



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
VIA ZOOM

Notice posted on location at:  
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510  
August 20, 2020  
8:30am

ZOOM Meeting Information:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81460692479>

Meeting ID: 814 6069 2479  
Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 2020
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. Extended Draw Time Period for Bridgeway Capital Small Business and Nonprofit Funding by three months
- b. Approve Parker Philips Professional Services Agreement
- c. Discussion of COVID-19 Funds

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

### Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting  
Location: ZOOM meeting – details to follow



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**  
July 16, 2020

This meeting is held via Zoom due to Governor Wolf's orders to stay at home during the time of this COVID-19 crisis.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on July 16, 2020 via Zoom with a link that was provided to all Board members by the Executive Director. An agenda containing the Zoom link to this meeting was posted on the ECGRA website and at 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. Barney, Mr. Bagnoni (leaves the meeting early), Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Horton (arrives late), Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – June 2020

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve the minutes as to be amended. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 5-0.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

**Mr. Cleaver:** I think you all received a copy of the letter that I sent. The reason I sent it as soon as I did was I realized that we meet on Thursday morning and County Council meets on Thursday evening and I wanted our Board to have an opportunity to review my comments; that was the first item. The second is I received answers back from the County Executive and the Council Chair. I didn't answer

because of the fact that I had indicated in discussion with most of these people that I was going to move forward with a resolution that we get included in the distribution of the Block Relief Grant.

That is where I am at now; I don't know if you want me to put that resolution forward now and find out if it will be approved or not.

Mr. Paris: I think we'll wait to do that under New Business and we can talk more about it at that point.

Mr. Cleaver: Okay, that's fine.

### COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Paris has no comment at this time.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public on the call for comments.

### PRESENTATIONS

- a. Erie Center for Arts & Technology – Daria Devlin and Brian Polito from the Erie School District

Ms. Devlin: Good morning. Thank you for allowing me this time and I want to thank Brian for joining us, too. I'll kick it off and just let you know briefly why we're here speaking with you today, and then if you have anything to add Brian, certainly pop in.

The purpose of the meeting today was to give you an update on the Tech After Hours program. I think you are all familiar with the program and if you will recall it was initially funded by ECF and ECGRA a number of years ago – I believe it started in 2015. The Erie School District has been running that program successfully for the last number of years. However, when I was at the District and was getting ready to leave to take on this new endeavor with the Erie Center for Arts & Technology, I had had a conversation with Superintendent Polito about whether the District wanted to continue to operate this program or whether it had grown into something that was a bit out of their sphere. I don't want to speak for Mr. Polito, but I think there was a sense that the District really needed to focus on K-12 and if they could find another organization to partner with on Tech After Hours they would be interested in doing so.

The Superintendent and I started talking about one year ago about what this could look like and we came up with this proposal which would basically involve eCAT taking over management of the program. The program would remain with the same name – Tech After Hours, the instructors would continue to be the school district instructors who currently operate the program, they would continue to be paid by the Erie School District; so there would be no change to the instructors. They have done an excellent job; we have walked through with them. The courses would remain the same so we would continue to operate in machining, construction trades, and then of course in welding.

The only real difference would be that eCAT would take over the student enrollment, the recruitment, the marketing, and the student support. To our knowledge, we believe that those are maybe some of the weak spots that the program has had to date. Again, I don't think this is something that the school district wants to put a lot more time and effort into and

so if we can help with that recruitment and marketing, we think we can hopefully make the program more successful.

I spoke with Perry Wood a number of months ago about this and our proposal would be – we believe there is one grant payment outstanding to the program which is roughly \$66,000. What we are asking is that the final distribution be made to the Erie School District as has been intended and that the District would then use the funds to pay the instructors, pay for any supplies, cover any sort of equipment and rent costs for as long as those funds were available. And when those funds were expended, then eCAT would take over the financial responsibility for the program.

So, what we're really asking for today is for your thoughts on this approach, whether you would be in favor of this, and again making that final grant distribution, and allowing us to try something a little new in running the program. That's my overview. Brian, did you have anything to add there as well?

Mr. Polito: Daria, as usual you summarized that very well. The District's focus really is on the Pre-K to 12 education. While we think that this is a very worthwhile program, our administrative resources are stretched very thin. We haven't been able to allocate the necessary resources to run the program properly, so I think this is a win-win for everybody.

Ms. Devlin: Thanks, Brian. I am happy to answer questions. Perry, if you had anything you wanted to add there. We're hoping that today we can get your permission to move forward in this direction.

Dr. Wood: Before the Board asks questions, I just want to briefly summarize that Tom and I have looked at this proposal and we do believe that this is the best direction for the future of Tech After Hours. Just so the Board knows, there is just over \$66,000 remaining in the original grant to the School District. We all know this program was absolutely fantastic when it first started out, but it's hit some bumps in the road. That's fine because that happens all the time in grant-making. The Erie Center for Arts & Technology, under Daria's leadership, can breathe some new life into it.

The staff has reviewed this proposal, we think it makes sense, and we did ask them to come to the Board and give an update on it because I know many of you Board members believe in the premise of the program and how it's rolled out. It's absolutely great that you are able to be here to give us an update on it. I will turn it over to the Board members to ask some questions or get some feedback.

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Daria and Dr. Polito, for attending the meeting. I have a couple basic questions. Daria, at present, how many courses are being run through Tech After Hours?

Ms. Devlin: There are three: construction trades, machining, and welding.

Mr. Lee: Do you know what the enrollment numbers are for those programs?

Ms. Devlin: These are numbers that Superintendent Polito provided and then I've also spoken with the instructors; it looks like there were approximately four machining students last year, four construction trade students, and six welding students. Now, I don't know if they all completed since the school year ended so abruptly. There were also six machine apprentices; there is an apprenticeship program that's running in machining there as well. So, you have a total of about 20 students that were enrolled last year.

Mr. Lee: Thank you. Now with COVID-19 going on, we don't know when this is going to materialize as far as individuals being able to come back full-time in the classroom. Has there been any thought given since these are hands-on type of courses, has there been given any thought as far as how you're going to execute this fall and even into the spring?

Ms. Devlin: Let me answer and then I'll ask the Superintendent to pipe in as well. Our thought is that if the Erie School District opens, then we would certainly go back to that in-person instruction. We also had a conversation that the size of the labs, the physical space of these rooms, and the number of students that are enrolled that I just mentioned really will allow for good social distancing. So, we don't see any worry with overcrowding; we think we can maintain the safety regulations of the district. The district has also asked us to provide a COVID-19 plan as part of our agreement with them. We believe that if the school district opens, we can operate this program in person.

Mr. Polito: Right now we are finalizing our district Health & Safety Plan, and although we're asking eCAT to provide their own, we're going to ensure that they follow ours as well. One of the things that we did prioritize in that plan is our trades programs within the district, our tech programs, because we know that they are hands-on. We want to make sure that those students have the opportunity to come in and participate in those shops; so, those will be up and running whenever we have in-person instruction in the district and they will be available also for eCAT for the After Hours program.

Mr. Cleaver: What was the beginning amount of this grant to start with?

Dr. Wood: \$200,000.

Mr. Cleaver: And there is a balance of \$66,000?

Dr. Wood: Yes.

Mr. Sample: I commend you for the program because I have been here since the very beginning and I realize there is a tremendous need for these trades. Daria, you're going to be taking over the marketing and stuff, but I wonder what would be the maximum amount of students that could take part? And my second question is that I remember in the beginning that there were people that really qualified the students well to make sure that they had the ability and the desire to complete the courses.

Ms. Devlin: That's an excellent question. In speaking with the instructors, I believe that you are right that in the beginning that is what was happening. But the whole idea of this program was that grant funds would get it started and then tuition would make it sustainable. In order to make it sustainable and to get that tuition in so that instructors could be paid and the program could run, my sense from the instructors was that a lot of students were being enrolled to keep the tuition up and to keep the program going. They were enrolling students on a rolling basis; so you would have a student start today, you'd have a student start next week. So the instructors expressed to me that that had gotten a little looser than perhaps they would like.

We intend to tighten that up because there will be no tuition now. Because of the way eCAT operates, we will not require that tuition, we will not force students to go through Career Link; we will handle all that through our own funding sources. We think that we will be able to

ask more of the students; we're going to ask for a tight commitment from them that they will show up every day and that they will stay until the end of the program. So, we think on the front end that we will be able to get not a financial commitment, but a time commitment from the students and really make sure that they are the right fit for the program. So, we think that will improve.

The first question you asked about capacity – I think about 15 students is as high as we would want to go with one instructor per class and to abide with social distancing; I think that we would need to stick to between 10 and 15 in each class.

Mr. Sample: Thank you.

Mr. Polito: If I could just add something too. Career Link's process was very cumbersome so that became a bottleneck for us when we were trying to recruit students. We would get students that were interested in the program, but they would ultimately lose interest in the program as they worked through the program to get their tuition paid for.

Mr. Sample: Again, I commend you for this because I realize the need for these jobs and these people can actually have a sustainable living because of it. There are a lot of people who don't like filling out paperwork, they don't like government, they don't want people looking at their lives so sometimes they will pass up a tremendous opportunity. But with eCAT, I think you can be a good buffer for them and maybe not let them get so concerned.

Ms. Devlin: Absolutely. The one thing I want to add, and we kind of say it's a secret sauce, is our first hire in this organization other than myself is a woman by the name of Tomeka Craig. Tomeka is the wife of Daryll Craig who is the leader of the Blue Coats; you might know him. We hired Tomeka as our adult student specialist; she really has a deep connection to a lot of the neighborhoods, a lot of the folks that we're trying to reach, and using her to both recruit and support students throughout, I think, will really help do exactly as you're mentioning. That's another way that we think we can be successful.

