

Request for ECGRA Funding

Erie County Earn and Learn—Jobs for Students and Adults

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Erie County Government have worked as partners in the community effort to create employment opportunities for young adults--- ages 16 to 21 since 2014.

The program has a compressive approach for participants:

1. Help motivated students apply their skills on the job at area businesses.
2. Provide training in the soft skills if needed to help those not quite ready, so they too become successful employees.
- 3.

Entering its ninth year Erie County is seeking a higher level of outcomes, more sustained employment for young people and filling the needs of manufacturing and industry through the region.

Erie County, GECAC and Erie Together have created a plan for 2023 and seek the partnership of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to reintroduce Summer JAMs as **Erie County EARN & LEARN**. This proposal carries a solid record of success that has proved its value to its employers.

Earn & Learn will have two tiers, one for entry-level student workers and the other for creating career pathways for long-term employment. The community has invested approximately \$2.5 million into this initiative so far, assisting nearly 1,000 youth. New in this proposal is the requirement for businesses to cover a portion of the wages once the worker accrues 90 hours on the job. Employer commitment through wages will increase the likelihood of training and retention.

Key to increased success is the addition of more firms and a greater variety of firms joining the effort. Participants are then be exposed to a greater variety of industries and operations. It is these on-the-job experiences, which can lead young people to pursue paths to education or pique their interest in future careers – scenarios that reflect not just the goal of **EARN & LEARN** but an essential outcome for our community overall.

The participants must attend training, and prove to employers that they are positive and dedicated working members of the local workforce. We believe strongly the changes and additions to **EARN & LEARN** will establish a path we can build on with further collaboration, customers and funding opportunities.

Erie County and other leaders are committed to securing this future with continued funding that provides for the training and employment of **Erie County EARN & LEARN** participants during summer months and beyond. We need your support to continue this winning formula for our community's future.

Projected 2023 Major Funding Commitments:

Erie County	\$260,000
ECGRA	<u>\$150,000</u>
	\$410,000