



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Dear Erie County Taxpayers,

Erie County Government is now playing a major role in economic development initiatives in our area. Below are listed some of the many projects in which County government has partnered with the private sector, non-profits, and government agencies to advance the prosperity of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

From recreation and sports, to transportation, to our port, to medical care and education, we have been able to direct resources to under-takings that enhance our quality of life. As County Executive, I pledge to all of our citizens, that we will strive to use public dollars in a prudent and business-savvy way to continue to grow our region.

Respectfully,

Barry Grossman
County Executive

Economic Development Initiatives Sponsored by Erie County

The County Administration is in support of the establishment of an Erie County Community College.

- Erie County is the poorest county in the state of Pennsylvania. One of the best ways to reduce poverty is through education.
- Everyday 500 skilled work force jobs remain unfilled because the County lacks an educated, skilled labor force.
- A community college will help create good paying jobs in our area, and attract and retain businesses/jobs to our area.
- Erie County is the most populous area in the state without a community college.

Erie County has assisted in the growth of the tourism industry.

- The County guaranteed \$45,390,000 of Erie County Convention Center Authority bonds that constructed the convention center hotel. The hotel promotes the use of the convention center and the bayfront.
- Between 2001 and 2009, the County has collected and distributed over \$15,300,000 to Erie County Convention Center Authority and over \$3.8 million to VisitErie to promote tourism in our area.
- The County has aggressively pursued the collection of delinquent hotel room rental tax to help market our area.

Erie County's 2010 budget is approximately \$377 million and is the 9th largest employer in Erie County.

The County also purchases services from local businesses that help employ local residents.

- In addition to day care services, approximately \$98.5 million is paid to local human service providers. These local businesses care for the most vulnerable residents and provide family sustaining wages in our community.

The County issued over \$21 million in bonds for the local share of the runway expansion and rehabilitation at the Erie International Airport.

- The total project cost is \$83 million based upon the 2/10 progress report.
- This leverages \$55.6 million in federal and state funds.
- Unrestricted gaming funds used to pay for the debt service – no county tax dollars spent.

The County issued \$10 million in bonds for the local share of the renovation to the Tullio Center.

- Renovations needed to keep Erie sports teams – hockey, basketball, indoor football which benefits numerous local businesses.
- Renovations needed to secure top entertainers and events which benefits local economy, keeping local entertainment dollars in Erie.
- Unrestricted gaming funds used to pay for the debt service – no county tax dollars spent.

The County issued \$8 million in bonds to establish a revolving loan fund for low interest loans to local businesses, with a primary focus on manufacturing.

- Since establishment of the program, 81 companies have been assisted.
- According to the Redevelopment Authority, 1,321 jobs have been created or retained.
- This fund has grown to \$12,701,556 as of 12/31/09 which allows more money available for additional loans to local businesses.

The County issued \$3 million in bonds given to the economic development agencies working together to develop an Erie Inland Port Project in Erie County.

- Creates growth opportunity in our region through increased jobs, growth of support industries, and business retention.
- Will develop a logistic park, an intermodal truck-train terminal, and warehousing and distribution centers.
- This has tremendous economic development potential. Container ships can off-load containers that can be shipped by rail or truck throughout the country.

The County has supported and approved the Hospital Authority's various applications for low interest loans for the major capital improvements at local hospitals.

- In 2009 Erie County supported and approved a \$15,000,000 loan to Hamot Medical Center for the construction of the Women's Hospital.
- In 2009 Erie County supported and approved a \$100,000,000 loan to St. Vincent to construct a 3-story building which will house emergency room services and additional operating rooms, and refund prior debt.

Erie County has been able to obtain increased day care funding so that county residents can have the ability to work or go to school.

- In 2010, Erie County will pay out \$21,500,000 in purchased day care services, 100% of which comes from state and federal funds.
- Allows working parents to have a safe environment for their children when they are at work or school.