



ERIE WOMEN'S FUND UPDATE

July 13, 2023

ET / EWF HISTORY



- **2007: Erie Community Foundation Special Report**
“The High Cost of Poverty: It Affects Us All,” a report detailing the magnitude and impact of poverty on the Erie County community is released by a special panel of the Erie Community Foundation.
- **2008: Erie Women’s Fund Awards Erie Together Five-Year \$250,000 Grant**
Collaborative, mutually beneficial working relationship formed. We explored, learned and worked together to identify goals and desired outcomes.
- **2009: Neighborhood and Family-Based Efforts Launch**
Erie Together (ET) is officially launched and begins work to strengthen families and bolster neighborhoods. **The need for a collective impact “systems” approach became evident.**



MILESTONES (through 2019)

- **2010: Aspiration is Defined; Countywide Action Teams Begin**
Community forums are held engaging 600+ people to define ET's aspiration. Collective impact process is established. Four teams launch to create and execute learn, work and thrive "Impact Plans."



***Working together to make the
Erie Region a community
of opportunity where everyone can
learn, work, and thrive.***

ERIE   
TOGETHER
LEARN • WORK • THRIVE



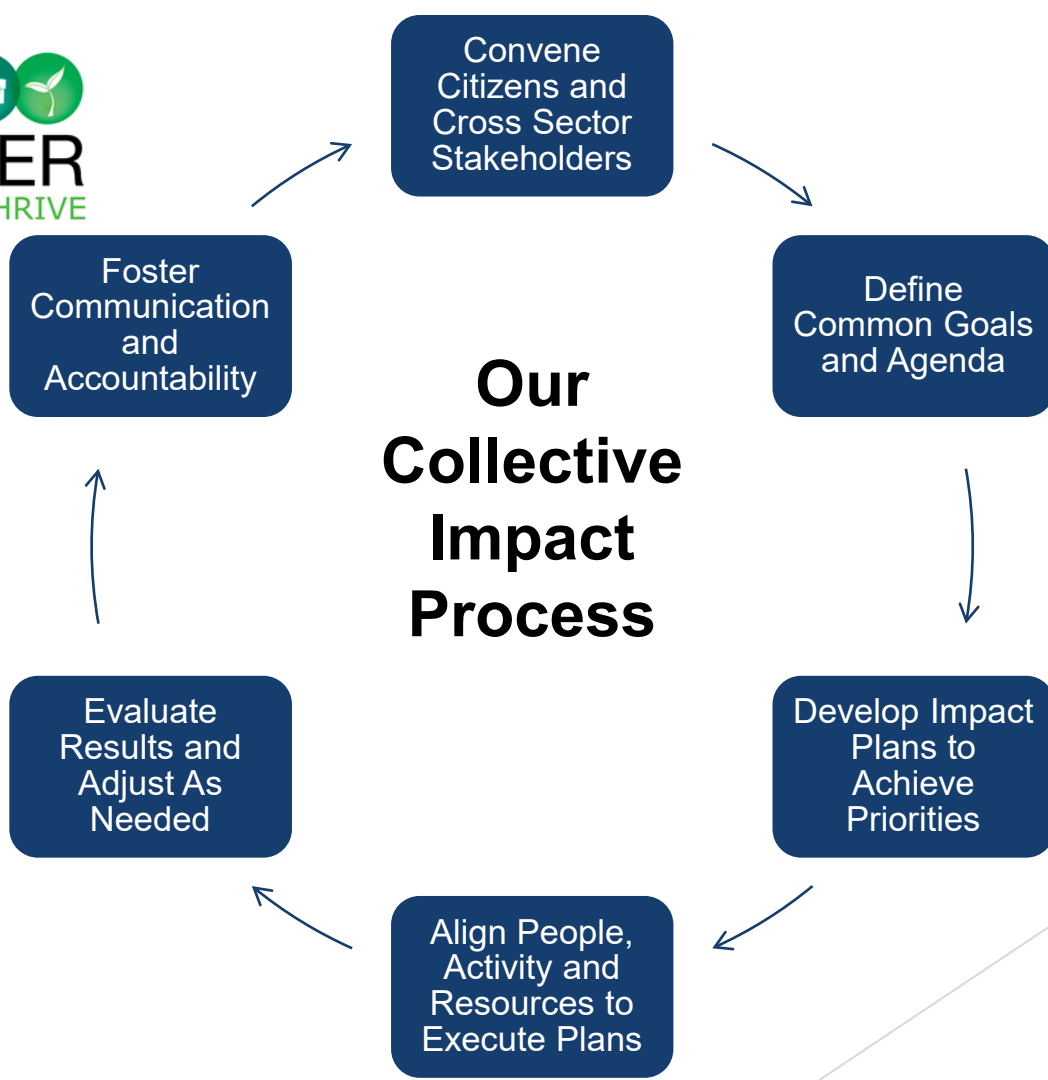
**More children
become
successful adults**



