

Applicant/Location	Program Type	Tax Credit Amount	Project Description
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation - Erie, Erie County	NAP	\$5,500	<p>The Employability Initiative is designed to help at-risk students of Erie's inner city get ahead in life instead of settling for the status quo. It eliminates barriers and excuses, works through setbacks, and provides opportunities. Our students participate in mandatory training for which they receive a stipend. Students learn a curriculum focusing on attitude, being professional, being respectful, taking charge of their lives, assessing and building upon resources, financial literacy, dealing with change, how to stabilize their life, understanding the impact of poverty, building confidence, how to dress, and essentially how to become better citizens overall. Upon completion, each student transitions into a guaranteed full-time position with one of our local partner organizations. The outcome is a stronger, more secure, responsible, and economically sound generation. Our results will yield 80 new jobs with an anticipation to reduce the crime, poverty, and unemployment rates</p>
ServErie - Erie, Erie County	NAP	\$44,000	<p>ServErie will renovate a distressed home with an adjacent lot at 623-625 East 8 Street to establish a Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) that will offer guidance to available resources and serve as a community center. The NRC will house programs that are currently doing excellent work in the community such as the Crime Victim Center. ServErie will establish a housing rehab program to remediate code violations and improve distressed homes in the area. Grants will require a match. City Code Enforcement will make referrals to the program and provide technical assistance. The Workforce Development Partnership with Climate Changers and Erie High School will provide training opportunities for adults and adolescents. Trainees will work side-by-side with the ServErie Team Leader to renovate the NRC and work on other grant-supported housing remediation projects. Participants will gain work experience, connect with potential future employers, and receive a stipend for their work.</p>

<p>Perseus House - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$27,500</p>	<p>The project is to renovate the physical plant in order to sustain the Boys Enhanced Residential Treatment Program at that location. The program in place functions very efficiently. Improving the physical plant and overall environment enhances therapeutic benefit. The cost associated with locating a new building at a different site significantly exceed cost for renovation and maintaining a consistent environment is critical to the therapeutic needs of our clients. By upgrading the physical plant to a more secure, functionally efficient facility we improve the chances for successful completion of the program. While meeting all regulatory standards the building requires upgrades to not just remain compliant but to also continue our mission at that location. The renovations would guarantee that Perseus House will continue programming for generations. We have provided programming since 1971 at that location and we want to maintain an anchor in the downtown community. By remaining at the current facility the longterm benefits include maintaining stable relationships with commercial and residential neighbors. Our project fits the community wide endeavor to revitalize downtown Erie. This project would allow us to continue to serve at-risk youth and their family within the community that they live. Access to the community, the families of the clients we serve and other community resources allows for greater success in treatment. Treatment includes work skill development to help them obtain suitable employment. Using outcome measures, we can report that 73 of the 80 clients served at this location since 2006 have been successfully discharged. Successful discharge and aftercare services leads to decreased need for follow up care, reduces cost in the mental health care system. Fully functioning graduates become community assets. Remaining at that facility with the renovations planned would ensure the retention of 17 permanent full time positions. The exterior of the building needs a new metal roof, ensuring a life-time guarantee, new siding, the parking lot will be paved and appropriate drainage will be installed, and 11 new windows will be installed. Additional lighting and security cameras as well as new fencing on each side as the budget allows. On the interior a full renovation of the kitchen including appliances, full renovation of two bathrooms, new furnishings for the bedrooms and living areas and the whole facility will be painted.</p>
