



YEARS

E·C·G·R·A

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Annual Report

2022-2023

MISSION: An impact investor, ECGRA's mission is to elevate Erie County by empowering nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development.



ECGRA Board of Directors

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ECGRA Staff

Perry Wood, Executive Director
Tom Maggio, AICP, Grants Manager
Tammi Michali, Executive Assistant

ASSETS:

Checking: \$467,198.74

Savings: \$17,444,969.42

Accounts Receivable: \$6,266,859.00

Prepaid Expenses: \$18,529.00

TOTAL ASSESTS: \$24,197,556.16

EQUITY:

Begin: \$16,015,592.00

Net Income: \$1,262,355.26



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

OF CREATIVE CONNECTIONS THAT SUPPORT GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION


For 15 years, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has been a catalyst for positive change throughout Erie County. Since 2008, it has dedicated more than \$76 Million to impact investments and grants that touch every corner of Erie County. From small businesses that line Erie County's Main Streets to cultural events that foster community pride, ECGRA understands how strategic investments can address issues and solve challenges in a collaborative way.

While ECGRA celebrates 15 years of local connections that support growth and revitalization, this year in review acknowledges the work yet to be done. In the summer of 2022, ECGRA embarked on a listening tour that took our team to rural areas throughout Erie. Residents and decision-makers learned more about local share gaming revenue investments, about how Building a Better Future (American Rescue Plan Act) funding may be used, and solicited feedback on projects important to their communities. Our discussions focused on ongoing projects, shovel ready projects, and aspirational projects.

In each community visited, we heard about the power of strategic investments to solve challenges. One challenge many rural communities face is the lack of residential and commercial broadband internet services. To combat this, ECGRA has embarked on a feasibility study with county planning and the Erie Area Council of Governments to learn about the needs for rural broadband throughout the county and then consider what federal funding may be available to address these needs.

We also learned that many smaller communities and municipalities lack grant writing experts who can help them secure grants, putting Erie County's boroughs and townships at a disadvantage that can be overcome with additional funding. Further, concerns about unrestricted working capital often keep local coalitions from pursuing bold projects that can be transformative when implemented. Targeted funding opportunities can help to propel these projects to completion.

The listening tour helped inform ECGRA plans for the next several years. By understanding community needs and focusing on our people, our places, and our progress, we can plan for ways to best serve Erie County. Consensus and collaboration are the foundations on which ECGRA has based its work for the past fifteen years. These principles have led to an inclusive development strategy that has guided ECGRA and will continue to inspire the work we do for decades to come.



"As a catalyst for economic and community progress, ECGRA is dedicated to constant communication and continual analysis of the projects happening across Erie County," said Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. "Through a productive series of rural listening sessions, we were able to learn about creative connections to support regrowth and barriers to putting plans into action."

IMPACT

NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Neighborhood and local community grants, including the Mission Main Street grants, are used to reinvigorate neighborhoods and commercial corridors through programs like buy-local efforts to support small businesses. Through the Anchor Building Program, underused and vacant buildings, which have historical and architectural qualities that make them unique, are redeveloped to serve as hubs for commercial and social activities. Housing blight can be combatted with the Renaissance Block Program that seeks to reverse the impact properties in poor conditions can have on the value of adjacent homes.

In keeping with a focus on the needs of rural communities, ECGRA announced a \$150,000 investment in the borough of Girard through the Mission Main Street grant program. The grant award was announced at a local coffee shop on Main Street. Employers along Girard's Main Street were hit hard by the impact of the COVID pandemic and will use funds to help recover their losses.

"The Mission Main Street grant will provide a funding stream for smaller communities, part of the county that is often overlooked," said Peter Burton, mayor of Girard. "We are grateful to ECGRA for their attentiveness and willingness to provide much-needed funds to small towns. This grant will improve the appeal of our Main Street while attracting new visitors."