Mr. Paris: Are there any other questions? If not, thank you Daria and Brian for being here today. We appreciate you presenting us with this information.

Dr. Wood: Daria and Brian, thank you very much. We will be transferring the remainder of the funds over to the school district.

Ms. Devlin: Thank you.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Barney: I will be reporting last month's and this month's financials. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. I am going to start with the Profit & Loss. As is noted on the last month's Profit & Loss, which was the second month of the new fiscal year, that was when we received the first payment of the calendar year money, which is indicated in the year-to-date. The only other money that came in was the interest from savings and Bridgeway Capital, both the Erie Growth and Inclusive Funds. Expenses don't show anything out of the ordinary. When we move down to Other Income and Expenses, last month I would have indicated to everybody that the payments were made for the Municipal Settlements;

you'll see that there was a payment made this month for the Municipal Settlements as well, but that was a smaller amount because we had to pay Greene Township late since they hadn't provided us with their banking information. We weren't able to pay that last month, so it is indicated for this month. The Small Business Financing shows \$245,000 and that is for the Beehive commitments. That was second round payments to Edinboro, Gannon, and Mercyhurst. After that you see the Renaissance Block payments and it should be noted that that is for the first round of payments to seven different entities and they are listed on the Grant Reserve Report. The Anchor Building payment of \$80,000 is the second round to eCAT and Mercy Center for Women. Next you will see the COVID funding of \$70,000 and that is also indicated by name on the Grant Reserve Report.

Moving on to the Balance Sheet, there is nothing out of the ordinary there. You'll see the amount in our checking, committed funds, restricted funds, and savings. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to ask me and I'll get more precise. The next page is the Statement of Cash Flow which shows a negative because we wrote a lot of checks as I had previously indicated.

Budget vs. Actual – if we were to look at last month's report, I would've pointed out that under Government Relations, that was the last payment made to Ridge Policy; that line item will be zero from here on out for Government Relations. Professional Services is kind of high but that is two payments – one for the regular monthly services they provide, and one is for the annual report. If you go further down under Books, Subscriptions, and Dues it may seem kind of high but when we get to the Check Detail Report you will see all the payments there; \$675 is for the Nonprofit Partnership membership, \$119 is for Amazon Prime, \$31 is for a book, \$32 is for the Corry Journal, and \$42 is for the Erie Times. That makes up for the \$897 line item and as I had indicated, those are all recorded on the Check Detail Report. The Bank Fee is for the electronic transfer token rental. As you go farther down, you will notice nothing out of the ordinary.

The next page is the Schedule of Grant Reserve and you will see the Committed and Uncommitted Funds and you'll also see the first quarter disbursements. The first grants you see are the Immediate Human Relief grants that we made listed there and please note under the Project Face Shield, we may have projected more than we are going to use. The Urban Erie Community Development Corporation shows that payment and it should be noted that that is their second payment; they have one more drawdown. As I mentioned under the Settlement Payments, you'll see Greene Township was paid and that all the rest were paid last month. Next you will see the Anchor Building payments that I talked about and then the Renaissance Block payments; it should be noted that those payments are one of two drawdowns for everybody other than Our West Bayfront which was a payment in full. The next page shows the second round of funds to the Beehive Network with payments to Edinboro, Gannon, and Mercyhurst. The last two pages are just a review of all the people we have already talked about and the drawdowns they have received and if there are any amounts remaining.

The next thing is the Check Detail Report which shows all the checks we had written; there is nothing out of the ordinary there. Are there any questions about it? I know it seems like a lot but it's things we have done with COVID along with our regular expenses. Then you will see the Visa statement with the regular charges such as Office Supplies, Postage, Phone/IT, and then the expenses for the book, the membership to the Nonprofit Partnership, the Amazon membership, the Times News subscription, and the Corry Journal subscription. Basically, you don't see anything out of the ordinary.

I would like to say that last month I didn't get a chance to share that last month \$82,000 was returned to us from the Borough of North East for their Multi-Municipal Collaboration grant



because the project was stalled. Everything is listed for you there. Are there any questions? Also, I haven't received calls from anybody pertaining to questions on the audit through Maher Duessel. As far as I am aware, Dr. Wood hasn't either nor has Maher Duessel reached out to me and let me know that anyone has had questions. Hopefully everyone is happy with their report and we will be able to move forward. That concludes my report at this time if there are no questions.

Dr. Wood: Mr. Treasurer, if I could just make one comment. I want to remind everybody because we had talked about this during a Committee meeting, but not a Board meeting; we were going to address it during last month's financials which we never got to it. I wanted to bring up the fact that we do have an unbudgeted expense in the Office Equipment category, of which we only have \$1,000 for that line item. However, we will be going over in that category by about \$800 in that category for a laptop. We will make that difference up by not spending it in another category. But if anyone has any objections to us funding that new laptop for Tom that we hadn't anticipated, let's talk about it now. Otherwise, we'll go ahead and make that expenditure.

Mr. Sample: To me, that's just a cost of doing business. If we need it to be functional as a business, then I don't have an issue with it.

Mr. Bagnoni, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Barney, and Mr. Paris all state that they are fine with that necessary expense.

Dr. Wood: I appreciate that support. Thank you.

Mr. Bagnoni makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 5-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Paris was unable to attend the Strategic Planning Committee meeting, so Dr. Wood gives the report.

Dr. Wood: At the meeting we reviewed grants for both Anchor Building and Multi-Municipal Collaboration. Normally we would have done them separately, but we only received one grant application for the Municipal Collaboration. The Board reviewed that grant and was in agreement with it as well as three Anchor Building grants. I talked about this at the committee meeting, but we are seeing in the short-term a decrease in the subscription to some of these grant programs. Hopefully, they will pick back up again, but there is a lot of uncertainty. We are going to be keeping an eye on those.

In the meantime, the Strategic Planning committee is recommending full funding to the three Anchor Building grants as well as the one Multi-Municipal grant, which are in the form of Resolutions Number 15 and 16.

Mr. Sample: Perry, do you feel that the reduction in applications is due to the fact that the community, with the COVID, are not sure that the match would be attainable, not knowing what's going forward?

Dr. Wood: I think right now there is so many programs floating around out there that people are waiting to look and see what those programs are; they're spending their time applying for those funds. I know that's particularly the case with the small business loans. This is an

unprecedented time; I have never seen so many federal grant programs flying around. Normally we are talking about how the feds are in gridlock; on these issues though, the money is flying. It is one of the rare times during the history of ECGRA where we have seen all the activism at the federal and state level as opposed to relying upon people at the local level to fulfill community and economic development needs.

- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Horton: First of all, I would like to thank you all for the relationship that we have enjoyed since my tenure here on County Council which dates back seven years. I have been the liaison to ECGRA for a number of years and I have always worked in a collaborative fashion. I like to see myself as an ally to ECGRA and its Board in its entirety.

But I have to tell you, the letter that was sent to the County Executive in which my name was invoked, along with Mr. Lee's was very troublesome to me for a number of reasons. Chief among them is all one had to do is pick up the phone; I have always made myself available. Secondly, the content of that letter had no merit and it was very . . . it was erroneous. It wasn't based on fact. It felt like emotion.

And my name, which I will never allow to be tossed around so frivolously, it basically amounted to a personal attack from my perspective. Someone else may see it differently. I feel that – well, I won't go into Mr. Lee's portion since he's capable of speaking for himself, and I haven't discussed or spoken to him about it but I believe I copied each and every one of you on my rebuttal to that letter. Really, if the ECGRA wanted to participate on a larger scale, all they had to do was ask or say so.

But to falsely suggest that the County has to include ECGRA in all of our planning and we have to pre-approve our other community partners through ECGRA is laughable at best, when I sit here and listen to the whole eCAT report. Maybe County Council should say, "Well how come we're not apprised of ECGRA's every move in light of everything we're doing with workforce development and job training (i.e. community college) as well?"

I look forward to putting all of this behind me, but the fact is the letter was based on information that hadn't even been shared with my colleagues, as it is a fluid document as with most things during this global COVID-19 pandemic. Everything is moving; the regulations are moving, the federal and state guidelines – they are making it up as they go along, and so are we. So, it is my hope that in the future, all one would have to do is pick up the damn phone. You can ask me or any member of the committee, of which I am one. It wasn't a committee that County Council formed; but myself as Chair and our Finance Chair are indeed a part of that committee.

In my summation, I pray that never happens again, especially to the point when you invoke my name without first speaking to me. I would like to thank you for this opportunity and all the good work that you do. I would like to continue to collaborate. I thought the COVID-19 Fund, along with many other community partnerships, that we are often on the same sideline. I'd like to see that continue. But it will not if those types of letters are sent putting my name and the County Executive can speak for herself as well. That wasn't right, it was mean-spirited, and I could say some other stuff, but I'll leave it there.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Andre. I appreciate your comments.

Mr. Horton: I would like to report on what we're doing. We're actually having our finance meeting this afternoon where we have distributed the letter through Google Drive or Dropbox and my colleagues have had it in their possession for the last couple days to peruse it. We'll be speaking about it at our 4:00 Finance Personnel meeting and we will also have a direct

presentation from Melinda, the grant writer, at that meeting and you are all welcome to join that meeting. Maybe you can glean some stuff from me and if there is a bigger, larger part of something that ECGRA wanted to do or they wanted to increase their row, then that's fine. As for the Erie Community Foundation, which it's really none of your business, but as for the Erie Community Foundation, Erie County will still be over those grants. The Community Foundation is housing or taking in the applications for us and they are not charging us a fee for it. That had not been determined; the money was place in one big basket. There was no breakdown on how that would be distributed. That's it.

