home Days</td>
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<td>Durans Down Home Days 2019</td>
<td>$475.00</td>
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<td>Corry Area Arts Council, Inc.</td>
<td>3/8/2018</td>
<td>4th of July In the Park</td>
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**Total:** $278,363.30  
**Subtotal:** $5,045,323.20

- **4%**: $201,812.93
- **3.50%**: $176,586.31
- **3%**: $151,359.70
Build a diverse economic base. Catalyze smart new investment. Cultivate a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem.

ECONOMIC VITALITY


DESIGN

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Build leadership and strong organizational capacity. Ensure broad community engagement. Forge partnerships across sectors.

ORGANIZATION

Market district’s defining assets. Communicate unique features through storytelling. Support buy-local experience.

PROMOTION
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Project 1</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<td>Bike Erie</td>
<td>Erie's Bicycle Revolution for Economic Growth &amp; Community Wellness</td>
<td>Gretchen Fairley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gretchen.fairly@gmail.com">gretchen.fairly@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Borough of Edinboro</td>
<td>Edinboro Business Revitalization</td>
<td>Kevin Oppie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kopple@edinboro.net">kopple@edinboro.net</a></td>
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<td>Borough of Union City</td>
<td>Downtown Union City Improvements</td>
<td>Cindy Wells</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@UCBorough.us">secretary@UCBorough.us</a></td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
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<td>Corry Industrial Benefit Association</td>
<td>Green Junction Park</td>
<td>Ed DiMattio</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ed@corrydca.org">ed@corrydca.org</a></td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corry Industrial Benefit Association</td>
<td>Snyder Circle Blight Removal and Rejuvenation</td>
<td>Ed DiMattio</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ed@corrydca.org">ed@corrydca.org</a></td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our West Bayfront</td>
<td>Re-Store West 8th</td>
<td>Anna Frantz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anna@ourwestbayfront.org">anna@ourwestbayfront.org</a></td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation Erie</td>
<td>Building a Culture of Preservation</td>
<td>Melinda Meyer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@preservationerie.org">info@preservationerie.org</a></td>
<td>$247,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister's of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network</td>
<td>2019 SSINN Neighborhood Corridors and Gateways</td>
<td>Gretchen Durney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gdurney@ssinn.org">gdurney@ssinn.org</a></td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City Pride, Inc.</td>
<td>Union City Intersection Revitalization</td>
<td>Tara Lineman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tilneman@ucasd.org">tilneman@ucasd.org</a></td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Requested: $1,812,500.00
MISSION MAIN STREET – ROUND 2

1. Bike Erie

Project Name: Erie’s Bicycle Revolution: The Stealthy Engine for Economic Growth and Community Wellness

Project Summary: Lead efforts to transform streets and communities into healthy, vibrant and accessible places. They wish to support the expansion of bicycle friendly infrastructure and encourage people to ride, improve the physical safety of cyclists and prevent accidents, strengthen the cycling community in Erie, decrease the number of stolen bikes, raise awareness of established bike routes, and encourage cycling for recreation and transportation. The efforts will include a bike rack initiative for business owners, a two-year safe cycling messaging campaign, quarterly meet-ups and a speaker series, a bike lock-up initiative, and a bike route map for the City and County.

Project Cost: $110,000
Grant Request: $55,000

Grant Match:

- Year 1: $14,000 from Erie Co. Dept. of Health, Bike Erie, Erie Co. Library, Federal Work Study Program, businesses that purchase bike racks
- Year 2: $17,000 from Erie Co. Dept. of Health, Erie Co. Library, SSJNN Pedal Mettle, Federal Work Study Program, Bike Erie, businesses that purchase bike racks
- Year 3: $24,000 from Erie Co. Library, SSJNN Pedal Mettle, Federal Work Study Program, Bike Erie, businesses that purchase bike racks

Job Creation/Economic Impact: Bike Erie anticipates support to local jobs and businesses through their project expenditures. This includes metal workers and contractors for the bike racks, safety messaging via local advertising, printshop for route maps, hotel/restaurant/shopping from maps promoting tourism, attraction of customers and businesses due to bike-friendly climate.
2. **Borough of Edinboro**

Project Name: Edinboro Business Revitalization

Project Summary: The Borough and local business community intend to conduct a substantive improvement to both the look of the downtown as well as the marketability of small businesses through façade grants, streetscape improvements, social media training, and the working relationship with Edinboro University and the recently founded Edinboro Community and Economic Development non-profit.

