



OPEN SPACES | SAFE PLACES

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

2019-2020 Annual Report



"Community assets like parks, fields, and trails are a source of civic pride in Erie County and will help preserve our local culture of togetherness — even when we are social distancing — while improving our local quality of life for years to come."

—State Representative Ryan Bizzaro

This report is being issued as Erie County is simultaneously facing the worst health and economic crisis of our time. The COVID-19 global pandemic is also pushing local governments like counties, cities, and boroughs to their limits, with Erie County leaders earning strong reviews across the board.

As this fiscal year closed, Erie County Council utilized ECGRA's grantmaking expertise and infrastructure to create the Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund. So far, that Response Fund has moved the needle, garnering national attention for Erie County. The story of FY 2020-21 will most certainly be a look back at that effort, and reflect on how #OurErie has thrived in the face of crisis.

As we review 2019, though, a story of community investment has emerged. The Parks, Fields & Trails grant was established at a time when accessing outdoor space has become paramount to our health and happiness. Erie County's Parks, Fields & Trails network is growing, making #OurErie a better place to live, work, and play.

An impact investor, ECGRA's mission is to elevate Erie County by galvanizing nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development. Since February 2008, ECGRA has invested more than \$60 million in Erie County.

Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing, ECGRA has made and reported on 1,156 grants and loans to 260 nonprofits and municipalities totaling over \$60 million of investments of local share gaming revenue.

2019-20 Financial Report

Assets:

Checking Account	\$55,350.85
Savings Account	\$10,483,291.85
Accounts Receivable	\$5,258,846.25
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,345.00

Total Assets: \$15,033,423.61

Equity:

Beginning Balance \$12,103,948.28

Net Income \$766,835.47

Grants Issued: \$3,492,277.45

Anchor Building	(\$340,276.20)
Community Assets	(\$433,708.60)
Covid-19 Immediate Human Relief	(\$125,025.00)
Local Government Development	(\$1,109,704.17)
Mission Main Street	(\$683,840.00)
Multi-Municipal Collaboration	(\$295,655.00)
Pilot Program	(\$55,000.00)
Renaissance Block	(\$119,920.00)
Special Events	(\$175,515.39)
Summer Jobs	(\$153,633.07)

Total Equity: \$12,870,783.75



Board of Directors

Chair	Michael J. Paris owner Paris Homes
Vice Chair	David M. Bagnoni instructor University of Phoenix
Treasurer	Dale E. Barney community engagement and growth specialist Gateway Health
Secretary	David S. Sample owner Corry Lumber Company Inc.

Ronald Cleaver
retired

Dominick D. DiPaolo
retired

Kelly Hess
Superintendent, Harbort Creek School District

Andre Horton
(ex-officio), chairman
Erie County Council

Gary N. Lee
(ex-officio), director of administration
County of Erie

ECGRA Staff

Executive Director	Perry N. Wood, Ed. D.
Grants Manager	Tom M. Maggio
Office Manager	Tammi L. Michali

IMPACT Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund

The Erie County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund's first and primary goal is to save lives by supporting those on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle. Grantmakers are uniquely positioned in a crisis because they are regularly in touch with nonprofit institutions that provide a range of life-saving and -enhancing services. Rapid communication with the leaders in this sector led to an early conclusion: capital was not flowing and, therefore, they could not help the people who depend on them.

Recipient	Program	Date	Amount
Erie Family Center	Immediate Human Relief	3/26/20	\$7,500.00
Mercy Center for Women	Immediate Human Relief	3/31/20	\$9,525.00
Metro-Erie Meals on Wheels	Immediate Human Relief	3/31/20	\$2,000.00
North East Community Food Pantry	Immediate Human Relief	3/26/20	\$1,000.00
Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA	Immediate Human Relief	3/26/20	\$84,000.00
The Upper Room	Immediate Human Relief	3/31/20	\$5,000.00
YMCA of Greater Erie	Immediate Human Relief	3/31/20	\$16,000.00

Anticipating that the food bank and pantry system would quickly run out of food, ECGRA reached out to the Second Harvest Food Bank and asked them to quantify the challenges that lie ahead. The first grant awarded supported 6,000 meals to be distributed to those in need throughout Erie County over the coming weeks. The ECGRA staff connected their team with Meals on Wheels to work on home delivery to the homebound seniors. The swift action of Erie County Council and the ECGRA Board of Directors allowed for a solution in anticipation of a problem—not a life boat when the ship has already sunk.



