



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510  
October 18, 2018 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 2018
5. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Strategic Planning Committee
  - c. Update from County Council
  - d. Update from County Executive's Office
10. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT
12. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Tax Delinquency Policy
13. NEW BUSINESS
14. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**September 20, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on September 20, 2018 in the Jordan Room; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Bagnoni, Mr. Barney, Mr. DiPaolo, Mr. Logue, Mr. Paris, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Wachter, and Dr. Wood are also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2018**

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Bagnoni seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

**Mr. DiPaolo:** Mr. Chairman, I have some comments, but I will hold that until we get to the end.

**COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

**Mr. Paris:** I would just like to say a few things. We had a grant review process last week and I'd like to thank Perry and the staff for doing a great job in putting that together. We had a lot of grants to go over, but I just wanted to say that they're doing a great job and I really appreciate the work they put in to the grants that have been given out.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There is no public comment.

## PRESENTATIONS

- a. Erie School District/Community Schools – Bea Habursky, Daria Devlin, and Meghan Easter

Ms. Devlin: Good morning. I'm Daria Devlin; I've been in front of you before. I am the Coordinator of Grants & Community Relations for Erie's Public Schools. With me this morning is Bea Habursky, our Assistant Superintendent and Meghan Easter, the Community School Director at Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School. I'm going to start the presentation this morning and then kick it to both of them and then we can address any specific comments you want to make. We want to thank you for having us and also for your part in the grant that allowed this project to move forward.

I'm here today to give you an update on the Community Schools Project; the Pilot that took place in Erie's Public Schools. Again, your grant funds helped get that off the ground. And I just want to remind you that this project started in 2016. I actually took today's presentation from the grant presentation that we gave back in 2016 and it had listed these community challenges and I was struck by the fact that most of these things are still around here in 2018. So, it's not like they have gone away. These are the things we were facing then that we are still facing now and is part of the reason that we came to look at this as a possible project for Community Schools.

All of you are certainly familiar with these. Of course, educational achievement and attainment is a huge challenge and Mrs. Habursky is going to talk a little bit more about the District and what we're doing about that.

The Pilot began in 2016; our main partner in this is United Way of Erie County. United Way did not join us today for the presentation, but we don't want to miss the opportunity to say that they are our main partner in this work. They brought the project to us back in 2015 and have worked very closely with us to get this Pilot off the ground.

These are the five pilot schools that have the Community Schools model, Edison Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Strong Vincent Middle School, East Middle School, and Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School. You will recall that we had a major reconfiguration last year so, actually this Pilot began at Emerson-Gridley which then closed, so the Pilot moved to Strong Vincent. We have had some transition, but we've been able to keep the model intact.

The way the model works is that each school has a corporate partner; that's really a funding partner. The funding partner provides the salary for the bottom row, which is the CSD (Community School Director). The Community School Director is the key of this project; it's an actual person – Meghan is here today from Pfeiffer-Burleigh representing that school – it's a person in the building who is just there to develop partnerships and bring resources into the school. One of the things we like the most about this when we initially looked at it was it takes the pressure off the Principal. The Principal is then freed up to do the instructional leadership, the teaching and learning that they need to do, but they have someone in the building who can be in charge of food banks and distribution of resources and mental health resources. That corporate partner's funds to fund the salary of the Community Schools Director is certainly key.

You can look and see that these are obviously our main employers here in Erie and we are very lucky to have them as our key partners early on. Each school then has a lead partner; the lead partner is typically a nonprofit that is tasked with bringing in resources to the school and leveraging relationships. If you look at that line, you'll see that most of our major nonprofits, we have a really nice mix of some mental and behavioral health in Safe Harbor and Family Services and Achievement Center, along with two of our major universities. Meghan can talk a little about what Family Services brings to Pfeiffer-Burleigh, but it's important to note

that our partners play an important role. I have listed the principals; they were updated with our reconfiguration. The bottom list is the five Community Schools Directors we have in the buildings.

So, we came to this plan back in 2015-2016 because we knew as a district that we were struggling, and we knew that the community was struggling to bring resources into our students. Since then, the district has really engaged in its own work to increase that level of educational achievement. Of course, you all were instrumental in that as you helped us with our own strategic plan.

Just to give you a little update on the plan and how that work is happening in the Community Schools, I'd like to introduce Mrs. Habursky to speak a little bit about these main goals that the district is now focusing on.

Mrs. Habursky: I want to begin by thanking you all for giving us the opportunity to do that; to have the strategic plan. We brought in Mutiu Fagbyi from California. He came in and worked with us last year on actually looking at our needs, looking at our data, and analyzing it. We had over 120 of our stakeholders at meetings that really started to dig deeper into our work. Just this past week, he was back, and he was working with all 16 of our schools to really look at our plans and where we are moving.

These are our game-changers; this is our hope for the future of Erie's Public Schools which is:

1. When you look at our data, seven out of 20 of our students currently are reading or passing our PSSA and our Keystones in ELA. Our goal is to get 18 out of 20 students passing that.
2. 95% attendance – our hope is that 90% of our students (18 out of 20 students) are actually going to be in school every single day. We do have a truancy issue right now and we're working toward really trying to get our students to come to school.
3. Model civic responsibility – we would like 100% of our students from pre-K to 12 to actually participate in real life community projects. That's the future of Erie City. That's the future of our hope in giving our students that opportunity.
4. So, to achieve the proficiency in the Core, we're talking Language Arts and Math, we want to double the rate for proficiency in ELA and then we want to triple the rate for Math in grades 3 – 8.
5. Also, we have a disproportionality in our discipline at this time. We looked at all of our data for discipline regarding suspensions and expulsions; currently we are really taking this on. Our behavior incidences with black African-American males we're really looking at. What are we doing in the classroom, how are we supporting our students, and how are we going to make some changes in our instruction.
6. The last one is a diploma in every hand so that we would get a 100% graduation rate.

When you look at those, they are high and very exciting. It's going to take a lot of work, it's going to take a lot of planning, and we're taking it for our first piece, and Daria will be sharing that information, what this year will look like. Again, this is a five-year plan.

I can't thank you enough for believing in us and giving us the opportunity to go through this with someone as experienced as Mutiu Fagbyi. He really has done a wonderful job at getting us all to collaborate and work together.

Ms. Devlin: I think it's important to note, and you all have copies of the plan, as Bea has mentioned we have a lot of work to do, but the great thing about our plan is it calls out specific strategies and Community Schools is called out in the plan as a strategy to help us reach these goals. Everything is really coming together, I would even argue the thing that you

supported us with, it's all coming together and focused to reach these important educational goals that we are working towards as a community.

I think there is sometimes confusion about this, but Community Schools are not a program; it's not something you put into a school and walk away. Community Schools are a strategy; they are a strategy for organizing resources of the community around student success. As we just mentioned with those really high-level goals, we are going to need to get organized and make sure that our resources are all moving in the right direction; Community Schools is helping us do that.

Since the time that we received the grant this is just a little update. Again, we hired five Community Schools Directors – one in each of those five pilot schools. They were hired in January 2017. Their first task was to survey all of the stakeholders in the building to find out what those people needed; that was students, that was parents, it was staff. They were finding out what the priorities were and what they felt they needed in the school to be successful. That was really the bulk of their work for about the first six to eight months. They then took that data to create a school action plan; each building has an action plan that now coincides with our strategic plan to say, "How are we going to bring these things in?"

Partnership agreements were then put into place so that we no longer work with partners in kind of a willy-nilly atmosphere; we have a partnership agreement in place with our partners that says, "Here's what they are going to provide and here's what we provide. We will give access to our schools between certain hours, here's the funding that we provide and the funding that they are bringing in." So, we have very tight agreements with our partners now which is really helping us move forward.

Specifically, we have partnerships with the five neighborhood centers. That was really contingent in our grant that we worked closely with those groups, and we have. We have also expanded that to include other partners. We have really good partners in the YMCA, Penn State Behrend, Second Harvest Food Bank, Sisters of Saint Joseph; we're plugging all those groups into our school student plans. And then of course, we have really strong backbone support from United Way.

We get questions sometimes about United Way's role and if they are providing direct funding to us. They are not; they are actual partners. They are collecting data, they are providing professional development, they are supporting our Community School Directors when the district really can't do those kinds of things. They are providing what we call backbone support for this project and providing that sustainability so hopefully we can expand.

Meghan, I would like you to share your experience at Pfeiffer and the kind of the things you are working on.

Ms. Easter: Good morning. I apologize I am a little under the weather so if I sound froggy, that's why. I believe all of you had received this handout that explains the priority needs and the timeline of events were for last year. Like Daria had mentioned even this past year, we re-surveyed and we reestablished feedback from our stakeholders. I had focus groups with students and parents; we met with community partners and asked, "How can we continue to support one another, and what are some areas we can use for growth as well?"

So, it's constantly looking at the data and shifting how we can get better, how we can better support the needs. Even with the programs and partnerships that we're bringing in, we're constantly identifying new gaps and how we can support things differently.

Just a few comments on what we were able to accomplish last year. In Quarter one, we really knew that students coming to school with clean uniforms and feeling prepared to come to school was an issue, so we established a uniform pantry that is all donation-based. We established partnerships whether it was with local private schools that were getting rid of

their uniforms, we were able to establish partnerships with St. Paul's Cathedral Episcopal Church – they donate brand new uniform shirts to us, Erie Insurance has supported us with Spirit Wear t-shirts so students can come to school every day prepared and ready to learn.

Some other things that we were able to do is we have our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank to establish connections with a pantry across the street so twice a week our families are able to access that. We have a backpack program at the school; we were able to expand that from just second and third grade students to school-wide. That's 150 kids that can be serviced each year through that program. We have a hygiene supply closet so families are able to access items such as deodorant, or underwear for their kids, or laundry soap. We do have a laundromat in the basement of the school so that if students come in and their clothes are dirty, we are able to get them brand new clothes and wash their clothes and send them home with them. Those are just a few of the items that I take care of.

In Quarter two, we really looked at establishing better internal mechanisms for truancy and chronic absenteeism. I worked with one of our interventionist here to develop a chronic absenteeism strategy for this school year. I'm also one of the key stakeholders working with our administration to help meet with our parents to discuss some of the barriers for their students coming to school and how we can identify those and tackle that.

We also were able to start out with a pretty comprehensive summer programming in our partnership with the YMCA. Our first year we were able to service 60 kids; this past year we were able to service 120 kids coming to school Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 2:30pm. Those are some of the things the partnerships were able to develop.

As Daria had mentioned, it's not just about building relationships with community partners but it's really about building relationships within. So, how do we help better support our parents who are working two to three jobs to support their kids. Being available extended hours has been huge. My office is right in the front office so if parents come in with questions and need support, I'm right there to intervene. Our principal, Karin Ryan, has been able to introduce me to families so that she's not dealing with them in the social works needs and I'm able to pick up there and then she's able to take off and work with her teachers a little more often.

This school year we're really focusing on building up what we call Parent Action Teams so that will be a big focus of how we cannot just build relationships with our families but have them be a key stakeholder in making decisions at the school level; getting them involved, getting them into the school to volunteer for different committees.

Some things that we we're focused on this year with the data we were able to collect was how do we better support our parents and adults to be more sustainable and getting them access to job opportunities and to career-building opportunities, better supporting our pre-K programs and bring in things to have for when our students are going to kindergarten to help them be more successful. We're developing partnerships with PNC Bank right now as well as the Erie Playhouse to better support our pre-K program.

I want to talk a little about our expanded day programs and supporting our clubs; we have a Green Team that we are establishing and continuing to support, we're bringing in a STEM program to support our Gearing Up After School Program where the students are building furniture and donating it back to the community. So, we have some really exciting things that we have going. And we're constantly looking at the data and how we can provide support. It is definitely data-driven.

Ms. Devlin: Thank you, Meghan. When you refer back to the things that Mrs. Habursky talked about, we need to focus on some major challenges and if we can remove these barriers, like dirty clothes, like kids that are hungry, like parents that are stressed, we know that that's just

going to get our kids better prepared to deal with that kind of reading and math work that has to happen throughout the day.

The last thing Meghan talked about is really some of the priority needs. I just want to say that grant funds got this off the ground and the grant funds were specifically used to fund these items:

- Data collection – a data person at Erie's Public Schools to help collect and align the data that the directors need access to (and we haven't always been good about that) so we have a person that is grant-funded to help us get that off the ground.
- Professional development – many of us have traveled twice to Allentown/Bethlehem; Allentown is our model for this work and we were able to go down twice thanks to grant funds to see it in action and bring back some best practices.
- Furniture & technology – as Meghan had mentioned, each school has a physical space for this work and for these meetings and so setting up those spaces required grant funds.
- Also, some funds for out of school time coordinators. They are working on the weekend, summer, and after school stuff that Meghan had mentioned.
- We also want you to know that we are leveraging that for additional funds. In July, we applied for a grant with the US Department of Education to expand our program. It just so happened that Mrs. Devoss was here during that time, so we were able to hand her the application. But, your grant funds are being leveraged to help us apply for other things. We may or may not be successful, but we are working to expand.

That's all we have. I want to thank you again. If you have any questions for any of us, please feel free.

Dr. Wood: Thank you so much for being here with us this morning. Great presentation! This is one of the larger grants we have done, so thanks for coming in and reporting out on it.

I just want to point out a couple of things for the Board. One is this presentation kind of mixed two different grants that we had done – one was done, I believe in 2016, and that was for Community Schools, and the second is the strategic plan a year later that we were happy to participate in as well.

What you said is that Community Schools are a strategy and I think that is key and I want to reinforce that with the Board. I think a lot of times people think that public education can solve all the problems of society; there is a lot of expectation that is lumped onto public education. These Community Schools as a strategy in essence says, "We're all in this together" and these schools are used as community centers.

This is a national best practice and I think that is something that the Board needs to know. When I read about it, they talk about schools as being community centers, as in centrifugal forces for improvement in the neighborhoods that they surround and that they service. In many ways, this is kind of an interesting comprehensive strategy to help complement what we're already doing to help neighborhoods. This targets youth and their families in these neighborhoods.

Thank you for being here.

Mr. Lee: Thank you for coming. We appreciate the update. I just have a couple of questions. The one under Experience Proportional Discipline, can you give us an update on the strategy that you're implementing to drop that number down?

Mrs. Habursky: First of all, we have the Gold Team which is a team of community members, teachers, and administrators who are working on that goal. They have some pieces in place



that they would like to do and then each building is going to do it. So, they have each taken their data and they would say, "At my building this is what's happening" and then looking at it. We're using a variety of key tasks that they will do over this school year. One of them is our administrators are going to be looking at a book, For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood by Christopher Emdin. In January, we are going to be reading the book as the administrators that will then work on it in the classrooms.

The other thing is that we're talking a lot about engaging the students. We have a lot of teacher-directed-to-the-students - that type of instruction. We are working on changing the practice to really work on getting students engaged, involved in their own education, and looking at what are we doing and some of the strategies we can do to increase student engagement and students to worry about their own education.

Each building is doing that piece and the team that is working on it, the Gold Team, is also doing that. And if anyone from this Board would be interested in being on any of the Gold Teams, we always need people who are willing to step up, meet with the group, and give additional ideas. But, we're looking at a practice in the classrooms first. We also are looking at, by building, our hope is that we can reduce that disproportionality by 50% the first year, and then again the second year, third year, fourth year, and then hopefully we will have a proportionate amount of discipline.

Mr. Lee: Thank you.

Ms. Devlin: I just want to add too, Gary, I think one of the first things that Ken's team had to do was show that there was disproportionality. Some schools were already aware of it, they were looking at it; others were not. So, even on Monday when all the schools were together, that first ask was, "Let's bring up our numbers and if the percentage of African-American or non-white students is, let's say 60, but that's 80% of our disciplinary, then that's disproportionate." I think we're just starting at that level and then working on the strategies that we mentioned.

Mr. Lee: The last question that I have is I know that you have an inclusion and diversity individual that is leading that particular effort. Can you give us an update on how that's coming along?

Mrs. Habursky: Absolutely. Ken Nixon is our diversity person, so he has a diversity team that is working on a variety of things. He is working on recruitment to get African-American teachers; we have a disproportionality in our employment as well. He actually went out to Thiel this week to talk to the education department and see if there are any recruits that would be able to come to Erie. They are working on that piece.

They are working on some mentoring, they are working on some peer mediation to really do some inclusion from our own students. We have a program that is one of the magnets that we have in our high school where there are students that are interested in education because there is a shortage, not only in Pennsylvania and Erie, but there is a shortage across the board in teachers nationally. Not only diversity, but just teachers in general now.

Some of the things that he and the team, it's not just him alone but he is our champion in moving in that direction. That's the one side. The other side is he is leading the charge of Goal Four which is that disproportionality.

Mr. Lee: Do you know if Ken and his team will be visiting any historically black colleges and universities?

Mrs. Habursky: They absolutely will be.

Mr. Lee: Great. Thank you.

Ms. Devlin: It is interesting because he said that he found, at Slippery Rock, they had a higher percentage of minority teaching candidates than even some of those. He was very surprised to find that. But he said in some cases they're closer to home than we realize so I think he is being really broad in that approach.

Mr. Barney: Just to piggy-back on that. I have four nieces and nephews that are teachers, but they happen to teach in Georgia, in Tennessee, because they couldn't get a job opportunity here. You don't have to go all the way down there to bring up qualified educators.

Ms. Easter: I'm on the Equity Inclusion Team and I also have worked with Ken on Goal Four and I can speak on behalf of Pfeiffer-Burleigh School. We have taken a look at examining bias, but we're also trained in restorative practices this summer so we're really looking at that being the model we're using to build better relationships and to understand culture better and to take into consideration perspectives of behavior and how it's different depending on where you're sitting and what you're doing. That is something that we're doing at the school level, but I think it's an ongoing conversation.

It's interesting because we did reach out to prominently and historically black colleges and the education department is very slim. I think we're looking more at where are the education programs coming from and how they can bring and encourage some of those students to come here. It's not just about bringing them here; it's about how we get them to stay too. How can we make our community a space that they want to come to and stay long-term?

Mr. Lee: Thank you.

Dr. Wood: I just want to applaud you for using disproportionality as a methodology for your process. I had never heard the term used in public dialogue here in Erie until you brought in that consultant for your strategic plan. What's great about it is it is objective; it's very by the numbers. It attacks racial disparity by the numbers and gives you a way to accurately measure progress and improvement.

Board Members thank the presenters.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Barney: Hopefully everyone has had a chance to review the Treasurer's Report. We'll start with the Profit & Loss statement. If you notice under Gaming Revenue, there is a substantial amount there of \$1,317,000 and you may be wondering how come it's so much. Well, the State has changed what they are disbursing quarterly now. So, we won't get as drastic of an amount in the fourth quarter because it will have been distributed. They have started that process.

If you look down farther, 70120 – Summer Jobs Program, you'll notice there that it is their first drawdown. That took place in August so that's why that's there. Pilot Programs shows \$15,000; that was the Summer Youth Service Program. That was a first-time payment. I just wanted to bring out some of the first timers in case you're wondering when it surfaced or why. Under that, you've got the Shaping Tomorrow – that shows \$100,000 which is for the Innovation District, that was a draw down for that.

If you turn to the next page, the Balance Sheet. Basically under the Committed Funds, that's the only thing, there still has been no draw down on the \$2.3 million. Statement of Cash Flows on the next page is basically the same. Nothing out of the ordinary there. If I shoot by something and there are any questions, feel free to stop me and ask what it is and I will try to answer you or consult with someone that may be able to answer that question.

Now, I'm on the Budget vs. Actual. There are a few things I'd like to bring to your attention. The Accounting Fees – that's the last payment on our audit that occurred. Then under there, 62120 Government Relations Services – that's the Ridge Policy. You may say, "Wow. Did they increase their price?" No. That's a double payment because their statement request didn't get in on time last month. If you go down farther, you'll see the exact opposite occurring. 62890 Rent – it says zero. Their request didn't get in on time, so it will be double the next time because we'll have to pay two months' worth.