Such improvements include continuation of façade grants, transformation of lighting and sidewalks, increase lighting capacity, new banners, resurface parking areas, social media training, and Wi-Fi services to downtown.

Project Cost: $555,000

Grant Request: $250,000

Grant Match:

- Year 1: $100,350 from local businesses and Borough
- Year 2: $148,750 from local businesses and Borough
- Year 3: $55,900 from local businesses and Borough

Job Creation and Economic Impact: Expand existing businesses through increased marketing services/social media and entice new businesses to become established with a fresh new look.
3. Borough of Union City

Project Name: Downtown Union City Improvements

Project Summary: Help preserve the architectural heritage of downtown Union City and encourage private investment to create a compelling commercial corridor and encourage long term commitments to the community. Improvements will include handicap accessibility of the Municipal Building, structural assessments/second story use assessments for downtown corridor, develop building improvement matching grant program, implement at least one strategy identified in the Union City Historic Preservation Plan, and continue existing façade program.

Project Cost: $500,000

Grant Request: $250,000

Grant Match:
- Year 1: $75,000 from other grants, foundations, property owners, and donations
- Year 2: $100,000 from other grants, foundations, property owners, and donations
- Year 3: $75,000 from foundations, property owners, and donations

Job Creation and Economic Impact: Hire local design and construction specialists to help business owners and operators fund projects that otherwise would not be funded.
4. **Corry Industrial Benefit Association**

Project Name: Green Junction Park

Project Summary: Rehabilitation of the two existing train depots into a two-acre park that connects to three Rails & Trails routes. The plan is to create park-like settings on both sides of Center Street, utilize the smaller depot building for a small museum and restrooms and the larger depot for a restaurant with a covered stage area for concerts, an adult exercise area, a playground/restroom at the Corry Diamond, and walking and bike paths.

Project Cost: $600,000

Grant Request: $250,000

Grant Match:
- Not specified, but indicates $250,000 secured

Job Creation and Economic Impact: Connect the Junction and East Branch Trails, bringing in visitors as well as opening a new restaurant and small museum.

5. **Corry Industrial Benefit Association**

Project Name: Snyder Circle Blight Removal and Rejuvenation

Project Summary: Continue the removal of the blighted multi-tenant housing units and replace with new commercial space and market rate housing. Creation of 4 acres of commercial property, 2 acres of buffer, and 8 acres of market rate housing.

Project Cost: $590,000

Grant Request: $250,000

Grant Match:
- Year 1: $75,000 from Arlene H. Smith Charitable Foundation and from Corry Community Foundation
- Year 2: $30,000 from Corry Community Foundation
- Year 3: $30,000 from Corry Community Foundation

Job Creation and Economic Impact: Estimated 17.5 new jobs.
6. **Our West Bayfront**

Project Name: Re-Store West 8th Street

Project Summary: Implement a simultaneous set of neighborhood interventions including property repairs, vacant lot enhancements, and traffic and security improvements. These improvements include exterior building improvements, shared parking, security cameras, thermoplastic crosswalks, repair/replace sidewalks, and a two-way traffic study.

