

Explore how #ECGRAWorks  
for #OurErie.

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**“ECGRA is fulfilling in its mission and purpose and has won national recognition and has been referred to as the national model.”**

*- Former Mayor of Erie Joyce Savocchio*

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# MISSION:

An impact investor, ECGRA's mission is to elevate Erie County by empowering nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development.

## ECGRA Board of Directors

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Dale E. Barney, Chair

Ronald G. Cleaver, Treasurer

Kelly S. Hess

Dale E. Barney

Carol J. Loll

Gary J. Winschel

Robert S. Oberlander

## ECGRA Staff

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Perry Wood, Executive Director

Tom Maggio, AICP, Grants Manager

Tammi Michali, Executive Assistant

# ASSETS

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Checking: \$21,979.88  
Savings: \$18,740,828.95  
Accounts Receivable: \$6,246,725.03  
Prepaid Expenses: \$14,642.63  
Total Assets: \$25,024,176.49

# EQUITY

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Begin: \$18,824,159.57  
Net Income: \$899,210.42



**"I was taught by Perry and the people that work for ECGRA how to be fiscally responsible, how to run a nonprofit program, and to grow this program to what it is today."**

*- Lt. Thomas Lennox, Executive Director, Erie Police Athletic League*

# WHO played a role in creating ECGRA?

The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act was passed by lawmakers in 2004 to greatly benefit Pennsylvanians by ensuring gaming jobs and gaming revenue aid local organizations and residents.

Because of this act, Erie County receives 1% of the annual slot machine gross revenue of Presque Isle Downs and Casino and returns it to Erie residents — known as local share gaming revenue. Erie County government receives the first half for county government operations and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) gets the second half to invest in projects and initiatives that invigorate Erie County's economy.

Multiple dynamic leaders in Erie County, including then State Senator Jane Earl, pushed to create an independent Public Authority to manage the funds. In 2008, Erie County Council established ECGRA.

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**I didn't know much about ECGRA when I became the liaison, but I can tell you I learned real quick that they had their stuff together and that they were innovative.**

*- Jay Breneman,  
Former County Councilman, District 4*

# WHAT is **impact investing**?

The ECGRA Board of Directors are charged with administering gaming funds through municipal grants and serving as Erie County Council’s economic development authority. In the first year, the board went straight to work and seized on that opportunity, creating real, meaningful, and lasting impact in our community.

In 2011, the ECGRA board hired economic development practitioner Perry Wood to serve as executive director. Wood was charged with innovating and bringing to fruition a framework that uses gaming funds for impact investment, grants and loans in Erie County.

Impact investing is intentional investing — working to create a positive impact and directly benefit communities – without the use of taxpayer dollars.

Following the lead of respected foundations across the U.S, in 2014, Wood and the board of directors adopted an Impact Investing Policy and began investing gaming funds to drive social, cultural, and environmental change, as well as reap financial returns that help ensure Erie County’s local share gaming revenue gives back to local residents in perpetuity.

**Today, ECGRA is making impact investments in five key areas:**

**Quality of Place**

**Youth & Education**

**Neighborhoods &  
Communities**

**Municipalities**

**Small Business**



# HOW does **#ECGRAWork?**

By working to build and improve a better future for all Erie County municipalities, non-profit organizations, small businesses, and residents, ECGRA strategically invests local share gaming funds for community and municipal economic development.

By utilizing gaming funds to fuel economic growth and build community, ECGRA has created an accessible and transparent process for consistent engagement with organizations countywide that has a significant economic impact throughout Erie County and Pennsylvania.

Since #ECGRA's inception in 2008, it has dedicated nearly \$82 million to impact investments through grants and loans that touch every corner of Erie County.



**"We receive funding from a number of grantors. ECGRA is among the best organized and efficient to work with. We appreciate the standardization of application and budgets, the straightforward reporting structure, and the fact that every contract and reporting document can be accessed in a moment online."**

*- Heather Caspar – Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network*

# WHY does **#ECGRAWork?**

1.