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<p>Sarah A. Reed Children's Center - Millcreek Township, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$110,000</p>	<p>The Residential Treatment Program is Sarah Reed's most intensive program and provides 24-hour medical, behavioral and educational support to children (ages 5-18) with significant psychiatric and/or trauma-related challenges. Our team of psychiatrists, medical staff, psychologists, instructors and behavioral staff are trained in trauma-informed care and utilize the latest cutting-edge therapies to help children heal, strengthen their families and teach them the necessary skills to succeed. There is a shortage of licensed residential facilities, like Sarah Reed, that are able to provide this critical and life-changing program. Our current 64-bed facility operates at capacity, and our intake department receives the names of 10-15 children weekly who are in need of residential treatment and must be placed on a waiting list until space opens up. This program serves children from 44 counties across Pennsylvania, including: Erie, Crawford, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Dauphin and Philadelphia. Sarah Reed is expanding its Residential Program to include a fifth residence hall in order to help more children. The typical length of stay for each child is 9-18 months, and this additional 12-bed unit will allow us to help 20-25 more children annually who are in need of the highly skilled level of supervised, round-the-clock medical care, therapeutic treatment and educational programming that Sarah Reed provides. Our ongoing concern with the current lack of space in the Residential Program is being in the unfortunate position of turning away children in need and placing them on a waiting list, especially those from Erie County. Helping local children is one of our top priorities, and the addition of a new residence hall will allow more children in need to remain in our community, closer to their families. In addition, Erie, PA continues to be plagued by acts of violence among our youth, some of which may have been averted by the services we provide at Sarah Reed.</p>
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Our West Bayfront - Erie, Erie County	NAP	\$27,500	<p>This project will catalyze the turnaround of the West 8th Street Commercial Corridor, the primary neighborhood commercial district in Erie's West Bayfront, with the rehabilitation of a significant mixed-use building in the heart of the area. This area has experienced the loss of neighborhood-focused retail businesses and an increase in property distress and perception of crime. The rehabilitation of 404-06 West 8th Street will replace a vacant storefront with a refurbished building ready for occupancy by local businesses/organizations and multiple tenants. The occupied building will create new activity along this corridor and will create a safer block that is more comfortable for pedestrians and residents. This project, paired with planned initiatives to repair other properties in the area and install new lighting, security cameras, and made streetscape improvements, will encourage investment in residential properties and attract neighborhood-focused small businesses to the area. The project will result in the completion of the first phase of rehabilitation of 404-06 West 8th Street, a 5,000 square foot mixed-use building constructed in 1882. The building exterior and structure will be stabilized, building systems will be replaced, and the ground floor retail units will be prepared for occupancy. We are seeking NAP SPP funds under the blight removal designation for this project because it is part of a partnership effort among the City of Erie, the ERA, and Gannon University to eliminate blight along this corridor, increase safety, and strengthen commercial activity. Our West Bayfront will work closely with these partners along the entire West 8th Street corridor to remove blighted homes, provide repair grants to residential and commercial property owners, implement streetscape improvements, install security cameras, and make traffic improvements.</p>
Erie Downtown Partnership - Erie, Erie County	NAP	\$55,000	<p>To accomplish this goal locations for the proposed district gateways are based on the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan (2016), Downtown Streetscape Master Plan (2010), and City of Erie as well as public input to include intersections at 3rd & State, 6th & Parade, 6th & Sassafras, 12th & Parade, and 12th & Sassafras Streets. With the implementation of district definition and recognition we will pursue private investment projects with public streetscaping using the district gateways as anchors for such transformative projects such as landscaping, bike share programs, new parking technology, façade work and district ambassador programs via our new CARE campaign that recently launched. We will be tracking all economic and social indicators happening around each district gateway (before and after gateways installed), including private and public investments, pedestrian traffic, and other transformational improvements along these gateway corridors.</p>

