



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

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

ERIE ARTS AND CULTURE

NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S ARTS COUNCIL

ECGRA Lead Assets Meeting Agenda

Friday December 5th, 2025 | 12-1 pm | Virtual

Join on Google Meet: meet.google.com/via-bqps-pcy

Introductions

Discussion

- Organizational check-in
- Funding cuts & wins

Distribution Formula

- Is the current formula still aligned with our shared values?
- What's most important: stability, need, reach, or innovation?
- What would a multi-year transition look like if we change the model?

2025 Distribution

- \$613,061 from ECGRA this year
- Group consensus on distribution

Adjournment



ECGRA Communications Services Report

NOVEMBER 2025

Meeting with Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

IMPLEMENTED

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Non-Profit Partnership - Keycon

GRAPHICS

- Thanksgiving
- Veterans Day
- Quotes x2
- Budget – Childcare Highlight

IN PROGRESS

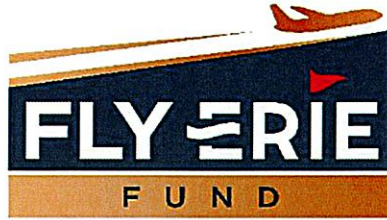
- [AWAITING RFP TO MOVE] WEBSITE
 - CONTRACT
 - SCOPE
 - AUDIT
 - SURVEY
- Child Care Round 2 Grant Funding – January
- Kyocera Tour – January
- Competitive Manufacturing Investment Announcement – January
- EMS Mini Report
 - COPY
 - DESIGN
- Food Insecurity Programming – January





ECGRA Communications Services Report





Fly Erie Fund Board of Managers Meeting Agenda

Date: 11.24.25

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Teams

1. Call to Order

- Welcome and Introductions
- Status Update

2. Financial Updates

- **Year 3 Invoices**
 - Status of outstanding invoices
 - Review and approval process
- **November & December Payments**
 - Summary of scheduled payments
 - Approval of disbursements

3. Small Communities Air Service Grant

- Overview of grant requirements and timeline
- Discussion of application strategy
- **Letters of Support**
 - Identify stakeholders for letters
 - Responsibilities for outreach and drafting

4. Breeze Conversation

- Updates on ongoing Flights
- Invoice Timing
- Metrics to focus on for long-term commitment

5. Next Steps & Action Items

- Confirm deadlines for invoices and payments
- Assign tasks for grant application and letters of support
- Schedule next meeting

6. Adjournment

November 19, 2025

Erie Downtown Partnership
140 E 5th Street
Erie, PA 16507
814.455.3743
eriedowntown.com



Downtown is Something to Be Thankful For

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

Dear Perry,

This Thanksgiving, we're reminded of how grateful we are for neighbors like you who care about our community. The enclosed photo from our 2nd Annual Community Dinner captures what makes Downtown Erie so special — people coming together to share joy, connection, and belonging. Hundreds braved the cold and were treated to a free meal prepared by farmers and volunteers with several dishes prepared from locally-grown harvest veggies.

Just like a Thanksgiving feast, a thriving downtown needs the right ingredients: generosity, local flavor, celebration, and neighbors gathered around the table. **We'd love for you to be part of the recipe.**

By making a gift to the **Downtown Future Fund**, you'll help create more moments like the Community Dinner — traditions that bring people together and keep Downtown Erie a place we can all be thankful for. You can make your gift by returning the enclosed envelope or online at downtownerie.com.

From all of us at the Erie Downtown Partnership, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,

A blue ink signature of Emily Fetcko.

Emily Fetcko
CEO

A blue ink signature of Christine Jergens.

Christine Jergens
Director of Development

Perry-We're grateful for you and the ECGRA team for all of your support.



The Greater Erie Community Action Committee

www.gecac.org

THANK YOU

Helping People, Changing Lives

DR. PERRY WOOD

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING
GECAC'S 60th. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND
DEDICATION TO THE SUMMER JOBS
PROGRAM. YOUR ATTENDANCE MEANT
A LOT!

Dr. Ben Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

www.gecac.org

Thank
you

Happy Holidays,

Shal Turner

Tammi,

On behalf of Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre, I want to thank you and Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for sponsoring our production of The Nutcracker. Your funding helps more than you know, and allows ECBT to bring the arts to the Erie Community!



Economic Education Today, Economic Strength Tomorrow.

2222 Filmore Avenue • Suite 600 • Erie, PA 16506
(814) 456-7007 • info@aceserie.org • www.aceserie.org

November 7, 2025

Ms. Tammi Michali
c/o Board of Directors
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Rd # 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Ms. Michali & Board of Directors

Pennsylvania Business Week at Fort LeBoeuf High School was a great success!