Recipient	Program	Amount
Borough of Edinboro	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Borough of Girard	Mission Main Street	\$45,000.00
Borough of North East	Renaissance Block	\$30,000.00
Borough of North East	Mission Main Street	\$110,000.00
Borough of Union City	Renaissance Block	\$150,000.00
Christian Ministries of the Apostolic Faith	Anchor Building	\$50,000.00
Downtown Girard	Mission Main Street	\$75,000.00
Downtown Girard	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Downtown North East	Mission Main Street	\$87,500.00
Edinboro Community & Economic Development Inc.	Mission Main Street	\$62,500.00
Emmaus Ministries Inc.	Anchor Building	\$81,000.00
Erie Center for Arts & Technology	Mission Main Street	\$25,000.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	Mission Main Street	\$134,108.00
Housing & Neighborhood Development Services	Anchor Building	\$40,000.00
Impact Corry	Renaissance Block	\$40,000.00
Impact Corry	Mission Main Street	\$28,000.00
Maggie Knox Western	Anchor Building	\$20,000.00
Our West Bayfront	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	Anchor Building	\$55,000.00
Preservation Erie	Mission Main Street	\$8,185.82
SSJ Neighborhood Network	Mission Main Street	\$55,500.00
Union City Pride	Mission Main Street	\$150,000.00
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$1,380,422.18

IMPACT MUNICIPALITIES

Designed to invite collaboration among Erie County's 38 local governments, municipal grants foster progress across the county. Multi-Municipal Collaboration grants, launched in 2012, support economic growth and community vibrancy while promoting functional cooperation. In September 2022, the Borough of Edinboro and Washington Township received \$50,000 for their collaboration on a Multi-Municipal grant. The grant will be used to enhance the fishing experience for residents of both municipalities who have disabilities.

"One of our greatest assets is our natural resources," said Mary Jo Campbell, mayor of Washington Township. "The amazing parks that surround Edinboro Lake offer spectacular fishing for our residents. We want all of our residents to enjoy this great natural resource and are grateful to the ECGRA for this grant that will allow us to make fishing more accessible for residents with disabilities."

Recipient	Amount
County of Erie	\$165,477.96
Edinboro Community & Economic Development Inc.	\$50,000.00
Erie Area Council of Governments	\$50,000.00
Girard Township	\$19,000.00
Greene Township	\$165,477.96
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie	\$100,000.00
McKean Township	\$165,477.96
McKean Township	\$86,500.00
Millcreek Township	\$165,477.96
Summit Township	\$676,955.24
Waterford Township	\$165,477.96
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES	\$1,557,867.08