There is nothing out of the ordinary underneath there. Just so no one thinks we're hiding anything, under Outreach, that amount there for the month of August, I was informed that there is a video for Renaissance Block that we're going to do a before and after so that will be part of there. Then there are a few other expenses.

Moving right along, Schedule of Grant Reserve. You got your Uncommitted Funds and Savings \$6.3 million and then you've got Committed at \$2.3 million. Nothing has changed there. If you look farther down at the \$1.693 for the fourth quarter gaming revenue, that has to wait for 12 months to elapse. On the back there is nothing out of the ordinary. Where we see municipalities and you see the amount that we paid them; well, no one called us and told us that we made a mistake and we gave them too much. That amount has increased due to us receiving a larger portion this quarter for the gaming revenue and because what they receive is a percentage, their amount increased.

Small Business Financing, it indicates the Innovation District where they drew down \$100,000. I went over the statements of the credit cards and didn't see anything out of the ordinary. If anyone has, please feel free to speak.

Mr. DiPaolo: Mr. Barney, I have a question in regards to that. What does O.S. stand for? On the Visa credit cards, it has after a couple of these entries, O.S.

Mr. Barney: I see. This is Tammi's credit card. \$3.48 from Country Fair and Shred-It USA. I'm not sure what that is.

Ms. Michali: Those are Office Supplies.

Mr. DiPaolo: That's what I thought it was, Office Supplies. And we have four entries at Country Fair. What type of office supplies do we get there?

Ms. Michali: That is the coffee creamer. I purchase that at the beginning of the week and it lasts for the week.

Mr. DiPaolo: And that is under office supplies?

Ms. Michali: Yes.

Mr. DiPaolo: Okay. Another question that I have in regards to the Check Detail report for August. We have \$9,509.46 for the Ridge Policy Group. I thought we only paid them \$4,000 a month.

Mr. Barney: As I indicated, that is for two months. Their statement didn't come in in time for us to pay, so that is two months.

Mr. DiPaolo: Ok. Very good. That's the only questions I had. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions?

Dr. Wood: Can I just clarify a couple of things? I put this document in front of you; it's the revenue dashboard. The revenue dashboard, I think, has always been helpful in showing us from a cash flow perspective how the gaming revenue comes in. You're going to see under the second quarter of 2018, as Mr. Barney had mentioned, a drastic difference. Typically, we would receive somewhere around \$200,000 - \$300,000; instead we received \$1.3 million. I thought that was worth going into a little bit more detail.

The bottom right chart on that dashboard, typically we called it the hockey stick chart, because revenue would flow in the first three quarters of the year in very small amounts and then would spike in the fourth quarter with what the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue would call the "true up" at the end of the year. That is when a larger amount of cash is transferred in order to make up for a percentage that every casino is required to pay. With having over ten years of financial data under their belt, they decided to change the process for distribution of gaming revenue.

I got a letter from Mr. Sparber explaining how that would happen and I think that there are just a few things to point out for your information.

1. The land bank is going to be paid off in the first two quarters of the year. So, a smaller amount in the first quarter and then a larger amount in the second quarter. That will get the full million dollars that they are owed out of the way.
2. Also, Summit Township as the host municipality paid in the first quarter; half of its budget is paid with gaming revenue.

Those two things immediately come off the top.

You're going to see a new spike in revenue in the second and third and fourth quarter which will eventually be aggregated to about \$4.5 million. Does anyone have any questions as to why that is different?

Mr. Sample makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Peters seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Paris: This was for the grant review. We met on Thursday of last week and went over the grant reviews. The majority of the grants that we recommended for funding. There were a few that we kicked out. We will be passing that resolution, hopefully, later on today.

Dr. Wood: I can go over more detail on that in my Executive Director's Report if you guys don't mind.

c. Update from County Council: Dr. Foust is not present.

d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are just a couple of updates. I want to start with the Summer JAMS Program. This past summer was a great success. We had 169 students sign up for the program; 161 completed the program, which is a 92% completion rate which falls right in line with what we've been able to do over the previous year. We had a total of 48 employers that participated in the program; as far as for nonprofits, it broke down to about 67% and 33% for-profit businesses. Our goal is to try and get a few more for-profit organizations and companies involved and we'll get there.

One thing I have to note is that even with the nonprofits, they are running as a business when you're talking about Gannon University, you talk about the school district, you talk about some of the other employers that are a part of this program, and their set-up is just like a for-profit set-up. The reason I point that out is that we really want the young men and women to gain experience on what it is to be part of a professional organization.

GECAC will be working with Keystone to provide us a final report that we receive each year. The feedback that I received from them is that the report should be completed sometime in November. We're looking to really strategize and do some things a little bit differently this coming year because we just have more time. We're excited; we feel like the program continues to add a lot of value for the entire county.

Secondly, the Community College initiative. I had the opportunity to speak to Mike Potts down in the Department of Education yesterday along with my finance team and a few of the representatives from Erie via a conference call. The big areas that we are working towards and the big item that we are working towards is a financial section of the business plan. The feedback we received from Mike yesterday is:

1. The number of students that are in the projections which is a total of 769 for the first year is a little assertive. They would like us to revisit those numbers and maybe in the ballpark of anywhere between 400-500 students for the first year.
2. The number of programs that we are rolling out that would be Associate Degrees; in the five-year roll-out we have a total of 30 programs but half of those programs, 15, are in year one. They wanted us to revisit that to see if we could maybe scale that down to a number between eight and ten. And we are going to be doing that.
3. The third aspect that they wanted us to take a look at is the investment by the State. We had the State down for \$2.9 million; they really wanted that to be ? going forward – that or less.

The financial team is taking a look at that. I asked Mr. Potts to provide his recommendations and his questions in writing, so he is doing that. Once we receive it, we're going to get the team together and move towards addressing those particular items. Are there any questions?

Mr. Sample: I just wanted to point out that in my business we have employed two people from the Summer JAMS and we employed them with the intention of keeping them on. Both have been able to continue on on a limited basis because their activity was sports, but the interaction from the people at GECAC was great, all of the processes we were very pleased with, and I know that we put a concerted effort in Corry to get the word out. There was one young lady I talked to the other day and she wants to get started even earlier next year with the school system, so we can get more kids involved.

Mr. Lee: Wonderful. Thanks for that feedback.

Mr. Paris: As for the Community College, did they say why they want those numbers decreased? The number of students and programs.

Mr. Lee: They said that during their study and taking a look at start-ups of Community Colleges, and by the way there are not many Community Colleges that are starting up around the country, they went to the State of New York and they realized with the numbers that they had projected, ours was a way more aggressive goal than from a national trend. Secondly, last time they approved a Community College was 25 years ago, back in 1993, in Cambria County. They took a look at their financial projections and their financial projections for the first year was only 200+ students and what they actually had enrolled once they got the Community College up and running was about 57 students. Their requesting that we go back and take a look at those numbers because they felt it was too aggressive based upon past history as it pertains to the start-up of a Community College.

Mr. Paris: And is that the same with the amount of degrees that were being presented?

Mr. Lee: That is correct. The roll-out of the degrees, again, they're just looking at the aspect of trying to make this a very workable plan. They just thought 15 was just too assertive for year one. But we're encouraged by the talks.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Gary.

Dr. Wood: Mr. Lee, I just want to comment that I think Summer Jobs and Community College are two great examples of how ECGRA and community government have worked together collaboratively and effectively. Summer Jobs is now in its fifth year and it keeps growing incrementally. As you mentioned, having Keystone Research I think is absolutely key because we're tracking that progress on multiple levels through surveying.

Community College, we're actually sitting on most of the cash right now in order to help that get up and running. But the third program that we're going to be embarking on together is Choose Erie. I've had a sit down already with the CEO of the Erie Regional Chamber, the new guy who just started on Monday, James Grunke, and I think that's going to be another great partnership that we have with Erie County government.

Mr. Lee: I would concur.

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: I'm just going to talk for a minute about the County ordinance that was proposed this week and then I'll talk about the Community Assets resolution. On Thursday, September 13, County Council had a finance committee meeting to discuss the first reading of an ordinance that would place new obligations on recipients of Restricted Gaming Funds. It included provisions that would require four things:

1. For ECGRA to submit a grant application to County Council
2. A new contracting process with the County Finance Department
3. Additional ineligible grant uses
4. New reporting requirements

Mr. Paris, Attorney Wachter, and I attended the meeting to provide feedback on the proposed ordinance. Our intent was to share information with Council concerning both the PA Gaming Legislation and the Settlement Agreement. Atty. Wachter gave members of Council a concise overview of both the law and the agreement. Subsequently, the County Solicitor issued an

opinion consistent with Atty. Wachter's interpretation of both the Gaming Law and the Settlement Agreement.

Then on Wednesday, September 19, Mr. Bagnoni and I sat down with Mrs. Loll and Mr. Anderson to discuss the ordinance in more detail. After reviewing the ordinance details, we found that the County's grant-making process is based on ECGRA's grant-making process. I guess imitation is the best form of flattery.

The biggest difference was that the County had added additional ineligible expenses to their application, which is what I've handed to you – a brief summary of the differences here. Where you see a green check mark, the applications are identical; where you see a red X, there are differences.

In the spirit of cooperation, I think it makes sense for ECGRA to expand its scope of ineligible expenses to include those on the County's list. Mr. Anderson acknowledged that the ordinance was a work in progress and encouraged ECGRA to continue to dialogue with Council. In further researching the ordinance, it is stated that Restricted Funds recipients would not be able to spend gaming funds on real estate and capital expenditures over \$1,000. If this were enacted, and ECGRA voluntarily followed it, then we would need to curtail or eliminate all together the following grant programs: Anchor Building, Community Assets, Mission Main Street, Multi-Municipal Collaboration, Renaissance Block, and Special Events. Since these programs are at the core of what we do as an Authority, I'm hoping that future drafts will reflect that reality.

I'll pause there for questions.

Mr. Wachter: Is it then the intention of Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Loll under this discussion that you had that ECGRA will not have to apply to the County for these funds but that ECGRA would consider to adopt some of the additional restrictions on the utilization of the grant monies by the ultimate recipients?

Dr. Wood: Their intent aside, I think it's in the spirit of cooperation that we do adopt these things in our grant guidelines whether it's passed in an ordinance or not.

Mr. Wachter: So, they didn't issue any decision or opinion related to whether they were going to continue to move forward with the ordinance?

Dr. Wood: I don't want to put words in their mouth. I think it would be sufficed to say that it was a draft ordinance and that they anticipated changes.

Mr. Wachter: More than likely, we will look forward to some amendments?

Dr. Wood: I would think so, based on feedback, yes.

Mr. Lee: Mr. Wood, I have a question. If ECGRA were to adopt the language to prohibit these types of events, how would that be monitored and who would be responsible for doing that?

Dr. Wood: That's a great question. Next time we pass a set of grant guidelines, we would simply add these to the ineligible expense category in the grant guidelines. It would be monitored through the current process we have in place which is:

1. It is acknowledged in the grant-making process that these are ineligible expenses
2. There is a budget provided by the grant applicant, in which if any of these were put in the budget, they would be rejected
3. As part of the close-out report, when they submit detailed financials as to what they spent ECGRA's grant funds on, if any of these were in the list of expenses, they would not be reimbursable.

Mr. Lee: Based on your initial review of the items that are not to be included, where do you see from a historical perspective some big concerns perhaps coming from some of the organizations?

Dr. Wood: Big concerns how?

Mr. Lee: As far as if we've maybe been putting money towards awards, or we may have been putting money towards . . .

Dr. Wood: . . . meals or flowers, or something like that?

Mr. Lee: Yes. And if you can't answer that, I'm just asking from a review of the items you see, where do you think there may become a concern to some of the grant recipients?

Dr. Wood: I guess what I would say is that nothing on here is controversial if we add it to the ineligible expense list. We ask nonprofits to provide us with their Board insurance, for example, because it is a best practice of nonprofits. The only problematic things on this list are:

1. Real estate – it could be problematic for the land bank, not for us, because those are both Restricted Funds. We already have the acquisition of real estate on our ineligible list, especially for Multi-Municipal.
2. Capital expenditures over \$1,000 for the reasons I mentioned. Let's take Mission Main Street as an example. The overwhelming majority of it is capital expenses because façade improvements are the main use of Mission Main Street funds. That would eliminate six different programs that we have.

Mr. Lee: Thank you.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Wood, if I may just put a finer point on what you just said with respect to the land bank because I believe this organization is generally in support of the concept and always has been. That same ordinance amendment would require the land bank to apply to County for the funding and that that land bank then would be unable, under the terms of that, to use it for the purchase of real estate for capital improvements which would eviscerate the whole purpose of the land bank. So, that would go to Mr. Wood's point that the discussion with Mrs. Loll and Mr. Anderson that it was clear that some edits may be required regarding the language.

Mr. Bagnoni: Mr. Anderson specifically stated that they were looking at that specific issue because of the land bank. I think that it is going to be revisited by County Council as far as what they're doing with it, but they weren't definitive when we talked to them.

Dr. Wood: Thank you. The next item on the agenda, you'll see Resolution Number 27, 2018. This is a resolution to pass the 2018 Community Asset funding. A couple of statistics – there were 46 applications received requesting \$948,336. All 46 were deemed eligible. The Committee reviewed all 46; we had a committee meeting to do so. Mr. Sample was not able to make it but he had reviewed the grants prior, Mr. Bagnoni was on the phone, and I believe it was Mr. Barney and Mr. Paris were in attendance of the committee meeting.

The Committee recommended denying three applications fully, partially funding ten, and fully funding 33 applications. We received 14 in the category of Arts, Culture, & Heritage; we received 13 in the Community Center category; and 19 in the Parks, Fields, & Trails category. The funding recommendation of the Committee was \$805,835.98. The Committee's recommendation to the Board was to make that funding based upon the attached Exhibit A to Resolution Number 27. Are there any questions on Community Assets?



I would like to just mention one more thing. I mentioned this to the Committee when we met was this is the first time we have expanded the Community Asset definition. This was a very large round; 46 grant applications in one grant round was very challenging not only for the staff but for members of the Board to find time to review. So, we are going to look at a better division of labor in the future – chopping these since they are in categories already, perhaps having folks apply at different times. Fourteen, thirteen, and nineteen are manageable numbers; 46 was a difficult haul. We'll come back to the Board with a recommendation on how to dice up Community Assets in the future.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chair, if I may make a comment for our friend here from the media. As Mr. Wood was going through the list of everybody who participated in the Committee meeting, I could see eyes going around and I don't know if you were counting Board members. For Sunshine purposes, each one of those Committee meetings is open to every member of the Board and they are all advertised in the Erie Times News in the Classified section with the bills paid.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Tim. Is there anything else, Mr. Wood?

Dr. Wood: No, sir.

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: A couple of the Ignite Erie fundings, we're getting closer on closing the rest of those. I did send out the final closing packet for Bridgeway today; there are two pieces of information I need from Bridgeway. We're still working on Blue Highway, as it is a unique sort of investment for them. I think everything else, Ben Franklin and the International Institute, those are taken care of. So, those are progressing nicely.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. DiPaolo: Mr. Chairman, is there any update with the Ridge Policy Group at all?

Mr. Paris: I think Perry has a little information on that.

Dr. Wood: We have an activity report, which of course is in the Executive Director's Report. If there are any questions on the activity report . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: Ok, how about as far as any money coming in; that's the question.

Dr. Wood: Of course, we have those examples of EDA funding that have been successful through our Entrepreneurship & Innovation approach. We have not had any success with the Blue Zones funding yet, we have not located any neighborhood-based funding. However, we are in talks with the City about Transportation & Planning funding. That will be a little more long-term and will probably take until next year. But in the short-term, we are seeing wins in the Entrepreneurship & Innovation side and we're actually hoping later in October to see some additional wins in that category.

Mr. Bagnoni: How long do we give this, the Ridge Group?

Dr. Wood: That's a great question. How long do you think? Did we discuss a timeline?

Mr. Bagnoni: Yes, we did.

Mr. DiPaolo: We gave them six months.

Mr. Sample: Six months was the time we stated.

Dr. Wood: Let's do a more comprehensive report for next month. How does that sound? We'll analyze it then.

Mr. Sample: We specifically said six months and that was when they came back and interacted with the County. I think that needs to be reviewed.

Mr. Bagnoni: I think it was October that we made that decision; I think it was around there.

Dr. Wood: Great.

Mr. DiPaolo: Mr. Chair, another thing under old business. In regards to our lease, I was able to obtain some different properties that are available and I'd like to have everybody have a copy of each one of those. I called Mr. Lee when I had found out about a couple and he thought it would be a good idea, naturally, to bring it up before the Board to see what the Board would want to do. There they are. I don't know how you want to go about it; if you just want to take a look at them and determine if you think, in fact, we should be interested in some of those or whatever the case may be. Did everybody get a copy?

So, whatever you want to do, there it is there. I know we had talked about it; we had talked about different places. If you want to look these over, Mr. Wood.

Mr. Bagnoni: What's the rent on this one?

Mr. DiPaolo: it's negotiable, evidently.

Mr. Bagnoni: I see they want a deposit of \$1,851.

Mr. DiPaolo: So, whatever you want to do, Mr. Wood, that's why I got those. If you want to report back to everyone or whatever you want to do.

Dr. Wood: This is October and I think our lease expires in April or May.

Mr. DiPaolo: I just wanted to make sure that somebody followed up on that, that's all.

Mr. Peters: If I could share as you are evaluating these, the last one on the list is represented by my company just so everyone is aware – 1250 Tower Lane.

Mr. Bagnoni: The other thing I think we need to consider is, if we do that, how much of the furniture do we have for offices?

Dr. Wood: Are you asking if we own our furniture?

Mr. Bagnoni: Yes.

Dr. Wood: Yes, we own our furniture.

Mr. Paris: But not here.

Dr. Wood: Correct, not in this room. To your point, the lease in this office park allows us to access this room and the other Board room at no cost and to use the technology and the furniture here. I don't know if these other properties have an equivalent, but we can look into it.

Mr. Bagnoni: And if we do, what the cost would be.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 27, 2018 – Resolution to enter into an agreement with forty-three (43) Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged in Arts, Culture, and Heritage; Community Centers; and Parks, Fields, and Trail-based projects.

Dr. Wood reads the Resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve Resolution 27. Mr. Bagnoni seconds the motion.

Mr. Paris: Is there any discussion?

Mr. Bagnoni: Can we explain to the rest of the Board what the three were that we did not fund and why?

Dr. Wood: There were three that were not funded. One was McDowell Band Aides, two was Wesleyville Borough, and number three was Perry Square Alliance. The McDowell Band Aides, and help me out here members of the Committee, was because they really should be applying for Special Events funding. We did fund them at a Community Asset level once in the past and that was for a very special event that they had in which they went nationally to some national competition, so we made an exception there. But that will be the feedback provided to McDowell Band Aides is that it would be more appropriate for them to go after Special Events funding for their annual funding activities.

The second was Wesleyville Borough. You'll see here Memorial Park Renovations – Phase One; the application simply was not ready. It was very preliminary; there were no cost estimates attached to it, there was no public involvement, the research was minimal. So, the conversation with them after today if you decide not to fund it will be all of that feedback that I included and then some advice on how to go about collecting information that the Board and staff would want to see for a successful application.

The third was the Perry Square Alliance. I think it was felt that it was for labor; to pay someone to water the plants. Although the improvements at Perry Square are very important to the central business district, the idea that we would pay one year for somebody to water the baskets and plants, it didn't make a lot of sense. It's going to be a reoccurring cost. If they can't afford that kind of ongoing labor, they probably shouldn't have put those improvements in in the first place.

Mr. Paris: Those were the three. Is there any other discussion?

Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. DiPaolo: I thought we were going to do New Business; we skipped it.

Mr. Paris: That was New Business.

Mr. DiPaolo: I have something under New Business.

Mr. Paris: If we're going to do that, we need to amend the agenda.

Mr. Wachter: That would be appropriate.