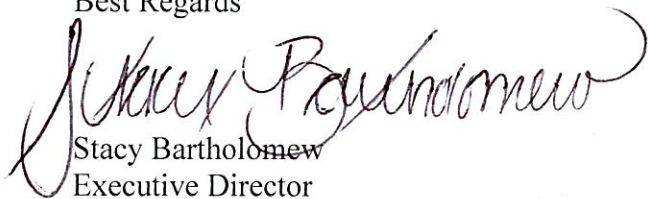
On behalf of the staff at Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System, the students at Fort LeBoeuf High School, and all those who are committed to the education of our youth, we would like to extend our gratitude. Your support of this innovative program is greatly appreciated.

Please take a moment and look over the student evaluations. They found PA Business Week to be an ideal learning experience where teamwork, business knowledge, productivity, and financial management are all incorporated into a fun, high-spirited environment.

Your contribution not only benefited the students at Fort LeBoeuf High School, but also the business community as a whole. Your support enables students to see and understand how a business operates and how they can grow and succeed from this experience. Students who are better prepared for the work world will provide employers with better employment candidates.

We have also enclosed a Business Week program which recognizes the sponsors and volunteers. Thank you again for your support. We look forward to your continued involvement in this program!

Best Regards


Stacy Bartholomew
Executive Director



Impact Corry receives \$100,000 to revitalize neighborhoods

BY CAROL FIELDING

carol@thecorryjournal.com

Impact Corry has been awarded \$100,000 from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's (ECGRA) 2025 Renaissance Block program, funding that will provide matching grants to homeowners and landlords in targeted west and south Corry neighborhoods.

The grant will be distributed as \$5,000 matching grants to property owners in two focus areas: west Corry, between North Center Street and Mead Avenue, and south Corry, between Lemon Street and Summer Street. The program aims to assist a minimum of 20 properties with exterior improvements ranging from doors and windows to siding, porches and masonry repair.

"ECGRA funding has helped us on our mission to revitalize Corry. Neighborhoods are one of the main focus areas of our strategic plan," said Melinda Meyers, Impact Corry's director of programming. "We invest in our strengths, and our greatest strength in Corry

is our people. These are funds going directly to homes to improve the lives of residents as well as main streets and neighborhoods."

Community impact

Five projects have been completed this summer and fall, with another eight approved and expected to finish by spring 2026.

This latest award builds on a partnership between Impact Corry and ECGRA. Since 2020, the organization has received \$490,000 from ECGRA, helping about 100 homes across the city. Over half of those grant-funded homes have improved their condition ranking on the housing survey conducted as part of the "#positively Corry Community Strategic Plan."

Breaking the cycle of disinvestment

The Renaissance Block program addresses a critical challenge facing Corry: negative equity that discourages homeowners from investing in their properties.

According to the strategic plan, Corry suffers from significant negative equity, meaning that a property is effectively worth less than zero to its owner. The plan explains that homeowners face a lose-lose scenario: invest in up-

grades and lose money when selling, or skip improvements and lose slightly less.

"The Renaissance Block Grant Program helps fill the financial gaps that occur in a soft market," Meyers explained.

In a press release, ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood emphasized the broader impact of the program.

"ECGRA is revitalizing neighborhoods around the county," Wood said. "The Renaissance Block program will improve Erie County's Quality of Place, and attract new opportunities to the area. These are homes located on main streets and commercial corridors that serve as gateways to the community."

Leveraging investment

Using the ECGRA grants as a foundation, Impact Corry has obtained additional funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Key Bank, Erie Insurance and the Corry Community Foundation (CCF).

The program has no income requirements for the standard \$5,000 matching grant, making it accessible to any property owner. Those

who meet certain income requirements can apply for higher grant amounts with lower matching requirements.

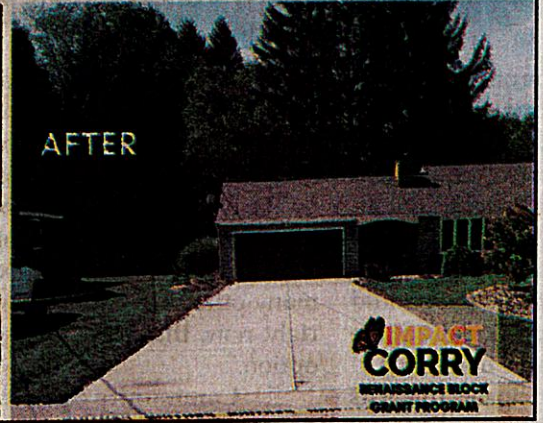
"We see applicants who have put off home repair projects, and the grant provides incentive to get them done," Meyers said. "We also see applicants who have delayed repair projects because they don't have the financial resources to move ahead, and the grant provides the final financing they need to make it happen."

Navigating challenges

Implementing the program hasn't been without obstacles. Contractor availability remains a significant hurdle, with applicants sometimes waiting weeks or months just to get a cost estimate, and then several months to a year to get on a contractor's work schedule.