Mr. Paris: Thanks again, Andre. We will move on to comments from the County Executive's office. Gary, how are you doing today?

- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Doing well, Mike. Thank you. I have been doing better. I'm going to speak for myself. On July 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:20 I contacted Dr. Wood to share with him that the task force for the CARES Funding Act was considering, and I used the word considering, the Erie Community Foundation to do the larger portion of the grants because they had the experience, knowledge, and expertise and they wanted to discuss with ECGRA about a proposal for special events. At that time, Dr. Wood said he welcomed that. He said that he thought that ECGRA could take on a larger role as far as some of the neighborhood things and some of the landscape in the city things and he said that he would be submitting a proposal. That's where he and I left off.

Nothing has been, even to this date, in writing. As Councilman Horton has stated, the Erie Community Foundation was being considered and is being considered, but nothing is in writing. At the end of the day, it's going to be the County's call if we want to come together and move forward.

To that degree, if ECGRA wanted to play a larger role, all they had to do was pick up the phone and contact me and say, "Gary, we think we can play a larger role. We feel we have the capacity. We would like to put forth a proposal." By all means, submit it and I will get it to the task force.

Now, let me get to the heart of things and this letter that Mr. Cleaver wrote. Upon reading that letter, I called Dr. Wood, was unable to reach him, left a message for him. I didn't call Mr. Cleaver but asked for a contact number via email; Mr. Cleaver responded and provided me a phone number. I talked to Mr. Cleaver the evening of the letter being released, which was Monday evening. He shared with me his thoughts; I shared with him my thoughts. I just didn't feel that it was the right thing to do. There was a lot of misinformation in there about what I've heard, what people have shared with me, what I am hearing. Now I can only speak from my perspective, but you cannot do things based on what you have heard. In my opinion, you've got to get the other side. I've shared with Mr. Cleaver that if there is a concern, you could have called me. After you got done talking with me, if you wanted to do a letter, by all means, do the letter.

What I would not agree to is put my personal business in there; my personal business is my personal business. That is what I did not like; it was mean-spirited . . . not only was it mean-spirited, only Mr. Cleaver and Dr. Wood knows why they did what they did. But I'm not pleased with it, the County Executive is not pleased with it, Councilman Horton spoke for himself and he so eloquently laid it out in his rebuttal – his letter – which I agree with.

I can tell you right now, we're living in a different day and time. This is not six years ago, this is not a year ago, this is not even six months ago. The misinformation, the accusations about me, were completely unprofessional, completely unacceptable. I am not saying anything that I have not shared with Dr. Wood and Mr. Cleaver; I have had two

conversations with them because what I am finding out as this goes on, more information, it becomes extremely disturbing to me – extremely disturbing to me.

Again, I can't speak for the intent of why it was done; I'm just speaking about how it is received – not perceived, but how it is received by me. It is not received in a positive light. You know again the reason that you did it, but it was wrong. I don't care what anyone says – wrong is wrong. And I stand for what's right. And since I have been a part of working with ECGRA, we haven't agreed on everything, but I have always been forthright, I've always been honest, I've always gone to the source. Dr. Wood cannot say one time that I did not come to the source. There have been some things that I didn't agree with how the administration has handled some things and I came to Dr. Wood and told him I didn't agree. I even apologized on behalf of the administration in one incident that I agreed it had got out of hand. That's because of my integrity; that's because of the person I am. But to do this, and I don't care what anyone says, I'm just speaking for myself, was just malicious, it wasn't right.

In this day and time, and I'm going to end with this, people are looking for three things: they are looking for people to acknowledge what's going on – meaning being aware of what's going on; you have to be aware of what's going on in this country right now as it relates in inequity, as it relates to injustice, as it relates to the problems that we have ongoing. They are also looking for accountability, and I am the first to be accountable; I'm accountable for myself and I do what is right. The third thing is we are looking for action. Again, from my personal perspective because like I said I'm speaking on behalf of me, the County Executive wrote the response based on what the facts were and she did an excellent job in doing that; but I'm speaking on behalf of Gary Lee because I was invoked into this from a personal standpoint which was completely unprofessional and unacceptable and it just was not right.

Mr. Chairman, I'm done.

Mr. Paris: Thank you for your comments, Gary. I think I and all of us will take that to heart and we will deal with it. Hopefully we can move on and still work together and have a relationship.

Mr. Barney: Was Gary going to speak on the Summer Jobs or anything? Where are we at as far as that goes?

Mr. Lee: I would be more than happy to, Mr. Barney. Summer Jobs, as many of you know, we started June 29<sup>th</sup> with the first phase that went through with 50 students; on July 2<sup>nd</sup> we started the second phase with approximately 30 students. So, we're looking at about 80 students total. We have a total of 30 employers and organizations participating.

I can't say enough about GECAC as far as what they have done as far as coordinating and switching during this COVID-19 pandemic. They have done an outstanding job as far as moving things virtually, handling things virtually, working with the employers virtually, going onsite to make sure that the students are following the CDC and Department of Health guidelines as far as protective wear being masking, making sure there is hand sanitizer for the individuals, encouraging social distancing, just being proactive from that particular standpoint.

The program is moving along very successfully; we're at about half of what we usually do and that's to be expected from COVID-19 both from the employer and the student's participation perspective. I am very pleased.

I had shared the information and GECAC shared the information with Mr. Sample. He had brought up the questions and concerns about what was happening in Corry; they provided him a report. You should all have the report today as I asked Perry to include that for the rest

of the Board members to see. It is very positive as far as the relationships that they have developed. They have done what the County Administration has asked them to do which is to be more proactive in getting more students from outside the City of Erie for a better balance and they have done a remarkable job in doing that.

Everything is going well. We did make the decision that the students would receive a \$1.00 increase so the wage went from \$7.25 to \$8.25; that was predicated on information that GECAC provided the administration showing what other entities, whether it was Waldameer or some of the fast-food places, that they were paying more money so we wanted to be a little more competitive. Not only that, during this COVID-19 time, we really wanted to encourage the students to go the extra mile.

We're very pleased that the decision was made to go forward with the program. The students are enjoying it. It's a different year unlike any other year, but we're making it work. Thank you.

Mr. Horton: Gary, would you share that same information with County Council or send that information to Doug Smith so he can disseminate it and we can get it out at tonight's finance meeting too? As you know, we are on a summer schedule and our meetings are kind of spaced out. We would appreciate that information as well.

Mr. Lee: Absolutely, Chairman Horton.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Thank you. There is a section in your meeting book in the Executive Director's Report where you will see a letter from the Young People's Chorus, you'll see documentation from Empower Erie which they provided us along with the presentation that they gave to our Strategic Planning Committee, and then you'll see some praise in there from different media sources talking about various ECGRA programs. The bulk of the staff's activity in the last month has been in Resolution 14, which is the audit. The audit came back with no major findings. As the Treasurer mentioned, and I'll reiterate this, no one contacted Maher Duessel directly from the Board; they asked their questions at the last presentation. No one contacted the staff with any questions about the audit and no one contacted the Treasurer directly. We took that as a sign that the audit was ready to be finalized. We are asking you to vote on it today in Resolution Number 14. As soon as that happens, it will be distributed to the proper County entities and will be archived for the ECGRA records.

Resolution Number 15 are the three Anchor Building grants that were reviewed and funded at various levels. Resolution Number 16 is for Municipal Collaboration – the one grant that was received there was deemed worthy to be funded. Finally, Resolution Number 17 is pertaining to what Mr. Cleaver discussed and is the ultimate outcome of his initial letter to County government. I'll pause there and take any questions the Board may have for my report. There are no questions being heard, so I will turn it back over to the Chairman.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I've been working with Dr. Wood in getting prepared for the eCAT closing. As you know the Erie Center for Arts & Technology, the Gaming Authority had approved a grant and a loan to go to them as part of their New Markets Tax Credit closing. The closing group, as I call it, has conference calls every Wednesday afternoon in which they are advancing toward a closing date; I do not yet have that closing date but that is still moving forward. We will probably not see, at least in my estimation, a

closing date for at least another month but I wanted you to be aware that that is moving forward and that we are moving on their timeline. As soon as we see action for the Gaming Authority, I will let you know. I will also report that since we are playing such a small role in that particular financing item, I am not participating in every conference call, as that appears to be unnecessary to incur that expense for the organization, although the Erie Center for Arts & Technology did agree to pay the legal fees associated with that closing. That is the bulk of my report.

### OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Wood: I reached out to Councilman Cleaver and said that while I have received a Professional Services agreement from Parker Philips for the Board to review, I'm not completely satisfied with the draft that I have at this point so I need more time to go back and put a fine point on some of those issues within the agreement. I'm going to ask that we withdraw that from consideration today.

Mr. Paris: Do we need to make a motion to do that?

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Paris, I believe that there was an updated agenda that was sent out last evening and that item has been removed and there was a Resolution 17 related to the CARES Act Funding that was added to the agenda last night.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 14, 2020 – Resolution to accept the 2019-20 audited financial statements

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 4-0. (Mr. Bagnoni had left the meeting during the course of the meeting).

- b. Resolution Number 15, 2020 – Resolution to enter into agreements with three (3) entities that comprise the recipients of the 2020 Anchor Building Grant Program

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Barney makes a motion to accept the Annual Report into record. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion. Motion carries 4-0.