Mr. Barney makes a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. DiPaolo: The only thing that I wanted to bring up, and I think it's something that we should think about. Naturally, we have been taking a hit with a lot of the things that have been in the news lately. What the situation with the Jefferson Society, with them not paying their taxes and according to news articles and everything else I pick up on, ECGRA has given them \$530,000 over the past few years. I thought it would be a good idea that if we hold off with giving anything to Jefferson until this is resolved with them.

I think that probably the people would think, "Here they are not paying their taxes. Everybody here pays their taxes," and all of a sudden we're going to give them another \$100,000 like we did before. I think it would be best if we hold off on giving anything to the Jefferson Society until they resolve the problem that they have with their taxes.

I'd like to make a motion to that; that we basically hold off on giving the Jefferson Society any more funds until they rectify their problem with their taxes that they have.

Mr. Logue: I'll second that.

Mr. Wachter: I would like to ask some questions.

Mr. DiPaolo: Sure.

Mr. Wachter: Are there currently any grants or fundings that have been made to the Jefferson that they would be due to draw on that this motion would be in violation of that grant agreement?

Dr. Wood: No.

Mr. Wachter: Are there currently any grant applications that are anticipated in the future that the Jefferson is anticipated to apply for?

Dr. Wood: Yes, I would say Special Events in January.

Mr. Logue: Mr. Solicitor, he could amend his motion to specifically state that, albeit bills would still be in the flux, but any new monies going to Jefferson Society would be held in abates, be abated, until their tax, whatever you want to term it, is rectified. I think he could amend his

motion to include any future payments that are due under any agreements, the umbrella would cover that and therefore, any future payments would be held and abated.

Mr. DiPaolo: I don't think we have any.

Mr. Wachter: I would agree with you except there are no future payments that are due at this time so won't need to do that.

Mr. Logue: It seems like we're not really sure. Mr. Barney wasn't sure with his position on the Board with finances, our Director was (inaudible), but so be it. There was a motion; I already seconded it.

Mr. Peters: I didn't hear that last part, Tony, about Mr. Barney.

Mr. Logue: Well, Mr. Barney wasn't really sure. He said no but he wasn't unequivocal that there was anything still out there or not. I don't know, Dale, what do you think? Is there money owed to them or not?

Mr. Barney: Not to my knowledge.

Dr. Wood: The answer is no, definitively.

Mr. Bagnoni: I have a question about (inaudible) so what are we going to do? How are we going to find out?

Mr. DiPaolo: When they apply for it, if they ever apply for it and that's not resolved, then Perry calls them and tells them that until such time they can't apply for any money.

Mr. Sample: I thought that they were working on it with County government. And they did make the payment through whenever. I would hope that they would pursue a pilot program.

Mr. Wachter: Because of my involvement with the school district, I know where the case is, and I can give you an update as to where things are. The Jefferson did file in the Court of Common Pleas for a tax exemption on their property. That filing was done I believe in 2015. That case has languished; the City is a municipal entity that is involved and has intervened in that particular case. It has been reported in the paper and I can confirm that there have been discussions as to whether the taxing bodies would be willing to enter into a pilot agreement with the Jefferson, rather than pursue that case. Pilot agreements are often used to structure settlements to a tax exemption appeal. That is currently going on.

I have some hesitation with the Gaming Authority taking a position, or really any government body not involved in that tax appeal, taking a position over whether or not the Jefferson could apply for funds when they're pursuing their legal rights in trying to resolve a court case.

Mr. Sample: My feeling is that if they are owed no money now and if they have to go through the application process, if we don't deem them worthy or have the thing, we can deny the application at that time. To me, that would be the easiest way.

Mr. Wachter: Once again, I would caution that whether they're involved in a tax appeal or not is not an item within the guidelines for any grant application that is filed before this Gaming Authority and the Gaming Authority needs to be careful with adding additional requirements for any one special applicant.

Mr. Sample: We're not the tax police.

Mr. Wachter: You're not the Board of Assessment Appeals. That is my concern.

Mr. Logue: Just to distill this down to the basic needs, what we have is this organization that's in a good neighborhood and I imagine the neighbors, I don't know them, but I imagine they're paying their taxes and their sewer and water and garbage bills like this. And they're doing that and they work at GE or LORD or wherever they work at and they see that this organization across the street from them or next door to them is receiving a half a million dollars and is unable to pay their taxes and here's Johnny Lunch Bucket – he's paying his taxes every quarter or whatever it is, and he's saying, "Where is my help? These guys get all this money and they don't pay." Now, that ain't right. As a taxpayer, as a citizen of this county, I'm wondering what the heck is going on?

He's made the motion, I seconded it.

Mr. Paris: I just want to be sure I'm clear on this. Aren't there other nonprofits out there that don't pay their taxes either?

Mr. DiPaolo: There could be. One of the proposals that County Council wants to put in on this ordinance is that, in order to give any type of money to anybody, you have to have your taxes paid up. That's right in there. Mr. Lee, do you know anything about that?

Mr. Lee: I cannot speak on behalf of County Council.

Mr. DiPaolo: Ok but did you hear that? Did you read that? What they proposed, the resolution?

Mr. Lee: I am not aware of it.

Mr. DiPaolo: Ok, because in the resolution it specifically says that in order to give any type of money, that a person or an identity has to have their taxes paid.

Mr. Sample: Is this the draft or the resolution?

Mr. DiPaolo: The resolution that was voted on.

Mr. Sample: I thought they just said that it was a draft now?

Dr. Wood: It is a draft ordinance.

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, they voted on it Tuesday night. For the first reading. So, it's not a draft if it's a resolution that was voted on.

Mr. Bagnoni: Could we pass a resolution the same way? Saying if you're not current on your taxes we won't consider you for grants?

Mr. Sample: I think we're jumping the gun.

Mr. Wachter: To do it generally, yes you could. I would just caution that the way that they applied for their tax exemption, if they were to win the case, it would be retroactive to the tax year that they filed it. When you file a tax exemption appeal, you should continue to pay your taxes during the pendency of that appeal; otherwise you'll end up in the situation where they ended up. The appeal lasted longer than the sheriff's sale period and their property went up for judicial sale. So, they came out and paid their year 2016 taxes in order to resolve the sale issue. Both 2017 and 2018 are outstanding. If they get a pilot, it's going to be retroactive to the 2017-18 years. If they win their court case, it will be retroactive to the 2017-18 years.

So, should they pay their taxes? I'm not their attorney but I would advise that they continue to do that so they don't get back into a judicial sale; but there's a legal procedure on the books. I would hate to have a resolution apply to any one individual entity. If you wanted to do it on a broad scale that any entity that is behind on their taxes you shouldn't consider, that's a uniform application of policy which is absolutely fine.

Mr. Bagnoni: I think that's where we should go. Do you want to amend your . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: I will amend it to say that anybody that applies for a grant or anything with ECGRA has to have their taxes paid up.

Mr. Wachter: Delinquent local taxes?

Mr. DiPaolo: Local, federal, personal, everything.

Dr. Wood: A couple of questions as the staff who is going to have to implement this policy. So, I think I heard that you want it applied broadly to every nonprofit, not just the Jefferson.

Mr. DiPaolo: You've got to understand, the only reason I'm bringing it up, everyone laughs at this Board to think we just give money out like it's water. And then all of a sudden, you're giving \$500,000 out to an outfit that doesn't even pay their taxes. And they have a million dollars in the bank. It doesn't make any sense.

Naturally, we want to help different organizations in town; we naturally want to do that. But I think that's a slap in the face to us. That's my opinion.

Mr. Bagnoni: I think amending it to all organizations would be a better position for us to be under. Singling out one person, does that open us to a lawsuit?

Mr. Wachter: Yes.

Mr. Bagnoni: Then I don't want to do that.

Mr. DiPaolo: Ok, that's fine then. I'm glad you brought that up, Mr. Wachter. That's fine.

Dr. Wood: So, before you amend, there are a couple of things to consider. Number one –

Mr. Bagnoni: My question is this, if we do this and pass this ordinance and make this part of the process where they apply for grants, are we going to have somebody assigned to check their taxes?

Mr. Wachter: If I may. I'm trying to think of how the staff is going to check that. Real estate tax is easy to check; you go to the Erie County website, they have a property tax search, you plug in the property address and it tells you if there is delinquent taxes that are owed, then you hit a button and it prints a delinquent tax report. That's easy.

Reaching out to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue or the IRS to get a determination as to whether a private individual is on delinquent tax, I don't know how to do that. We could look it up.

Mr. Logue: You go down to the Courthouse to the Prothonotary's Office, punch in the Jefferson Society, see if there is any liens or judgements, it will show.

Mr. Wachter: If you're at that point that there are state tax liens, that will show but I'm trying to figure out how we would check before we get to that point; before that lien is filed.

Mr. Sample: Liens and judgments is different than taxes owed. Because you can also owe taxes but haven't filed the liens or the judgements. It's so arbitrary to say that if you owe any taxes, that becomes monumental.

Mr. Peters: I have one question and one comment. If there is a nonprofit similar to the Jefferson and they are in this process of negotiating a pilot or in some form of litigation over whether they do or don't owe taxes, how does that show up on the County website?

Mr. Wachter: Typically, what happens is if you're a nonprofit and you file a tax exemption appeal, you will pay your taxes during the pendency of that appeal and so it will show that the taxes have been paid. Then what happens, if the nonprofit wins, the taxing body as part of the order settling the case or finalizing the case, the taxing body (the school district, the county, and the city or township) would then have to cut a refund back to that entity for the amount of taxes that had been paid since the period of time that they had filed the appeal. So, that wouldn't show up on the County website.

The only reason this one showed is because, for whatever reason, they didn't pay their taxes during the pendency of the appeal, and then a whole other process comes in place which is the sheriff and judicial sale process; where you don't pay in year one, year two you get notices, year three you get sold.

Mr. Peters: My comment is that I'm not conceptually opposed to this idea. What my preference is and has been since I've served on this Board is that we thoroughly analyze how we would implement this and rather than take action sort of because of something that was in the news or something that one individual organization might be going through, that rather than take action, we push that to our Solicitor to say, "What would be an appropriate way to manage through this? Give us some guidance before we take action."

I've served on this group for a very long time and I've been in situations where we sort of made a knee-jerk reaction to something and it creates challenges later. I'd state for the record that I'm not opposed to this concept. I would personally prefer that we ask our Solicitor to put together some guidelines for how we do this prior to taking action.



Mr. Sample: I agree with Chuck.

Mr. Peters: We could put it on the agenda for next month.

Mr. Paris: I agree with Chuck, too. I'm trying to go through how all this would work. If you take the whole 46 applicants and go through each, how many of these 46 applicants pay taxes?

Mr. Wachter: Good question. Just because you're a 501c3 doesn't mean you don't have to pay real estate property taxes.

Mr. Paris: Right, because PACA for instance, pays their taxes.

Mr. Wachter: Because they are taxable.

Mr. Bagnoni: McDowell band applies for a loan and McDowell hasn't paid their taxes, can we automatically exclude them from this? I'm just concerned about liability here.

Mr. Sample: I just think we need more time to review it rather than beat a dead horse.

Mr. Paris: I agree with what you're saying because the Jefferson, it's just one entity and it's one that we know of.

Mr. DiPaolo: Can't we do something that if in fact we want to state that you have to be up to date with all your taxes and have some type of form that they have to sign when they apply?

Mr. Bagnoni: We can put it in the form if that's a motion you want to make.

Mr. DiPaolo: Right, we can do it that way. Look, if he withdraws his second, I'll withdraw the motion. It's a good idea what Chuck said; have them . . .

Mr. Wachter: Can I put something together for you?

Mr. DiPaolo: Absolutely.

Mr. Paris: Here's another thought. Can we have them put the information into their application so we're not the ones looking for it?

Mr. DiPaolo: Exactly. They can let us know whether or not they are paying their taxes.

Mr. Paris: And have proof of that.

Mr. Wachter: Where my head is right now is they could go, as part of the application, print that tax report and include it.

Mr. DiPaolo: Right and if we find out that it's false, they're out.

Mr. Wachter: We can put a certification on the application, an unsworn falsification of authority specifically indicating that they're up to date on all the other taxes as necessary. I can write that up for you.

Mr. Paris: So, how do you want to proceed with your motion?

Mr. DiPaolo: I'll withdraw my motion. Until we determine . . .

Mr. Paris: Then we will do the research on this.

Mr. Barney: And they don't have money coming.

Dr. Wood: No, they do not.

Mr. Wachter: There is nothing on the books.

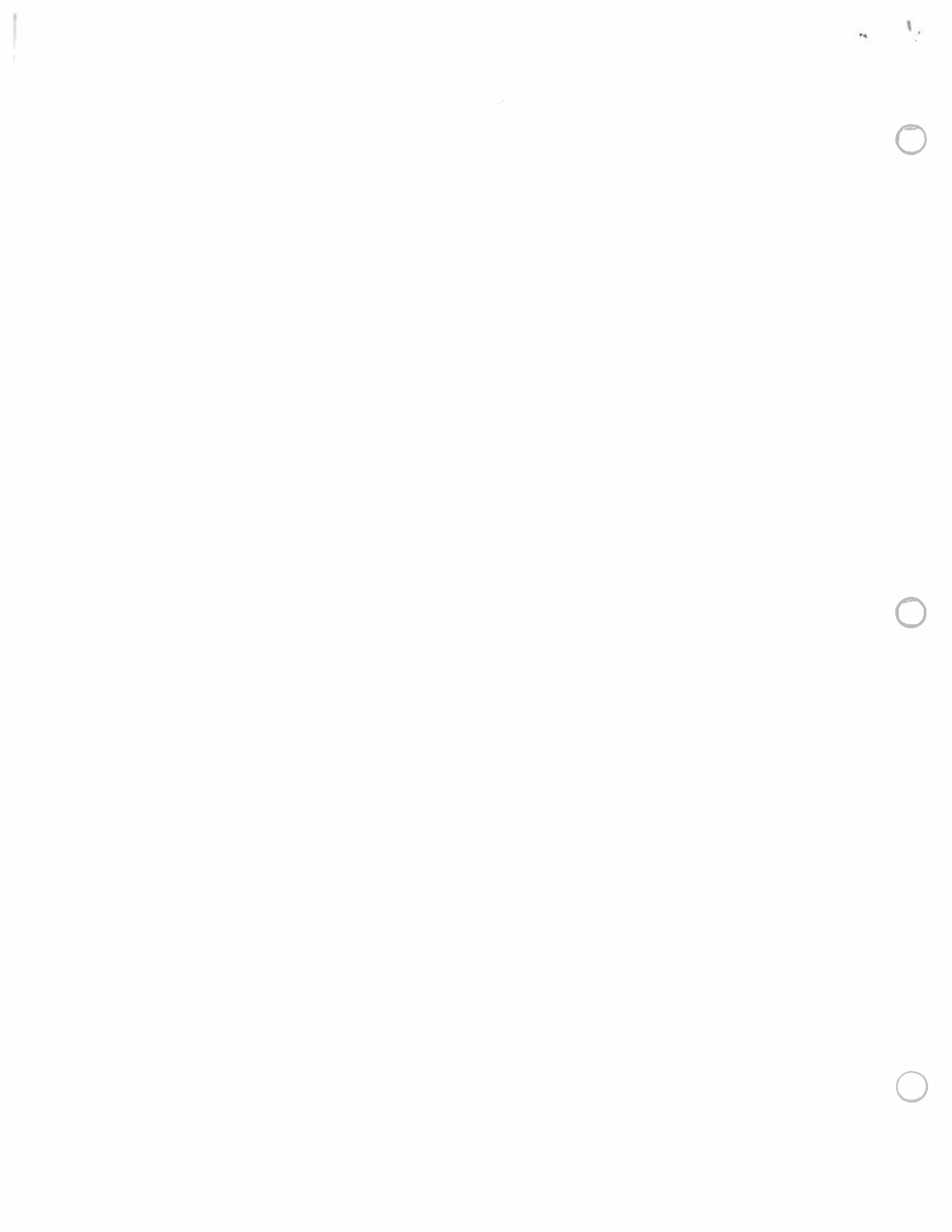
Mr. DiPaolo: Ok; very good. Like I said, it's nothing against those people. If it was another outfit, I would do the same thing. That's all.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peters moves to adjourn.

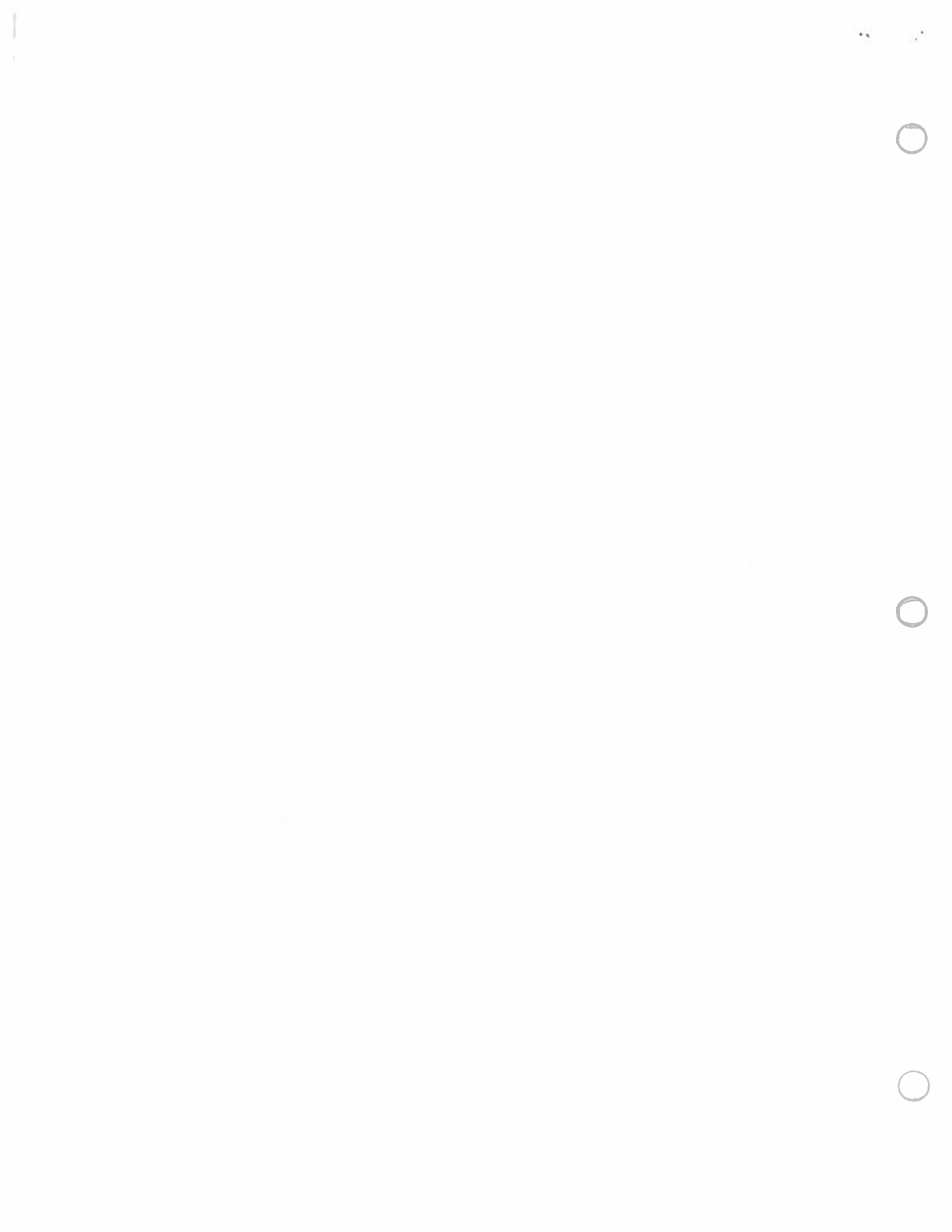
**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**September 2018**