Project Cost: $524,420

Grant Request: $250,000

Grant Match:
- Year 1: $62,210 from property owners
- Year 2: $212,210 from other grants, foundations, property owners, and NAP Tax Credit
- Year 3: completed

Job Creation and Economic Impact: 20 potential jobs to be created.
7. **Preservation Erie**

Project Name: Building a Culture of Preservation

Project Summary: Build capacity to address cultural and historic preservation in the region, promote responsible stewardship of historic and cultural assets, increase public awareness and community pride in historic and cultural resources. Preservation Labs will be held to teach preservation skills and two projects with the HOPE Crew to restore historic structures for continued use and implementation of these skills. Continue the façade improvement programs, begin issuing historic designation plaques, and work with neighborhood groups for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Project Cost: $495,000

Grant Request: $247,500

Grant Match:
- Year 1: $40,500 from foundations, property owners, donations, and registration fees
- Year 2: $111,000 from other grant, foundations, property owners, donations, and registration fees
- Year 3: $96,000 from foundations, property owners, donations, and registration fees

Job Creation and Economic Impact: Utilization of local vendors for services and goods necessary for implementation of the projects.
8. **Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network**

Project Name: 2019 SSJNN Neighborhood Corridors & Gateways

Project Summary: Improve neighborhood image, increase feelings of safety, offer education and empowerment programs and decrease community disconnectedness. This will be accomplished by implementing recommendations from the Federal Hill Strategic Plan. Improvements include 8 anchor buildings to receive significant exterior improvements, 30 buildings to receive façade work and lighting, 8 new murals/public art pieces added, and pole banners and large planters along sidewalks.

Project Cost: $500,000

Grant Request: $250,000

Grant Match:

- Year 1: $100,000 from other grants, foundations, property owners, private donations, and NAP Tax Credits
- Year 2: $84250 from other grants, property owners, private donations, and NAP Tax Credits
- Year 3: $60,000 from other grants, property owners, private donations, and NAP Tax Credits

Job Creation and Economic Impact: Utilization of local vendors for services and goods necessary for implementation of the projects. At least 4 part-time students and 1 part-time supervisor.
9. **Union City Pride, INC – Planning Grant**

Project Name: Union City Intersection Revitalization

Project Summary: Develop a plan to aesthetically and functionally revitalize the properties surrounding Union City’s downtown gateway at the intersections of PA Routes 8 and 6. Things to consider are the design and architectural plan for the NW, SW, and SE corners of specified intersection, removal of the Union City Diner structure and possible uses for that area, and façade improvements of existing buildings.

Project Cost: $20,000

Grant Request: $10,000

Grant Match:
   - $10,000 from the Union City Community Foundation (not secured)

Job Creation and Economic Impact: By stabilizing the downtown, Union City Pride believes additional investment will follow, additional jobs will ultimately be created in the downtown retail sector, and the overall economy of the community will improve.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunities</th>
<th>Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erie School District/Mercyhurst University – PASmart Award</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Erie Community Action Committee – pre-apprenticeship program</td>
<td>$49,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Grant – Investing in Appalachia’s Future: ARC 5-year Strategic Plan</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDA – Regional Innovation Strategies Assistance to Coal Communities Program</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millcreek School District Foundation – tax credit</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** $1,789,995
February 19, 2019

Perry N. Wood
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Executive Director
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Dr. Perry Wood:

I want to take a moment to thank The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the team at the Ridge Policy Group for your help and support over the past few months as GECAC explored and applied for the PAsmart Grant opportunities through the Labor and Industry grant initiatives.

On February 6, 2019, GECAC was awarded $49,995 from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry to administer a pre-apprenticeship program. The Program is in partnership with Erie Together, Penn State Behrend and Excutool Manufacturing. The Pre-Apprenticeship is designed to introduce students to the opportunities associated with Injection Molding. We are thrilled and excited about this opportunity, and we want to thank you and the Ridge Policy Group for helping GECAC secure the grant.

In addition to the pre-apprenticeship program the Ridge Policy group has been a great resource for our team at GECAC. Working with the team at Ridge Policy helped introduce GECAC to funding opportunities associated with our goal and mission. As a Community Action Agency, we are committed to providing programs that help and change the lives of our community.

Again, thank you and if you have any questions or if there are further opportunities that would be a good fit for GECAC to explore, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 814-459-4581 Ext. 413/ bwilson@gecac.org.

Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Wilson, MA
Director of Workforce Development
January 25, 2019

Perry N. Wood  
Eric County Gaming Revenue Authority  
Executive Director  
5340 Fryling Road Suite 201  
Erie, PA 1510

Dear Dr. Wood:

I want to take time to express my sincere appreciation for the help provided by The Ridge Policy Group over the past year. During 2018, GECAC was considering pursuing the US Department of Labor Youth Build grant opportunity. During the application process, the team at Ridge Policy helped connect our staff to some valuable resources to strengthen our grant application. Although GECAC decided not to pursue the opportunity, The Ridge Policy Group provided support and made themselves available while we explored the potential grant opportunity.

Our team at GECAC is grateful to have access to the Ridge Policy Group. Having this partnership has given our team an opportunity to be at the table to explore and collaborate with other community initiatives. Currently our Workforce Development Manager, Mr. Benjamin Wilson, and our Erie County Reentry Services and Support Alliance Program Manager, Sheila Silman, are both working with the Ridge Policy Group to identify funding opportunities. Mr. Wilson has reported that the relationship, knowledge base and access to key information for funding opportunities has been a positive experience.

Dr. Wood, I would like to thank you and the entire team at ECGRA for the continued support. I especially look forward to our continued access to The Ridge Policy Group as we explore and apply for opportunities to bring innovative programming to meet our community’s needs. Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on my team. You can reach me at 814-459-4581 Ext. 416, or djones@gecac.org, or you may reach out to Mr. Wilson at 814-459-4581 Ext. 413, bwilson@gecac.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Danny J. Jones  
Chief Executive Officer
February 14, 2019

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Perry Wood, Executive Director
5340 Fryling Road
Suite 201
Erie PA 16510

Re: Ridge Policy Group Support

Dear Perry,

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDH) is an accredited, local, county health department which works to promote its mission throughout the community and in conjunction with local partnerships, “To preserve, promote and protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the people and the environment of the County.” The ECDH provides services to all residents in both the county and city of Erie within the divisions of Community Health Services, Environmental Health Services, Health Promotion and Quality Improvement, Epidemiology, and Public Health Preparedness, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH). The motto of the ECDH is, “Working together, caring for the people and the place we call home...Erie County.”

The ECDH has become the contractor for the Corry Community Blue Zones Project (BZP). Starting in January 2019, the City of Corry has the unique opportunity to participate in the Blue Zones initiative. Started in 2009 by Dan Buettner and National Geographic, this is a country-wide initiative that seeks to increase longevity and overall quality of life. The project looks at the five ‘Original Blue Zones’ worldwide, which include Sardinia, Italy, Okinawa, Japan, Loma Linda, California, Nicoya, Costa Rica, and Ikaria, Greece. These places are known for the amount of people who live to an old age, and do so free of chronic diseases such as Alzheimer’s and heart disease. Following the example of the established lifestyles in these regions, the Blue Zones Project came up with a way for whole communities to have significantly longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

The main goal of Blue Zones is to transform communities to be healthier and have a better future by making the healthy choice the easy choice. Through a community-wide approach, the project hopes to increase longevity for as many individuals as possible. Schools, restaurants, faith-based communities, and worksites work together to create a healthier community for all. It brings together evidence-based practice, tools, and expertise to the community.

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has been a significant partner throughout the three year local discovery and support phase of implementing a Blue Zones Project in Erie. ECGRA
connected the ECDH with the Ridge Policy Group very early on to assist with securing funds and finding funding opportunities to support the BZP implementation or related projects.

The Ridge Policy Group presented three funding opportunities that would not have otherwise been identified by ECDH. They provided phone consultation and technical support to assist with the understanding of the funding opportunity and provided backing in advocacy for the project had any applications moved forward.

Unfortunately, the opportunities were not ideally timed with the BZP launch dates, as many of the funding opportunities required specific projects with tangible outcomes. The BZP for the Corry Community is still identifying their priorities and tangible outcomes. In addition, at least one of the opportunities prohibited government entities from applying and the ECDH would have needed to secure a solid relationship with a nonprofit entity to move forward. There was not adequate time to secure that relationship and submit an application.