<p>Arts Council of Erie dba Erie Arts & Culture - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$46,750</p>	<p>This project will increase educational engagement and achievement by providing access to exceptional arts and cultural experiences for low-income youth. Erie Arts & Culture will work with Erie's Public Schools (Grades 5-8) to provide a comprehensive year-long series of cultural experiences as tools to enhance learning. Education is a barometer of a region's economic viability. 80% of students in Erie's Public Schools are classified as economically disadvantaged; the district receives 100% Title 1 services. Families do not have the means to meet their basic needs; participation in activities like the arts are prohibited without support from the community. Schools are also challenged to provide these learning opportunities. In 2016, the district filed a financial recovery plan; it continues to work to overcome six consecutive years of budget shortfalls. Helping students receive equitable opportunities for success is not only a goal for families and educators but the entire community. Research shows that arts education increases student engagement and achievement. Learning in the arts enables every individual to develop the critical thinking, collaborative, and creative skills necessary to succeed in today's ever-changing world. Through this project, Erie Arts & Culture will engage 2,300 low-income youth in exceptional arts and cultural experiences, as well as arts integrated learning, to include: placement of professional teaching artists in 6th grade classrooms and a folk arts specialist to help transition newly immigrated students; at least one in-school or on-site experience with regional cultural organizations for 7th grade students; Brig Niagara day sails for 8th grade students; and youth-oriented activities at the 2019 Blues & Jazz Festival. All school-related activities will take place at Erie's Public Schools' three middle schools (Grades 6-8), with the Partnership for Erie's Public Schools foundation supporting arts experiences for all 5th grade students.</p>
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<p>SSJ Neighborhood Network - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$38,500</p>	<p>SSJ Neighborhood Network will address the following problems: IMAGE: Public spaces require attention; 45% of homes are adjacent to distressed properties, 20% require major renovation; code sweeps create financial hardship for many homeowners. PLAN: Install large mural; award renovation mini-grants; provide vacant lot beautification through community gardens. SAFETY: Crime & perception of crime is high. PLAN: Install surveillance equipment, increase pedestrian-level lighting to increase feelings of safety. ECONOMY: 25% residents did not graduate HS, youth enrichment programs are scarce and workforce development opportunities are inadequate. PLAN: Offer enrichment education & work readiness programs to build problem-solving and career skills. DISORGANIZATION: 73% of residents have low to moderate incomes, unemployment is high; 47% are food insecure and neighborhoods are classified food deserts. PLAN: Provide community gardening, hold farmers markets & match SNAP benefits. IMAGE: Provide at least 1 high-impact neighborhood place-making activity for increased sense of neighborhood identity; award at least 10 property rehabilitation mini-grants; offer opportunity for neighbors to participate in 6 community gardens, 2 urban orchards and 1 urban farm. SAFETY: Install video surveillance equipment in at least 5 new high-risk crime or "hot spot" areas; increase pedestrian-level lighting in target zones with installation of at least 30 new LED porch light kits. EDUCATION & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: Implement educational and work readiness "Pedal Mettle" bike co-op with at least 20 youth; develop structured safety skills training and bike tours for at least 30 youth; employ at least 6 youth in urban farming social enterprise. ORGANIZATION: Coordinate weekly farmers market June - September; provide 100% match for SNAP, WIC & senior voucher customers at farmers market.</p>
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<p>Mercy Center for Women - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$13,750</p>	<p>Dress for Success Erie (DFSE) is an affiliate of the Mercy Center for Women (MCW). Our W.E.A.R. Program would assist unemployed and under-employed women obtain new employment or better jobs. We would assist them with overcoming barriers and develop skills through education and training, then provide resources and opportunities for job placement. We would also transition the women into the W.E. (Women Empowered) Networking Group, where they can continue their professional development. The W.E.A.R. Program Coordinator will ensure optimal facilitation of the Program's core curriculum and components that are client centered and outcome based. Each Session has a goal to serve 10-20 women. It should be noted that the current City of Erie poverty rate is 29.2% and unemployment rate is 5.9%, which is higher than State and Federal averages 12.9% and 12.7% respectively. This W.E.A.R. Program will support the battle to lower the City of Erie's unemployment and poverty. The DFSE staff will prepare and implement the curriculum, as well as assist with job placement resources and opportunities. Three Training and Placement Sessions will be held throughout the year, consisting of 2 days a week for 7 consecutive weeks for each Session. Pre-program orientations will be held, followed by 1 day in the classroom and searching for jobs the second day of each week. The Sessions will be held in the Community Conference room of UPMC Health Plan. In addition, graduates of the W.E.A.R. Program would join in the W.E. Networking Group monthly meetings to share their career successes and areas where additional mentoring is needed from outside community members. These community members will help to set the pace by providing the W.E.A.R. graduates with the necessary tools and mentorship to be successful business women. Key topics include expectations and advancement in the workplace, work/life balance, leadership and community involvement, and managing finances.</p>