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2017-18 Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		1,693,697.73		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	7,938.49	51,424.25		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC	7,666.67	15,250.00		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		5,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct	3,252.71	4,335.71		
46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue				
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>18,857.87</u>	<u>1,769,707.69</u>		
<b>Expense</b>				
62100 · Contracted Services	5,976.35	56,836.15	68,599.98	137,200.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	2,904.62	7,518.63	11,499.96	23,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	1,940.41	9,293.66	13,399.98	26,800.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	6,051.54	21,731.35	29,899.98	59,800.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	14,869.92	101,991.02	111,587.52	223,175.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>31,742.84</u>	<u>197,370.81</u>	<u>234,987.42</u>	<u>469,975.00</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	(12,884.97)	1,572,336.88		
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
70000 · Grants / Settlements				
70030 · Community Assets				
70050 · Municipal Settlements		423,424.44		
70060 · Human Services				
70070 · Special Events		172,736.71		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		445,550.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street				
70120 · Summer Jobs Program	37,113.25	108,624.23		
70130 · Small Business Financing	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00		
70136 · Ignite Erie Industry+University		250,000.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects	39,500.00	84,500.00		
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow		100,000.00		
70170 · Renaissance Block		270,670.00		
70180 · Anchor Building		63,850.00		
<b>Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements</b>	<u>3,076,613.25</u>	<u>4,919,355.38</u>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>(3,076,613.25)</u>	<u>(4,919,355.38)</u>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>(3,089,498.22)</u></u>	<u><u>(3,347,018.50)</u></u>		



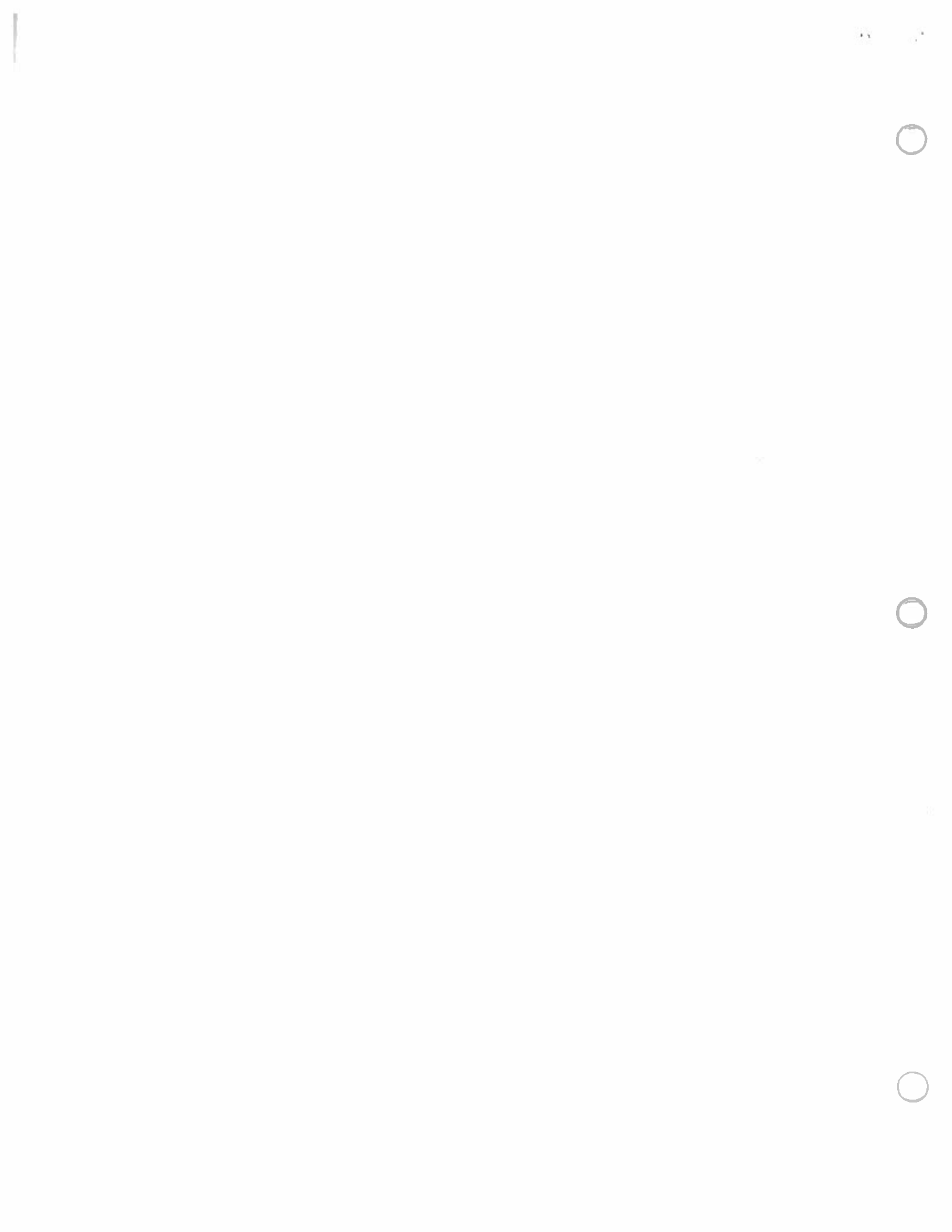
**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of September 30, 2018

	<b>September</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	77,556.96
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	3,720,725.01
10101 · Committed Funds	2,268,113.75
10102 · Restricted Funds	5,013,816.12
<b>Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings</b>	11,002,654.88
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	11,080,211.84
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	18,846.25
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC	1,000,000.00
12005 · Note Receivable - Progress	1,000,000.00
12010 · Note Receivable - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · Note Receivable - EDF Restruct	1,300,000.00
12060 · Notes Receivable - BWC 2	2,500,000.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(760,000.00)
<b>Total 12000 · Notes Receivable</b>	5,558,846.25
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	(2,100.65)
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	5,556,745.60
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	16,636,957.44
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	16,636,957.44
 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	5,427,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	14,556,911.76
Net Income	(3,347,018.50)
<b>Total Equity</b>	16,636,957.44
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	16,636,957.44



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**September 2018**

	<u>September</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	(3,089,498.22)
<b>Adjustments to reconcile Net Income</b> <b>to net cash provided by operations:</b>	
<b>14500 · Prepaid Insurance</b>	(815.33)
<b>Net cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	<u>(3,090,313.55)</u>
<b>Net cash increase for period</b>	(3,090,313.55)
<b>Cash at beginning of period</b>	<u>14,170,525.39</u>
<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<u><u>11,080,211.84</u></u>





**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
**September 2018**

	September	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
<b>Expense</b>					
<b>62100 · Contracted Services</b>					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	6,538.00	11,000.00	(4,462.00)	59.44%
62120 · Government Relations Services	4,186.95	27,061.43	50,000.00	(22,938.57)	54.12%
62130 · Professional Services	360.00	2,926.57	36,000.00	(33,073.43)	8.13%
62140 · Legal Services	1,349.50	14,328.50	35,000.00	(20,671.50)	40.94%
62145 · Website Design	0.00	660.00	4,000.00	(3,340.00)	16.50%
62150 · Payroll Services	79.90	521.65	1,200.00	(678.35)	43.47%
<b>Total 62100 · Contracted Services</b>	<b>5,976.35</b>	<b>52,036.15</b>	<b>137,200.00</b>	<b>(85,163.85)</b>	<b>37.93%</b>
<b>62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>					
62840 · Office Equipment	0.00	291.99	5,000.00	(4,708.01)	5.84%
62890 · Rent	2,904.62	7,226.64	18,000.00	(10,773.36)	40.15%
<b>Total 62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>2,904.62</b>	<b>7,518.63</b>	<b>23,000.00</b>	<b>(15,481.37)</b>	<b>32.69%</b>
<b>65000 · Office Administration</b>					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	121.52	2,137.78	4,000.00	(1,862.22)	53.44%
65020 · Postage	15.99	195.94	600.00	(404.06)	32.66%
65030 · Printing	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.00%
65040 · Office Supplies	295.69	1,112.59	2,800.00	(1,687.41)	39.74%
65050 · Cell Phone	447.43	993.64	2,200.00	(1,206.36)	45.17%
65060 · Copier Lease	527.95	1,232.13	2,200.00	(967.87)	56.01%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	150.00	1,293.51	3,500.00	(2,206.49)	36.96%
65080 · Bank Fees	42.00	127.47	50.00	77.47	254.94%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.00%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	339.83	2,200.60	5,000.00	(2,799.40)	44.01%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 65000 · Office Administration</b>	<b>1,940.41</b>	<b>9,293.66</b>	<b>26,800.00</b>	<b>(17,506.34)</b>	<b>34.68%</b>
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>					
65105 · Outreach	4,690.00	13,238.41	12,000.00	1,238.41	110.32%
65110 · Advertising	80.80	911.60	12,000.00	(11,088.40)	7.60%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	1,166.62	7,498.56	18,000.00	(10,501.44)	41.66%
65120 · Insurance	-815.33	3,261.32	9,800.00	(6,538.68)	33.28%
65150 · Travel	929.45	1,621.46	8,000.00	(6,378.54)	20.27%
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>6,051.54</b>	<b>26,531.35</b>	<b>59,800.00</b>	<b>(33,268.65)</b>	<b>44.37%</b>
<b>66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	13,215.37	90,874.06	200,000.00	(109,125.94)	45.44%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,029.47	7,070.68	15,000.00	(7,929.32)	47.14%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	175.00	(175.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASUI Tax	0.00	33.26	2,000.00	(1,966.74)	1.66%
66500 · Retirement	625.08	4,013.02	6,000.00	(1,986.98)	66.88%
<b>Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>14,869.92</b>	<b>101,991.02</b>	<b>223,175.00</b>	<b>(121,183.98)</b>	<b>45.70%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>31,742.84</b>	<b>197,370.81</b>	<b>469,975.00</b>	<b>(272,604.19)</b>	<b>42.00%</b>



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of September 30, 2018**

	September	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
<b>Uncommitted Funds</b>	3,720,725.01		
<b>Committed Funds</b>	2,268,113.77		
<b>2018 Restricted Funds:</b>			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		375,769.51	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,317,928.22	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	<b>1,693,697.73</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>			
First Quarter Disbursements		711,429.09	
Second Quarter Disbursements	3,076,613.25	4,182,926.29	
Third Quarter Disbursements		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements		0.00	<b>4,894,355.38</b>

**Disbursements Detail**

**Grants/Settlements**

**Community Assets**

**Special Events**

Achievement Center	1,603.13
Albion Area Fair, Inc.	8,441.29
AmeriMasala	1,268.01
Borough of Union City	503.13
Borough of Wesleyville	398.87
CAFE	15,914.92
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.	1,584.51
Downtown North East, Inc.	4,746.55
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber National Institute	10,490.36
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	2,177.83
Edinboro Highland Games	2,332.19
Edinboro University Foundation	1,786.45
Lake Erie Ballet	2,672.43
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	2,054.18
Erie DAWN	1,635.37
Erie Downtown Partnership	1,890.64
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc	1,711.15
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.	1,196.61
Film Society of Northwestern PA	1,294.22
French Creek Council, BSA	622.76
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society	623.41
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	894.51
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	5,041.72
Humane Society of NWPA	319.10

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of September 30, 2018**

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Impact Corry		1,058.60	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		13,960.45	
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier		1,886.66	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		3,981.72	
Martin Luther King Center		398.87	
Mercy Center for Women		2,495.14	
The Nonprofit Partnership		3,085.26	
North East Community Fair Association		905.44	
Presque Isle Partnership		16,080.00	
Roar on the Shore Inc.		16,080.00	
SafeNet		3,190.96	
Saint Joseph Church		3,817.19	
Saint Patrick Church		4,620.91	
ServErie		4,339.11	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		2,097.70	
Union City Pride		800.11	
Waterford Community Fair Association		6,077.04	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		7,530.87	
YMCA of Greater Erie		6,262.26	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		2,063.75	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		801.33	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			<b>172,736.71</b>
<b>Municipalities</b>			
Erie County		46,576.69	
Greene Township		46,576.69	
McKean Township		46,576.69	
Millcreek Township		46,576.69	
Summit Township		190,540.99	
Waterford Township		46,576.69	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			<b>423,424.44</b>
<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
Borough of North East		100,000.00	
City of Corry		30,000.00	
City of Erie		28,000.00	
Corry Industrial Benefit Association		35,000.00	
Erie Area Council of Governments		50,000.00	
Erie Area Council of Governments		47,450.00	
Erie Area Council of Governments		30,000.00	
Girard Township		16,600.00	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		100,000.00	
West Erie County EMA		8,500.00	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			<b>445,550.00</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of September 30, 2018**

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
<b>Neighborhoods &amp; Communities</b>			
<b>Renaissance Block</b>			
Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	
Borough of Union City		25,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	
Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch		6,000.00	
Sisters of Mercy		12,500.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		35,000.00	
Borough of North East		25,000.00	
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	
Preservation Erie		26,920.00	
ServErie		29,000.00	
		<u>245,670.00</u>	<b>245,670.00</b>
<b>Anchor Building</b>			
City of Corry		5,225.00	
Emmaus Ministries Inc		20,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		20,000.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		18,625.00	
		<u>63,850.00</u>	<b>63,850.00</b>
<b>Small Business Financing</b>			
PSU - Ignite Erie Industry+University		250,000.00	
Mercyhurst - Innovation District		100,000.00	
International Institute of Erie - MicroEnterprise Fund	200,000.00	200,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - Inclusive Erie/Accelerator	2,800,000.00	2,800,000.00	
		<u>3,350,000.00</u>	<b>3,350,000.00</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Education</b>			
GECAC - Summer Jobs	37,113.25	108,624.23	
		<u>108,624.23</u>	<b>108,624.23</b>
<b>Pilot Programs</b>			
Erie's Public Schools Master Plan		30,000.00	
BEST/OWB Summer Youth Service Pilot		15,000.00	
Erie Regional Chamber - Choose Erie	39,500.00	39,500.00	
		<u>84,500.00</u>	<b>84,500.00</b>
<b>Total Funds Disbursements</b>	<u>3,076,613.25</u>	<u>4,894,355.38</u>	<u><b>4,894,355.38</b></u>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of September 30, 2018**

<b>Committed Funds:</b>	<u>September</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
<b>Renaissance Block</b>			
Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
Borough of North East		25,000.00	50,000.00
Borough of Union City		25,000.00	50,000.00
Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	100,000.00
Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch		0.00	6,000.00
Sisters of Mercy		12,500.00	25,000.00
SSJ Neighborhood Network		35,000.00	70,000.00
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	50,000.00
Preservation Erie		26,920.00	53,840.00
ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
<b>Anchor Building</b>			
City of Corry		20,900.00	26,125.00
Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		80,000.00	100,000.00
Grace Church		100,000.00	100,000.00
Our West Bayfront		80,000.00	100,000.00
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		74,501.50	93,126.50
<b>GECAC - Summer Jobs Program</b>	37,113.25	41,375.77	150,000.00
<b>PennVenture Partners</b>		1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
<b>Shaping Tomorrow</b>			
Empower Erie - Community College		370,000.00	400,000.00
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours		66,666.50	200,000.00
Mercyhurst University - Innovation District		195,000.00	400,000.00
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<u>37,113.25</u>	<u>2,268,113.77</u>	<u>3,054,591.50</u>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Check Detail Report**  
**September 2018**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
09/03/2018	EFT	VISA	July 2018 Visa - Perry	-1,709.36
09/03/2018	EFT	VISA	July 2018 Visa - Tammi	-685.24
09/05/2018	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	08/18/18 to 08/31/18 Payroll	-6,505.39
09/05/2018	EFT	Fidelity Investments	08/18/18 to 08/31/18 Retirement	-501.43
09/06/2018	2486	Velocity Network, Inc.	Phone/IT/Fax	-809.76
09/07/2018	2487	Ridge Policy Group	2018 September Government Relations	-4,186.95
09/11/2018	2488	Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.	2018 Pilot Program - Choose Erie	-39,500.00
09/11/2018	2489	Great America Financial Services	2018 September Copier Lease	-332.00
09/11/2018	2490	MenajErie Studio	Anniversary Video	-2,200.00
09/14/2018	2491	Penn State University - Knowledge Park	2018 August/September Rent	-2,904.62
09/18/2018	2492	Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2018 Summer Jobs	-37,113.25
09/18/2018	2493	Parker Philips	August 2018 Outreach	-2,490.00
09/18/2018	2494	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2018 October Copier Lease	-345.95
09/18/2018	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	09/01/18 to 09/14/18 Payroll	-7,436.04
09/18/2018	EFT	Fidelity Investments	9/01/18 to 9/14/18/ Retirement	-506.96
09/19/2018	EFT	Erie Times News	Community Assets Review Announcement	-80.80
09/19/2018	2495	Kate Nash	Ignite Erie Mid-Term Report	-380.00
09/28/2018	2496	Dale Barney	2018 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-52.97
09/28/2018	2497	Dave Sample	2018 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-126.80
09/28/2018	2498	David Bagnoni	2018 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-67.62
09/28/2018	2499	Mike Paris	2018 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-151.83
09/28/2018	2500	Tammi Michali	2018 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-275.69
09/28/2018	2501	Tom M Maggio	2018 2nd & 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-376.61
09/28/2018	2502	Bridgeway Capital	2018 MRI Loan/grant	-2,800,000.00
09/28/2018	2503	International Institute of Erie USCRI-IIE	2018 MRI grant	-200,000.00
09/28/2018	2504	Perry Wood	2018 3rd Quarter Reimbursement	-410.15
09/28/2018	EFT	ErieBank	Service Charge	-42.00



SCORECARD	CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE	CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE
	\$26.23	05/15/19

**Account Summary**

Billing Cycle	08/10/18
Days in Billing Cycle	31
Previous Balance	\$1,309.87
Purchases	+ 1,709.36
Cash	+ 0.00
Special	+ \$0.00
Balance Transfers	+ \$0.00
Credits	- \$0.00
Payments	- \$1,309.87
Other Charges	+ \$0.00
Finance Charges	+ 0.00

**NEW BALANCE \$1,709.36**

**Credit Summary**

Total Credit Line	\$25,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$22,100.00
Available Cash	\$22,100.00
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

**Important Information About Your Account**

MANAGE YOUR CARD ACCOUNT ONLINE. IT'S FREE! IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM AND ENROLL IN OUR ONLINE SERVICE. YOU CAN REVIEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION, TRACK SPENDING, SET ALERT SERVICE, NOTIFICATIONS, DOWNLOAD FILES, AND MUCH MORE. MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT IS FAST, SECURE AND EASY WITH MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM. ENROLL TODAY!

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Please send Billing Inquiries and Correspondence to  
PO BOX 30495 TAMPA, FL 33630-3495

**Payment Summary**

NEW BALANCE	\$1,709.36
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$1709.36
PAYMENT DUE DATE	09/04/18

NOTE: Grace period to avoid a finance charge on purchases pay entire new balance by payment due date. Finance charge accrues on cash advances until paid and will be billed on your next statement.