## **PUBLIC INPUT**

via plans and listening tours across Erie County

2.



## **BENCHMARKING**

Looking at what others are doing and utilizing national models that have worked

3.



## **ECGRA'S ROLE**

ECGRA takes what it has learned and translates these components into clear guidelines – refining them through board level input. Following through with transparency and accountability, all ECGRA activities remain public knowledge.

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**“ECGRA brings honesty and eliminates the political waste of community progress money.”**

*- Scott Rastatter – former County Councilman, District 6*

# IMPACT NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**"The Building a Better Future - Community Facilities grant program is a saving grace to St. Martin Center's physical structure, programming, and mission. COVID impacted our ability to manage a costly new roof, and our current funding is allocated where it is needed most - which is to help Erie County families to have what they need to thrive. We are incredibly grateful to ECGRA for ensuring that we can be here for years to come!"**

*- David González, MS, CEO, St. Martin Center, Inc.*

**"ECGRA serves as community glue. They bring people together and they figure out how to utilize their resources to use small amounts of funding to make huge impacts in our community."**

*- Rock Copeland - County Councilman, District 3*

**"There's no way that our surrounding communities, especially most of my district, could survive without ECGRA funding."**

*- Chris Drexel - County Councilman, District 5*



**"If we didn't have that Authority, and we left it up to us Council members and our County Executive, and I'm saying this of any County Executive, you're putting it in the hands of politicians, and we tend to pay favors there and that money would not go to the right place."**

*- Terry Scutella – Chairman, Erie County Council, District 1*

**"ECGRA continues to fill a void of funding opportunities for agencies with capital needs, and understands the importance of preserving regional assets and funding community revitalization projects."**

*– John Popoff, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club of Erie*

**"The ECGRA presence in Erie is essential in impacting lives."**

*-Jennie Haggerty, Mercy Center for Women*

# IMPACT NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES GRANT LIST

RECIPIENT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	Anchor Building	\$75,000.00
Booker T Washington Center	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
Borough of Edinboro	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Borough of Edinboro	Community Facilities	\$25,000.00
Borough of Union City	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Erie	Community Facilities	\$70,000.00
Christian Ministries of the Apostolic Faith	Anchor Building	\$45,000.00
Community Shelter Services	Community Facilities	\$105,694.00
Corry Higher Education Council	Community Facilities	\$59,500.00
Downtown Girard	Mission Main Street	\$75,000.00
Downtown Girard	Community Facilites	\$50,000.00
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
Edinboro Market	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Community Facilities	\$13,680.00
Impact Corry	Renaissance Block	\$100,000.00
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
International Institute of Erie/USCRI	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
John F Kennedy Center	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
Journey: Healing Together	Community Facilities	\$25,000.00
Maggie Knox Western	Anchor Building	\$35,000.00
Martin Luther King Center	Community Facilities	\$125,000.00
Mercy Center for Women	Community Facilities	\$100,000.00
Mercy Hilltop Center	Community Facilities	\$99,000.00
Northwestern Community Youth Center	Community Facilities	\$18,500.00
R. L. Gaines Community Center	Anchor Building	\$60,000.00
Sarah A Reed Children's Center	Community Facilities	\$86,000.00
St. Martin Center	Community Facilities	\$75,000.00
Urban Erie Community Development Corporation	Anchor Building	\$100,000.00
Waterford Borough	Mission Main Street	\$84,600.00
YMCA of Corry	Community Facilities	\$97,331.00
YMCA of Greater Erie	Anchor Building	\$31,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,455,805.00</b>

# IMPACT MUNICIPALITIES

“I think what's important to understand is that yes, there's grant making involved, but what we're really talking about is community making. You have people with skill sets and acumen, desire and passion to help make our communities work better, get things done faster.”

- Emily Fetcko, CEO, Erie Downtown Partnership

“ECGRA funding has been so important to Union City, allowing over \$800,000 in exterior improvements for residential properties. We would never have had that much spent in the fight to prevent blight if it wasn't for the Renaissance Grant Program. We thank ECGRA for their investment to make improvements to Union City.”