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<p>expERIEence Children's Museum - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$17,600</p>	<p>The goal of this program is to establish a community-based model of early learning that will increase student acquisition of STEM skills and preschool teacher participation in STEM classroom instruction. This program will address the need to prepare early learners (ages 4 and 5) with STEM skills essential to future learning and success in school. "Early math knowledge not only predicts later math success, it also predicts later reading achievement. Despite these powerful findings, our schools and early childhood programs often lack knowledge, resources, and capacity to focus on early STEM learning in developmentally appropriate ways" (Roberto J. Rodríguez, Former Deputy Assistant to the President for Education). Early coding offers children STEM learning that integrates communication, critical thinking, and problem solving. These 21st century skills are valuable for future success in our digital world and are required for a pathway to a STEM career (NAEYC). The Children's Museum will partner with Early Connections Childcare and Early Learning Agency to expand STEM education to a diverse population of early learners. Program outcomes will include the development of a Bee-Bot curriculum unit delivered by Children's Museum educators to 250 preschool students in five Early Connections centers. The curriculum will be designed to increase 21st century skill development and acquisition of STEM content knowledge necessary for kindergarten readiness including: 1) Recognize and extend a simple pattern, 2) Apply new directional vocabulary, 3) Understand position of objects, and 4) Understand how to make a simple technology work. Outcomes will also include teacher professional development processes and material for preparing teachers to deliver a Bee-Bot STEM unit that will impact 400 children annually, the majority of which are from both metropolitan and rural underserved populations.</p>
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<p>The Arts Council of Erie dba Erie Arts & Culture - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$13,750</p>	<p>Erie Arts & Culture will use the principals of Creative Place Making to pilot 4 large-scale art projects: projecting art and video onto vacant and underutilized buildings in Erie's DID, where commercial space has 30% vacancy. Putting the spotlight on available vacant space will pique interest in using the space for commercial endeavors. The purpose is two fold (1) draw attention to each building's potential with the goal of bringing them back into productive reuse & inspire new businesses (2) engage local citizens in the arts during Erie's long winters when very few free public events are held outdoors. Over 65% of the downtown population lives in poverty and 80% of them live alone. Winter events give downtown residents a reason to get out, socialize and enjoy free entertainment within walking distance. These activities are fundamental to the health & wellness of our most vulnerable citizens. It helps alleviate the despondency of high poverty and isolation inherent in living alone. We will collaborate with arts, culture and other organizations to produce 4 large-scale exhibits using locally generated art. Exhibits will be projected on strategically chosen buildings to accentuate their potential reuse, draw attention to the beauty of Erie's architecture and attract new commercial uses for them. We will work with the Downtown Partnership and the Erie Downtown Development Corporation to identify optimum locations and potential tenants for each space featured during the project. Expected outcomes include (1) exposing more people, especially residents living downtown, to high quality visual arts, (2) inspire increased attendance to other cultural events, (3) focus attention on revitalization efforts, (4) attract investment and new business development and (5) activate and populate vacant spaces. At least one of the spaces will be renovated and one new business will locate in one of the four spaces featured.</p>
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<p>Mercy Center for Women - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$41,250</p>	<p>The Mercy Center for Women (MCW) houses up to 34 homeless women and children at our facility located at 1039 East 27th Street, with an average of 54 graduates per year. Our clients are processed in compliance with HUD and CoC standards, utilizing the Erie County Care Management (ECCM) intake system and HMIS system for case management tracking. Having been built in 1964, the MCW's first floor bathrooms with the only baby changing station and bathtub in the building, are in desperate need of renovations, and the dilapidated bedroom closets/wardrobes need replaced in order to comply with HUD standards. With these renovations, the MCW can continue to provide homeless women and children with safe and supportive housing located in a low-income and blighted area of the City of Erie between Parade Street to Buffalo Road. Collaborative