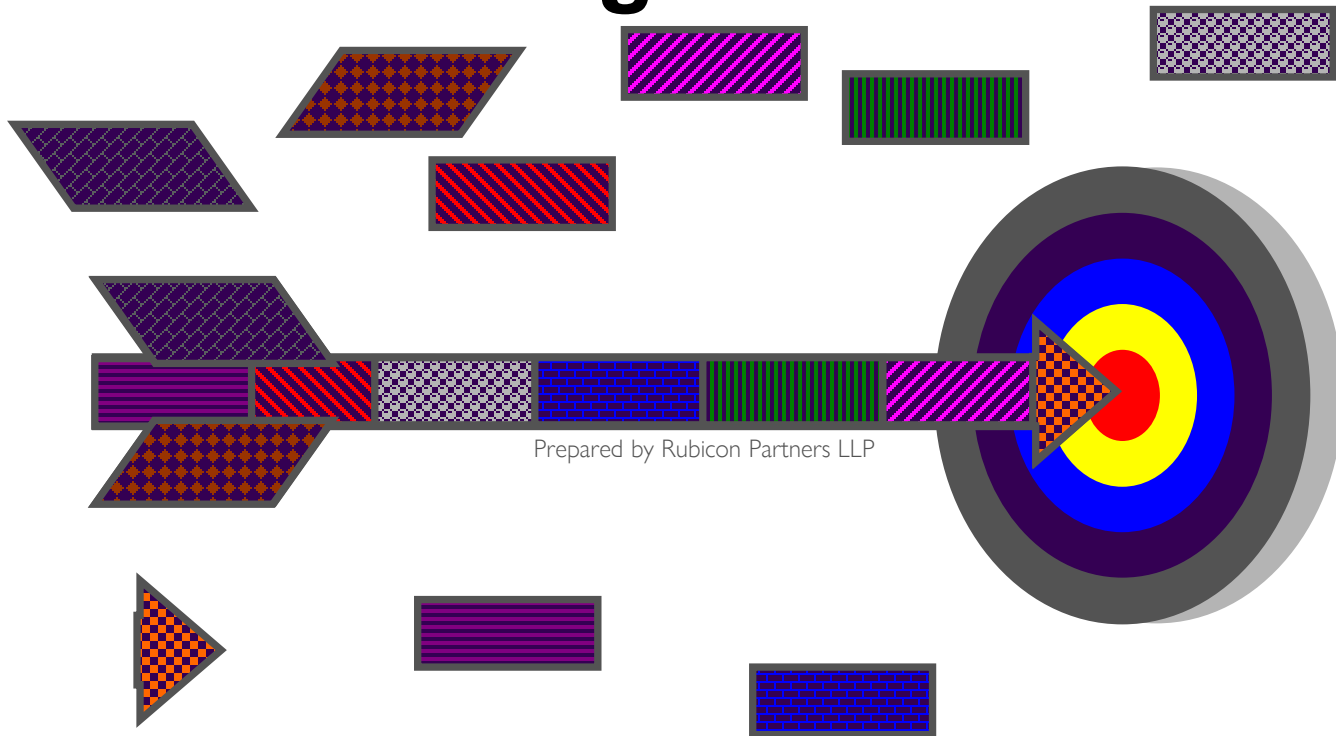
**More Erie
residents have
family-sustaining
employment**