IMPACT

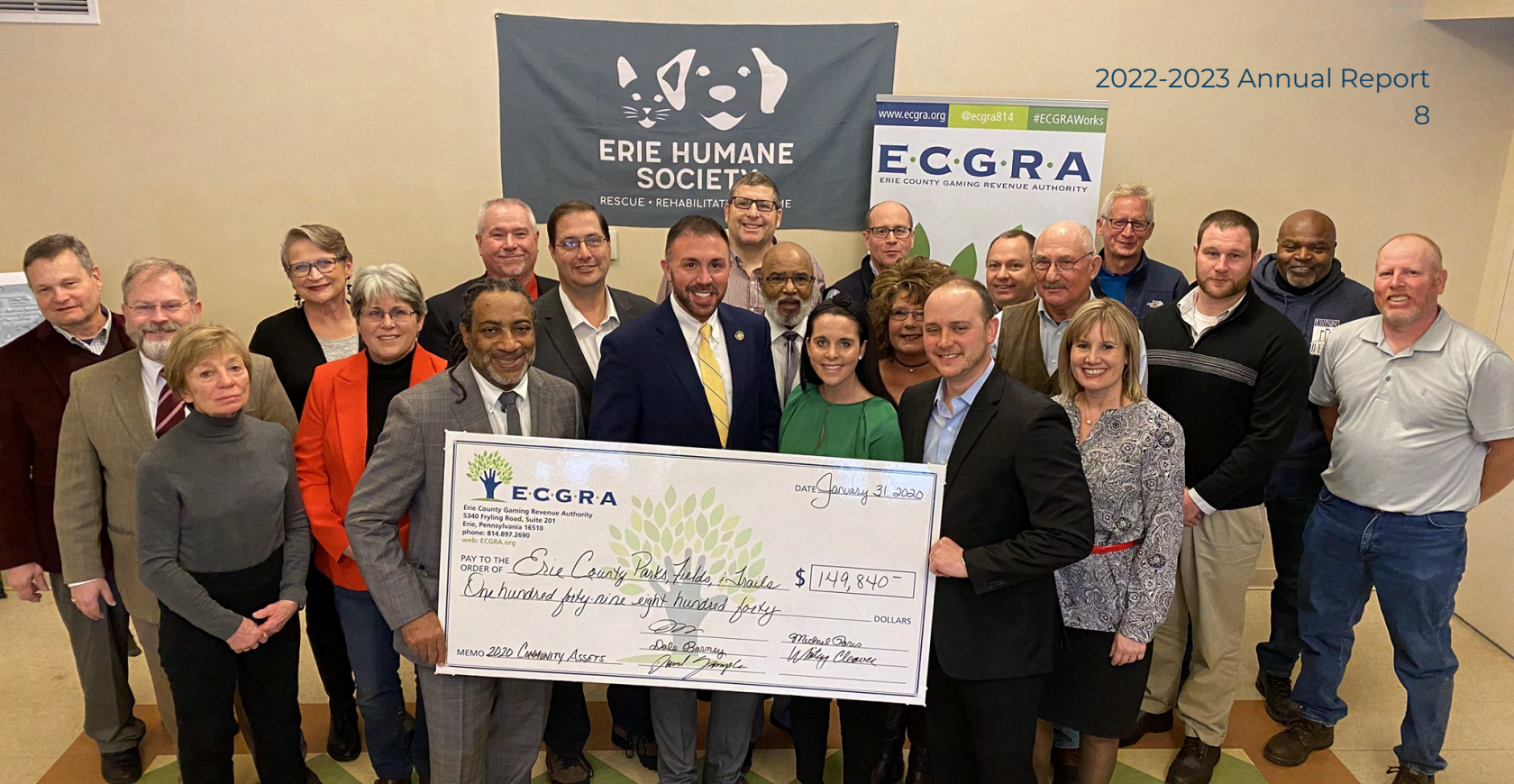
SMALL BUSINESSES

The entrepreneurial ecosystem across Erie is spurred by small businesses. ECGRA offers a series of grant programs and networks designed to start, grow, and reinvent small businesses. This, in turn, builds collaboration among businesses and allows for business acceleration. Small businesses spur job creation and business growth; they are the backbone of Erie County. Small business grants are transformative as they drive economic and community development, which uplifts the entire community.

The ECGRA awarded \$896,000 in 2023 NWPA Innovation Beehive Network grants. The funds will be distributed to five Erie County nonprofits and universities. Beehive funding provides a catalyst for nonprofit organizations to participate in economic development through matching grants that encourage entrepreneurial support services. This unique partnership grew out of our Ignite Erie initiative, which was developed through a collaboration among 26 leading agencies and businesses as well as 350 entrepreneurs, educators, policymakers, and elected officials.

"This ECGRA grant will allow the PennWest Edinboro Beehive to continue offering free branding and marketing services to hard-working Erie County small businesses," said **Christopher Lantinen, Director, PennWest Edinboro Beehive**. "The COVID-19 pandemic introduced new economic hardships and exacerbated existing ones, and the collective Beehive Network will help in the county's continuing recovery efforts."





Recipient	Category	Amount
Bridgeway Capital	Small Business	\$200,000.00
Edinboro University Foundation	Beehive Network	\$200,000.00
Erie Regional Library Foundation	Beehive Network	\$101,877.00
Erie's Black Wall Street	Beehive Network	\$48,000.00
Gannon University	Small Business	\$200,000.00
Impact Corry	Beehive Network	\$87,500.00
International Institute of Erie	Small Business	\$150,000.00
Mercyhurst University	Small Business	\$200,000.00
Penn State University	Beehive Network	\$100,000.00
SSJ Neighborhood Network	Beehive Network	\$57,750.00
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Small Business	\$63,920.00
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$1,409,047

IMPACT

QUALITY OF PLACE



Residents of Erie County take pride in their communities. Through grants that sponsor special events and support lead assets, as well as community assets, ECGRA funding promotes well-being while fostering civic pride. Grants not only invite tourists to our area but also attract and retain creative talent to staff local businesses.

Nearly \$212,000 was awarded to 49 Erie County nonprofits and municipalities as part of the 2023 Special Events Grants. The grants fund activities designed to bring the community together while driving Erie forward.