- c. Resolution Number 16, 2020 – Resolution to enter into agreements with one (1) entity as the sole recipient of the 2020 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion. Motion carries 4-0.

- d. Resolution Number 17, 2020 – Resolution to Direct the Executive Director to submit a proposal to the Erie County Task Force to administer CARES Act funded grants to nonprofits in Erie County

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion.

Mr. Cleaver: For the record, I fully understand that County Council has complete control of these funds; I know that they have complete, complete. But I feel that with the expertise that we have, that's why I feel this Resolution should move forward; at least to put Council aware of the fact that we're interested and that we would do an outstanding job.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Whitey. Anything else?

Mr. Lee: Mr. Chairman, if I could. As I have stated from the County Administration and part of the task force, we have been and continue to be open to receiving a proposal from ECGRA and ECGRA presenting its facts as to why they should be considered. Again, and this is important, nothing has been finalized from the task force's perspective as it relates to distributing the funds. Again, there were discussions with the Erie Community Foundation; there were discussions with ECGRA. Today, we have not received anything in writing from either entity so I have to reiterate right now that the process continues to be discussed among the task force members as far as what would be best for Erie County. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Paris: When do you think that decision will be made to finalize things?

Mr. Lee: Once the task force, as Councilman Horton has stated, the budget will be going down for County Council to consider – and that's just the budget. Once County Council, if they proceed to approve that budget, the task force will begin to make decisions as far as what entity would be best for distributing the various funds in the various areas. There is like seven or eight different areas that the County is responsible for making sure that the money is distributed from broadband to human services to small businesses to nonprofits; so, there are several different areas. Back to your question, Mike, I can't give a definitive date on that because it's a process. The first process will be for County Council to consider the budget and approve the budget, then the task force will begin to make decisions as far as what entity, again, would be best for distribution of the funds.

Mr. Sample: It seems somewhat rhetorical that we're giving Perry the authority to submit the proposal, so it becomes moot. Let's just get it done and get it submitted.

Mr. Horton: May I speak? Dave, you're right on one point. The other side of it is, it becomes adversarial to submit the resolution. As Chairman of Council, I'm offended when I just sat here and told you repeatedly, and I spoke with Dr. Wood last week too, that that thing was open and that all you had to do was ask. Mr. Lee has repeated it. We have asked for a proposal repeatedly, so it's really kind of offensive to me personally. But, okay.

There is no further discussion. Motion fails 3-0-1, with Mr. Barney abstaining.

Mr. Barney: I have a question. Why do we need a resolution in there telling you to go ahead and apply?



Mr. Horton: That's where the offense comes in; it's adversarial.

Mr. Cleaver: I think it was a matter of procedure; let's just do it as a Board that we request County Council to consider us as a partner in this. I guess it doesn't necessarily have to be a resolution with direction from the Board.

Mr. Barney: I still think that Perry should go ahead and write a proposal to do it.

Mr. Cleaver: I heartily agree.

Mr. Barney: I don't see why we need a resolution.

Mr. Paris: We're kind of doing things backwards here. We already voted on this and now we're discussing it more. I'm going to ask Tim what do we do here?

Mr. Wachter: Dr. Wood, can you please explain why you think that failed?

Dr. Wood: We had three yes votes, zero no votes, and one abstention.

Mr. Wachter: That passes. The majority is the majority of those who are present at the meeting, not majority of all the members who are not present.

Dr. Wood: Thank you for clarifying.

Mr. Wachter: In my legal opinion, it passes.

Mr. Paris: So, we're all satisfied that the resolution passed and that we are submitting a proposal and we're moving on from this.

Mr. Sample: Regardless of if it was needed or not, now we can all move forward.

Mr. Sample moves to adjourn.



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
Profit & Loss  
July 2020**

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2019-20 Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		345,218.83		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	4,519.89	25,310.27		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Growth		7,583.33		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund	5,000.00	10,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct	3,252.71	6,505.42		
46426 · Int. Income - BWC - Inclusive		6,319.44		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway	703.88	703.88		
46440 · Immediate Human Relief Fund	25,000.00	275,000.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>38,476.48</u>	<u>676,641.17</u>		
<b>Expense</b>				
62100 · Contracted Services	5,019.05	37,139.08	30,168.00	90,500.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	3,321.65	7,682.94	6,332.00	19,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	1,641.90	4,109.62	7,616.00	22,850.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	5,216.05	11,761.18	18,252.00	54,750.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	18,527.77	81,722.94	89,484.00	268,452.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>33,726.42</u>	<u>142,415.76</u>	<u>151,852.00</u>	<u>455,552.00</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	4,750.06	534,225.41		
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets				
70050 · Municipal Settlements		86,304.71		
70070 · Special Events				
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration	100,000.00	18,000.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street				
70120 · Summer Jobs Program				
70130 · Small Business Financing	62,123.00	307,123.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow	216,666.50	216,666.50		
70170 · Renaissance Block		210,625.00		
70180 · Anchor Building	199,375.00	279,375.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief	20,000.00	549,481.00		
70195 · Response Fund - Small Business	85,000.00	620,000.00		
<b>Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements</b>	<u>683,164.50</u>	<u>2,287,575.21</u>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>(683,164.50)</u>	<u>(2,287,575.21)</u>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>(678,414.44)</u>	<u>(1,753,349.80)</u>		



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of July 31, 2020

	<b>July</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	94,399.90
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	4,888,540.00
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,308,036.96
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	497,431.04
<b>Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings</b>	<b>8,694,008.00</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	8,788,407.90
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	18,846.25
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC - Erie Growth	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 - Inclu	2,500,000.00
12070 · Note Receivable - Blue Highway	250,000.00
12080 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Sm Bus	520,000.00
12085 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Nnprofit	100,000.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,434,000.00)
<b>Total 12000 · Notes Receivable</b>	<b>5,754,846.25</b>
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	(2,756.02)
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>5,752,090.23</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>14,540,498.13</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14,540,498.13</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	3,317,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	12,976,783.75
Net Income	(1,753,349.80)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>14,540,498.13</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>14,540,498.13</b>



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
July 2020

	<u>July</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	(678,414.44)
<b>Adjustments to reconcile Net Income</b> <b>to net cash provided by operations:</b>	
<b>14500 · Prepaid Insurance</b>	<u>778.75</u>
<b>Net cash provided by Operating Activities</b>	<u>(677,635.69)</u>
<b>Net cash increase for period</b>	(677,635.69)
<b>Cash at beginning of period</b>	<u>9,466,043.59</u>
<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<u><u>8,788,407.90</u></u>



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
**July 2020**

Expense	July	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
<b>62100 · Contracted Services</b>					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	8,500.00	15,000.00	(6,500.00)	56.67%
62120 · Government Relations Services	0.00	3,189.38	3,189.38	0.00	100.00%
62130 · Professional Services	2,490.00	13,575.00	36,000.00	(22,425.00)	37.71%
62140 · Legal Services	1,788.00	10,853.00	35,000.00	(24,147.00)	31.01%
62145 · Website Design	660.00	660.00	3,000.00	(2,340.00)	22.00%
62150 · Payroll Services	81.05	361.70	1,500.00	(1,138.30)	24.11%
<b>Total 62100 · Contracted Services</b>	<b>5,019.05</b>	<b>37,139.08</b>	<b>93,689.38</b>	<b>(56,550.30)</b>	<b>39.64%</b>
<b>62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>					
62840 · Office Equipment	1,864.98	1,864.98	1,000.00	864.98	186.50%
62890 · Rent	1,456.67	5,817.96	18,000.00	(12,182.04)	32.32%
<b>Total 62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>3,321.65</b>	<b>7,682.94</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>(11,317.06)</b>	<b>40.44%</b>
<b>65000 · Office Administration</b>					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	42.90	1,084.49	3,500.00	(2,415.51)	30.99%
65020 · Postage	19.07	91.28	500.00	(408.72)	18.26%
65040 · Office Supplies	67.38	215.28	2,000.00	(1,784.72)	10.76%
65050 · Cell Phone	748.07	748.07	2,200.00	(1,451.93)	34.00%
65060 · Copier Lease	345.95	1,383.80	4,200.00	(2,816.20)	32.95%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	0.00	72.17	2,000.00	(1,927.83)	3.61%
65080 · Bank Fees	30.00	126.00	200.00	(74.00)	63.00%
65085 · Professional Development	274.00	274.00	4,000.00	(3,726.00)	6.85%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	16.00	16.00	4,000.00	(3,984.00)	0.40%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	98.53	98.53	250.00	(151.47)	39.41%
<b>Total 65000 · Office Administration</b>	<b>1,641.90</b>	<b>4,109.62</b>	<b>22,850.00</b>	<b>(18,740.38)</b>	<b>17.99%</b>
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>					
65105 · Outreach	0.00	889.21	8,000.00	(7,110.79)	11.12%
65110 · Advertising	84.90	84.90	7,000.00	(6,915.10)	1.21%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	3,995.39	7,315.06	18,000.00	(10,684.94)	40.64%
65120 · Insurance	778.75	3,115.00	9,850.00	(6,735.00)	31.62%
65130 · Grant Management Software	0.00	0.00	4,900.00	(4,900.00)	0.00%
65150 · Travel	357.01	357.01	7,000.00	(6,642.99)	5.10%
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>5,216.05</b>	<b>11,761.18</b>	<b>54,750.00</b>	<b>(42,988.82)</b>	<b>21.48%</b>
<b>66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	16,594.23	73,163.93	233,000.00	(159,836.07)	31.40%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,283.54	5,673.27	17,302.00	(11,628.73)	32.79%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASU! Tax	0.00	35.74	2,000.00	(1,964.26)	1.79%
66500 · Retirement	650.00	2,850.00	9,000.00	(6,150.00)	31.67%
66700 · PMRS	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	(7,000.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>18,527.77</b>	<b>81,722.94</b>	<b>268,452.00</b>	<b>(186,729.06)</b>	<b>30.44%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>33,726.42</b>	<b>142,415.76</b>	<b>458,741.38</b>	<b>(316,325.62)</b>	<b>31.04%</b>