**Cardholder Account Summary**

Trans Date	Post Date	MCC Code	Reference Number	Description	Amount
07/10/18	07/12/18	7523	24473018192900013437594	ERIE PARKING AUTHORITY ERIE PA	\$3.00
07/16/18	07/16/18	8111	24767898198635801446423	KNOX MCLAUGHING GORNALL A 800-4498012 PA	\$1,349.50

travel  
legal

PLEASE DETACH COUPON AND RETURN PAYMENT USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE - ALLOW UP TO 7 DAYS FOR RECEIPT 0005

ERIEBANK  
PO BOX 42  
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

Account Number  
#### #### #### 6829

Check box to indicate  
name/address change on  
back of this coupon

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>New Balance</b>	<b>Total Minimum Payment Due</b>	<b>Payment Due Date</b>
08/10/18	\$1,709.36	\$1709.36	09/04/18

\$

ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
PERRY N WOOD  
5340 FRYLING ROAD  
SUITE 201  
ERIE PA 16510-4672



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

VISA  
PO BOX 4512  
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4512



ERIEBANK

ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
PERRY N WOOD

Account Number: #### #### #### 6829  
Closing Date: 08/10/18  
Credit Limit: \$25,000.00 Available Credit: \$22,100.00



**Cardholder Account Summary Continued**

Trans Date	Post Date	MCC Code	Reference Number	Description	Amount
07/24/18	07/25/18	4814	24493988205083054597298	AT&T*BILL PAYMENT 800-331-0500 TX	\$356.86
08/02/18	08/02/18	0000	74335288214001158910196	ACH PMT THANK YOU	\$1,309.87 -

1541  
Phone/IT/Sec

**Additional Information About Your Account**

**ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 08/09/18**

SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$17.68	\$8.55	\$0.00	\$26.23	06/18/19

**Interest Charge Calculation/Plan Level Information**

Plan Description	ICM <sup>1</sup>	Balance Subject to Interest Rate	Periodic Rate	Annual Percentage Rate (APR) <sup>2</sup>	Interest Charge	Ending Balance
<b>CURRENT</b>						
PURCHASES	E	\$ 0.00	0.7292%	8.75% (V)	\$ 0.00	
CASH	F	\$ 0.00	0.7292%	8.75% (V)	\$ 0.00	
FEES/INTEREST CHARGE					\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>				0.00%	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,709.36

<sup>1</sup>ICM Interest Charge Method See reverse side of Page 1 for explanation.  
<sup>2</sup>Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the annual interest rate on your account.  
(V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary



SCORECARD	CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE	CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE
	\$16.06	05/15/19

**Account Summary**

Billing Cycle		08/10/18
Days In Billing Cycle		31
Previous Balance		\$1,114.76
Purchases	+	723.61
Cash	+	0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$38.37
Payments	-	\$1,114.76
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	0.00

**NEW BALANCE \$685.24**

**Credit Summary**

Total Credit Line	\$10,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$9,248.00
Available Cash	\$9,254.00
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

**Account Inquiries**

Customer Service: (800) 423-7503  
Report Lost or Stolen Card: (727) 570-4881

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.MyCardStatement.com](http://www.MyCardStatement.com)

Please send Billing Inquiries and Correspondence to:  
PO BOX 30495 TAMPA, FL 33630-3495

**Payment Summary**

NEW BALANCE	\$685.24
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$15.00
PAYMENT DUE DATE	09/04/18

*NOTE: Grace period to avoid a finance charge on purchases; pay entire new balance by payment due date. Finance charge accrues on cash advances until paid and will be billed on your next statement.*

**Important Information About Your Account**

MANAGE YOUR CARD ACCOUNT ONLINE. IT'S FREE! IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO [WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM](http://WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM) AND ENROLL IN OUR ONLINE SERVICE. YOU CAN REVIEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION, TRACK SPENDING, SET ALERT SERVICE, NOTIFICATIONS, DOWNLOAD FILES, AND MUCH MORE. MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT IS FAST, SECURE AND EASY WITH [MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM](http://MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM). ENROLL TODAY!

PAY ONLINE OR VIEW YOUR ACCOUNT AT:

USE YOUR SCORECARD FOR EXTRA CHANCES TO WIN BIG PRIZES WITH SCOREBIG.

**Cardholder Account Summary**

Trans Date	Post Date	MCC Code	Reference Number	Description	Amount
07/10/18	07/11/18	5411	24692168192100995319393	TOPS MARKETS #601 ERIE PA	\$27.20
07/11/18	07/13/18	5411	24445008193500333071464	WEGMANS #075 ERIE PA	\$82.00
07/12/18	07/15/18	5411	24445008194500416269257	WEGMANS #075 ERIE PA	\$126.00
07/14/18	07/15/18	5942	24692168195100763711281	Amazon.com AMZN COMBILL WA	\$86.85

mtg  
mtg  
mtg  
bcks

PLEASE DETACH COUPON AND RETURN PAYMENT USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE - ALLOW UP TO 7 DAYS FOR RECEIPT. 0005

ERIEBANK  
PO BOX 42  
CLEARFIELD PA 16830 - 0042

Account Number  
#### #### #### 8023

Check box to indicate name/address change on back of this coupon

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>New Balance</b>	<b>Total Minimum Payment Due</b>	<b>Payment Due Date</b>
08/10/18	\$685.24	\$15.00	09/04/18



ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
TAMMI MICHALI  
5340 FRYLING ROAD  
SUITE 201  
ERIE PA 16510-4672



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

VISA  
PO BOX 4512  
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4512

ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
TAMMI MICHALI

ERIEBANK

Account Number: #### #### #### 8023

Closing Date: 08/10/18

Credit Limit: \$10,000.00 Available Credit \$9,248.00



**Cardholder Account Summary Continued**

Trans Date	Post Date	MCC Code	Reference Number	Description	Amount
07/14/18	07/15/18	5111	24692168195100877737065	ACCO BRANDS DIRECT 800-365-9327 NY	\$35.42 O.S.
07/14/18	07/15/18	5734	24692168195100741590096	INTUIT *CHECKS / FORMS 800-446-8848 CA	\$100.68 O.S.
07/16/18	07/17/18	5541	24299108197003298917509	COUNTRY FAIR #48 ERIE PA	\$1.99 O.S.
07/17/18	07/18/18	5734	74692168198100466374793	CREDIT VOUCHER INTUIT *CHECKS / FORMS 800-446-8848 CA	\$38.37 -
07/18/18	07/20/18	5968	24789308200647502381577	ERIE TIMES NEWS CIRCULATI 814-8701600 PA	\$34.67 S.O.S.
07/20/18	07/22/18	5310	24164078201091007662889	TARGET 00012872 ERIE PA	\$8.89 O.S.
07/21/18	07/22/18	7399	24692168202100612544801	STAMPS COM 855-808-2677 CA	\$15.99 postage
07/23/18	07/24/18	5541	24299108204004788272935	COUNTRY FAIR #48 ERIE PA	\$1.99 O.S.
07/30/18	07/31/18	5541	24299108211006233913378	COUNTRY FAIR #48 ERIE PA	\$1.99 O.S.
08/01/18	08/02/18	5942	24692168213100661476100	AMZN Mktp US Amzn.com/bill WA	\$3.98 O.S.
08/02/18	08/02/18	0000	74335268214001156910188	ACH PMT THANK YOU	\$1,114.76 -
08/03/18	08/03/18	5942	24692168215100409136931	AMZN Mktp US Amzn.com/bill WA	\$42.00 O.S.
08/05/18	08/06/18	5942	24431068217083754740091	AMZN MKTP US AMZN COMBIL AMZN COMBILL WA	\$68.82 O.S.
08/06/18	08/07/18	5541	24299108218001187515801	COUNTRY FAIR #48 ERIE PA	\$1.99 O.S.
08/07/18	08/09/18	5482	24435658220286227900155	MIGHTY FINE DONUTS INC ERIE PA	\$16.84 mtg
08/09/18	08/10/18	5411	24226388222400000217159	WAL-MART #5445 ERIE PA	\$3.41 O.S.
08/09/18	08/10/18	7399	24493988222026428636762	SHRED-IT USA LLC 866-647-4733 IL	\$62.90 O.S.

15497

**Additional Information About Your Account**

**ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 08/09/18**

SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$13.04	\$3.02	\$0.00	\$16.06	08/15/19

**Interest Charge Calculation/Plan Level Information**

Plan Description	ICM <sup>1</sup>	Balance Subject to Interest Rate	Periodic Rate	Annual Percentage Rate (APR) <sup>2</sup>	Interest Charge	Ending Balance
<b>CURRENT</b>						
PURCHASES	E	\$ 0.00	0.7292%	8.75% (V)	\$ 0.00	
CASH	F	\$ 0.00	0.7292%	8.75% (V)	\$ 0.00	
FEES/INTEREST CHARGE					\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>				0.00%	\$ 0.00	\$ 685.24

<sup>1</sup> ICM Interest Charge Method. See reverse side of Page 1 for explanation

<sup>2</sup> Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the annual interest rate on your account

(V) = Variable Rate. If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary





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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
OCTOBER  
2018**



**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE “RE-IGNITED” ERIE INNOVATION FUND!**

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has committed \$1.3 million to Ben Franklin’s Erie Innovation Fund to help more local tech-startups and small manufacturers develop new, innovative products, software, and services while growing their companies in Erie County.

To date, ECGRA has made three other investments in Ben Franklin’s Erie Innovation Fund. With Ben Franklin’s match, \$3.4 million has been deployed in to more than two dozen local tech-company projects that created 70 jobs and generated \$28 million in revenue. Please join us in applauding ECGRA and its Board for their support and vision.

**AGENDA**

Tuesday, September 25, 2018  
5240 Knowledge Parkway  
Jordan Room at Knowledge Center  
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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Steve Brawley, President/CEO Ben Franklin Technology Partners/CNP.....	5:00 PM
Welcome and Introduction	
Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA.....	5:15 PM
ECGRA’s Support of the Ben Franklin Program in Erie County	
BF Funded Company Remarks.....	5:30 PM
Networking.....	5:45 PM

###

## Perry Wood

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**From:** Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP <lizwilson@psu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 03, 2018 10:37 AM  
**To:** Perry Wood  
**Subject:** ECGRA commits \$1.3 million to Ben Franklin's Erie Innovation Fund + More

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**Ben Franklin**  
Technology PARTners  
Central & Northern PA  
cnp benfranklin.org



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## Latest News from Ben Franklin ...

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**ECGRA commits \$1.3 million to Ben Franklin's Erie Innovation Fund**  
Millions of dollars are being injected into Erie's tech-startup industries. The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority or ECGRA has committed \$1.3 million to the Ben Franklin's Erie Innovation Fund. ECGRA and the Ben Franklin Technology Partners have help more than two dozen local tech company projects. [--->Read More](#)

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**Developing a quick-acting foam for treating wounds on the battlefield**  
Every second counts for those with life-threatening injuries, especially when help is far away. A new grant will help Penn State researchers develop an innovative foam that helps seal wounds quickly — whether on the battlefield, in rural areas or in other isolated locations far from hospitals. [---->Read More](#)

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**RENAISSANCE BLOCK ROUNDTABLE**  
**Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510**  
**October 9, 2018**  
**12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**AGENDA**

1. **Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority – ECGRA's investment in Neighborhoods & Communities**
2. **Kim Thomas, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Director of DCED – Introduction of Deputy Secretary Rick Vilello**
3. **Rick Vilello, Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary Community Affairs and Development**
4. **Renaissance Block Program**
  - a. **Anna Frantz, Our West Bayfront**
  - b. **Patrick Gehrlein, Manager, Borough of North East**
5. **Roundtable Discussion**



## Perry Wood

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**From:** Thomas, Kim <kimbethoma@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2018 11:22 AM  
**To:** Perry Wood  
**Subject:** Thank you

Good morning Perry,

I just wanted to thank you for the invitation to the ECGRA roundtable. I found the conversation to be very beneficial, and I know the Deputy Secretary did as well.

I look forward to staying in touch in regards to funding resource availability and Erie County projects. Don't ever hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Talk soon,

Kim

**Kim Thomas, MPA, EDFP** | Director, Northwest Regional Office  
PA Department of Community & Economic Development  
Northwest Regional Office  
100 State Street, Suite 205 | Erie, PA 16507  
Phone: 814-871-4245 | Cell: 717-903-0931 | [kimbethoma@pa.gov](mailto:kimbethoma@pa.gov)  
[dced.pa.gov](http://dced.pa.gov) | [www.visitPA.com](http://www.visitPA.com)





## ECGRA: August 15 – September 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings, Phone Calls, Emails, and Other Work

9/21/2018	Phone call with Melissa regarding Healthy Partnerships for Children Program
9/26/2018	Mark Holman attended Erie Innovation District accelerator launch
9/26/2018	Mark Holman met with Perry to discuss projects and programs related to ECGRA in Erie
10/2/2018	Sent over information on Big Data Regional Hubs NSF Opportunity
10/9/18	PA DCED Deputy Secretary Rick Vilello met with Renaissance Block recipients due to our work
Throughout September	Assisted with GECAC's application to provide YouthBuild Services, including securing a letter of support from Senator Casey and Rep. Kelly (We believe they ultimately decided not to submit)
Throughout September	Prepared materials for Erie Board meeting, including compiling all RPG activity and grants suggested (all mentioned in a separate document)
Throughout September/October	Working with Innovation District on EDA Assistance for Coal Communities Grant, including reaching out to relevant State leaders and stakeholders

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

Below is information on all of the grant opportunities we provided this month.

#### **HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM**

**Grant Description:** To support community-based services to improve the health of children, adolescents, and families in rural and other underserved communities by increasing access to health services.

**Eligibility:** Public and private nonprofits, including faith- and community-based organizations; and Native American tribes and tribal organizations

**Funding:** \$400,000

**Deadline:** 10/1/2018

**More Information:** Madhavi Reddy, Tel. (301) 443-0754, E-mail: [mrcddy@hrsa.gov](mailto:mrcddy@hrsa.gov)

#### **Big Data Regional Innovation Hubs Program**

**Background:** In 2015, NSF launched the Big Data Regional Innovation Hubs program (BD Hubs) as one component of a national big data innovation ecosystem, to help nucleate regional collaborations and multi-sector projects, and foster innovation in data science. The BD Hubs serve as a venue for building and fostering local and regional data-related activity in city, county, and state governments, in local industry and non-profits, and in regional academic institutions. This opportunity would fund the creation of Big Data Hubs, which would connect within and across regions to foster activity around big data and data science. Their specific activity in accelerating engagement falls into three general categories: programmatic activities, socio-technical services, and education and workforce training.

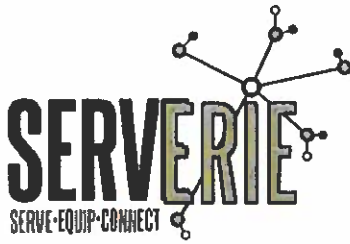


**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants include independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies, and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.

**Deadline:** Dec. 18, 2018

**More Info:**

[https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18598/nsf18598.htm?WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_25&WT.mc\\_ev=click](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18598/nsf18598.htm?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click)



September 18, 2018

Dear Perry & Tom,

Another summer has ended, and we've been reflecting on all of the wonderful opportunities ServErie had over the past few months to impact the community around us. As you know, one highlight of the summer was the School Initiative at Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary and the Booker T. Washington Center. 1,189 volunteers descended on these locations serving a total of 6,272 hours over 3 days. Your generous sponsorship and support made this high-impact project possible. Thank you for joining us in this transformational work this summer!

At a time when Erie's Public Schools has struggled to provide quality learning spaces for our children, this project improved environments throughout Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary: second floor murals were created, bathrooms were upgraded, rooms were cleaned and painted, landscaping was upgraded, and the entire outdoor fence was repainted. The highlight of the project was the transformation of two important educational spaces: the STEAM room and the Library. Because of you, these children will be inspired and better equipped to take full advantage of technology and the educational opportunities in front of them.

Booker T. Washington Center has a 95-year commitment to serving youth and family in the Erie area. The deteriorating infrastructure of the building has been a detriment to their work for many years. Instead of government, it was the community that brought the necessary funding and changes to the BTWC. As a result of your investment in this renovation, there's a renewed sense of hope for the children and families BTWC serves each day. In addition, volunteers had an opportunity to learn about the great work of BTWC and many have committed their time and resources to support them on an on-going basis.

The ripple effect of this project will go deep and wide to provide hope to this struggling neighborhood conveying much needed love and support to the people who call it home. Your generous donation helped to make all this possible. Thank you for being a part of positive change in this inner-city community that desperately needs it. Your involvement is making a tangible difference. Watch for our announcement of the 2019 School Initiative in the coming weeks. We would love to continue our partnership into the future.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcus S. Atkinson".

Marcus S. Atkinson  
Executive Director

Thank you for your gift of \$3,764 (a portion of the special events grant) to support the 2018 School Initiative. ServErie is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. No tangible goods or services were provided in exchange for your gift. Please keep this letter for your tax records.

## ECGRA unveils new Mission Main Street grant

BY ALEX TOPOR  
alex@thecorryjournal.com

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is accepting applications for a new grant until next year.

The Mission Main Street Grant Program is designed to improve main streets in communities in Erie County. Grants will be accepted on a rolling basis with applications being due on Nov. 16, Feb. 15, 2019, and July 19, 2019.

"The purpose of the MMSGP is designed to create a targeted impact on Erie County's municipalities through commercial

corridors known as main streets," the grant guidelines say. "Revitalizing Erie County main streets is an economic and community development strategy that creates jobs, promotes tourism and impacts the region's economy."

The goals of the grant are to:

- Redevelop streetscapes and buildings.
- Remove blight and reverse deterioration.
- Promote a positive small business environment.

◀ See ECGRA, P.2

## ECGRA

(Continued from front page)

- Incentivize and spur private investment.
- Make communities more walkable, safe and attractive.
- Experiment with creative programming and civic engagement.
- Improve the municipal tax base.

ECGRA is making \$2,500,000 available to be granted in the 2018-2021 funding cycle. Up to \$10,000 can be awarded per planning grant and up to \$250,000 per implementation grant.

The guidelines have changed from the previous grant cycle. Now, there are two funding paths available for grant money, a planning grant and an implementation grant.

The planning grant requires a one to one cash match and can be up to \$10,000. The money can be used for relevant studies, planning, design and/or engineering services.

The implementation grant is for the project itself. Previous projects have included special events, streetscapes, facades, ad campaigns, tree planting and a myriad of different improvements.

ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood said the grant program was upgraded to help organizations accomplish even more work.

"The new Mission Main Street guidelines kick the program in to overdrive. Recently we analyzed the progress of grants, did some

research and held a small focus group of main street applicants," Wood said.

"The results were the new and improved MMS guidelines."

The new guidelines increase the funding pool and allow organizations to accomplish more in their community.

"We continue to believe that main streets are an important asset in economic and community development," Wood said. "Main streets that distinguish themselves through a niche are the ones that thrive."

Eligible applicants for Mission Main Street include nonprofit organizations, local governments and municipal authorities that are headquartered in Erie County.

Corry-area organizations have taken advantage of Mission Main Street grants in the past. Impact Corry received \$15,000 to plant trees in downtown Corry in 2017.

"The guidelines for the Mission Main Street Grant have changed significantly. We will need to review the new guidelines and reassess how they affect the projects that we have in mind," said Impact Corry President Debbie Dearborn. "Impact Corry is planning to take advantage of the Mission Main Street Grant and hope other local organizations are doing the same. "ECGRA has been very good to Corry in the past and we hope that the relationship continues."

# ECGRA to restrict gaming grant use

By Matthew Rink  
matt.rink@timesnews.com

Future recipients of grants from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority would be prohibited from using funds on expenses such as food, drink, gifts, photos, awards and cell phones under a proposal made Thursday by Executive Director Perry Wood to the authority's seven-member board.

The list of ineligible expenses mirrors those in Erie County's new grant application policy. Wood's proposal comes as members of Erie County Council have proposed that ECGRA adhere to the new guidelines, which both the solicitors for ECGRA and Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper say would be unenforceable because of state law and a 2010 court settlement on gaming revenue.

Wood said he made the proposal "in the spirit of cooperation" during ECGRA's monthly board meeting Thursday. His recommendations followed a meeting he had Wednesday with members of County Council.

ECGRA already restricts grant recipients from using funds for travel, debt service, memberships, subscriptions and real-estate acquisitions. Wood said the county's new guidelines mirror the guidelines ECGRA established for outside agencies a decade ago, with the exception of the ineligible-use list. Revising ECGRA's policy would put it in line with the county's.

"After reviewing the ordinance details, we found out that the county's (new) grant-making process is based on ECGRA's grant-making process," he said. "I guess imitation is the best form of flattery. The biggest difference was that the county added additional ineligible expenses to their (policy). In the spirit of cooperation, I think it makes sense for ECGRA to expand its scope of ineligible expenses to include those on the county's list."

However, ECGRA is likely to leave out one restricted expense from the county's list: capital expenditures of more than \$1,000. Wood noted that capital expenses are at the heart of the ECGRA programs, including its Mission Main Street and Renaissance Block programs. Those programs encourage nonprofits, such as neighborhood associations, and municipalities to make facade and other exterior improvements to distressed neighborhoods,

business districts and historic structures.