Overall, the ECDH has been extremely satisfied with the assistance that the Ridge Policy Group has provided. I am sure that there will be better timed opportunities for securing necessary funding once the Corry Community Blueprint is completed and approved for implementation.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to ECGRA for facilitating the Ridge Policy Group connection with the ECDH and the Blue Zones Project.

Sincerely,

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH
Director
Dear Perry Wood,

On behalf of the Erie Innovation District, I would like to take the time to express our support of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and its coordination with Ridge Policy Group. Both of these organizations have been integral in the success of several key Erie Innovation District initiatives over the past year to include a final application to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for a Secure Smart City Technical Feasibility Study. Without ECGRA and Ridge Policy Group, we would not have been positioned to pursue opportunities with ARC and EDA.

Over the past several months, we have seen our community come together in a multitude of ways. ECGRA and Ridge Policy are examples of an organization that is fostering collaboration amongst local businesses and organizations throughout our region, as we all work towards a brighter future for the City of Erie and those who call it home.

Again, we appreciate the strong relationship we have with both organizations and look forward to future collaboration.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Karl H. Sanchack
Erie Innovation District
President & CEO
Hi Tammi,

A few comments about my positive experience with the Ridge Policy Group...

Immediately after first meeting with representatives from the Ridge Policy Group, they were able to reach out to DCED on behalf of our organization to get answers for us about our PA-EITC Pre-K Scholarship Initial Application. It had been several months without a response to our application and within a day, our application was approved and we could seek corporate support for the program.

Throughout the year, I was able to email representatives from the Ridge Policy Group with questions I had regarding both state and federal funding opportunities. Their connections and insight for both the state and federal level opportunities were invaluable. I still hope to work with them on future proposals for both STEAM and school security funding possibilities.

I am very appreciative of ECGRA's commitment to finding resources to support nonprofit initiatives like ours and connecting us with the Ridge Policy Group professionals that have valuable insight and connections with funding decision makers.

Please let me know if there is any additional information you need.

Thank you

Kris

Kristina Huber, CFRE
Executive Director
Millcreek Education Foundation
(814) 860-3364
Ridge Policy Group Activity
ECGRA February 15 – March 15 Report

Overview:
For more than a year, the Ridge Policy Group has looked for any and all relevant state and federal funding opportunities for the county of Erie on behalf of our work with ECGRA. We are excited to see that many of those funding opportunities are being recognized and awarded to benefit the community in January-February. This month, we were focused on find opportunities for GECAC’s prison reentry program.

Funding Opportunities Presented by RPG for Potential Pursuit this Month

- Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families
- EDA Regional Innovation Strategies (two potential opportunities)
- Multiple grant opportunities for GECAC reentry opportunities (included with attached document)
- DOC’s current solicitation for Reentry Services