"These are also challenging times for families, as they wait on federal and state benefits and services, and need to budget for rising grocery costs," Meyers noted. "Homeowners considering applying may be rethinking their projects."

◀ See Impact, P.2



Contributed graphic

Above is an example of Renaissance Block Grant funded projects in Corry. On the left is a porch addition; on the right is a driveway improvement.

Impact

(Continued from front page)

To address these challenges, Impact Corry stays in regular contact with grant recipients, reaching out every three to six months to check on progress and accommodate changes when necessary.

Inspiring community pride

Beyond physical improvements, Meyers said the program has inspired pride in neighborhoods and the broader Corry community. The long-term goal extends beyond the grant funding itself.

"A goal of the program is to inspire pride in and good stewardship of individual homes and neighborhoods — to see people investing in their properties and Corry with or without grant funding," she said.

Applications are accepted and approved on a rolling basis. Eligible improvements include doors and windows, soffits, gutters and downspouts, exterior lighting, porches and stairs, painting, siding and shutters and

chimney and masonry repair.

Looking ahead

Impact Corry plans to continue applying for Renaissance Block funding from ECGRA in future cycles. With each new grant cycle, additional areas of the city become eligible, gradually expanding the program's reach throughout Corry.

"Because we want applicants to be successful, we're willing to work with them and provide support," Meyers said. "It's a fairly simple process to apply and, if awarded funding, complete projects, and our staff and volunteers are willing to help."

Since its inception in 2018, the Erie County Renaissance Block Grant Program has awarded 55 grants to 14 organizations, totaling \$2,439,340. Impact Corry shares this year's funding with downtown Girard and the Borough of Union City, which received \$100,000 each.

Property owners in the eligible Corry neighborhoods interested in applying can contact Impact Corry at programs@impact-corry.com for more information.

City of Erie must face structural deficits head-on

After six years without an increase in property taxes, the predictable has happened: Erie's preliminary 2026 budget projects a 32% increase in the tax rate over the next several years, starting with a one mill increase next year followed by increases each year through 2030. The cumulative increase could be even larger if the city is unable to pull off a roughly \$2.5 million reduction in salaries and wages planned, according to city budget projections for 2030.

It is no wonder that the city applied in May of this year to again participate in the state's Early Intervention Program, seeking funding from Harrisburg to create a second strategic financial plan as a follow-up to the first plan completed in 2019. This is a good idea and necessary. The city's application cites "looming structural deficits of \$9.3 million in 2026, \$11.5 million in 2027, \$12.3 million in 2028 and \$13.3 million in 2029."

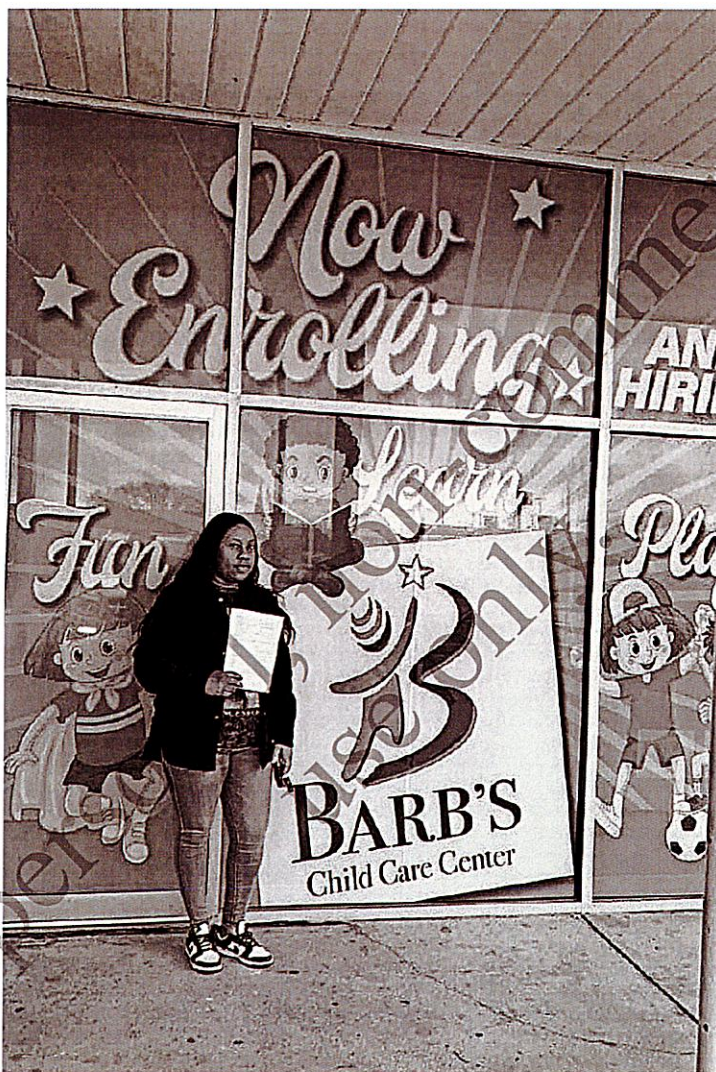
But a good plan can be made even better through open and ongoing communication with residents about the city's financial challenges and the strategy to tackle them. The city's budget process, for example, should include a focus on the structural deficits. Does the annual budget reflect progress toward reducing structural deficits? If not, why not?

