



Community Centers Grant Program

Grant Guidelines | Updated 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 \$90 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 Centers Grant Program** supports capital improvements and programming which provide social, educational, cultural, health, recreation, and/or economic benefits to residents of Erie County.

ECGRA considers community centers neighborhood or community hubs whose primary focus is social, educational, cultural, and/or recreational activities serving a particular segment of the community such as children or senior citizens. Community centers in Erie County have provided residents with basic health and well-being needs, job training, mentoring, education, nutrition, and other benefits to a large cross-section of the community. Strategically located, community centers are vital to rural, suburban, and urban areas alike.

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.

Erie County Community Centers proved to be an invaluable lifeline during the pandemic as they delivered meals, provided childcare, offered medical services, enabled school children to access the internet, and were the source of other vital assistance. The unprecedented stress on the centers and their staff revealed the need for ongoing support for the centers. The Community Centers grant program addresses those capital improvement and programming needs.

A maximum of \$20,000 per application; overall \$175,000 per grant cycle.

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 Grant Funds

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Personnel working directly on ECGRA grant- funded program |  Equipment and supplies |
|  Marketing/Social Media |  Contracted services |
|  Facility expense related to the project |  Construction – see Appendix for Policy on Prevailing Wage |
| |  Outcomes measurement |

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds and Matching Funds

- | | |
|---|---|
|  General Personnel/Staff Time* |  Research |
|  Advocacy |  Travel |
|  Debt service |  Awards |
|  Golf/sports tournaments |  Executive/Board Insurance |
|  Fundraiser Walks or Runs |  Personal cell phone |
|  Memberships/ subscriptions | |
|  Gifts | |

*** General administration and operating costs are considered in-kind donations and cannot be used for grant or match costs.**

Personnel costs related to grant-funded programming can be used for grant or match costs.

For example, the labor cost for a person hired to run an after-school program with an ECGRA grant can be paid for with the grant and salary and benefits can also be used for the match for that position.

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 only.

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

Section IV. Approval Process & Terms

Application Assistance

Application for ECGRA Community Assets Grants shall be completed online at ecgra.org.

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. 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.

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. **Extensions are not automatic.**

 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 including all invoices and proof of payment.
-  **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

Community Centers

-  10/1/2026 – Grant application period begins
-  11/30/2026 – Applications must be submitted by midnight.
-  2/18/2027 – ECGRA’s board of directors will make the final review and approve funding recommendations. *

* 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

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