



E·C·G·R·A
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
AUGUST
2025**



ECGRA Communications Services Report

July 2025

Meeting with Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

IMPLEMENTED

ECGRA PRESS CONFERENCE ARTS CULTURE & HERITAGE

- Media advisory, invite and pitching
- Graphics
- Day of copy
- Press release and distribution

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

- Press release and pitching

TOM MAGGIO RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY

- AmeriMasala
- Erie Blues and Jazz Fest

GRAPHICS

- Tom Maggio w/quote
- Anchor Building reminder
- 4th of July

IN PROGRESS

2024–2025 ANNUAL REPORT GRAPHICS

WEBSITE AUDIT

PROPOSED MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MISSION MAIN STREET RELEASE





ECGRA Communications Services Report

PARKS, FIELDS AND TRAILS RELEASE

ACH CONTENT FROM FILM ERIE





Strategic Planning Committee Meeting and Grant Review

August 18, 2025
11:00am – 1:00pm
5240 Knowledge Parkway
Erie, PA 16510

Zoom Information:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89238387245>

AGENDA

- I. Grant Reviews
 - 1. Entrepreneurial Support (11 grants)
 - 2. Anchor Building (11 grants)
 - 3. Childcare Start-Up & Expansion (28)
 - 4. NWIR Services

- II. Impact Investments
 - 1. Keystone Innovation Fund
 - 2. Erie Revitalization Investment Fund

- III. Good of the Order



Post Office Box 9364 – Erie, PA 16505 – 814-455-0995

July 2, 2025

Perry Wood
ECGRA
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Thanks Perry!

Dear Perry,

On behalf of the Erie Lions Club and the Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania, thank you for your generous sponsorship of the 87th Annual Save An Eye All-Star Football Game. Your support plays a critical role in bringing this iconic Erie tradition to life—and in shining a powerful spotlight on services available for individuals who are blind or visually impaired across our region.

More than just a game, Save An Eye raises community awareness about the challenges faced by those living with vision loss—and the resources that are available through the Sight Center. Because of your support, children across Erie County will receive free preschool vision screenings, identifying issues before they interfere with learning and development. Thanks to you, individuals with severe vision loss will continue to have access to safe, reliable transportation for essential medical and eye care appointments. These are just a few of the life-changing services made possible through the generosity of game sponsors like you.

Your support fuels a lasting impact that extends far beyond the field. We are proud to partner with you in advancing a mission that brings hope, independence, and opportunity to so many. We've included a few game programs for your files and again, we appreciate your involvement in helping to make Friday night's event a success!

With sincere gratitude,

Linda Moore
Immediate Past President, Erie Lions Club
CEO, Sight Center of Northwest PA

Ken Brasington
Save an Eye Game Volunteer
Erie Lions Club, Member

P.S. Friday night's game was seen by nearly 2,500 spectators. The grandstands were full of a diverse crowd of young people, families from across the county and the City of Erie, representatives from multiple Lions Clubs, retired coaches, and Save an Eye alumni. We hope your investment in the game proves to be valuable to you and your business, as well.

Tammi Michali

From: Louie, Kenneth <obr@psu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 4:08 PM
To: Perry Wood
Cc: Tammi Michali; Peterson, Carol
Subject: Thank You!

External Sender - From: ("Louie, Kenneth" <obr@psu.edu>)
This message came from outside your organization.

[Learn More](#)

Dear Perry,

On behalf of the Economic Research Institute of Erie and the Black School of Business at Penn State Behrend, I want to express my sincere appreciation again to you and ECGRA for your generous sponsorship support of the 2025 ERIE Economic Conference on *Economic Transformation and Revival: Erie's Path to Prosperity*

Our conference yesterday was very successful, thanks to the special guest speakers we invited, all of whom were informative, insightful, and inspiring, and we have received very favorable comments about the conference. But above all, the conference was successful because of generous support from organizations like ECGRA.

We are so very grateful for your current and past support of our work at the Economic Research Institute of Erie, which allows us to carry out Penn State University's educational and outreach mission. Most importantly, your financial support helps to provide invaluable assistance for our student research assistants who go on to successful careers, become leaders of the future, and contribute meaningfully to our economy and society.

Many thanks again for the commitment by you and your organization to the vitality and prosperity of our community!

With very best regards,

Ken

Kenneth Louie, Ph.D.

Director, Economic Research Institute of Erie
Associate Professor of Economics
Penn State Behrend | Black School of Business
296 Burke Center | Erie PA 16563
(814) 898-6265



ECGRA invests in Erie County

\$7.1M was provided
in fiscal year 2024

A.J. Rao
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority committed more than \$71 million in fiscal year 2024, investing in projects that aim to shape the future of Erie County — one neighborhood, festival and small business at a time.