County Council proposed that ECGRA abide by the new guidelines because of continued concerns over the authority's overhead, which has been a sticking point for some local lawmakers in recent years.

When asked if ECGRA itself would have to abide by the guidelines Wood proposed for grant recipients, Wood said: "I don't know the answer to that at this time. That is also open for further dialogue."

Erie County Councilwoman Carol Loll, who proposed that ECGRA come under the new county guidelines, said she is encouraged by Wood's proposal, but wants ECGRA itself to follow it, not just the agencies to which it issues funds.

Loll, Wood, Councilman Carl Anderson and ECGRA board member David Bagnoni met Wednesday for what Loll described as an "enlightening and informative" discussion. She said the meeting helped open lines of communication between County Council and ECGRA.

"I've never had an agenda," she said. "I'm just trying to guard and protect what belongs to the taxpayers."

ECGRA is also considering a proposal from board member Dominick DiPaolo to restrict future funding to any organization that is delinquent on property taxes. DiPaolo raised the concern in light of the Jefferson Educational Society, which has a delinquent property tax bill of \$92,000. The think tank is in talks with taxing authorities on a program that could forgive a portion or all of that amount.

DiPaolo initially moved to ban any future ECGRA funds to the Jefferson Educational Society, which he said has received in excess of \$530,000 in gaming funds in the past. However, he withdrew his recommendation when other members expressed concerns about singling out one agency and questioned how to treat a nonprofit that is in a tax-repayment plan or in the process of appealing a tax bill. Otherwise, board members were receptive to the idea.

Solicitor Tim Wachter is expected to return to the board in October with proposed ordinance language that would apply to all agencies seeking ECGRA dollars.

Matthew Rink can be reached at 870-1884 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/ETMrink](http://www.Twitter.com/ETMrink).

# Erie, Millcreek officials part of economic development training

By Kevin Flowers  
kevin.flowers@timesnews.com

Officials from the city of Erie and Millcreek Township are among those receiving economic development training this week from a New York-based consultant.

Representatives of the National Development Council are conducting the training at City Hall, 626 State St. The firm specializes in municipal training and economic development certification, and local officials' training focuses on tax incentives and financing used to encourage development.

Renee Lamis, Mayor Joe Schember's chief of staff,

said among those receiving the training are city officials including Planning Director Kathy Wyrosdick, Economic Development Director Chris Groner and Business Development Officer Brett Wiler, along with Millcreek Township Supervisor John Morgan.

In addition, local organizations such as the Erie Downtown Development Corp., the Erie Downtown Partnership and the Erie Redevelopment Authority were invited to participate, Lamis said.

The course, Lamis said, is part of an effort to build an inter-municipal partnership between Erie and Millcreek to identify possible joint economic development policies,

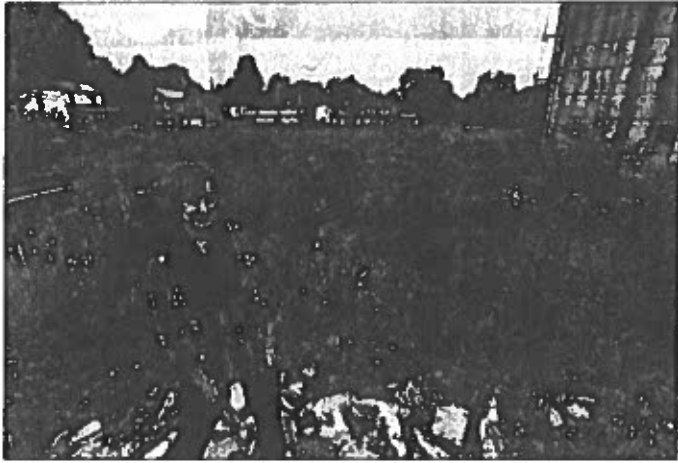
programs and opportunities.

Erie City Council and Millcreek supervisors signed off in May on a memorandum of understanding regarding that partnership. The two municipalities have also received a \$28,000 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority that will be used to build capacity for joint economic development projects.

A portion of that money is paying for the NDC training, which is expected to cost about \$20,000.

Kevin Flowers can be reached at 870-1693 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ETNflowers](http://www.twitter.com/ETNflowers).

# 'It would give people jobs'



On Monday, Cheryl Wolfe, 68, secretary/treasurer for the borough of Union City shows part of the site of the former Ethan Allen cherry (Syden furniture factory along South Main Street) in Union City. Ernest Sell (not pictured), owner of Raccoon Refuse in neighboring Mill Village, plans to open a solid waste transfer station on the property. (CHRISTOPHER WILLET/PHOTO NEWS SERVICE)

## Residents support plan for Union City furniture property

By Valerie Myers  
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**UNION CITY** — A local businessman is moving ahead with plans to put a former industrial property in Union City Borough to use again.

And the community is cheering him on.

Ernest Sell, owner of Raccoon Refuse in neighboring Mill Village, plans to open

a solid waste transfer station on the property that once was home to a prosperous furniture factory, the Cherry Hill division of Ethan Allen.

Garbage trucks would unload at the site at 77 S. Main St. Garbage then would be reloaded onto trucks that would take it to the landfill in Summit Township.

See JOBS, A4



A Raccoon Refuse garbage truck drives south on South Main Street in Union City. (CHRISTOPHER WILLET/PHOTO NEWS SERVICE)



His wife, before opening a night stand in their store, Syed's father was killed in Union City on Monday. Ahmed Syed is supportive of a plan by Ernest Sell (not pictured), owner of Raccoon Refuse in neighboring Mill Village, to open a solid waste transfer station on the site of the former Ethan Allen cherry division furniture factory along South Main Street in Union City. "I'm sure it would lower Cheryl's travel costs," Syed said. "Just that would help the business grow." (CHRISTOPHER WILLET/PHOTO NEWS SERVICE)

## JOBS

From Page A1

Operations would take place during normal business hours, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sell told Union City Borough Council this past spring.

"We're getting closer. It's just a long, slow process, but we're still moving ahead slowly but surely," Sell said Tuesday.

Sell plans to bury the property and has applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a permit to operate the waste transfer station.

"That's not a quick process. It takes about nine months or so," Sell said of the permit application.

The transfer station would reduce costs for the business and keep costs low for customers, Sell said this past summer.

Ahmed Syed is among local business owners who approve of Sell's plans. Syed and his wife own Syed's Indoor Yard Sale at 20 S. Main St., just down the hill from the former Ethan Allen property.

"I hope this does work out for him," Syed said. "It's a big piece of land that is doing nothing. It's an eyesore now."

Sell's plans include providing green space on part of the property.

The facility also would be good for Sell's business, Syed said.

"I'm sure it would lower his travel costs, and that would help the business grow," he said.

The transfer station additionally would provide jobs, Sell has said.

And that's the best part of the plan, said Robert Hill, who lives near the property, on Miles Street.

"It would give people jobs around here," Hill said.

The Ethan Allen plant at one time was Union City's largest employer.

The company employed about 150 workers before it closed in 1003.

The 210,000-square-foot building later was used as a kind of small business incubator. Its owner additionally planned to add a skate park and pizzeria. But fire destroyed the three-story building in 2010.

Judy Hart, who works at the French Creek Mercantile at 10 N. Main St. in Union City, said her mother worked at the furniture plant.

"It would be good if the property is used again," Hart said. "There are so many empty buildings in town."

The waste transfer station could spark a kind of regeneration, she said. Union City Mayor Natalie Wilmoth agrees.

"For the community overall it's going to be a huge morale booster," she said this summer.

After the town's major manufacturing shops closed one by one, the empty furniture factory

property added "insult to injury," Wilmoth said.

"It served as a constant reminder every time you drove by," she said.

Other Union City Borough officials also are behind Sell's plans for the former furniture factory property.

The borough in recent years has dealt with complaints about graffiti, illegal dumping and weeds on the property, officials said.

The waste transfer station would not add noise, odor or pollution, according to Sell's plans. And Raccoon Refuse would improve and maintain the property.

"Any development up there would be a good thing. Someone using the property again would be a plus for the community," Borough Council President Dan Brumaght said Friday.

"I think this is a great prospect for the property," Wilmoth said Friday. "It's been such a shame to see it vacant all these years."

Sell additionally is considering providing some kind of recreation area at the site.

If that happens, so much the better, Syed said.

"If there's something for kids, some kind of games thing, that would be good, too," he said.

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## FUND

From Page A1

Stahlsmith was among several successful entrepreneurs on hand Tuesday when the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority announced that it will commit \$1 million to the Erie Innovation Fund and another \$300,000 to the Ben Franklin TechCelerator business startup "boot camp," which will be brought to Erie for the first time. The Ben Franklin Technology Partnership will match ECGRA's contribution dollar for dollar.

"Erie needs funding," Stahlsmith, 37, said. "Right now the biggest problem is that there is no capital. There are so many great ideas. I hear them all day."

Perry Wood, executive director of ECGRA, said the Erie Innovation Fund is a critical funding source because there is a shortage of risk capital for technology-based startups. Those startups are high risk, but high reward, he said.

"Those are specifically investments in companies," he said. "These go into mission-related equity investments. That's important because you can't take out a loan from a bank for an intellectual property-based company. If our region doesn't have venture capital groups, Ben Franklin steps into the fold."

"This is a problem globally," Stephen Brawley, president and CEO of Ben Franklin Technology Partners, said. "There's not enough money at the high-risk stage for entrepreneurs."

Tuesday's event highlighted other local success stories that got their start with the assistance of the Erie Innovation Fund, like Sphere Brakes, whose founder Aaron Lewis patented a new technology that he believes improves the stopping performance in cars, trucks and other vehicles.

"Let me be clear, the Erie Innovation Fund literally helped launch a new industry and that new industry

is taking a foothold here in Erie," Lewis told a room full of business owners, economic development officials and government leaders at Knowledge Park on the campus of Penn State Behrend. "The new industry precipitates new market segments, new market segments precipitate hundreds of thousands of new product lines. To support those product lines requires a robust network of investors and qualified and talented employees and mentors and also multi-billion-dollar global customers."

That's the new "reality" of Sphere Brakes, Lewis said, and it wouldn't have been possible without ECGRA and Ben Franklin Technology Partners, which have already raised \$3.4 million for more than two dozen local tech-company projects. Those projects have led to \$28 million of total revenue and 70 new jobs.

Elizabeth Wilson, a spokeswoman for Ben Franklin Technology Partners, said ECGRA is the only gaming authority in Pennsylvania with which it has partnered.

As for the TechCelerator program, it's been held in different locations across the state, including State College, where it has a permanent presence. The 10-week program helps aspiring entrepreneurs refine their ideas, identify potential customers and design a business plan.

"At the end of it, they make a more educated go or no-go decision," Brawley said. "It's OK if they say, 'you know what, this isn't the idea I thought it was, it doesn't have the market I thought it would.' We want you to learn that before you max out the credit cards, mortgage the house and borrow from grandma. We've found it really does make a difference when folks have an easy way to explore their idea, explore their discovery and have a nurturing environment."

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## Innovation Fund gets \$2 million increase

ECGRA, Ben Franklin Technology Partners announce investment

By Matthew Rink  
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Four years ago, Zakary Stahlsmith wanted to create a marketing company that focused on the social media

platform Instagram and what he calls "micro-influencers."

He pitched the concept to Ben Franklin Technology Partners, a 31-year-old firm that provides tech and manufacturing startups with business and technical expertise, networking assistance and seed money. They believed Stahlsmith was onto something and urged him to take a First Step seminar at Gannon University's Small Business Development Center.

Officials with Ben Franklin Technology Partners later told Stahlsmith about grant funding opportunities.

"That inspired me to take my idea to the next level, so I started pitching to investors," he said. "I was fighting for like \$5,000 here and there."

After nine months of refining his message and perfecting his pitch, Stahlsmith would win \$50,000 in seed funding and a second round of \$100,000 of funding from Ben Franklin. Today, Erie-based Apex-Drop Influence Marketing is a multimillion-dollar company with 23 employees.

See FUND, A4

**ERIE  
NEXT**



# Company to invest millions in innovation district

By Jim Martin  
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Quantela, a global data analytics company that is helping to implement the smart city project in Erie, is ready to make a bigger investment in Erie.

The company, which helped coordinate the installation of free Wi-Fi in downtown Erie, has made what the Erie Innovation District is viewing as a vote of confidence in the organization and its Secure Smart City pilot project.

Karl Sanchack, CEO of the Erie Innovation District, announced Wednesday during a public presentation at Blasco Library that Quantela is prepared to lead a consortium that would invest \$5 million to \$7 million in private funds to expand Erie's Smart City pilot program.

Sanchack, whose Erie Innovation District is led by Mercyhurst University, made that announcement Wednesday night during a graduation or so-called demo-day event for representatives of nine companies that have completed the first-ever Secure Erie Accelerator.

With a nod to the late Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, who often ended meetings with "one more thing," Sanchack announced the investment.

"We are not asking the city to help us move forward," he said. "We are bringing the solution to the city."

Quantela, whose company Paradigm Infotech was located at one time at Penn State Behrend's Knowledge Park, has been a focal point

See INVEST, A6

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## INVEST

From Page A1

of the Secure Smart City pilot program in Erie. As a result of that project, the city is equipped with new LED lighting on State Street from Sixth to 12th Street and with Wi-Fi and video surveillance capabilities in Perry Square.

Krishna Prasad, sales director for Quantela, said his company was impressed with the accelerator and sees an opportunity to partner with the city by replacing thousands more street lights with money-saving LEDs that will pay for themselves over time. As part of that initiative, he said he hopes to work with the city on other smart city initiatives.

Aside from the Quantela investment, Sanchack views the accelerator program — which offered specialized training and business connections to nine early-stage technology companies — as a clear success.

He said five of the nine companies have decided to put down roots in Erie and have grown their collective revenues by \$2.4 million in just 10 weeks.

"They didn't waste a day," he said. "They didn't waste a single day."

In what he views as another promising development, Sanchack said Erie Insurance has expressed interest in exploring

opportunities with accelerator graduates.

The event at Blasco Library was highlighted by presentations from all nine accelerator companies, including companies with solutions to cybersecurity problems and personal security issues. One offered technology to help firefighters find people in burning buildings. Another, which has signed deals with major insurance companies, provides temporary insurance for temporary workers. Another company offered an app to help prevent distracted driving. Still, another helps local government eliminate paperwork as it works more efficiently with residents.

The accelerator companies, which have worked over the past 10 weeks in the Erie Insurance Innovation Center at 717 State St., have enjoyed an unusual level of support in Erie, said Nick Davis, vice president of enterprise solutions for Singularity University, which partnered with the Erie Innovation District to provide the program.

"No longer are these accelerators (where) everyone has to be in Silicon Valley or everyone has to be in Boston," he said. "All the resources you pulled together — it's rare."

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## OUR VIEW

## Erie region needs venture capital

**The issue:** Capital needed to fuel innovation  
**Our view:** Make this a local priority

**Z**achary Stahlsmith had an idea for a marketing business, but it was not the sort of venture a bank could back. He, like others seeking to create an intellectual property-based business, needed investors willing to take a high risk. And that, in Erie, as in other places around the world, is in short supply.

Critical funding is flowing from the private and public sectors to power Erie's resurgence. Community groups, in partnership with the city of Erie and the state, are strengthening neighborhoods and property values through blight removal. The Erie Downtown Development Corp., led by Erie Insurance, has attracted private investments totalling about \$27 million to makeover a 12-block area of the downtown. More than \$30 million in state transportation funding has been set aside to better connect the downtown with new amenities on the scenic bayfront.

The Erie Innovation District, seeded in 2016 with a \$4 million grant and led by Mercyhurst University, aims to create a new economy focused on cybersecurity.

But as Stahlsmith related, and others have reported to us, Erie faces a dearth of investors willing to take risks on new ventures that might fail, but might also generate exciting new economic opportunities, like Stahlsmith's company, ApexDrop Influence Marketing.

That is why we are so encouraged by news of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's efforts to help fill that void. As reporter Matthew Rink detailed, ECGRA on Tuesday announced its fourth investment in Ben Franklin Technology Partners' Erie Innovation Fund — \$1 million — and another \$300,000 in the Ben Franklin TechCelerator "boot camp" — a 10-week event that will be held in Erie in the future. Ben Franklin provides startups like Stahlsmith's with the tools to launch a business, including technical expertise, networking opportunities and seed money. It said it will also match ECGRA's grant.

Stahlsmith persisted. Working with Ben Franklin, he sought out grant funding, "fighting," he said, "for \$5,000 here and there." The soundness of his idea in time won him a total of \$150,000 from Ben Franklin.

The payoff can't be minimized. Stahlsmith's idea became a multimillion-dollar Erie business employing 23 people. In all, ECGRA's contributions to Ben Franklin, together with matching funds from Ben Franklin, have generated investments of \$3.4 million in more than two dozen local tech company projects, creating 70 jobs and revenues of \$28 million.

Erie has shown its capacity to generate smart, savvy and bold local solutions to local problems. We hope that ECGRA's leadership on this key issue of venture capital prompts others in the region with the means to step forward and invest. Stahlsmith said great ideas abound here. "The biggest problem is that there is no capital," he said.

## OUR VIEW

## Innovation District takes root

**The issue:** Erie Innovation District advances  
**Our view:** Hopes for new economy grow

**E**rie's fortunes have been measured for decades largely by the loss, gain or retention of manufacturing jobs.

A new path forward opened in 2016 with the announcement of a \$4 million grant awarded by the Erie Community Foundation in partnership with the Susan Hilt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. It would be used to create the Erie Innovation District, led by Mercyhurst University and modeled on successful initiatives launched in other former manufacturing hubs. Innovation districts partner local academic expertise with entrepreneurs to create new economic engines.

Declaring the existence of an Erie Innovation District did not make it so. Erie's needed a leader, a location and a viable niche to foster new industry. Just one year after the hiring of CEO Karl Sanchack, outlines of a potential new Erie identity — as a center of innovation for technology-driven companies focused on data and cybersecurity — are starting to emerge.

The Erie Innovation District opened a sleek headquarters at 717 State St. in March. It partnered with Quantela, a global data analytics company, to remake a section of downtown Erie as a "secure smart city" — equipped with free Wi-Fi, cost-efficient LED lighting, and security surveillance. For 10 weeks this summer, it hosted with Singularity University the first Secure Erie Accelerator, a business boot camp that brought nine tech-focused startups to Erie. Each received a \$50,000 investment from the Innovation District, in addition to intensive training and mentoring.

Most recently, we learned that five of the 9 have chosen to root in Erie, as detailed by reporter Jim Martin. In just two months since the start of their accelerator work in Erie, Sanchack said, those companies grew their collective revenues by \$2.4 million. One of them, CityGrows, is working with the city of Erie to improve customer service.

What's more, Quantela has agreed to oversee a consortium that plans to invest \$5 million to \$7 million in private funds to expand Erie's Secure Smart City program.

These early wins appear to be a credit to Sanchack's drive and also to the creative, forward-looking tone set by both Erie's private and public sectors.

Leaders of two companies who took part in the accelerator program said Erie stands out.

This is news to celebrate because of the potential for new growth and because it is so liberating. Ben King, a senior director at Singularity, in March stressed the importance of "setting the right tone and getting some quick wins for a city that is really looking at changing itself."

These advances further bolster Erie's ability to credibly view and present itself as a center of something vibrant, relevant and new, not a tired Rust Belt trope.

## Ridge Policy Group Activity ECGRA

### Overview



<b>35+</b> GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION	<b>20+</b> MEETINGS WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS ON FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	LETTERS OF SUPPORT SECURED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sen. Casey (2)</li><li>• Sen. Toomey (1)</li><li>• Rep. Kelly (1+)</li><li>• PA DCED</li><li>• Northwest Commission</li></ul>
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### Submitted Grant Applications

#### Erie Innovation District

##### **ARC Area Development Grant**

Erie Innovation District submitted an ARC area development grant for the Erie secure smart city feasibility study. To assist with this grant, Ridge Policy Group revised the previously submitted ARC POWER application and submitted the project to Northwest Commission in order for them to submit with their list of projects for consideration by PA DCED. The City of Erie initially submitted an ARC POWER program application. Although this application was not successful, ARC and DCED recommended that they apply for this area development grant, thus our pursuit of this option.