**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of July 31, 2020**

	July	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
<b>Restricted Uncommitted Funds</b>	3,308,036.96		
<b>Committed Funds</b>	4,888,540.00		

**2020 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)**

First Quarter Gaming Revenue		345,218.83	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			<b>345,218.83</b>

**FY Disbursements:**

First Quarter Disbursements		1,604,410.71	
Second Quarter Disbursements	683,164.50	683,164.50	
Third Quarter Disbursements			
Fourth Quarter Disbursements			<b>2,287,575.21</b>

**Disbursements Detail**

**Grants/Settlements**

	July	YTD	Subtotal
<b>IMMEDIATE HUMAN RELIEF FUND (COVID-19)</b>			
Bethany Outreach Center		7,600.00	
Christian Cupboard		3,000.00	
Community Shelter Services		30,750.00	
County of Erie MH/ID		12,500.00	
Edinboro Community & Eco. Devel. Corp.		9,370.00	
Ella Cochran Food Pantry		1,000.00	
Elmwood Food Pantry		2,000.00	
Erie City Mission		39,085.00	
Erie DAWN		10,000.00	
Erie Family Center		13,000.00	
Erie United Methodist Alliance		2,365.00	
Gannon University		23,000.00	
Harbor Creek High School		1,000.00	
HVA Senior Living Alliance		6,800.00	
International Institute of Erie USCRI-IIE		17,210.00	
MECA, Inc.		3,850.00	
Millcreek Counseling & Mental Health		2,500.00	
Northwestern Food Pantry		5,000.00	
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College		63,321.00	
Project Face Shield	4,000.00	17,480.00	
Project Face Shield for Educators		22,120.00	
Sacred Heart Church		2,000.00	
Safe Journey		9,000.00	
Salvation Army, Corry		9,500.00	
Sarah A Reed Children's Center		11,000.00	
Sarah Reed Senior Living		5,200.00	
Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA		84,000.00	

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of July 31, 2020**

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
ServErie		8,710.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		25,400.00	
St. Martin Center		7,300.00	
St. Patrick's Haven Inc.		2,500.00	
Union City Family Support Center		2,000.00	
Urban Erie Community Development Corp	16,000.00	48,000.00	
Waterford Food Pantry		5,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie		22,960.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		13,960.00	
			<u>549,481.00</u>

**RESPONSE FUND - SMALL BUSINESS & NONPROFITS**

Bridgeway Capital - 1st Draw		125,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 2nd Draw		80,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 3rd Draw		260,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 4th Draw		70,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 5th Draw	85,000.00	85,000.00	
			<u>620,000.00</u>

**MUNICIPALITIES**

**Settlements**

Summit Township		38,837.11	
Greene Township		9,493.52	
McKean Township		9,493.52	
Millcreek Township		9,493.52	
Waterford Township		9,493.52	
Erie County		9,493.52	
			<u>86,304.71</u>

**Multi-Municipal Collaboration**

Borough of North East - 2019		(82,000.00)	
Jefferson Educational Society - 2020	100,000.00	100,000.00	
			<u>18,000.00</u>

**SHAPING TOMORROW**

Empower Erie, LLC	150,000.00	150,000.00	
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours	66,666.50	66,666.50	
			<u>216,666.50</u>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of July 31, 2020**

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>QUALITY OF PLACE</b>			
<b>Community Assets</b>			
<b>Special Events</b>			
<b>NEIGHBORHOODS &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>			
<b>Anchor Building</b>			
<b>2019</b> Erie Center for Arts & Technology		60,000.00	
Mercy Center for Women		20,000.00	
<b>2020</b> Borough of Union City	49,375.00	49,375.00	
Gaudenzia Erie	50,000.00	50,000.00	
Woman's Club of Erie	100,000.00	100,000.00	
			<u>279,375.00</u>
<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
<b>Renaissance Block</b>			
<b>2020</b> Borough of Girard		25,625.00	
Borough of North East		30,000.00	
Borough of Union City		30,000.00	
Sisters of Mercy		25,000.00	
Impact Corry		50,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		25,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie		25,000.00	
			<u>210,625.00</u>
<b>SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING</b>			
<b>Beehive Network</b>			
Edinboro University Foundation		57,000.00	
Gannon University		90,500.00	
Mercyhurst University		97,500.00	
Erie Regional Library Foundation	62,123.00	62,123.00	
			<u>307,123.00</u>
<b>YOUTH &amp; EDUCATION</b>			
<b>Summer Jobs &amp; More</b>			
<b>PILOT PROGRAMS</b>			
<b>Total Funds Disbursements</b>	683,164.50	2,287,575.21	<u>2,287,575.21</u>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of July 31, 2020**

		<u>July</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
<b>Committed Funds:</b>				
<b>N&amp;C</b>	<b>Renaissance Block 2018</b>			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	Our West Bayfront		10,000.00	100,000.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		7,000.00	70,000.00
	2 Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	50,000.00
	ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
	<b>Renaissance Block 2020</b>			
	Borough of Girard		25,625.00	51,250.00
	Borough of North East		30,000.00	60,000.00
	Borough of Union City		30,000.00	60,000.00
	Impact Corry		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		0.00	25,000.00
	Sisters of Mercy/House of Mercy		25,000.00	50,000.00
	YMCA of Greater Erie		25,000.00	50,000.00
	<b>Anchor Building</b>			
	18 Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		5,000.00	100,000.00
	Grace Church		80,000.00	100,000.00
	Performing Artists Collective Alliance		5,000.00	93,126.50
	19 Erie Center for Arts & Technology		0.00	75,000.00
	Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation		56,000.00	70,000.00
	Housing & Neighborhood Development Services		40,000.00	50,000.00
	Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	Mercy Center for Women		0.00	100,000.00
	<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
	1 Borough of North East		110,000.00	250,000.00
	City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	Erie Downtown Partnership		180,000.00	250,000.00
	2A Borough of Edinboro		154,650.00	250,000.00
	Borough of Union City		125,000.00	200,000.00
	2B Our West Bayfront		133,810.00	250,000.00
	Preservation Erie		122,000.00	150,000.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		159,500.00	250,000.00
	3 Borough of Girard		90,000.00	170,000.00
	Impact Corry		87,200.00	202,400.00
	Waterford Borough		166,200.00	249,800.00
<b>MUN</b>	<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
	19 Borough of North East		82,000.00	82,000.00

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of July 31, 2020**

**Committed Funds (cont):**

	<u>July</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
<b>SB</b>			
<b>PennVenture Partners</b>		1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
<b>Beehive Network</b>			
Edinboro University Foundation		86,000.00	200,000.00
Erie Regional Library Foundation	62,123.00	52,877.00	200,000.00
Gannon University		84,500.00	200,000.00
Mercyhurst University		5,000.00	200,000.00
Penn State University (Behrend)		100,000.00	200,000.00
<b>Y&amp;E</b>			
<b>GECAC - Summer Jobs Program 2020</b>		150,000.00	150,000.00
<b>Shaping Tomorrow</b>			
Empower Erie - Community College	150,000.00	220,000.00	400,000.00
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours	66,666.50	0.00	200,000.00
<b>PP</b>			
<b>Pilot Program</b>			
Partnership for a Healthy Community		50,000.00	100,000.00
<b>QP</b>			
<b>Immediate Human Relief Fund (COVID)</b>			
Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA		0.00	168,000.00
Community Shelter Services		0.00	30,750.00
Erie City Mission		0.00	39,085.00
Gannon University		0.00	23,000.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network		0.00	25,400.00
UECDC	16,000.00	8,408.00	56,408.00
Project Face Shield	4,000.00	2,520.00	20,000.00
YMCA of Greater Erie		0.00	22,960.00
<b>Response Fund (COVID)</b>			
Small Business	85,000.00	680,000.00	1,200,000.00
Non-Profit		300,000.00	400,000.00
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<u><u>383,789.50</u></u>	<u><u>4,888,540.00</u></u>	<u><u>8,749,679.50</u></u>