"As a nonprofit organization celebrating 110 years of serving the most vulnerable in our region, EHCA is grateful to all of our community partners for their role in our mission," said **Samantha Giddings, Development Specialist, Erie Homes for Children and Adults (EHCA).**

"And ECGRA is one of those caring partners that provide EHCA with funding opportunities to help us assist individuals with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives."

Recipient	Program	Amount
Albion Area Fair, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$9,560.40
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$1,855.16
Borough of Edinboro	2022 Special Events	\$1,315.95
Borough of Wesleyville	2022 Special Events	\$781.53
CAFE	2022 Special Events	\$16,507.50
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$2,504.22
Downtown North East, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$2,979.26
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	2022 Special Events	\$3,022.50
Edinboro Legion Pool, Inc.	2022 Community Assets	\$4,195.60
Erie Art Museum	2022 Lead Assets	\$41,206.83
Erie Arts & Culture	2022 Lead Assets	\$44,436.65
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	2022 Special Events	\$5,068.04
Erie Downtown Partnership	2022 Special Events	\$6,300.75
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$930.70
Erie Philharmonic	2022 Lead Assets	\$65,568.42
Erie Playhouse	2022 Lead Assets	\$48,205.78
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner	2022 Special Events	\$4,650.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	2022 Special Events	\$6,165.46
Erie Zoological Society	2022 Lead Assets	\$149,905.88
expERIEnce Children's Museum	2022 Lead Assets	\$24,724.62
Fairview School Foundation	2022 Community Assets	\$50,000.00
Film Society of Northwestern PA	2022 Special Events	\$6,863.40
Flagship Niagara League	2022 Lead Assets	\$62,585.30
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society	2022 Special Events	\$841.65
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2022 Special Events	\$1,655.40
Hagen History Center	2022 Lead Assets	\$53,312.67

Recipient	Program	Amount
Harborcreek Township	2018 Community Assets	\$11,942.55
Harborcreek Township	2022 Special Events	\$1,162.50
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	2022 Special Events	\$6,347.25
Humane Society of NWPA	2022 Special Events	\$4,650.00
Impact Corry	2022 Special Events	\$1,148.55
Iroquois School District Foundation	2022 Special Events	\$1,962.30
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie	2022 Special Events	\$20,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$4,394.25
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	2022 Special Events	\$7,440.00
Mercy Center for Women	2022 Special Events	\$910.24
Mercyhurst Institute for Art & Culture	2022 Lead Assets	\$44,321.83
Northwest PA Trail Association	2022 Community Assets	\$17,000.00
Presque Isle Light Station	2022 Special Events	\$576.60
Presque Isle Partnership	2022 Special Events	\$4,008.30
Saint Patrick Church	2022 Special Events	\$6,783.19
SSJ Neighborhood Network	2022 Special Events	\$4,726.61
The Nonprofit Partnership	2022 Special Events	\$3,514.24
Union City Pride	2022 Special Events	\$1,209.00
Washington Township	2022 Community Assets	\$50,000.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	2022 Special Events	\$7,851.76
Wattsburg Agricultural Society	2022 Special Events	\$10,481.57
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	2022 Special Events	\$1,304.33
YMCA of Greater Erie	2022 Special Events	\$1,422.90
TOTAL		\$693,625.46

IMPACT

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Initiatives to strengthen Erie's youth and educational systems are focused on partnerships. Through past and current investments, ECGRA continues to enhance and strengthen Erie County's educational infrastructure and workforce that drives local and regional economic growth and helps to reduce poverty.

ECGRA is making a difference for Youth and Education grantees by providing skills and job training for youth and displaced workers, connecting them with the Erie County employers. Through the critical investment of over \$180,000, ECGRA is helping to shape our workforce of tomorrow by creating and providing new opportunities that might otherwise not exist.

ECGRA is also dedicated to educating Erie businesses and residents. We sponsored a 2022 global summit on "Rejuvenating Industrial Heartlands." The free event focused on how healing polarized politics can strengthen Western democracies and featured John Austin, whose work in Michigan has helped transform the state economy.

Recipient	Category	Amount
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2022 Summer Jobs	\$156,551.27
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2023 Summer Jobs	\$25,034.63
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$181,585.90





Annual **Report** 2022 - 2023

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