

## **Request for ECGRA Funding – 2020 Erie County Summer Jobs and More (JAM) Program**

Since 2014, Erie County government has worked with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and The Erie Community Foundation to provide funding for the Summer JAM Program, which creates employment opportunities for young adults. These participants – all ages 16 to 21 – receive training in the soft skills needed to become successful employees, and then apply those skills on the job at area businesses.

In its sixth year, Summer JAM already has a record of success that proves its value to its employer partners: In 2019, the program saw an 88% success rate, with 137 young participants successfully completing the summer employment. To date, approximately \$2 million has been invested into this initiative while assisting over 915 youths in the county.

Now, Summer JAM is ready to grow. With more employers joining the effort, participants will be exposed to a greater variety of industries and operations. It is those on-the-job experiences that can lead young people to pursue paths to education or pique their interest in future careers – scenarios that reflect not just the goal of Summer JAM, but an essential outcome for our community overall.

The young participants have pledged to attend training and to become hard-working members of the local workforce.

Erie County and other leaders are committed to securing this future with continued funding that provides for the training and employment of Summer JAM’s young participants. We need your support to continue this winning formula for our community’s future.

### Projected 2020 Major Funding Commitments:

Erie County	\$150,000
ECGRA	\$150,000
Erie Community Foundation	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
	\$360,000