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Check Detail Report**  
**July 2020**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
07/02/2020	EFT	VISA	2020 June Statement	-1,163.82
07/02/2020	EFT	Empower Erie, LLC	Community College 2nd Draw	-150,000.00
07/03/2020	EFT	Penn State University - Knowledge Park	2020 July Rent	-1,456.67
07/07/2020	EFT	Urban Erie Community Development Corp	COVID Grant 25 - 3rd Draw	-16,000.00
07/07/2020	EFT	Erie Regional Library Foundation	Beehive - 2nd Draw	-62,123.00
07/07/2020	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	Laptop for Tom	-1,864.98
07/07/2020	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2020 July Copier Lease	-345.95
07/07/2020	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2020 JulyPhone/IT/Fax	-791.89
07/07/2020	EFT	Parker Philips	2020 June Professional Services	-2,490.00
07/07/2020	EFT	Diligent Corporation	Board Effect Software	-3,180.00
07/07/2020	EFT	Perry Wood	2020 1st & 2nd Qtr Expenses	-754.52
07/07/2020	EFT	Tammi Michali	2020 1st & 2nd Qtr Expenses	-473.02
07/09/2020	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	6/20/20 to 7/3/20 Payroll	-8,773.04
07/09/2020	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2020 June Legal Services	-1,788.00
07/13/2020	EFT	Fidelity Investments	6/20/20 to 7/3/20 Retirement	-554.90
07/16/2020	EFT	Bliley Technologies	Project Face Shield	-2,000.00
07/22/2020	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	07/04/20 to 07/17/20 Payroll	-8,719.93
07/22/2020	EFT	Fidelity Investments	7/4/20 to 7/17/20 Retirement	-560.95
07/22/2020	EFT	Bliley Technologies	Project Face Shield	-2,000.00
07/29/2020	EFT	Jefferson Educational Society of Erie	2020 Multi-Municipal Collaboration	-100,000.00
07/29/2020	EFT	Woman's Club of Erie	2020 Anchor Building	-100,000.00
07/29/2020	EFT	Borough of Union City	2020 Anchor Building	-49,375.00
07/29/2020	EFT	Gaudenzia Erie	2020 Anchor Building	-50,000.00
07/29/2020	EFT	Erie Public Schools	Tech After Hours - Final Payment	-66,666.50
07/30/2020	EFT	Bridgeway Capital	COVID Loan - Draw 5	-85,000.00
07/31/2020	EFT	Erie Bank	Service Charge - Token Rental	-30.00







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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
AUGUST  
2020**



August 2020

## MEMO

To: ECGRA Board of Directors

Re: Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund (Response Fund)

### Executive Director's Status Report

#### Summary

The Response Fund was created by the ECGRA board of directors on 3/19/20. The first grant made from the Fund went to the Second Harvest Food Bank on 3/20/20 to address the pressing needs of food insecurity. The Response Fund was designed to be locally controlled, swift, and flexible. It incorporated these principles and produced results consistent with the expectations placed on it by the ECGRA board and Erie County Council. Here's some numbers on the Response Fund:

- ECGRA received 69 grant applications; **44 grants** were funded fully or partially
- Response Fund grant total: \$2.4 million requested; **\$688,234 funded**
- **Loan Fund Activity:** \$520,000 small business; \$100,000 Nonprofits

#### Introduction

During a disaster, one of the organizational types deemed essential by state governments are grantmaking agencies. The "essential" designation recognizes a) that grantmaking must continue to flow, b) grantmaking must flow to the right places, and c) grantmaking is an important part of innovative solutions amid crisis. But what role can they really play? The ECGRA – Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority – is a county-level grantmaker whose purpose is community and economic development. At its core, the ECGRA invests in people and place. Both are important during a crisis, since both involve the preservation of life and the quality of life for those living and surviving in the aftermath of a crisis.

Erie County's story begins in March 2020, as local officials begin to wrap their minds around the spread of COVID-19 across the United State and major metropolitan areas in Pennsylvania. Smaller counties like Erie are less dense in population, play host to satellite hospitals. However, in a global society, no place is immune to the spread of a highly contagious virus. A heavy advanced manufacturing town, Erie has international players making stuff for the world's industrial supply chain. A university town, Erie has students traveling for Spring break.

Set between New York and Ohio, Erie is a pass through in the tri-state area. Knowing that Erie County would not be simply passed by, local leaders acted before the virus hit its borders. Erie County Council joined with the ECGRA to create the Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund.

### **Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund**

The Response Fund was the result of collaboration between Erie County Council and the ECGRA. They created the Response Fund proactively after witnessing news reports from larger cities concerning the spread of the disease, its effects on the population of those cities, and resulting behavior of citizens in those cities. The Response Fund had three components:

1. *Immediate Human Relief*
2. *Nonprofit Loan Fund*
3. *Small Business Loan Fund*

Each area of funding was designed to address the crisis for multiple stakeholders from multiple perspectives. Erie County had never experienced such a virus-based crisis that had the potential to kill so many people, cripple the county's quality of life, and devastate the economy. How can one respond to such a multi-tiered crisis?

Grantmakers are uniquely positioned in a crisis because they are regularly in touch with human service providers, nonprofit institutions that provide quality of life and community development services, and economic development agencies for small business. Communication with these sectors led to an early conclusion: capital was not flowing. Liquidity was problem for small business of which half in the US have enough cash reserve for 10-14 days. Nonprofits could not fundraise event-style because of social distancing. Philanthropy had slowed because the stock market had taken a massive hit. How could grantmakers wrap their heads around this?

One helpful source early on was *The Disaster Philanthropy Playbook*, which can be found online at [www.disasterplaybook.org](http://www.disasterplaybook.org). Serving as a framework for the Response Fund, the **Immediate Human Relief** component was structured as a grant program focusing on four primary areas:

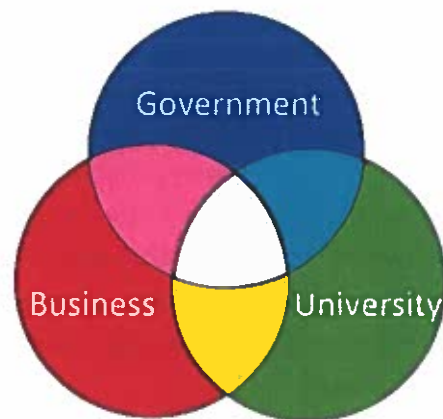
- **Food Insecurity**, Food Banks, Food Pantries, Food Delivery to the home bound. According to Second Harvest Food Bank, Erie County had 30,000 food insecure individuals prior to the crisis.
- **Homeless Shelters**, new requirements for the homeless amidst a pandemic included limiting shelter sizes, regulating social distancing for a mentally ill population.
- **Elderly Care**, telemedicine, protective personal equipment (PPE) for human service workers, sanitization supplies.
- **Child Care Centers** for essential workers that needed a safe place for their children so they could go to work at hospitals, grocery stores, and public safety entities. Like eldercare, the childcare people were struggling with protecting the health of both the

children and their workers. PPE became essential. New standards for sanitization were being pioneered. All on the fly.

The loan fund components for both **nonprofits and small business** were structured using an existing relationship with a Community Development Financing Institution (CDFI). Bridgeway Capital, a US Treasury regulated and Aeris Rated CDFI, had been working with ECGRA since 2014. Nonprofits that had a revenue-based service were directed to the loan fund for stability. Small businesses that would soon experience liquidity issues leading to solvency problems were directed to the loan fund.

## Resilience as a Conceptual Framework

When a crisis hits, we often look to media sources to get our information. Politicians, government agencies, and NGOs pump out carefully crafted messages letting us know what's happening in the world. However, that's not the only level of action and information dissemination that counts. On the local level, every community has a mixture of organizations that play a role in a pandemic. Those organizations can be divided into three distinct sectors – public, private, civic. Sometimes known as the “triple helix” of community DNA, these sectors work in conjunction with one another, complementing efforts when appropriately aligned. Each has different motives, resources, obstacles, and objectives, but if they can align in a time of crisis, then a community gets the most out of these organization.



## **Resilience in Six Principles**

1. **People** – Erie County Council & ECGRA, nonprofits, universities, municipalities, small business & industry.
2. **Systems Thinking** – Food insecurity, homelessness, daycare & elderly care, small business
3. **Adaptability** – the industry/university partnership to produce PPE
4. **Transformability** – COVID should transform our thinking on how to respond with resources
5. **Sustainability** – the Response Fund is a new source of continued planning and resource development that should be with us for years to come.
6. **Courage** – our collective future requires us to understand how ill prepared we were and how we could do better in the future.

## The Grantmakers Role

Despite differences, these sectors can come together in a time of crisis to promote stability, safety, and innovation if they are properly understood and effectively incentivized. In fact, during a crisis is the time when they are most likely to collaborate efficiently, since time is of the essence. This is where the grantmaker comes into play. During calmer times, the grantmaker has a process for soliciting grant applications. This involves grant writing, grant review panels, careful back-and-forth with applicants answering questions, in short, a vetting process that leads to inquiry, communication, and ultimately deliberative behavior. In a time of crisis, the grantmaker's primary role shifts to one of information clearing house, resource provider, and matchmaker.

In short, grantmakers become important intermediaries between those who understand problems and those who can solve problems. They don't let sector differences, incentives, and bureaucracy stand in the path. The following examples illustrate the ECGRA acting as intermediary between sectors and agencies in order to solve the problems of immediate human relief and cash flow liquidity for both nonprofits and small business.