"These are unprecedented times in which families are in desperate need of food. This crisis is affecting our entire community and ECGRA quickly answered our call to purchase life sustaining food to help our neighbors."

—Karen S. Seggi, Chief Executive Officer
Erie Second Harvest Food Bank



IMPACT

Neighborhoods and Local Communities

To reinvigorate neighborhoods and commercial corridors, boost buy-local efforts, and combat blight. Current projects include Mission Main Street, Renaissance Block, and Anchor Building grants.

Recipient	Program	Impact Category	Date	Amount
Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Inc.	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	1/7/20	\$42,000.00
City of Corry	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	8/26/19	(\$5,225.00)
Erie Center for Arts & Technology	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	1/7/20	\$14,000.00
Grace Church	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	10/9/19	\$20,000.00
Housing & Neighborhood Development Services	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	1/7/20	\$10,000.00
Impact Corry	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Mercy Center for Women	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	1/7/20	\$80,000.00
Our West Bayfront	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	2/4/20	\$80,000.00
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	Anchor Building	Neighborhoods & Communities	6/11/19	\$69,501.20
Borough of Edinboro	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	4/10/19	\$95,350.00
Borough of Girard	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	10/3/19	\$80,000.00
Borough of Union City	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	5/23/19	\$75,000.00
Impact Corry	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	10/3/19	\$115,200.00
Our West Bayfront	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	6/11/19	\$116,190.00
Preservation Erie	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	6/11/19	\$28,000.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	6/11/19	\$90,500.00
Waterford Borough	Mission Main Street	Neighborhoods & Communities	10/3/19	\$83,600.00
Borough of Union City	Renaissance Block	Neighborhoods & Communities	4/24/19	\$25,000.00
Our West Bayfront	Renaissance Block	Neighborhoods & Communities	8/21/19	\$40,000.00
Preservation Erie	Renaissance Block	Neighborhoods & Communities	12/16/19	\$26,920.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Renaissance Block	Neighborhoods & Communities	8/15/19	\$28,000.00
				\$1,144,036.20



ECGRA was presented the 2020 Greater Erie Award from Preservation Erie for its ongoing advocacy for preservation efforts and initiatives in Erie County.

2019 MISSION MAIN STREET EFFORTS EARNS RECOGNITION

Studies show that improving main streets can drive job creation and promote tourism – two critical economic growth components. Mission Main Street funding is sparking collaboration and building local capacity through an effort by Preservation Erie to help small and rural communities prepare to access these funds.

In an era when funding for historic preservation activities can be hard to come by, ECGRA is a reliable source of local support for preservation work. The authority's grant programs have provided funding to historical societies, museums, municipalities, and neighborhood revitalization organizations for adaptive reuse projects, re-grant programs for commercial and residential property improvements, cultural programming, streetscape initiatives, preservation planning, and more. By investing in historic preservation projects, the authority is protecting and enhancing Erie County's built environment, as well as the quality of place that makes Erie County a source of pride for residents and a destination for visitors.

—Melinda Meyer
Preservation Erie



IMPACT Small Business

To catalyze our region's private sector and develop Erie's entrepreneurial ecosystem by spurring small business development, building collaborations for business acceleration, and offering a broader spectrum of financing products for starting, growing, and reinventing small business. Learn more about the programs that support this effort: Beehive Network, Erie Innovation District, TechCelerator, Erie Inclusive Fund, and Ignite Erie™.

Following the launch Drexel University recognized ECGRA as a "first mover" in the United States on the front lines of small business stabilization thanks to its commitment to Small Businesses. The \$2.35 million Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund, established by ECGRA and Erie County Council in the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic, included \$1.6 million of loans to small businesses and non-profits to help meet rapidly rising needs generated as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis. These ECGRA loans were administered through Bridgeway Capital.

The ECGRA framed the funds as a local stimulus package to get the local economy through the next 30 days until state and federal government money arrived. It was a local rescue package.

—Nowak Metro Finance Lab, Drexel University



IMPACT Quality of Place

Community development happens successfully when the public and civic sectors work together to strengthen the social fabric of the community. This synergy generates investment and improves the quality of life for residents. You must look no further than Erie County's beautiful parks, fields and trails to understand the value of investing in their maintenance and providing opportunity to expand them.