Additional RPG Relevant Activity for this Month

- Harrisburg RPG team shared GECAC prison reentry program information with Senator Laughlin and suggested that he ask a question about the program at a PA appropriations hearing
- Harrisburg RPG team spoke to DOC about prison reentry program
- Harrisburg RPG team is helping the Erie Innovation District connect with Sheri Collins on
- 2/21/2019 - Perry Wood and Mark Campbell Meeting
- 3/11/2019 – Emailed Perry Wood information on President Trump’s FY20 Budget
- 3/11/2019 – Emailed Sheila Silman information on President Trump’s FY20 Budget related to reentry programs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Chance Act</td>
<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
<td>Family Engagement, Youth</td>
<td>4/15/2019</td>
<td>This program will provide states and localities with funding to implement positive family engagement strategies and activities that address the needs of incarcerated parents and their minor children.</td>
<td>Limited to states &amp; units of local gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative</td>
<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
<td>Mentorship, Youth</td>
<td>4/22/2019</td>
<td>Supports applicant organizations as they strengthen and/or expand their existing mentoring activities with active chapters or subawardees and/or other mentoring organizations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Justice Careers for Youth</td>
<td>Dept. of Labor, ETA</td>
<td>Job Training, Youth</td>
<td>2016: May 9</td>
<td>A pilot program that will provide combined mentoring and career exploration in the field of justice and emergency services personnel (for example, police officers, firefighters or paramedics) for youth enrolled in the 11th and 12th grades between the ages of 16 to 21 in public or alternative high school.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recency Demonstration Projects for Young Adults</td>
<td>Dept. of Labor, ETA</td>
<td>Job Training, Youth</td>
<td>April-June</td>
<td>Will give organizations the chance to improve employability outcomes for young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 that have been involved in the juvenile or adult justice system, residing in high-poverty, high-crime communities.</td>
<td>Last available in 2016 but could expect a new solicitation in 2019 or 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving Recentry for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness</td>
<td>HHS, SAMHSA</td>
<td>Substance Abuse, Mental Health</td>
<td>2018 Cycle: May-Jun e</td>
<td>Goal is to provide grants to state and local government agencies, and Indian tribes to provide recency services and programs. This program furthers the Department's mission to reduce recidivism and combat violence by facilitating the successful reintegration of offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and mental illness returning from incarceration.</td>
<td>Typically a yearly grant program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang Suppression Implementation</td>
<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>2018 Cycle: June-Oct. See notes</td>
<td>The purpose of this program is to support jurisdictions with an established gang presence to coordinate gang suppression efforts and activities by prosecutorial and law enforcement agencies.</td>
<td>FY 2019 Expected release: Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program</td>
<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>2018 Cycle: Nov-Jan. See notes</td>
<td>Seeking applications that demonstrate a collaborative project between criminal justice and mental health partners from eligible applicants to plan and implement justice and mental health strategies collectively designed between justice and mental health.</td>
<td>FY 2019 Expected release: Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Recentry Initiatives: Building System Capacity &amp; Testing Strategies to Reduce Recidivism</td>
<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
<td>Reducing recidivism</td>
<td>Typical Cycle: May-Jun e See notes</td>
<td>The Innovations in Recentry Initiative seeks state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to engage in a three part recidivism reduction program: strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation. Applicant jurisdictions will propose to establish or expand a recidivism reduction initiative in line with the RNR framework and evidence-based practices.</td>
<td>FY 2019 Expected release: Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Recentry and Employment Implementation Program</td>
<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
<td>Reducing recidivism</td>
<td>Typical Cycle: May-Jun e See notes</td>
<td>Goal is to fund the development of strategic plans that are comprehensive, collaborative, and multi-systemic in their approach to increase public safety by reducing recidivism and improving employability in offenders returning to communities from incarceration.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February 27, 2019

Perry Wood, Executive Director
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Wood,

The Erie County Department of Health, with financial support from Corry Memorial Hospital affiliated with LECOM Health, Highmark Health and UPMC Hamot, is proud to have launched Blue Zones Project in Corry. The discovery phase of this community wellness initiative began in February, making Corry the 47th Blue Zones community in the United States. The full project will launch in May.

Blue Zones Project is an initiative that seeks to transform communities by making the healthy choice the easy choice, thus increasing longevity and overall quality of life. It has seen great success in communities across the country such as Albert Lea, Minnesota, which has seen a 40 percent reduction in healthcare costs for city workers, a 25 percent increase in property values, and more than three years of life added to participants.

Blue Zones Project engages the entire community, bringing together schools, restaurants, faith-based communities and worksites to create a healthier community for all. The success of this community-wide initiative depends on community-wide support.

That is why I am asking you to consider becoming a sponsor. Approximately 85 percent of the funding has been pledged by Corry Memorial Hospital affiliated with LECOM Health, Highmark Health and UPMC Hamot. We are now seeking the remaining funds. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss project sponsorship and the potential for a financial commitment toward this community health. I will be in contact with your office to schedule a time to discuss this further.

We know that the success of our community is directly related to the well-being of our greatest resource - our citizens. We hope that you have the same passion to make the Corry region, and Erie County overall, one of the healthiest places in America to live, work, play, worship and age.

On behalf of the citizens of Erie County, I wish to extend to you my deep appreciation for your willingness to consider this request to help create a healthier community.

Sincerely,

Kathy Daulkemper