- Examples
  - Food Insecurity, food banks, pantries, distribution
  - Emergency Homeless Sheltering: a confederated system (HOME Team)
  - Emergency Childcare for essentials workers in the short-term and to restart the economy in the long-term
  - Digital Divide: Need for Residential Internet Access, especially for students
  - Small business liquidity & solvency
  - Civic institution viability
- Lessons Learned
  - You can't prepare, but you can react intelligently
  - Expedited voting procedures to act swiftly and comply with Sunshine Law in mind
  - Amplify existing relationships
  - Dual mission of saving lives and livelihoods (Public health & economic development)
  - Relationships between funders and elected officials
- Recommendations
  - Create the Disaster Response Fund permanently
  - Map out home delivery services needed in time of crisis
  - Work with Erie County to create an emergency shelter plan for the homeless
  - Incorporate small business behavior into a crisis response stimulus package
  - Educate nonprofits on the resources available during an economic crisis
  - Establish technology and broadband resources for every student in Erie County

	Organization	Project Name	Amount Awarded	Date Awarded
Grant 1	Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA	Emergency Food Relief Boxes	\$168,000.00	3/20/2020
Grant 2	Emergency Shelter System	Emergency Shelter Funding for the Homeless of Erie County	\$12,500.00	3/21/2020
Grant 3	North East Food Pantry	Emergency Food Acquisition	\$1,000.00	3/22/2020
Grant 4	Erie Family Center	Diaper Depot	\$7,500.00	3/22/2020
Grant 5	YMCA of Greater Erie	Licensed Childcare for Life Sustaining Personnel	\$16,000.00	3/26/2020
Grant 6	Mercy Center for Women	Emergency Homeless Shelter-related costs due to COVID-19 regulations	\$9,525.00	3/25/2020
Grant 7	The Upper Room	Costs associated with increased regulations due to COVID-19	\$5,000.00	3/25/2020
Grant 8	Meals on Wheels	Food distribution for homebound elderly	\$2,000.00	3/26/2020
Grant 9	Penn State University	Face Shield Manufacturing	\$6,700.00	3/28/2020
Grant 10	Community Shelter Services	Emergency Sheltering Increase due COVID-19	\$30,750.00	3/30/2020
Grant 11	St. Patrick's Haven	Men's Shelter Costs	\$2,500.00	3/30/2020
Grant 12	Erie City Mission	Homeless Shelter and Kitchen	\$39,085.00	4/1/2020
Grant 13	Safe Journey	Rural Domestic Abuse Shelter	\$9,000.00	4/1/2020
Grant 14	Erie DAWN	Domestic Violence Safe Housing	\$10,000.00	4/1/2020
Grant 15	Gannon University	Healthcare Operators Protective Equipment	\$23,000.00	4/2/2020
Grant 16	Sarah A Reed Children's Center	Technology Costs related to social distancing/remote therapy	\$11,000.00	4/6/2020
Grant 17	HVA Senior Living Alliance	Technology Costs related to Telemedicine for Seniors	\$6,800.00	4/6/2020
Grant 18	Erie United Methodist Alliance	Homeless Shelter-related Costs	\$2,365.00	4/7/2020
Grant 19	St. Martin Center	Childcare Center Preparation Costs	\$7,300.00	4/7/2020
Grant 20	Bethany Outreach Center	Emergency Hygiene and Food Distribution	\$7,600.00	4/16/2020
Grant 21	MECA Senior Center	Sanitizing Center for Reopening	\$3,850.00	4/16/2020
Grant 22	Penn State University	Expansion of Face Shield Project & N95 Level Face Masks	\$46,500.00	4/16/2020
Grant 23	Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Staff Costs to shift the burden from lost volunteer base	\$25,400.00	4/16/2020
Grant 24	Millicreek Counseling & Mental Health Advocacy	Telemedicine	\$2,500.00	4/16/2020
Grant 25	Urban Erie Community Development Corporation	Temporary Supplemental Food Box Preparation and Delivery	\$56,408.00	4/20/2020
Grant 26	The Salvation Army, Corry	Refrigerator, hygiene, sanitization related things	\$9,500.00	4/26/2020
Grant 27	Penn State University	Mental Health Mobile Application	\$10,121.00	4/26/2020
Grant 28	Christian Cupboard (Grard Food Pantry)	Food Pantry Supplies	\$3,000.00	4/29/2020
Grant 29	Ella Cochran Food Pantry of Harborcreek	Food Pantry Supplies	\$1,000.00	4/29/2020
Grant 30	Northwestern Food Pantry (Albion)	Food Pantry Supplies	\$5,000.00	4/29/2020
Grant 31	Union City Food Pantry	Food Pantry Supplies	\$2,000.00	4/29/2020
Grant 32	Waterford Food Pantry	Food Pantry Supplies	\$5,000.00	4/29/2020
Grant 33	Harborcreek High School	Ear Savers	\$1,000.00	5/4/2020
Grant 34	Elmwood Food Pantry	Food Pantry Supplies	\$2,000.00	5/4/2020
Grant 35	Edinboro Community & Economic Development Corporation	Food Relief packages and Supplies	\$9,370.00	5/4/2020
Grant 36	Erie Family Center #2	Diaper Relief	\$13,000.00	5/4/2020
Grant 37	YMCA of Greater Erie #2	RNs, Food cost, food prep, childcare sanitization supplies	\$22,960.00	5/4/2020
Grant 38	Sacred Heart Food Pantry	Food and personal items	\$2,000.00	5/12/2020
Grant 39	ServErie	Community Corp Outreach Team	\$8,710.00	5/12/2020
Grant 40	Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Technology to continue leadership program remotely	\$13,960.00	5/12/2020
Grant 41	Project Face Shield	PPE Purchase for Public Safety and Nonprofit Sectors	\$2,000.00	4/21/2020
			\$2,000.00	4/27/2020
			\$4,000.00	4/30/2020
			\$2,000.00	5/8/2020
			\$1,600.00	6/2/2020
			\$1,880.00	6/4/2020
			\$2,000.00	7/13/2020
			\$2,000.00	7/22/2020
			\$5,320.00	8/3/2020
Grant 42	Sarah Reed Senior Living	Food Equipment (Heating Carts)	\$5,200.00	5/29/2020
Grant 43	International Institute of Erie	Pre-School Childcare & Summer Program	\$17,210.00	5/29/2020
Grant 44	Project Face Shield for Educators	Face Shields for Public School system	\$22,120.00	6/4/2020
			\$688,234.00	







**NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS**

## **ECGRA Investment in Bridgeway Capital Creates Opportunity for African American Entrepreneurs**

*Erie Urban Entrepreneur Program Provides Much-Needed Access to Capital; Spurs Community Development, Growth*

**CONTACT:** Kate Philips  
[pahilips@parkerphilips.com](mailto:pahilips@parkerphilips.com)  
215.850.4647 | mobile

**ERIE, PA** (July 24, 2020) – The Erie Urban Entrepreneur Program, financed by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) and managed by Bridgeway Capital (Bridgeway), is helping prepare entrepreneurs to succeed and generating economic activity among Erie County’s African American entrepreneurs.

With funding from ECGRA, Bridgeway helps entrepreneurs of color develop and launch business through its Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator (EMOBA). EMOBA is designed to provide developing businesses a strong foundation to launch and grow.

The program, modeled after a pilot project launched by Bridgeway in Pittsburgh, was conceptualized by ECGRA in 2016 when its leadership saw a need for more programs to support African American entrepreneurs in Erie. Bridgeway is currently preparing to welcome its second cohort of entrepreneurs into EMOBA.

"Bridgeway Capital is excited to welcome the second Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator cohort," said Cathryn P. Easterling, Director of the Bridgeway Capital Erie Office. "While in a pandemic, businesses are still planning, growing, and projecting. Their hard work is representative of the Erie community’s resiliency."

"This program provides excellent opportunities for emerging and existing minority-owned businesses and truly addresses the barriers that many minority-owned business face when navigating



entrepreneurship. I look forward to working with these diverse businesses in the second Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator cohort and to see their maturation and impact within our region."

Krystal Robinson, a participant in EMOBA's first cohort, has been working intensively to build a business that increases access to healthy food in Erie. Krystal entered EMOBA with an idea—she wanted to share her passion for healthy food and cooking with the Erie community. Through the accelerator, she gained access to a network of business development professionals who guided her to develop a business plan and marketing strategy.

"I was able to fully conceptualize my company, Taste and See: All Things Fruits & Vegetables, and step into the Erie renaissance effort by working with Bridgeway Capital," said Krystal Robinson, CEO, Taste and See: All Things Fruits & Vegetables. "Being a part of Erie's Flagship City Food Hall will enable me to share my passion for nutrition while also receiving developmental support. I want to help Erie look good and feel good because it eats good."

EMOBA program participants will engage in nine months of extensive mentoring and one-on-one tailored assistance focused on business planning and strategy development. Erie entrepreneurs are excited for this opportunity; Bridgeway has received 35 applications for the EMOBA program set to begin in late August 2020.

"The key revitalizing factor is small, urban businesses beginning to provide jobs for the neighborhood, particularly young people; an entrepreneur providing fresh food for her community, a barber inspiring young people to continue their education, a high-quality child care center within walking distance of home—that's the community development we are trying to spur," said Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. "Krystal's story is evidence that the EMOBA is working, and we strongly encourage anyone interested in learning how to create and grow a business in Erie's urban core to apply."

The Erie Urban Entrepreneur Program offers a streamlined process, including a loan checklist with more relaxed lending standards. Bridgeway markets directly to the community, launching the program out of Erie City Hall, to ensure potential business owners feel no barriers to entry. Bridgeway also provides credit counseling services to help borrowers boost their credit rating when necessary.

*[More information on EMOBA can be found here.](#)*

*Here is a link to a YouTube video about Krystal and her business: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-ZZv75CP50&feature=youtu.be>*

*The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority views Erie County's inner city as a regional force in the economy and recognizes that there is an unrealized potential of inner-city markets and entrepreneurs. To apply for funding through the Erie Urban Entrepreneur Program at Bridgeway Capital, borrowers should call Cathryn Easterling at 814-451-1172.*

####





July 24, 2020

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)  
Perry Wood  
5340 Fryling Rd suite 201  
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Mr. Wood:

For 60 years, Stairways Behavioral Health has assisted individuals with mental health care and addiction needs at any stage of life in their recovery by providing comprehensive rehabilitation, treatment, arts, and supports essential for living, working, learning and participating fully in the community. We take great pride in providing progressive and compassionate care.

