



# COUNTY OF ERIE

## ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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### Erie County & ECGRA Partnership Funding

#### 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. Entering its eleventh 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. The community has invested approximately \$2.5 million into this initiative so far, assisting over 1,200 youth throughout Erie County.

Erie County and GECAC seek the partnership of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to continue to build upon the **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. Again, this year, we are asking businesses to commit 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. Between June 10, 2024 and August 31, 2024 ECGRA Funding helped local young adults work 19,071 hours across Erie County. This year EARN+LEARN could potentially deliver \$270,000 in wages to 150 young adults along with experiences they will carry for a lifetime.

In 2025, GECAC is joining with Gannon University and Erie Insurance, as employers and as in person trainers for orientation. 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. Community partnerships with Erie Together, the Corry Community Center, the Erie Downtown Partnership and Widget Financial Credit Union allow **EARN +LEARN** to deliver on its promises to participants, the community and potential funders like ECGRA.

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 ask the Erie County gaming revenue Authority to continue its devotion to this winning formula for our community's future.

According to the Bid submitted by GECAC to the County of Erie, the Projected 2025 Cost of **EARN + LEARN** for 100 Tier 1 kids and 50 Tier 2 kids to go through the program is \$458,403.

Erie County has budgeted \$263,000 in 2025; we are respectfully requesting \$200,000 for this vital program.