In 2019 ECGRA launched Parks, Fields, & Trails grants to provide funding for capital projects to create, protect, or improve publicly accessible parks, athletic fields, and trails throughout Erie County. Funding can also be used to increase or improve access to recreational facilities. These spaces have become more important than ever, as our new normal drives residents outside, but requires a safe distance from others.

PARKS, FIELDS, & TRAILS

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Asbury Woods	Meadow Trail Restoration	\$14,918.23
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	The Three Forts of Presque Isle	\$20,000.00
Borough of Edinboro	Thompson Park Renewal	\$25,000.00
Headwaters NRC Trust	Headwaters Park Nature Play Area	\$25,000.00
Humane Society of NWPA	Erie Humane Society "Bark Park" Project	\$15,000.00
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier	2020 LEAF Pathways Project	\$14,712.37
Lake Erie Region Conservancy	West Road Access Area Trail Improvement	\$12,459.00
Platea Borough	Platea Borough Park Improvement Project	\$2,500.00
Springfield Township	Bicentennial Park Improvements	\$3,750.00
Washington Township	Inspiration Park Trail Project	\$16,500.00
TOTAL Requested		\$149,839.60



IMPACT Quality of Place



“Developing our communities helps make Erie County a better place to live, work, and play. ECGRA has a keen focus on strategic investment that supports economic and neighborhood growth. These dollars are working from the ground up, and I’m proud of the work they are doing to stimulate the economy and elevate the quality of life in Erie County.”

—Andre Horton, District-2
Erie County Council Chair

Recipient	Program	Date	Amount
Academy Neighborhood Association	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$3,000.00
AmeriMasala	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$8,000.00
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$14,918.23
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$20,000.00
Booker T. Washington Center	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Borough of Edinboro	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$25,000.00
Borough of Girard	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$5,000.00
Borough of North East	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$10,000.00
Community Access Media	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$7,000.00
Community Health Net	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$10,000.00
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Edinboro Highland Games	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$8,000.00
Edinboro Legion Pool, Inc.	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Erie Yesterday	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$12,250.00
Film Society of Northwestern PA	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$15,000.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$10,000.00
Greater Erie Alliance for Equality	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$7,000.00
Headwaters Natural Resource Center Trust	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$25,000.00
Humane Society of NWPA	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
Impact Corry	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$10,000.00
JFK Center	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$2,954.00
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF)	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$14,712.37
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$10,000.00
Lake Erie Region Conservancy	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$12,459.00
League of Women Voters Erie County Chapter	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$15,000.00
Martin Luther King Center	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00
North East Community Fair Association	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$3,150.00
Northwestern Community Youth Center	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$3,000.00
Platea Borough	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$2,500.00
Presque Isle Chapter, NSDAR	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$15,000.00
Springfield Township	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$3,750.00
Urban Erie Community Development Corporation	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$15,000.00

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To promote well-being, foster civic pride, drive tourism, and attract, retain, and mobilize creative talent and innovative businesses through cultural, heritage, service, and recreational organizations and projects. Currently, grant and endowment funds are at work for Lead Assets, Special Events, and Community Assets.



IMPACT Quality of Place

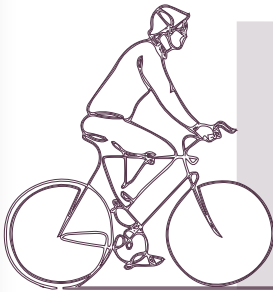


Supporting local events helps support the economies, residents, and businesses in small and large communities across Erie County. Events like parades and festivals are part of the social fabric that enhance the attractiveness of a region, while elevating our pride in Erie County. Special events grants are driving tourism, attracting talent to the region, and helping sustain some quintessential Erie traditions that have helped make Erie County a special place to visit and to call home.