##### **Economic Development Administration Regional Innovation Strategies**

Erie Innovation District submitted a Regional Innovation Strategies Seed Fund grant to form and launch a targeted seed fund that will greatly assist in the creation and expansion of new businesses in the Northwest region of the Commonwealth. To assist with this grant, Ridge Policy Group reviewed and provided comments to the application. We also secured letters of support from Senators **Casey** and **Toomey**, Representative **Kelly**, **PA DCED**, and **Northwest Commission**.

### Grant/ Funding Opportunities in Pursuit/ Potential Pursuit

#### GECAC

##### **YouthBuild**

The Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC) is currently applying to serve 60 youth who are living in Erie with YouthBuild services. Ridge Policy Group has had several communications with the Department of Labor's YouthBuild administrators. We are also collecting letters of support from Senator **Casey** and Representative **Kelly**.

## **Erie Innovation District**

### **EDA Assistance for Coal Communities**

Erie Innovation District and Ridge Policy Group are working to find an infrastructure-based project to apply for these funds in FY19.

## **Erie County**

### **Healthy Partnerships for Children Program**

Erie County is reviewing this program.

## **Multiple Organizations**

### **Opportunity Zones**

The most recent tax overhaul that was passed by Congress and signed by the president included a provision to help underserved communities attract investment to their communities. Specifically, this Opportunity Zone provision allows investors to take any proceeds from the sale of assets that would normally be taxed as a capital gain and instead invest those gains to create or support businesses within opportunity zones, deferring federal taxes on the profit. An investor who retains an investment for seven years within these opportunity zones will pay only 85 percent of the capital gains taxes that would have been due on the original investment. If the investment is held beyond 10 years, the investor permanently avoids capital gains taxes on any proceeds from the Opportunity Fund investment. Erie has several Opportunity Zones that have been designated by the Governor and approved by the Administration. Ridge Policy Group has worked with the Department of Treasury to ensure that the regulations of this tax provision best help to benefit organizations within Erie. Additionally, we are in contact with Scott Dietrich and Brian Ross of the Governor's Action Team, who are the leads on the federal opportunity zones for the Commonwealth. We are aware of the Erie Innovation District, along with some other organizations, who plan to take advantage of this provision.

## All Grant/ Funding Opportunities Presented

PA Manufacturing Training-to-Career Grant Program

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program i6 Program

EDA RIS Seed Fund Challenge

Small Business Administration (SBA) Growth Accelerator Competition

Department of Labor (DOL) YouthBuild

DOL Youth Formula Funded Grant Programs

Department of Housing (HUD) Choice Neighborhood Grants


Department of Transportation (DOT) Planning Pilot Grants

DOT Multimodal Transportation Fund

PA Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants

PA Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeship Grant Program

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program



Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER Grant Program

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) OUR TOWN: Place-Based Projects Grant

Health and Human Services (HHS) Street Outreach Program

PA Keystone Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities and Reference Resources

PASMART

HUD Continuum of Care Program Competition

United Health Care Grants (Private Grant)

HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

PA Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program

DOL WIOA Adults and Dislocated Workers Program

DOT BUILD Grants

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Grants (multiple different opportunities)

EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (EAA)

NEH Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants

HHS Community Economic Development Projects

PA Recreational Trails (PRT) Program

PA Multimodal Transportation Fund

PA Broadband Investment Incentive Program

TANF Summer Youth Employment Program

PA DCNR Outdoor Corps

Keystone Historic Preservation Grant

Summer JAM Program







## ECGRA: March 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings and Phone Calls

3/7/2018	RPG ECGRA Call with Perry Woods
TBD	Britte Earp reached out to Michael Leister, Director of Partnerships Development, and Brandy Burnham, Director of Workforce Development Administration, both with Labor & Industry about scheduling a meeting with Eileen Cipriani, Deputy Secretary for Workforce
3/9/2018	Britte Earp sent ARC information over to Gary Lee and Perry Woods
3/13/2018	ECGRA CONF CALL with Penn State, Erie Regarding Erie Innovate

### Legislative Information Provided

3/12/2018	Information on Trump Apprenticeship Program
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### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

#### Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program

**Summary:** Under the RIS Program, EDA currently awards grants that build regional capacity to translate innovations into jobs (1) through proof-of-concept and commercialization assistance to innovators and entrepreneurs and (2) through operational support for organizations that provide essential early-stage risk capital to innovators and entrepreneurs.

The RIS Program consists of two separate competitions: the i6 Challenge and Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grants competition. The i6 Challenge is a leading national initiative designed to support the creation of centers for innovation and entrepreneurship that increase the rate at which innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research are translated into products, services, viable companies, and, ultimately, jobs. Through the SFS Grants competition, EDA provides funding for technical assistance to support the creation, launch, or expansion of equity-based, cluster-focused seed funds that invest regionally-managed risk capital in regionally-based startups with a potential for high growth.

**Solicitation:** There are no current solicitations for this project. Last year's solicitation was posted in May and awarded in September, and we expect a similar timeline this year. We will keep you posted as to when the grant is available for application.

#### **Examples of Previous Awardees:**

- The **Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA**, 1855 Capital Partners LLC and Penn State University will support a venture fund that will provide seed investments and management support to technology-focused entrepreneurs in a large region of Central PA.
- **JumpStart** will create a \$30-\$35M JS MedTech Fund focused on biomedical devices, diagnostics and healthcare IT startups in the Northeast Ohio region in an effort to fill an



early-stage capital gap estimated to be as large as \$392M in 2014. JumpStart anticipates making 20-25 seed stage investments ranging from \$100K to \$2M and estimates five-year impacts to include \$125m in follow-on investment capital, 25 new business starts, and 210 direct jobs.

- This EDA investment funds the **California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development (CalSEED)** initiative, that in collaboration with four existing Regional Innovation Clusters, will work on generating new innovations, new businesses, jobs and economic enhancements in California's Disadvantaged Area Community (DAC) regions. With EDA's support, CalSEED will scale-up its capacity to inspire, engage and support start-ups from underrepresented communities economically disadvantaged, rural, women, and veteran entrepreneurs from throughout the region.
- The **Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse** will implement a regional innovation strategy to grow and elevate the stature of the nascent health information technology (HIT) cluster in Western Pennsylvania. The project will focus on job creation through company growth in the forms of both producers and users of advanced software, related data collection deployment and analysis platforms for delivering healthcare and maintaining health.

### **SBA Growth Accelerator Competition**

**Summary:** The Growth Accelerator Fund competition is for accelerators, incubators, and other entrepreneurial ecosystem models that help support small businesses and startups to compete for monetary prizes of \$50,000 each (20 in total). Several panels containing expert judges from the private and public sector with collective experience in early stage investing, entrepreneurship, academia, start-ups and economic development will select the winners. Applicants may include accelerators, incubators, co-working startup communities, shared tinker-spaces or other models. The panel will give particular attention to applicants that fill geographic gaps in the accelerator and entrepreneurial ecosystem space.

**Solicitation:** There are no current solicitations for this project. The SBA typically opens this competition up in June – July. We will keep you updated.

### **Examples of Previous Awardees:**

- **Hera Labs, San Diego** – Hera Labs, a business accelerator for women by women, provides proven intensive business training to launch, grow and sustain profitable businesses.
- **MORTAR, Cincinnati**—MORTAR enables under-served entrepreneurs and businesses to succeed; creating opportunities to build communities through entrepreneurship.
- **The Rosie Network's Military Entrepreneur Center, San Diego**—Rosie Network helps men and women of the Armed Forces and their spouses with small business ownership.

### **ARC Power Initiative**

**POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization)** is a congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production.

The POWER Initiative supports efforts to create a more vibrant economic future for coal-impacted communities by cultivating economic diversity, enhancing job training and re-employment opportunities, creating jobs in existing or new industries, and attracting new sources of investment.



# RIDGE POLICY GROUP

## POWER 2018

ARC is now accepting applications for 2018 POWER Initiative funding submitted in response to the **POWER request for proposals** issued on February 1. In 2018, POWER will focus on investments that are regional, strategic, and transformational and that maximize the economic revitalization of Appalachia's coal-impacted communities and regions. In general, ARC's POWER investments will focus on four areas:

- Building a competitive workforce;
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services;
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities; and
- Developing industry clusters in communities.

Eligible funding applicants include:

- Local development districts;
- Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- States, counties, cities, or other political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; and
- Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations.

ARC held a four-part webinar series and hosted five public regional workshops in February and March to help communities learn more about applying for POWER 2018 funding.

## POWER in Appalachia

To date, ARC has awarded **\$94 million** through the POWER Initiative to help coal-impacted communities in 250 Appalachian counties diversify and grow their economies. These 114 investments are projected to create or retain almost **8,800 jobs**, leverage an additional **\$210 million** in investment, and prepare thousands of workers and students with globally competitive skills and opportunities in the Region's manufacturing, technology, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and other emerging sectors. Read ARC's POWER project summaries to learn how these investments are growing Appalachia's economy.

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## ECGRA: March 15 – April 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings, Phone Calls, and Communication

3/19/2018	Flagged notice of comments received on review of eligible area maps for USDA Rural Housing Programs for Perry
3/27/2018	Call w/Karl Sanchack, Erie Innovation
3/27/2018	RPG sent info to Gary Lee RE: Blue Zones
3/28/2018	Mark Campbell call with LECOM RE: Blue Zones
4/9/2018	Sent potential grant opportunities for all of the priority investments of ECGRA
4/9/2018	Mark Holman spoke with Perry about the grant opportunities

### Legislative Information Provided

3/12/2018	Information on LNI Apprenticeship Program
3/19/2018	Information on Broadband in PA
3/21/2018	Information on FY18 Omnibus funding bill – General
3/22/2018	Information on FY 18 Omnibus funding bill – Specific to ECGRA

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

#### PA Manufacturing Training-to-Career Grant Program

**Summary:** A newly developed program at DCED aimed at helping companies to identify and train a skilled workforce in the manufacturing industry. Grants of up to \$150,000 are available to community colleges, technical schools, trade schools and nonprofit organizations. Eligible applicants must show partnerships with manufacturers and demonstrate expertise in workforce development programs. Grant funds may be used for internships, equipment purchases, shop modifications, domestic travel, and other program costs. An emphasis is placed on supporting those populations facing barriers to employment.

**Solicitation:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funding has been depleted. Approximately half of the \$4.7 million appropriated to this program is still available.

#### Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program

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ideas, intellectual property, and research are translated into products, services, viable companies, and, ultimately, jobs. Through the SFS Grants competition, EDA provides funding for technical assistance to support the creation, launch, or expansion of equity-based, cluster-focused seed funds that invest regionally-managed risk capital in regionally-based startups with a potential for high growth.

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**Examples of Previous Awardees:**

- The **Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA**, 1855 Capital Partners LLC and Penn State University will support a venture fund that will provide seed investments and management support to technology-focused entrepreneurs in a large region of Central PA.
- **JumpStart** will create a \$30-\$35M JS MedTech Fund focused on biomedical devices, diagnostics and healthcare IT startups in the Northeast Ohio region in an effort to fill an early-stage capital gap estimated to be as large as \$392M in 2014. JumpStart anticipates making 20-25 seed stage investments ranging from \$100K to \$2M and estimates five-year impacts to include \$125m in follow-on investment capital, 25 new business starts, and 210 direct jobs.
- This EDA investment funds the **California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development** (CalSEED) initiative, that in collaboration with four existing Regional Innovation Clusters, will work on generating new innovations, new businesses, jobs and economic enhancements in California's Disadvantaged Area Community (DAC) regions. With EDA's support, CalSEED will scale-up its capacity to inspire, engage and support start-ups from underrepresented communities economically disadvantaged, rural, women, and veteran entrepreneurs from throughout the region.
- The **Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse** will implement a regional innovation strategy to grow and elevate the stature of the nascent health information technology (HIT) cluster in Western Pennsylvania. The project will focus on job creation through company growth in the forms of both producers and users of advanced software, related data collection deployment and analysis platforms for delivering healthcare and maintaining health.

**SBA Growth Accelerator Competition**

**Summary:** The Growth Accelerator Fund competition is for accelerators, incubators, and other entrepreneurial ecosystem models that help support small businesses and startups to compete for monetary prizes of \$50,000 each (20 in total). Several panels containing expert judges from the private and public sector with collective experience in early stage investing, entrepreneurship, academia, start-ups and economic development will select the winners. Applicants may include accelerators, incubators, co-working startup communities, shared tinker-spaces or other models. The panel will give particular attention to applicants that fill geographic gaps in the accelerator and entrepreneurial ecosystem space.

**Solicitation:** There are no current solicitations for this project. The SBA typically opens this competition up in June – July. We will keep you updated.

# RIDGE POLICY GROUP

## Examples of Previous Awardees:

- **Hera Labs, San Diego** – Hera Labs, a business accelerator for women by women, provides proven intensive business training to launch, grow and sustain profitable businesses.
- **MORTAR, Cincinnati**—MORTAR enables under-served entrepreneurs and businesses to succeed; creating opportunities to build communities through entrepreneurship.
- **The Rosie Network's Military Entrepreneur Center, San Diego**—Rosie Network helps men and women of the Armed Forces and their spouses with small business ownership.

## ARC POWER Initiative

**Summary:** POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) is a congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. The POWER Initiative supports efforts to create a more vibrant economic future for coal-impacted communities by cultivating economic diversity, enhancing job training and re-employment opportunities, creating jobs in existing or new industries, and attracting new sources of investment. Projects are generally funded in the range of \$400,000 to \$1.5 million and require match. ARC's POWER investments are regional, strategic and transformational and the focus areas for projects are:

- Building a competitive workforce;
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services;
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities; and
- Developing industry clusters in communities

**Solicitation:** ARC is now accepting applications for 2018 POWER Initiative funding submitted in response to the POWER request for proposals issued on February 1. The first round of applications are due by May 1, 2018. Approximately \$30 million will be available for the first round of applications. In previous rounds of POWER funding, Pennsylvania-based projects received about 1/5 of total funds.

## YouthBuild

This could be used for the SummerJobs program. YouthBuild is a community-based alternative education program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24. Youth learn construction skills while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Youth split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they earn their high school diploma or equivalency degree, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for college and other postsecondary training opportunities. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement. There are approximately 210 actively-funded YouthBuild programs at any given time in more than 40 states, serving over 6,000 youth nationally per year.

## Youth Formula-Funded Grant Programs



This could also be used for the summer jobs program. These programs provide services to eligible youth, ages 14-21, in local communities. Funds are allocated to states based on the number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment; the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in a state; and the relative number of disadvantaged youth in a state.

Major Investments ECGRA	Partners	Potential Federal Grants	Potential State and Local Grants	Partners	Potential Grant Applicant
Ignite Erie	BFTP, Gannon SBDC, Bridgeway Capital, PennVenture Partners, Erie Insurance, Lord	<u>Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program</u>		Local City / County / Area Boards	Sent to Kathy and Gary
Erie Innovation District	Mercyhurst Univ, VNET, UPMC, Erie Insurance, McManis & Monsalve, City of	<u>SBA Growth Accelerator Fund</u> <u>ARC's POWER Grant</u>		Local City / County / Area Boards	Sent to Kathy and Gary Innovation District is applying for this grant
Erie Innovation Fund	Ben Franklin Tech Partners matches the fund 1:1 and provides technical assistance	<u>Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program</u>			
Community College	business community, elected officials, trade unions				
Tech After Hours	City of Erie School District	<u>EDA's Assistance to Coal Communities</u> <u>WIOA National Dislocated Worker Grants</u> <u>Youth Build</u>	<u>Manufacturing Training-to-Career Program</u> <u>Pre-Apprentice &amp; Apprenticeship Grant</u> <u>Program</u>		Pending state approval
Go College					
Erie County Summer Jobs Program	Erie County, Young Entrepreneur Societ, GECAC	<u>Youth Build</u>	<u>Manufacturing Training-to-Career Program</u> <u>TANF Summer Youth Employment Program (2019)</u>	Local City / County / Area Boards	Sent to Gary
Fairview School District	Fairview School District	<u>Youth Formula Funded Grant Programs</u> <u>Investing in Innovation i3 Funds</u> <u>Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants</u> <u>Education Innovation and Research Program</u> <u>Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program within the CDBG</u>	<u>ARC Area Development</u> <u>CDBG</u>	Local City / County / Area Boards	Sent to Gary
East & West Bayfront Neighborhood Plan		<u>Neighborhood Stabilization Program through HUD</u>	<u>Industrial Sites Reuse Program</u> <u>CDBG</u>		
Erie's Community Schools Initiative	United Way of Erie County and various corporate sponsors who adopt a school	<u>Surface Transportation Block Grant Program</u>	<u>ARC Area Development</u>	Local City / County / Area Boards	Could we get Erie's plan for this initiative?
Erie Count Civic Leadership Activity	Erie County		<u>ARC Area Development</u>		
Erie Inner-City Entrepreneur Fund	The program was matched 6:1 by local CDFI, Bridgeway Capital	<u>SBA's PRIME Program</u>	<u>ARC Area Development</u> <u>CSBG (would require action agency)</u> <u>Keystone Communities CDBG</u> <u>Multimodal Transportation</u> <u>Transportation Alternatives Program</u>		
Mission Main Street		<u>Surface Transportation Block Grant Program</u>			







## ECGRA: April 15 – May 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings and Phone Calls

4/25/2018	ECGRA prep call for various breakout grant meetings
4/26/2018	Meeting with Innovation Zone that included discussion of ECGRA
4/26/2018	Neighborhood Revitalization Grants Information Session
4/26/2018	Innovation & Entrepreneurship Grants Information Session
4/26/2018	Youth Skills/Workforce
4/26/2018	ECGRA Board Debrief and Brownfields Conversation
4/27/2018	Blue Zone Meeting
5/14/2018	Phone call with PA Deputy Secretary Cipriani re: Erie Summer JAM

### Email Communication and Other Information Provided

(Other than above)

Entire Month	Updated the google document that lists potential grant opportunities throughout the month (most updated version attached to the report)
5/3/2018	Email to Ed Sitter and Ben Wilson on YouthBuild Follow-Up from grants information session
5/3/2018	Email to Nyima Porter on Food Dessert Grants Available
5/3/2018	Email to Kristina Huber on Pre-K Scholarships
5/3/2018	Follow-up to breakout meetings email sent with all grant documents attached
Entire Month	Helped secure Millcreek Education Foundation Pre-K EITC
5/7/2018	Email to Kathy Wyrosdick regarding the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant

### Research and Preparation

4/16/2018	Internal RPG meeting to discuss ECGRA breakout meetings
Entire Month	Spent significant time finding grant opportunities and creating documents for breakout meetings

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

Attached are the documents with all of the grant opportunities we provided this month.

Below is a document that we provided to the breakout meetings about successful grant applications.



## Successful Grant Projects

In order to have a successful grant application, an applicant should do the following, among other things:

- Put in place an ambitious timeline to ensure plenty of time for edits of the grant;
- Meet with those administering the grant at either the federal or state level before the grant request for applications is released to understand the goals of the program for that year's funding;
- Continue to be in touch with those administering the grant throughout the application process for their advice and input;
- Participate in technical assistance calls and webinars from those Administering the grant;
- Share your intent to apply for the grant with others in the community when appropriate for their ideas and edits and to receive additional support and matching funds;
- Secure matching funds for grants that require it;
- When writing the grant, ensure that all parts of the grant are complete and all goals of the project are clearly matched to the goals of those administering the grant;
- Have the grant reviewed by multiple relevant stakeholders before submission for their edits and input; and
- Ask for a letter of support from your representatives.