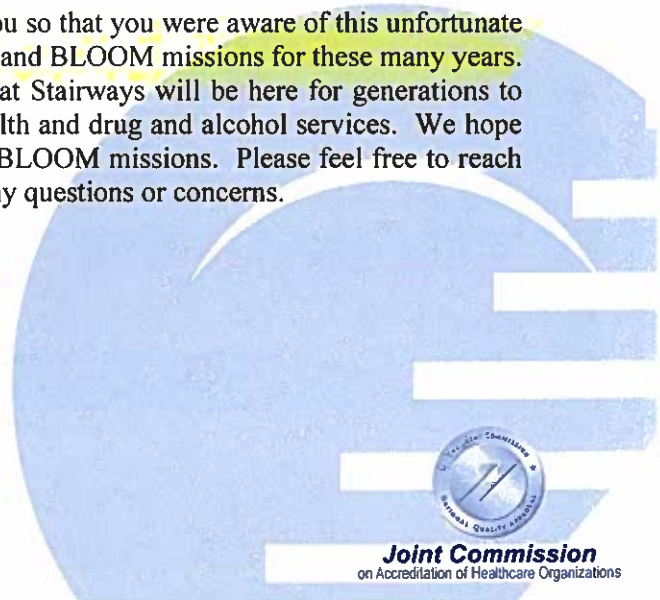
Over the last several years, however, we have seen drastic changes in our marketplace that led to serious disruptions in our revenue and an increase in our expenses. We worked hard to keep our core services intact, even as we recognized the need to make cuts elsewhere in order to strengthen Stairways for the long run. For example, due to a change in funding we had to close Crawford County outpatient programs a year ago. We have also completed administrative restructuring, re-bid our vendor contracts to create savings and more recently, we adapted programming because of the pandemic and reorganized/improved efficiencies in many of our programs.

Despite these many changes, they were not enough to balance our budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year as we try to position Stairways to be a stronger agency for years to come. Regrettably and after much deliberation, a decision was made to close the BLOOM campus. While we have long believed in the value of art therapy and the positive impact those programs have had on our clients, our payers simply do not reimburse us for these services at a level that covers our costs. With each passing year, BLOOM continued to operate at a loss which we can no longer afford to subsidize while COVID-19 added additional constraints on our ability to offer the programs at BLOOM. Please know that this was a very difficult but necessary decision that Stairways' Board of Directors had to make, and it was not done lightly.

As a loyal donor of our BLOOM program, I wanted to reach out to you so that you were aware of this unfortunate turn of events. I deeply appreciate your commitment to the Stairways and BLOOM missions for these many years. We recognize that these difficult decisions made now will ensure that Stairways will be here for generations to come for the thousands of clients who rely on us for their mental health and drug and alcohol services. We hope you will, too. Thank you for your commitment to the Stairways and BLOOM missions. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at [rdowling@stairwaysbh.org](mailto:rdowling@stairwaysbh.org) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Robin Dowling  
Executive Director









**SARAH A. REED**  
**Children's Center**  
For a brighter tomorrow



July 29, 2020

Dr. Perry Wood  
Executive Director  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry, *Perry,*

**Thank you for the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's continued support of the children and staff at Sarah A. Reed Children's Center!**

The very special contribution of 30 face shields was received and processed on July 29, 2020, and will be put to immediate use by our children and staff throughout our agency. Please convey our heartfelt thanks to your colleagues at ECGRA and the team at Bliley Technologies for the difference they are continuing to make in the lives of those we serve, especially during these challenging and uncertain times.

While many businesses and organizations have closed temporarily due to COVID-19, we have been working harder than ever to continue our programs and find new ways to meet the critical demand that exists in our community for children's mental and behavioral health services. This includes the **2020 Summer Reading & Math Program**, which is operating remotely this year and providing a variety of reading, math and educational activities to the 62 children who are currently enrolled in our 24-hour Residential Treatment Program. As you'll see from the enclosed report, the children are practicing social distancing this year and using Chromebooks to engage in online learning from their residence halls rather than receiving in-person education at the former Ridgefield Elementary School, as we had done in past years. We greatly appreciate ECGRA's strong support of our technological initiative, which is helping to equip our students, therapists and teachers with the technology they need to stay connected, stay safe and keep learning.

Perry, I can't wait to walk you around campus once it's safe to do so and show you the impact that ECGRA is continuing to have on our agency and those we serve! **Thank you for standing with us during this time and helping to shine the light of hope for children and families in our community.**

Sincerely,

*Thank you and your Board's continued support of US. Here at Sarah A. Reed Children's Center!*

Gary L. Bukowski, MA, CFRE  
Associate VP of Development  
Sarah A. Reed Children's Center  
2445 West 34th Street • Erie, PA 16506  
Phone: (814) 835-7602  
[GBukowski@SarahReed.org](mailto:GBukowski@SarahReed.org)



cc: Tammi L. Michali, Executive Assistant

No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution  
Please retain this document for your tax records.

Sarah A. Reed Children's Center is a Sanctuary® Certified Treatment Facility



Joint Commission  
on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations







Brian J. Polito, CPA  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Teresa Szumigala  
*Assistant Superintendent*

**Board of School Directors**

John C. Harkins

*President*

Tyler Titus

*Vice President*

Gwendolyn Cooley

Darlene Feeney

Angela McNair

Sumner Nichols

Lori A. Pickens

Rosemary C. Sheridan

Thomas A. Spagel

Angela G. Jones  
*Secretary*

July 29, 2020

Mr. Perry Wood, Executive Director  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Road Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thank you for ECGRA's donation of 1200 face shields to Erie's Public Schools.

The school district's number one priority is the health and safety of our students and staff and your generous donation of face shields will help us provide the extra support needed in our schools as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Again, thank you for your donation and support of Erie's Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Polito, CPA  
Superintendent of Schools

Erie's Public Schools  
148 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16502-2834  
P: 814.874.6000  
F: 814.874.6049  
[www.eriesd.org](http://www.eriesd.org)

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*





August 7, 2020

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
Ms. Tammi L. Michali  
Office Manager  
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201  
Erie, PA. 16510

Ms. Michali,

With all the deepest gratitude, I am so honored that the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority chose the Erie County Technical School as a recipient of a number of face shields. During this trying time of the COVID-19 pandemic, your donation to the school will assist our administration in creating a safe environment for all, especially the instructional staff. The face shields will be assigned to the instructional staff, and any other staff that may desire the PPE. As you can only imagine, the staff will be extremely surprised and grateful for this kind gesture and your recognition of the essential job that each of them perform daily.

Please know that Mrs. Sharon Kresse, our school nurse will continue to be the contact for the Erie County Technical School for any additional health care related donations that the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority may be willing to share with our school. Again, during this trying time, any support for our staff and students would be extremely appreciated.

Again, I appreciate you thinking of the Erie County Technical School and our staff! I am wishing you and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority continued success. God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joe Tarasovitch'.

Joe Tarasovitch  
Principal



- The Corry Journal, Saturday, July 18, 2020

# 17 applicants to share \$50K in UC Renaissance Grant funds

**BY JORDAN SCHREINGOST**  
jordan@thecorryjournal.com

**UNION CITY** — Exterior improvements will be made to 17 properties in Union City Borough through Erie County Garning Revenue Authority (ECCGRA) Renaissance Block Grant Program.

The mission of ECCGRA's program is to reinvigorate neighborhoods and main corridors, combat blight and boost buy-local efforts, according to its website, [www.eccgra.org](http://www.eccgra.org).

"It is a grant from ECCGRA to help fight blight and/or to prevent properties from becoming blighted," UC Borough Treasurer Cindy Wells said. "They select spe-

cific block areas of the town to focus on with the thought that by fixing up one house it might inspire somebody to fix up another house and get it to spread throughout that area."

The areas chosen in Union City were South Street, West High Street, East High Street and the avenues.

Through the program, property improvements can be made to doors and windows visible from the street; roofs, soffits, gutters and downspouts; exterior lighting; porches, stairs and steps; painting; siding and shutters; chimney and masonry; and driveways.

There is a one-to-one match required, and the maximum grant amount awarded to a single appli-

cant is \$5,000.

Union City Borough Council approved all 17 applications they received and those property owners will share a total of \$50,820 in Renaissance Grant funding this year.

"These were all the ones that we submitted. Council decided to approve all of them because we were given \$60,000 for a two-year program with the option of spending it all in the first year," Wells said. "They felt that with the economic circumstances because of COVID-19, if we had 17 applications this year that we're able to provide the funding for, and the residents had the funding to do these projects, then they wanted to get them done,

because nobody knows what next year is going to be like."

Now that the 17 applications have been approved, the next step is for the property owners to hire contractors to begin the improvements.

"The property owners get their contractors and complete the work, then they submit copies of paid invoices and we reimburse them," Wells said.

Local officials are looking forward to seeing improvements to properties within the borough, especially since some of this year's applicants are located in the same vicinity.

"Out of the 17, some of them are very close proximity to one another," Wells

said. "It makes a bigger impact when they're right there in the same neighborhood."

Applications will be taken for the remainder of Union City's renaissance funds in 2021.

"There will be an application period open next year after the first of the year and they can apply for the remaining funds," Wells said.

There are no income requirements for the Renaissance Block Grant Program.

The borough will announce when the application period opens for the remaining funds and it will be included in the Union City Journal-Express and The Corry Journal.

Covering Corry, Columbus, Concord, Clymer, Elgin, Findley Lake, Spartansburg, Spring Creek, Union City & Wayne Township