Recipient	Program	Date	Amount
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Washington Township	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$16,500.00
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Community Assets	9/15/19	\$6,655.00
WQLN Public Media	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$6,000.00
YMCA of Corry	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$12,000.00
YMCA of Greater Erie	Community Assets	1/7/20	\$11,515.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	Community Assets	10/3/19	\$10,000.00
Jefferson Educational Society	Pilot Program	11/14/19	\$5,000.00
Partnership for a Healthy Community	Pilot Program	6/11/19	\$50,000.00
Achievement Center	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,449.48
Albion Area Fair, Inc.	Special Events	4/10/19	\$10,351.80
AmeriMasala	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,070.28
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	Special Events	4/10/19	\$876.60
Borough of North East	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,540.80
Borough of Union City	Special Events	4/10/19	\$454.10
Boy Scouts of America / French Creek Council	Special Events	4/10/19	\$492.03
CAFÉ	Special Events	4/10/19	\$12,085.20
Corry Area Arts Council	Special Events	4/10/19	\$277.20
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.	Special Events	4/10/19	\$2,000.02
Downtown North East	Special Events	4/10/19	\$4,558.50
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation	Special Events	4/10/19	\$9,626.09
Edinboro Highland Games	Special Events	4/10/19	\$2,124.00
Edinboro University Foundation	Special Events	4/10/19	\$7,668.00
Erie Asian Pacific American Association	Special Events	4/10/19	\$684.00
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	Special Events	4/10/19	\$5,847.55
Erie County Fair/Wattsburg Agricultural Society	Special Events	4/10/19	\$10,575.14
Erie Downtown Partnership	Special Events	4/10/19	\$4,014.00
Erie Homes for Children and Adults	Special Events	4/10/19	\$2,367.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,204.14
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	Special Events	4/10/19	\$810.00
Harborcreek Township	Special Events	4/10/19	\$881.96
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Special Events	4/10/19	\$4,982.40
Iroquois School District Foundation	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,171.60
Jefferson Educational Society	Special Events	4/10/19	\$11,340.00
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF)	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,476.00
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,801.60
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Special Events	4/10/19	\$5,076.00
Mercy Center for Women	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,629.00
The Nonprofit Partnership	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,510.00
Preservation Erie	Special Events	4/10/19	\$448.20
Presque Isle Partnership	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,500.82
Roar on the Shore, Inc.	Special Events	4/10/19	\$17,421.75
SafeNet	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,620.00
Saint Joseph Church	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,600.00
Saint Patrick's Church	Special Events	4/10/19	\$4,181.40
ServErie	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,060.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Special Events	4/10/19	\$3,310.80
Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation	Special Events	4/10/19	\$608.40
Union City Pride, Inc.	Special Events	4/10/19	\$722.14
Waterford Community Fair Association	Special Events	4/10/19	\$6,118.67
WQLN Public Media	Special Events	4/10/19	\$1,722.96
YMCA of Greater Erie	Special Events	4/10/19	\$8,535.42
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	Special Events	4/10/19	\$2,214.54
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Special Events	4/10/19	\$505.80
			\$789,033.99



IMPACT Municipalities



To foster progress and functional cooperation among Erie County's 38 municipal governments. Current programs include Multi-Municipal Collaboration grants and Local Government Development.

Recipient	Program	Impact Category	Date	Amount
County of Erie	Local Government Development	Municipalities	2019	\$122,067.50
Greene Township	Local Government Development	Municipalities	2019	\$122,067.50
McKean Township	Local Government Development	Municipalities	2019	\$122,067.50
Millcreek Township	Local Government Development	Municipalities	2019	\$122,067.50
Summit Township	Local Government Development	Municipalities	2019	\$499,366.90
Waterford Township	Local Government Development	Municipalities	2019	\$122,067.50
Borough of North East	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	Municipalities	9/15/19	\$82,000.00
Erie Area Council of Governments	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	Municipalities	2019	\$20,000.00
Girard Township	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	Municipalities	9/15/19	\$17,000.00
Jefferson Educational Society	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	Municipalities	5/23/19	\$100,000.00
West County Paramedic Association	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	Municipalities	9/15/19	\$70,000.00
West County Emergency Management Agency	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	Municipalities	9/15/19	\$6,655.00
				\$1,405,359.17



IMPACT Youth and Education



To educate Erie's workforce, strengthen schools and employers, and abate poverty. Initiatives include the Go College Initiative, Tech After Hours, Eagle's Nest Leadership, Summer Jobs and More, Erie's Community College Plan, and Community Schools.

Recipient	Program	Impact Category	Date	Amount
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Summer Jobs	Youth & Education	2018	\$3,633.07
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Summer Jobs	Youth & Education	2019	\$150,000.00
				\$153,633.07



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