## ECGRA: May 15 – June 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings and Phone Calls

5/21/2018	Zaida emailed information on Neighborhood Choice Grant
5/24/2018	Zaida emailed Amanda Sissem information on the National Endowment for the Arts -- OUR TOWN: Place-Based Projects Grant
5/24/2018	Zaida emailed Street Outreach Program to Perry
5/21/2018	Phone call between Becky W, Zaida, and Perry on Broadband in Erie
5/23/2018	Britte spoke to Perry about Broadband in Erie
5/23/2018	Britte spoke with Howard Pollman, PHMC regarding Keystone Grants
5/24/2018	Conference call w/ Perry, VelocityNet and Mark Smith, PA Broadband Initiative Office
6/1/2018	Zaida emailed Kathy/Gary information on EDA RIS
6/6/2018	Call with Karen Molchanow, executive Director of the State Board of Education regarding the proposed Erie Community College
6/13/2018	Catch-up call with Perry
Throughout May/June	Becky W had various communications with GECAC, Perry, and DOL on YouthBuild Solicitation

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

Below is information on all of the grant opportunities we provided this month.

#### **Choice Neighborhood Grants**

- Planning Grant:** Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans which focus on directing resources to address three core goals: Housing, People and Neighborhood. To achieve these core goals, communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. The Transformation Plan will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families. Current funding is available up to \$5 million for Planning Grant awards.

**Eligible Applicants:** Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits

**Application Due Date:** June 12, 2018

**Grant Occurrence:** Yearly

- Implementation Grant:** Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support those communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement their plan to redevelop the distressed public and/or assisted housing and neighborhood.



**Eligible Applicants:** Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits

**Application Dates:** The implementation grant was released May 22. It is due September 17, 2018. Here is the information: [https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/FR-6200N34cn\\_Implementation.pdf](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/FR-6200N34cn_Implementation.pdf)

**Grant Occurrence:** Yearly

### **National Endowment for the Arts -- OUR TOWN: Place-Based Projects**

**Background:** Successful Our Town projects ultimately lay the groundwork for systemic changes that sustain the integration of arts, culture, and design into strategies for strengthening communities. We encourage applications for artistically excellent projects that:

- Bring new attention to or elevate key community assets and issues, voices of residents, local history, or cultural infrastructure.
- Inject new or additional energy, resources, activity, people, or enthusiasm into a place, community issue, or local economy.
- Envision new possibilities for a community or place - a new future, a new way of overcoming a challenge, or approaching problem-solving.
- Connect communities, people, places, and economic opportunity via physical spaces or new relationships.

**Eligible Applicants:** These projects require a partnership between a local government entity and nonprofit organization, one of which must be a cultural organization; and should engage in partnership with other sectors (such as agriculture and food, economic development, education and youth, environment and energy, health, housing, public safety, transportation, and workforce development).

**Deadline:** August 9, 2018

**Grant Occurrence:** Normally yearly

### **Street Outreach Program**

**Background:** The Street Outreach Program works to increase young people's personal safety, social and emotional well-being, self-sufficiency, and to help them build permanent connections with families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks. These services, which are provided in areas where street youth congregate, are designed to assist such youth in making healthy choices and to provide them access to shelter and services which include: outreach, gateway services, screening and assessment, harm reduction, access to emergency shelter, crisis stabilization, drop-in centers, which can be optional, and linkages/referrals to services. The award process for FY2018 SOP allows for annual awards over a three-year project period, as funds are available.

**Eligible Applicants:** Independent school districts; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; County governments; Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; City or township governments; State governments; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Private institutions of higher education; Special district governments; Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities; Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)



**Deadline:** June 20, 2018

**Grant Occurrence:** As funds are available

**Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program**

**Summary:** Under the RIS Program, EDA currently awards grants that build regional capacity to translate innovations into jobs (1) through proof-of-concept and commercialization assistance to innovators and entrepreneurs and (2) through operational support for organizations that provide essential early-stage risk capital to innovators and entrepreneurs.

The RIS Program consists of two separate competitions: the i6 Challenge and Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grants competition. The i6 Challenge is a leading national initiative designed to support the creation of centers for innovation and entrepreneurship that increase the rate at which innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research are translated into products, services, viable companies, and, ultimately, jobs. Through the SFS Grants competition, EDA provides funding for technical assistance to support the creation, launch, or expansion of equity-based, cluster-focused seed funds that invest regionally-managed risk capital in regionally-based startups with a potential for high growth.

**Solicitation:** There are no current solicitations for this project. Last year's solicitation was posted in May and awarded in September, and we expect a similar timeline this year. We will keep you posted as to when the grant is available for application.

**Examples of Previous Awardees:**

- The **Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA**, 1855 Capital Partners LLC and Penn State University will support a venture fund that will provide seed investments and management support to technology-focused entrepreneurs in a large region of Central PA.
- **JumpStart** will create a \$30-\$35M JS MedTech Fund focused on biomedical devices, diagnostics and healthcare IT startups in the Northeast Ohio region in an effort to fill an early-stage capital gap estimated to be as large as \$392M in 2014. JumpStart anticipates making 20-25 seed stage investments ranging from \$100K to \$2M and estimates five-year impacts to include \$125m in follow-on investment capital, 25 new business starts, and 210 direct jobs.
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**Summary:** The Growth Accelerator Fund competition is for accelerators, incubators, and other entrepreneurial ecosystem models that help support small businesses and startups to compete for monetary prizes of \$50,000 each (20 in total). Several panels containing expert judges from the private and public sector with collective experience in early stage investing, entrepreneurship, academia, start-ups and economic development will select the winners. Applicants may include accelerators, incubators, co-working startup



communities, shared tinker-spaces or other models. The panel will give particular attention to applicants that fill geographic gaps in the accelerator and entrepreneurial ecosystem space.

**Solicitation:** There are no current solicitations for this project. The SBA typically opens this competition up in June – July. We will keep you updated.

**Examples of Previous Awardees:**

- **Hera Labs, San Diego** – Hera Labs, a business accelerator for women by women, provides proven intensive business training to launch, grow and sustain profitable businesses.
- **MORTAR, Cincinnati**—MORTAR enables under-served entrepreneurs and businesses to succeed; creating opportunities to build communities through entrepreneurship.
- **The Rosie Network's Military Entrepreneur Center, San Diego**—Rosie Network helps men and women of the Armed Forces and their spouses with small business ownership.

The FY18 EDA Regional Innovations Strategies (RIS) grant was announced and applications are due August 29 (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=305799>).

**YouthBuild**

There are two ways that a local non-profit or public entity can obtain the right to use the YouthBuild name. It can win a competitive YouthBuild grant directly from DOI; or it can be licensed by YouthBuild USA as a YouthBuild program through the YouthBuild USA Affiliated Network. All local non-profit and public entities are eligible to apply to DOL and/or to apply for affiliation with YouthBuild USA.

The DOL requires all YouthBuild grantees to raise a minimum of 25% in matching non-federal funds. Individual program grants range from \$700,000 to \$1.1 million and cover two years of programming with nine months of follow up support for about 40 students.

**Eligible Participants:** A non-profit or public entity

**Application Dates:** 2018 FOA: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20180518>.

Grants.gov site has the detailed FOA, including contact information for questions while the competition is open: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=youthbuild>

They also post this information: [https://doleta.gov/grants/Application\\_FAQs.cfm](https://doleta.gov/grants/Application_FAQs.cfm)

**Grants Occurrence:** Normally yearly

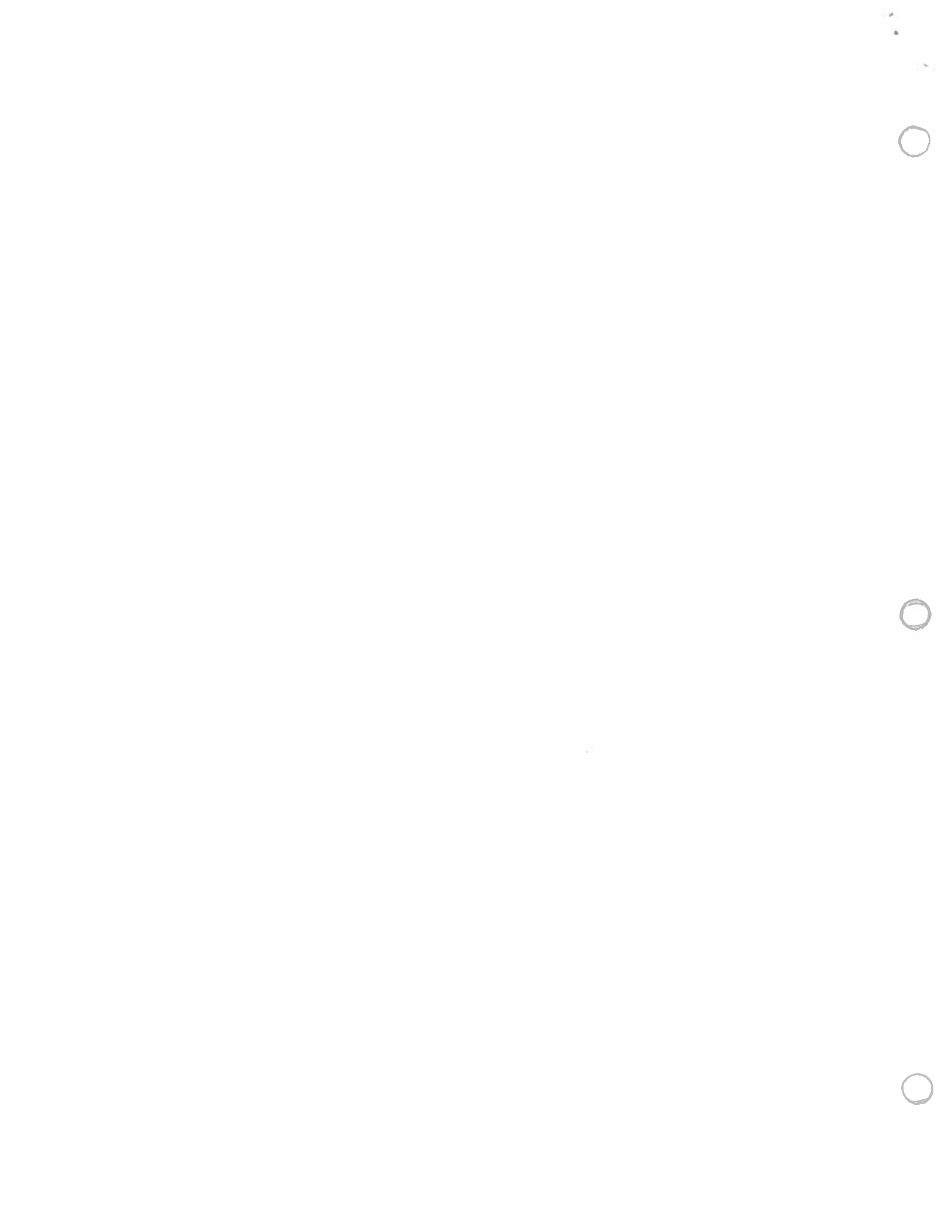
**PA Broadband Investment Incentive Program**

**Summary:** This program offers \$35 million of financial incentives to internet service providers who are bidding on Pennsylvania service areas in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) upcoming Connect America Fund II Auction (CAF-II), which will award nearly \$1.98 billion in subsidies for broadband in rural areas nationwide. Pennsylvania's incentives will be targeted to applicants who are willing to bid in the CAF-II auction with proposals to provide download speeds of 100 Mbps or more, with the highest priority for those projects proposing 1 Gbps or greater speeds.

**Eligible Participants:** Internet Service Providers



**Solicitation:** The last day to apply to the program was June 8, 2018 with the Commonwealth informing qualified applicants of incentive amounts by July 10, 2018. More info may be found here: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/broadband/>







## ECGRA: June 15 – July 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings and Phone Calls

6/15/2018	Sent info to Perry on Humanities Grant
6/26/2018	Call with Daniel Kowalski, Department of Treasury regarding Opportunity Zones, where we highlighted ECGRA's support for the initiative
7/2/2018 (and throughout July)	Britte working with Erie City and Innovation District on ARC Area Development Project Grant
7/3/2018	Sent info to Perry/Kathy/Gary on Economic Development Assistance Programs (EDAP) Funding Opportunity
7/9/2018	Sent info on PASMART
7/12/2018	Catch-up call with Perry
Throughout July	Working with Innovation District / Ben Franklin Technology Partners on EDA RIS Grant
Throughout July	Working with Innovation District on EDA Assistance for Coal Communities Grant

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

Below is information on all of the grant opportunities we provided this month.

#### **Economic Development Assistance Program**

**Grant Description:** To provide investments that support construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and EAA program (which includes Assistance to Coal Communities). Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities, including those negatively impacted by changes to the coal economy.

#### **Eligibility:**

- (i) District Organization of an EDA designated Economic Development District;
- (ii) Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- (iii) State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- (iv) institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or
- (v) public or private nonprofit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000; Award Floor: \$100,000

**Deadline:** There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. Proposals and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new EDAP NOFO.



**More Information:** [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=306735&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=306735&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

## **HUMANITIES COLLECTIONS AND REFERENCE RESOURCES**

**Grant Description:** To help libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations extend the life of items in their collections and make them widely accessible, especially using digital technology; and to help create reference resources and tools for use with cultural materials.

**Eligibility:** Public, state, and private institutions of higher education; state, county, special district, city, or township governments; Native American tribal governments; and nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.

**Funding:** Not specified; awards up to \$350,000

**Deadline:** July 19, 2018

**More Information:** Email: [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov)

## **PASMART**

**Grant Description:** This program is for job and skills training, with a majority of the funds being used to increase STEM and computer science training. \$10 million will be made available for innovative workforce development programs through competitive grants administered by the Pennsylvania Work Development Board.

**Eligibility:** Local education agencies, intermediate units, postsecondary institutions, local workforce development boards, public libraries, employers, labor organizations, chambers of commerce, afterschool providers, nonprofits, community organizations, and others.

**Funding:** \$3 million is set aside to build upon the Department of Labor and Industry's Next Generation Sector Partnerships program, which connects businesses with educational and economic development partners. \$7 million will be made available to expand apprenticeships in traditional and non-traditional occupations, including youth pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeships at high schools and career and technical centers.

**Deadline:** Not specified. Guidelines will be published late July or early August 2018 with grantees announced October 2018.



## ECGRA: July 15 – August 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings and Phone Calls

7/20/2018	Flagged the Continuum of Care program for City and County
Week of July 30	Shared draft PAsmart guidelines with Perry. Final guidelines will be released this month and projects are set to start in January 2019. We continue to monitor.
8/6/2018	Spoke with Ben at GECAC about YouthBuild and are continuing to support their efforts
Throughout July/August	Working with Innovation District / Ben Franklin Technology Partners on EDA RIS Grant
Throughout July/August	Working with Innovation District on EDA Assistance for Coal Communities Grant

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

Below is information on all of the grant opportunities we provided this month.

#### **Continuum of Care Program Competition**

**Grant Description:** To promote community-wide commitment to ending homelessness and provide funding for programs to quickly rehouse homeless persons, to increase access and utilization of mainstream programs by homeless persons, and to increase self-sufficiency among homeless persons.

**Eligibility:** State, county, city, or township governments, nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; and public housing authorities.

**Funding:** \$2.1 billion; awards between \$2,500 and \$5 million

**Deadline:** 9/18/2018

#### **PASMART**

**Grant Description:** This program is for job and skills training, with a majority of the funds being used to increase STEM and computer science training. \$10 million will be made available for innovative workforce development programs through competitive grants administered by the Pennsylvania Work Development Board.

**Eligibility:** Local education agencies, intermediate units, postsecondary institutions, local workforce development boards, public libraries, employers, labor organizations, chambers of commerce, afterschool providers, nonprofits, community organizations, and others.

**Funding:** \$3 million is set aside to build upon the Department of Labor and Industry's Next Generation Sector Partnerships program, which connects businesses with educational and economic development partners. \$7 million will be made available to expand apprenticeships in traditional and non-traditional occupations, including youth pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeships at high schools and career and technical centers.



**Deadline:** Not specified. Guidelines will be published late July or early August 2018 with grantees announced October 2018.





## ECGRA: August 15 – September 15, 2018 Activity Report

### Meetings, Phone Calls, Emails, and Other Work

8/16/2018	Flagged the Healthy Partnerships for Children Grant Program, which Erie County is reviewing
Throughout August	Worked with Karl on Erie Innovation District Economic Development Administration Seed Fund Grant Award, including editing the grant, reaching out to relevant stakeholders, and requesting letters of support from State and Federal leaders (received letters of support from Senators Casey and Toomey, Representative Kelly, PA DCED, and Northwest Commission.)
Throughout August	Working with Innovation District on EDA Assistance for Coal Communities Grant, including reaching out to relevant State leaders and stakeholders
Throughout September	Assisted with GECAC's application to provide YouthBuild Services, including securing a letter of support from Senator Casey
Throughout September	Prepared materials for Erie Board meeting, including compiling all RPG activity and grants suggested (all mentioned in a separate document)
9/10/18	Flagged the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund and will be attending webinar on 9/20/18 for additional info
9/11/18	Reached out to PA DCED and Governor's Office for participation at Erie Innovation District's upcoming Demo Day event on 9/26/18
9/11/18	Confirmed date of 10/9/18 for PA DCED Deputy Secretary Rick Vilello to meet with Renaissance Block recipients

### Potential Grant Opportunities Discussed and Provided

Below is information on all of the grant opportunities we provided this month.

#### **HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM**

**Grant Description:** To support community-based services to improve the health of children, adolescents, and families in rural and other underserved communities by increasing access to health services.

**Eligibility:** Public and private nonprofits, including faith- and community-based organizations; and Native American tribes and tribal organizations

**Funding:** \$400,000

**Deadline:** 10/1/2018

**More Information:** Madhavi Reddy, Tel. (301) 443-0754, E-mail: [mreddy@hrsa.gov](mailto:mreddy@hrsa.gov)

#### **PA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENHANCEMENT FUND (PHARE)**

**Grant Description:** To assist with the creation, rehabilitation and support of affordable housing throughout the Commonwealth.



**Eligibility:** Local governments, nonprofits, housing authorities, economic and community development organizations, business improvement districts, neighborhood improvement districts, etc.

**Deadline:** 11/16/18

**More information:**

[https://www.phfa.org/forms/phare\\_program\\_phare\\_fund/2018\\_phare\\_rfp\\_final.pdf](https://www.phfa.org/forms/phare_program_phare_fund/2018_phare_rfp_final.pdf)

## YOUR VIEW

### **ECGRA is a model of grant oversight and diligence**

This is in response to the Sept. 18 article, "Dahlkemper, Solicitor Say Ordinance Aimed at ECGRA Not Enforceable."

As I've previously commented via letters to the editor, this will certainly not be a "new" subject for anyone reading this letter. The referenced article asked, "Can County Council require ECGRA to adhere to a new grant-application policy designed for organizations seeking county funds?" Well, much more logically, the question should be, should Erie County Council and the county executive (as well as the city of Erie's Council and mayor) be looking at how ECGRA's grant program is facilitated?

For nearly the past 10 years, ECGRA's board and administration have managed one of the best grant programs in my personal and professional experience. I am not spitting in the wind when I make this statement. Since about 1990, I've administered, drafted, managed and overseen a minimum of 35 individual grants in the federal, state and local private and public sector. ECGRA's administration, application process, oversight and post-review (closeout) follow-up is the most detailed being used.

Instead of the certain few naysayers on County Council continuing to control everything, the effort should be to follow ECGRA's clearly superior example of a grant program. ECGRA provides a concise and simple online grant application; detailed guidelines for every grant opportunity; largely publicizes each program step; re-examines the full grant application in multiple phases and,

most importantly, requires a detailed, full post-grant, closeout report from all recipients.

Methinks more research is required by County Council. Legislating for the sake of legislating is never appropriate. It also appears that the same County Council voices are pushing another ordinance to simply gain more, needless control of ECGRA.

— William A ("Bill") Wittenberg,  
Wesleyville