- Cindy Well, Borough Manager, Borough of Union City.

## IMPACT MUNICIPALITIES GRANT LIST

RECIPIENT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
County of Erie	Local Government Development	\$166,345.10
Girard Township	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	\$21,000.00
Greene Township	Local Government Development	\$166,345.00
Harborcreek Township	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	\$34,00.00
Jefferson Educational Society	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	\$98,500.00
McKean Township	Local Government Development	\$166,345.10
Millcreek Township	Local Government Development	\$166,345.10
Multi-Municipal Emergency Services Commission	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	\$100,000.00
Summit Township	Local Government Development	\$680,502.56
Waterford Township	Local Government Development	\$166,345.10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,830,499.06</b>

# IMPACT SMALL BUSINESSES



“ECGRA has helped USCRI Erie shape a micro-lending program for refugee entrepreneurs in the wake of the pandemic. We all know how devastating COVID-19 was for the U.S. economy overall and for all kinds of businesses, but refugee entrepreneurs were faced with extra challenges.”

– Dylanna Grasinger, Senior Field Office  
Director at International Institute of Erie/USCRI



“ECGRA has been one of our most trusted partners in the success of the Northwest PA Beehive Network, not only the network, but the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Erie region and small business development. The impact that they’ve had on the small business development and the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Erie is highly important.”

- Brian Fuller, Beehive Network Director for Mercyhurst University  
and Director of Operations for the Ridge College

IMPACT SMALL BUSINESS GRANT LIST		
RECIPIENT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Penn State Behrend	Beehives	\$200,000.00

\*Other Beehives were funded in the 2022-23 fiscal year.



IMPACT

# QUALITY OF PLACE

**“Whether it's North East, whether it's Union City, you go across Erie County, ECGRA has touched all of those communities. And they do it by saying, “How can we help?...”**

**...If you look at any groups that are forming in the area, whether it's organized by Erie Insurance, whether it's organized by Gannon, whether it's organized by other groups, whether it's organized by the County, ECGRA is at the table."**

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*Patrick Gehrlein, Manager,  
North East Borough*

# IMPACT QUALITY OF PLACE

RECIPIENT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Albion Area Fair	2023 Special Events	\$12,707.00
Albion Area Fair	2023 Community Assets	\$5,000.00
AmeriMasala	2023 Special Events	\$3,543.55
AmeriMasala	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Asbury Woods Partnership	2023 Special Events	\$1,520.11
Asbury Woods Partnership	2023 Community Assets	\$6,650.00
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	2023 Community Assets	\$12,500.00
Bayfront Maritime Center	2023 Community Assets	\$25,000.00
Borough of Edinboro	2023 Special Events	\$1,625.00
Borough of Edinboro	2023 Community Assets	\$13,000.00
Borough of Union City	2023 Special Events	\$230.00
Borough of Wesleyville	2023 Special Events	\$965.50
CAFÉ	2023 Special Events	\$20,000.00
Community Blood Bank of NWPA	2023 Special Events	\$1,400.00
Community Resources for Independence	2023 Community Assets	\$3,500.00
Crime Victim Center of Erie County	2023 Special Events	\$4,594.55
Dafmark Dance Theatre	2023 Community Assets	\$12,000.00
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Downtown North East	2023 Special Events	\$887.00
Downtown North East	2023 Community Assets	\$12,000.00
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation	2023 Special Events	\$17,683.00
Edinboro University Foundation	2023 Special Events	\$2,525.00
Edinboro University Foundation	2023 Community Assets	\$7,500.00
Erie Bird Observatory	2023 Special Events	\$265.00
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	2023 Community Assets	\$12,000.00
Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	2023 Special Events	\$12,345.06
Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Erie County Veterans Memorial Park	2023 Special Events	\$300.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	2023 Special Events	\$6,000.00
Erie Homes for Children and Adults	2023 Special Events	\$3,011.20
Erie Lion's Club Save an Eye Game	2023 Community Assets	\$1,068.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	2023 Special Events	\$5,000.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	2023 Special Events	\$6,866.00
Erie Yesterday	2023 Community Assets	\$8,325.00
Fairview Township	2023 Community Assets	\$25,000.00
Film Society of NWPA	2023 Special Events	\$9,255.00
Film Society of NWPA	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society	2023 Community Assets	\$5,935.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2023 Special Events	\$2,050.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2023 Community Assets	\$10,000.00
Greenfield Township	2023 Community Assets	\$25,000.00
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team	2023 Special Events	\$915.00
Harborcreek Historical Society	2023 Community Assets	\$9,822.00