But it seems that the city government has been mostly reluctant to take this issue head-on in public. By utilizing certain one-time revenue sources, in combination sometimes with just good luck, Erie recently has been able to balance the annual budget and, in so doing, avoid a frank, public discussion of the city's underlying financial problems. Until now. With a tax increase planned for 2026 — the first of several in the coming years — the problem has to be front and center; but I am confident Erie residents will work with our elected leaders on our fiscal challenges, including accepting necessary tax increases, provided city officials are open and honest with them.

David Forrest, Erie

Erie child care center to host education students

Barb's Child Care Center is celebrating a milestone — 11/2 years of serving Erie's children and families. We credit that success to powerful community partnerships. Support from organizations such as the Crime Victim Center, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, the Greater Erie Economic Development Corporation, Diverse Erie, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, the Erie County Redevelopment Authority, Erie Insurance, and the city of Erie have kept us operating. But what truly sets us apart is collaboration.



Mary Euell is pictured in front of Barb's Child Care Center at 145 W. 18th St. The Center is celebrating a milestone — 1 1/2 years of serving Erie's children and families. PROVIDED BY MARY EUELL

Barb's Child Care Center is now a co-op site with the Erie School District, providing education students field hours. This collaboration could land them free college tuition if they commit to 25 hours of work in a child care setting while in school. This initiative was championed by Daria Devlin, soon-to-be mayor of Erie, whose passion for public schools and students drove the connection between the center and Erie public schools. This isn't just a win for our business. To me, it's proof that Daria's roots and love for the community remain strong, even as she steps into a bigger role. Her hands-on commitment shows me that thriving communities need collaboration, not just policies.

A heartfelt thank you to Phillip Askins and all those from Erie public

schools who spent over a year working alongside Barb's Child Care Center to make this co-op a reality.

Efforts like this make Erie special — a place where businesses and residents support each other through challenges and successes.

At Barb's Child Care Center, we aim to change lives for children of all ages and we are growing. We're hiring; we're enrolling, and we're proving that together, we're stronger. There is so much love and support here; Erie is a special place to live and do business.

To me, business is not about being a millionaire; it's about having a million impactful moments.

Mary Euell, Erie, owner of Barb's Child Care

Pa. budget did little to help caregivers

This is not leadership — it's abandonment.

That's the only way to describe Pennsylvania's new budget deal, which funds raises for just 6% of homecare workers while leaving 94% of caregivers — and the seniors, people with disabilities and medically fragile children they serve — behind.

Every month, more than 112,500 shifts of care go unfilled, and one in four authorized nursing hours never takes place. Families across the commonwealth are already struggling to find help at home. This budget guarantees more people will be left with the stress of inadequate coverage for home care services.

Two independent, taxpayer-funded studies — commissioned by Governor Shapiro and the legislature — have already shown what's needed to stabilize the system and prevent more costly hospitalizations and nursing home placements — more than \$800 million fix to catch up after two decades of refusing to meaningfully address the industry in budget discussions.

Yet lawmakers chose politics over people this past week, providing just \$21 million out of the \$370 million that advocates identified as the minimum first step to support this workforce and reinforce the foundation of care that every Pennsylvanian deserves — care at home.

While lawmakers were signing a budget that ignored direct care workers, the Pennsylvania Homecare Association was celebrating them at the 2025 annual Direct Care Worker of the Year Award ceremony. The winner, Celeste, stood in front of a crowd of her peers and spoke through tears, "This is for every patient I've cared for that has passed — everything I do is for them."

A regional winner, Tamara, stated, "I am so grateful for my agency — the way they support and recognize me. In my life, I've never felt so valued."

These are the compassionate and caring individuals who make our communities stronger.

Even in a difficult fiscal year, failing to invest in home care is indefensible. Protecting access to care and supporting the workforce that delivers it must be a top priority for Governor Josh Shapiro, Senator Joe Pittman, House Speaker Joanna McCClinton, and every member of the legislature in the 2026–27 budget. Pennsylvania can no longer afford to fall further behind while other states strengthen their home care systems. The path forward is clear — the cost of inaction will be far greater, for our families, our hospitals and our communities.

Mia Haney, chief executive officer, Pennsylvania Homecare Association