

A LIFELINE FOR ERIE COUNTY

ECGRA's Support of Emergency Services Exceeds \$4.8 million



REPORT
December 2025



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ECGRA MISSION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ECGRA STAFF

OUR MISSION

An impact investor, ECGRA’s mission is to elevate Erie County by empowering nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development. Since its inception, ECGRA has been authorized to distribute over \$88 million in local share gaming revenue in communities across Erie County, utilizing its nationally recognized Impact Investing model.



Board of Directors

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Robert S. Oberlander
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ECGRA Staff

Perry Wood, Executive Director

Tom Maggio, AICP, Grants Manager

Tammi Michali, Executive Assistant

A CHALLENGING LANDSCAPE

The Challenge

Pennsylvania’s Emergency Management systems have been under strain for more than a decade, as the landscape around volunteerism, limited resources, and aging equipment have collectively forced a shift in this vital segment of the public safety sector.

Locally, paid municipal and mutual aid EMS programs have begun to cover broader areas across Erie County. Chronic understaffing and aging equipment are two areas where mutual aid partnerships are lifting the burden and reducing risk to response capabilities and the public.

Strategic Investment

ECGRA grant funding has provided critical support. After meeting with leaders across the county, ECGRA began helping EMS agencies bridge funding gaps when investing in essential equipment—strengthening their ability to meet growing demands and maintain emergency services across Erie County.

\$4,890,817 ECGRA SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES



With matching funds, an estimated total of \$10,570,283.74 has been invested to help shore up Erie County EMS. See page [12-13] for the full details and areas awarded.





"E.C.G.R.A.'s support of Emergency Medical Services has been instrumental in ensuring that essential, lifesaving care remains accessible to the communities Emergycare serves. In an environment where EMS continues to face significant underfunding, their investment has provided critical capital resources that would otherwise be out of reach. E.C.G.R.A.'s commitment directly strengthens the safety, health, and resilience of Erie County—benefiting both those who live here and those who visit."

*- David J. Basnak, President /
Executive Director, Emergycare*

"Grants empower West County Paramedics to serve beyond boundaries uniting municipalities, improving equipment, and ensuring that when the call comes, our team is always ready to respond."

*- Jamie Snyder, Executive Director
at West County Paramedics*

"ECGRA has tackled the Erie County EMS crisis by putting money directly where it's needed most in the community."

*- Dean Pepicello, Harborcreek
Township Supervisor*



HOW ECGRA WORKS

ECGRA is endowed with local share gaming revenue from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania via the Horse Race Gaming Act. Local share gaming revenue is an assessment of the licensed gambling industry in Pennsylvania. ECGRA administers local share gaming revenue on behalf of Erie County government.

Erie County Council appoints the ECGRA Board of Directors to approve the distribution of grants and serve as a lead authority in Erie County’s economic and community development ecosystem.

Since 2011, ECGRA has been led by economic development practitioner Perry Wood who serves as executive director. The ECGRA Board charged Wood with innovating and bringing to fruition a framework that uses gaming funds for impact investment, grants, and loans in Erie County.

Modeled after well-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 economic change, as well as financial returns that help ensure Erie County’s local share gaming revenue gives back to Erie County residents in perpetuity.

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

ECGRA is committed to utilizing local share gaming funds to catalyze real, meaningful, and lasting impact in our community.



EMS needs fit ECGRA’s Impact Investing model:

QUALITY OF PLACE

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES

YOUTH & EDUCATION

MUNICIPALITIES

SMALL BUSINESSES



EAST COUNTY EMS - EMERGENCY RESPONSE IMPROVED THROUGH COLLABORATION

With a clear mission but limited resources, the region's largest municipality is helping move Erie County forward. East County EMS was created out of necessity and an unrelenting commitment to multi-municipal cooperation. East County EMS was created to provide emergency support to neighboring municipalities.

Increased population and extended geographic coverage was straining East County EMS resources and risking response times. Another ambulance was required to provide adequate coverage to municipalities from Millcreek to Harborcreek. The East County EMS agreed to bring an expansion of services to outlying areas, and working with ECGRA leadership, developed a successful Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant application.



EAST COUNTY EMS BENEFITTED FROM \$100,000 ECGRA GRANT TO HELP COVER THE PURCHASE OF A NEW ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE.

The Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants were launched in 2012 to catalyze functional cooperation among Erie County's 38 municipalities and to support economic growth and vibrancy in the community.

In the creation of the grant requirements, ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood worked closely with leaders from councils of governments, county authorities, and intergovernmental associations to educate them about the grant and to help coordinate the provisioning of services – the East County EMS is a shining example of how multi-municipal collaboration can help solve challenges and improve Erie County communities.

"ECGRA is a true leader in the Erie Region. They step forward and offer solutions and assistance when others shy away from issues. Their work to help the EMS situation in Erie County has been nothing short of brave. ECGRA's commitment to the lives, safety and preparedness for our region's first responders stands as the standard for other organizations to emulate."

- Patrick Gehrlein, North East Borough Manager



PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

RECIPIENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Millcreek Township	Police officer	\$55,052
Summit Township	Ladder Truck Funds	\$306,800
Summit Township	Route 97 Water System Improvements	\$2,644,073
Summit Township	Pump Station Improvements/Force Main Extension	\$52,442
Summit Township	Phase II Route 97 Interceptor Upgrade	\$510,000
Millcreek Township	Police officer	\$62,595
Belle Valley FD	Replacement Breathing	\$135,000
Belle Valley FD	Replacement Ladder Truck	\$400,000
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Equipment & Infrastructure Acquisition	\$15,400
Harborcreek Township	Emergency Response Vehicle	\$23,200
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Equipment for Emergency Operations Center	\$21,100
City of Corry	Bucket Truck	\$30,000
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Traffic Control & Emergency Signs	\$8,500
West County Paramedic Association	Two Wheel Chair Vans	\$70,000
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Light Towers	\$6,655
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Equipment Upgrades in Emergency Operations Center	\$5,000



RECIPIENT	PROJECT	AMOUNT
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency	Equipment Upgrades in Emergency Operations Center	\$5,000.00
Borough of North East	Joint Fire Training Facility	\$100,000.00
Harborcreek Township	Emergency Response Team Program	\$34,000.00
Multimunicipal Emergency Services Commission	Ambulance Replacement	\$100,000.00
West County Paramedics Association	Ambulance Purchase	\$100,000.00
East County EMS	Advanced Life Support Ambulance Purchase	\$100,000.00
Borough of North East	First Responder Support	\$11,000.00
Emergycare	Ambulance Replacement Ambulance	\$100,000
TOTAL:		\$4,890,817.00
TOTAL MATCH:		\$5,679,466.73

ECGRA IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY



\$4,890,817.00 IN EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING.



\$10,570,283.74 IN MATCHING FUNDING.



“This report would not be possible without continued collaboration between municipalities. ECGRA is happy to be part of that funding cycle. The solution to the EMS crisis is simple: we communicate and work together to achieve change.”

- ECGRA Executive Director
Perry Wood





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



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