# IMPACT QUALITY OF PLACE

RECIPIENT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Harborcreek Township	2023 Special Events	\$1,400.00
Holy Trinity RC Church	2023 Special Events	\$6,925.00
Humane Society of NWPA	2023 Special Events	\$7,500.00
Humane Society of NWPA	2023 Community Assets	\$18,500.00
Impact Corry	2023 Community Assets	\$25,000.00
Jefferson Educational Society	2023 Special Events	\$19,300.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	2023 Special Events	\$5,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	2023 Community Assets	\$12,000.00
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	2023 Special Events	\$3,000.00
Lawrence Park Township	2023 Special Events	\$37.50
Lawrence Park Township	2023 Community Assets	\$1,400.00
Martin Luther King Center	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
McKean Community Development Group	2023 Special Events	\$500.00
McKean Recreation Authority	2023 Community Assets	\$25,000.00
Mercy Center for Women	2023 Special Events	\$1,200.00
Mercy Hilltop Center	2023 Special Events	\$400.00
Nonprofit Partnership, The	2023 Special Events	\$3,882.00
Nonprofit Partnership, The	2023 Pilot Program	\$64,771.00
North East Arts Council	2023 Community Assets	\$3,000.00
Our West Bayfront	2023 Community Assets	\$6,225.00
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	2023 Community Assets	\$10,000.00
PinkRacks	2023 Special Events	\$750.00
Platea Borough	2023 Community Assets	\$2,082.00
Presque Isle Light Station	2023 Special Events	\$297.00
Presque Isle Partnership	2023 Special Events	\$4,692.50
Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity	2023 Special Events	\$2,287.50
SafeNet	2023 Special Events	\$3,942.50
Saint Joseph Church	2023 Special Events	\$4,450.00
Saint Patrick Church	2023 Special Events	\$7,746.92
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	2023 Special Events	\$5,412.74
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	2023 Community Assets	\$8,000.00
St. Stanislaus Catholic Church	2023 Special Events	\$250.00
Union City Pride	2023 Special Events	\$1,273.00
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie	2023 Community Assets	\$2,500.00
WQLN Public Media	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	2023 Special Events	\$9,250.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
YMCA of Corry	2023 Special Events	\$3,072.10
YMCA of Greater Erie	2023 Special Events	\$400.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2023 Special Events	\$4,500.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2023 Community Assets	\$15,000.00
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	2023 Special Events	\$1,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$705,134.73</b>



# IMPACT YOUTH & EDUCATION



**“Without support from ECGRA, Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture would be forced to reduce its programming, including its educational outreach to our students in Erie County and our Erie County residents. It would deprive them of not only world class performing entertainment, but the education that comes along with this kind of funding.”**

*-Rich McCarty, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mercyhurst University*

IMPACT YOUTH AND EDUCATION		
RECIPIENT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2023 Summer Jobs	\$95,372.64
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2024 Summer Jobs	\$51,906.89
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$147,279.53</b>

“I did a lot of research into ECGRA because they had such a bad reputation and I found that it was all unfounded. They do a great job. They thoroughly vet the people that come in looking for funds and they've got a great structured plan for how the money is dispersed and they really know where it's going.”

“ECGRA brings honesty and eliminates the political waste of community progress money.”

**- Scott Rastatter**

*former County Councilman, District 6*

**ECGRA.org**

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