The funding, detailed in ECGRA's fiscal year 2024 annual report, touches nearly every corner of the county, from youth job training programs and downtown revitalization to ethnic festivals and cutting-edge cancer research.

It's part of a broader strategy that has seen ECGRA invest nearly \$89 million in Erie County since its founding in 2011.

"ECGRA is investing dollars in every aspect of the community that Erie needs to grow," ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood said in a news release.

Investing in Erie's Identity

At the heart of the 2024 report is a renewed focus on special events — the cultural touchstones that define Erie's sense of place. From the Troika Russian Festival to Zabawa, AmeriMasala,

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and the St. Paul's Italian Festival, ECGRA's Special Events Grants helped sustain dozens of community celebrations.

"This year, we wanted extra emphasis on the special events that make Erie home," Wood said. "This spirit of Erie County is defined by the thousands of volunteers and community members who implement our community's beloved festivals and events. Erie County's ethnic festivals are a terrific example of how communities gather to celebrate their heritage but cause a broader ripple effect that can be felt the entire summer season."

The Italian Festival, in particular, carried emotional weight this year following the passing of longtime organizer Ron DiVecchio. His legacy, organizers say, lives on through the support of ECGRA and the community.

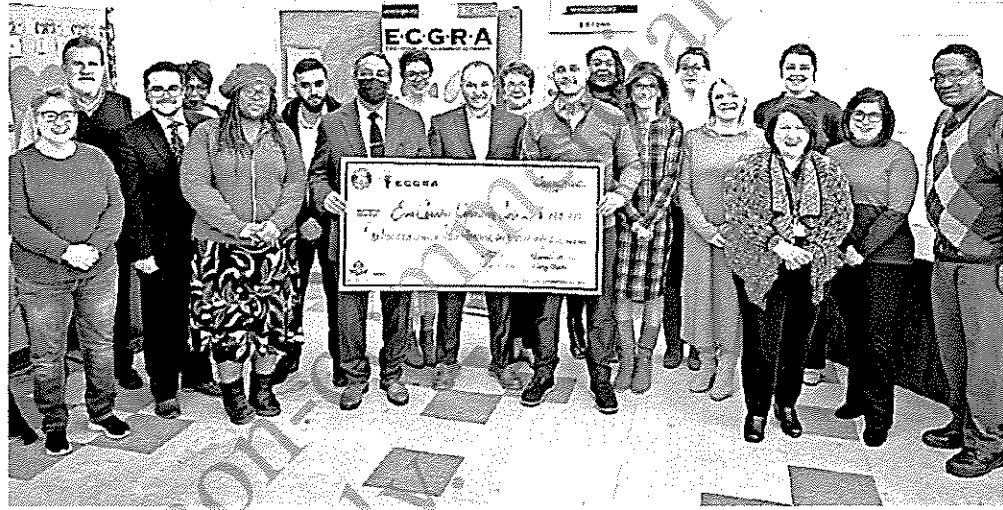
"ECGRA's continued support will give us the room to continue Ron's passion for delivering love and joy in the Erie community," said Brian Ferraro of St. Paul's Italian Festival.

Building stronger neighborhoods

Beyond cultural events, ECGRA's largest investments went toward neighborhoods and communities, with more than \$2.3 million distributed to local organizations and municipalities working to improve quality of life at the street level.

Projects ranged from facade improvements and anchor building renovations to community centers and bike co-ops. The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, for example, received funding to expand its longtime bike program into the Erie Bike Co-Op, offering repairs, donated bikes and a work/trade program on East 26th Street.

"The bike program is a valuable resource — not only for bike enthusiasts, but also for neighbors who rely on bicycles as their primary mode of transportation," said Patrice Swick, neighborhood engagement specialist at SSJ. "We're grateful to ECGRA for helping us expand this effort and deepen our impact in the community."



The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority awarded more than \$180,000 to community centers on Jan. 27, 2025. Holding the check, from left, are Erie County Councilman Andre Horton, Erie County Executive Brenton Davis and ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood. PROVIDED BY SAM PETERSON

Five pillars of investment

ECGRA organizes its funding into five strategic categories, each aimed at strengthening a different facet of Erie County's development. In fiscal year 2024, the authority distributed a total of \$7,188,546 across these areas:

- Quality of Place: \$2.39 million
- Neighborhoods and Communities: \$2.35 million
- Youth and Education: \$167,586
- Municipalities: \$1.78 million

● Small Business: \$500,000

Among the highlights: the expERIENCE Children's Museum received \$26,676 to expand access for low-income families; GECAC's Earn and Learn Program was awarded \$167,586 to provide summer jobs for youth; and Gannon University's I-HACK building received \$500,000 to support First Ascent Biomedical's AI-driven cancer research platform.

ECGRA's fiscal year 2024 spans from Apr. 1, 2024 to Mar. 31, 2025.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com or 814-440-5080.