**More Erie County
families able to
meet their basic
needs**



Alignment





MILESTONES

- **2011: First Big Win: Kindergarten Readiness**
School districts & early education providers develop definition of “Kindergarten Readiness” endorsed by all Erie County districts. Creates first “collective impact” success story and foundation for sustained collaboration.
- **2012: Career Exploration & Preparedness Emerge as Priorities**
Teams lay initial groundwork to help K-12 students explore careers, and also develop “Keys to Getting & Keeping a Job” skills checklist and resource guide for job seekers.

MILESTONES



- **2013: A Year of Building**

Teams develop mission- aligned resources and strategies. These include kindergarten readiness toolkits and materials, and the “Career Street” and “ex-offender reentry” strategies. Working together bears new fruit.

- **2014: ET Leads Region into National Spotlight**

ET’s application to America’s Promise is approved, making Erie Co. one of 100 national GradNation communities. “More Caps & Gowns” mentoring project rolls out to improve on-time high school graduation rates. Career Street launches.

- **2015: Quality Early Learning & Literacy Campaign Begins**

ET creates the “Block by Block” early learning and literacy campaign bringing tools and resources to neighborhoods and families across Erie County.



MILESTONES

- **2016: Three New Initiatives Take the Stage**

Two ET-created initiatives to prepare students for postsecondary success, careers and life launch:

- **Youth Civic Engagement Symposium**
- **Erie Co. Career Pathways Alliance**

A third, **the Erie Co. Reentry Services & Support Alliance** begins serving clients.

- **2017: Maintaining the Course; Bolstering Efforts**

This year's focus is on evaluation and implementation, ensuring initiatives are moving forward well and making needed adjustments for greater impact.



MILESTONES

- **2018: Shoring Up for the Future**
ET teams develop a communications plan to clearly articulate the movement's collective impact facilitation and community engagement approach, body of work and impact, and a plan for community investment to help ensure sustainability.
- **2019: Domestic Violence Reduction Becomes Key Focus**
ET begins work with local stakeholders to create a comprehensive domestic violence reduction strategy for Erie County. The "Domestic Violence Action Alliance" forms and meets twice a month to tackle the issue.

LEARN & WORK BUCKETS



Updates

Career Street

Youth Civic Engagement Symposium

Erie County Career Pathways Alliance:

- **Multi-District Industry Club**
- **Skilled Trades Project**
- **Earn + Learn Jobs Program**
- **Profile of a Graduate**

CAREER STREET



- Web-based “matchmaking” platform for employers and educators to provide career exploration experiences.
- Houses more than 500 experiences and a variety of informational resources
- Twenty-one K-12 schools and almost 300 employers registered on the site.
- Over **48,000** student experiences facilitated since 2014!



ERIE TOGETHER

LEARN • WORK • THRIVE

2022 Youth Civic Engagement Symposium



Seventh Annual Youth Civic Engagement Symposium In Recognition of Constitution Day September 22, 2022

7:45-8:15 **Arrival and Breakfast (Gannon University: Yehl Ballroom)**

8:15-8:30 Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Mary Bula, Erie Together Director
Dr. Keith Taylor, President of Gannon University
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, via video

8:30-9:00 Dr. Jeff Bloodworth, *The U.S. Constitution*
Co-Director, School of Public Service & Global Affairs

Panel Moderator: Sheila Sterrett, U.S. Senator Pat Toomey's Office

9:15-10:00 **State Government (Gannon University: Yehl Ballroom)**
PA State Police Trooper Brian S. Arrington
Senator Laughlin Regina Smith, District Director
PA Dept of Trans. Brian McNulty, District Executive

10:10-10:55 **Federal Government (Federal Courthouse: Courtroom A)**
Dept. of Justice Christian Trabold, Asst. U.S. Attorney
Dept. of Homeland Sec. Todd Carlson, Inspector

11:05-11:50 **Local Government (Erie City Hall: Council Chambers)**
City of Erie Joe Schember, Mayor
City of Erie LeAnn Parmenter, City of Erie Traffic Engineer
Impact Corry Chuck Gray, Executive Director

12:00-12:30 **Volunteer Panel and Lunch (Gannon University: Yehl Ballroom)**
Erie Together Leigh Kostis, Volunteer
SSJNN Heather May Caspar, Executive Director
Gannon University Chinyere Ogbuka, Student

12:45-1:20 **County Government (Erie County Courthouse: Courtroom II)**
Erie County Brenton Davis, Erie County Executive
Erie County Elizabeth Hirz, District Attorney
Erie County Mary Rennie, Erie County Councilperson
Erie County Julie Slomski, Erie County Clerk

1:30-1:45 **Closing & Departure (Gannon University: Yehl Ballroom)**

Schools

K-12 school districts

CTCs

College/Universities

Industry Advisory Groups

- Engineering & Industrial Technology
- Science & Health
- Business, Finance & Information Technology
- Arts & Communication
- Human Services

Others

Career Street

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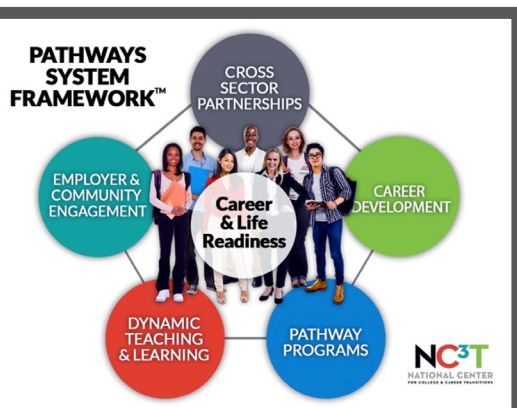
NWPA Job Connect

Northwest PA CareerLink®

NTMA

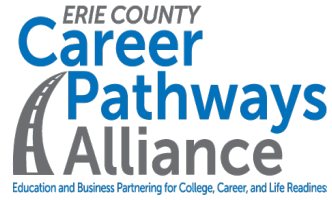
ERMP

Corry Hi-Ed



Multi-District Industry Club (High School)

(Soft skills, college tours, company tours, job shadows & 40-hour internship)



Community Access Media



Curtze Food Service



Industrial Sales & Mfg



Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors



Hair Therapy



Hansen's Errand Service (Transportation Partner)



Erie Co. DA's Office

SKILLED TRADES PROJECT

- Developed a comprehensive Skilled Trades Directory.
- Most skilled trades unions are now registered on Career Street offering experiences.
- Held two skilled trades panels with eight unions represented and almost 100 students from several school districts participating.
- Tours of training facilities for educators and students (ongoing).

BEP Grant secured with assistance from NWP Job Connect





- Formerly “Summer JAM” Program
- 180-hour paid job placements at Erie County employers
- Serving two distinct youth populations:
 - Tier 1: aged 14-17; inexperienced; “first job” placement
 - Tier 2: aged 16-21; ready for strategic, career-pathways related job placements (ET cohort = 27)
- ET Programming = pre- and post-survey, orientation, employer tours, and job placements aligned with interests.

Erie Together

Profile of a Graduate

Steering Committee approved June 2023

ACADEMICALLY READY

- Actively listens & applies knowledge
- Connects skills to workplace expectations
- Utilizes effective written & verbal communications
- Demonstrates proficiency in math skills
- Takes responsibility/ownership
- Selects coursework based on personal & career goals

LIFE READY

- Demonstrates healthy lifestyle & habits
- Treats others with dignity & respect
- Manages stress & uses positive coping skills
- Commits to continuous, lifelong learning
- Advocates for self & seeks help when needed
- Utilizes technology appropriately in interpersonal interactions

CIVIC-MINDED

- Respects others perspectives & experiences
- Accepts responsibility for actions & contributions to society
- Engages in community & stays aware of current events
- Understands government functions & impacts
- Stays informed & votes regularly

WORKPLACE READY

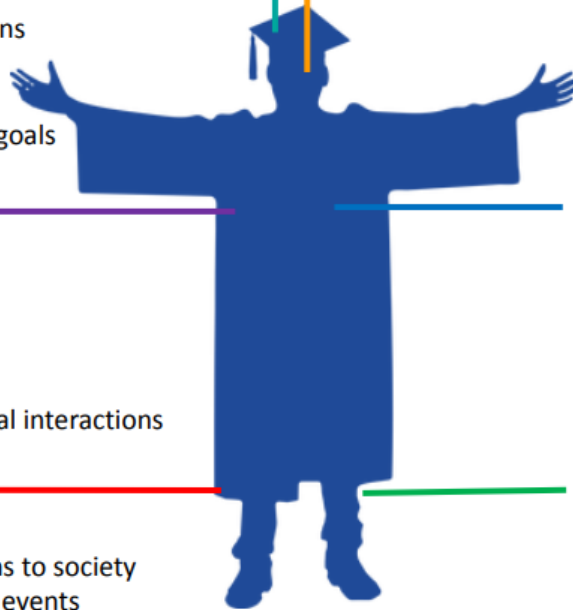
- Embraces diversity
- Possesses a strong work ethic
- Collaborates & communicates with others
- Shows initiative & is willing to learn new skills
- Solves problems and thinks critically
- Demonstrates punctuality & good attendance

FUTURE-FOCUSED

- Leverages personal strengths into opportunities
- Explores career options through practical experiences
- Identifies career path based on strengths/interests
- Recognizes and utilizes transferable skills
- Organizes time & prioritizes tasks to meet goals

FINANCIALLY SAVVY

- Understands finance concepts (debt/savings/credit)
- Differentiates between needs and wants
- Sets budget with short / long term financial goals
- Understands the value of investments for retirement
- Comprehends standard payroll deductions & taxes





THRIVE BUCKET

Updates

Erie County Reentry Services & Support Alliance

Domestic Violence Action Alliance

ERIE COUNTY REENTRY SERVICES & SUPPORT ALLIANCE



Background

- Stakeholders: law enforcement, social service, religious, government and educational professionals along with ex-offenders.
- Facilitated by ET to support Unified Erie's three-pronged approach to violence reduction in our county.

Impact

- 962 clients served
- Following percentages of case-managed clients met their needs while in the program:
 - 70% jobs
 - 43% primary care
 - 68% transportation
 - 29% housing
- Downward pressure on recidivism
- Cost-savings as opposed to incarceration



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ACTION ALLIANCE**
solving the problem together



- Formed in 2019
- Role: develop comprehensive strategy to reduce domestic violence, help victims and address perpetrators
- Cross-sector stakeholders engaged:

DV agencies	Social service agencies
DA's office	Higher education institutions
Law enforcement	Legal service providers
Public health and healthcare providers	Immigrant services

FUTURE PRIORITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION



TOPICS

1. Addressing young people's lack of social skills
2. Increasing community's focus on and support of early childhood education
3. Helping assure individuals have a "seat at the table" in arenas that impact them
4. Helping address the need for access to timely and culturally responsive mental health services and supports
5. Helping identify and address transportation barriers to and from work for immigrants and others



QUESTIONS?

mary@erietogether.org
814.240.8432