social services would also continue for our clients, which in turn raises the women and children out of poverty and transitions them into permanent housing. The MCW would utilize a local licensed contractor in Erie for the renovation project. Proper construction permits and safety regulations would be adhered to as required by law, and a mechanics' lien waiver would be obtained, if appropriate. Additionally, we would make best efforts to rotate the women and children through the MCW facility while construction is pending to keep them housed and costs to a minimum. MCW staff and clients would assist with painting and other tasks to further keep costs low. We would collaborate with our neighbors, corporate partners and other organizations for donations, volunteers and media opportunities during construction. Upon completion of the renovations, the MCW clients would be educated on how to maintain a clean living environment and how to maintain the same, which they can then carryover to their homes when they transition from the MCW to permanent housing. The MCW would monitor the metrics through our Aftercare Program managed by our staff.</p>
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<p>Erie Civic Theatre Association dba Erie Playhouse - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NAP</p>	<p>\$27,500</p>	<p>FORGING CONNECTIONS is an early learning and intervention program that helps inner-city children thrive through increased kindergarten readiness, school attendance and access to quality after-school programs. It engages them in arts activities to start them on the right path to reading and school success, trains parents and teachers in literacy-building techniques and provides access to live theatre. It addresses objectives of the Erie Together initiative and community-level outcomes of the United Way of Erie County. It supports children at the highest risk of school failure and their parents who play a large role in helping their children gain the self-sufficiency needed to get off to a great start in school and life. FORGING CONNECTIONS expands PLAYtime, our Pre-K program, and creates a new program, ACT I that targets at-risk 3rd graders at two inner-city Erie Community schools. EXPECTED OUTCOMES: PLAYtime: YEAR 1- Children engage in pre-reading and social skill development and demonstrate increased interest and enjoyment in books; parents are more knowledgeable of literacy strategies and practice them with support. YEAR 2-Children demonstrate on-target pre-literacy skills; parents read to their children more often and implement literacy strategies without support. YEAR 3- Children score proficient or higher on kindergarten literacy assessments; parents promote literacy activities through engagement in reading 5-7 times weekly. ACT I: Students succeed academically and are physically, socially and emotionally healthy. To achieve these outcomes, we will use performance art to increase literacy and build positive behaviors that lead to improved academic success and educational attainment.</p>
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<p>Downtown Bradford Revitalization Corp. - Bradford, McKean County</p>	<p>NPP 2/5</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>	<p>We will Increase the quality of life for residents in the 2nd Ward NPP by executing projects and collaborating in service provision to achieve sustainable positive improvements to the both the social and physical environment. The sustained recovery process for residents includes key initiatives such as: new home construction, housing coalition services, rehabilitation of a vacant/blighted structure, facade, streetscape, select acquisition/demolition and Crimewatch. Comprehensive community revitalization tasks targeted at eliminating barriers to sustainable positive change to achieve a more vibrant neighborhood will be continued with Year Two funding. The Elm Street Manager, DBRC and neighborhood advisory committee will work in partnership to ensure the realization of strategic goals for long term continuation of this project. Three façade projects will be completed to address sub-standard housing conditions. A vacant, blighted building will be rehabilitated into two safe, new housing units adjacent to the Catalytic Impact area. A vacant structure at 104 Chestnut Street will open for business after extensive renovation with a public/private partnership resulting in a commercial adaptive reuse project with 5 new neighborhood jobs. Collaboration with the YWCA will continue for the rehabilitation of the largest single structure in the neighborhood being transformed from a vacant, blighted 17,000 sq. ft. building to home for 35 jobs and critical social programming, and emergency shelters. Crimewatch, clean-up and National Night Out events will benefit residents with activities designed to increase engagement with City of Bradford Police.</p>
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<p>Gannon University - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NPP 3/6</p>	<p>\$140,000</p>	<p>This project will continue to build on relatively new efforts to revitalize Erie's West Bayfront neighborhoods, an area that the city's comprehensive plan calls the city's "greatest residential asset" despite obvious signs of distress. The decline of population in Erie's core neighborhoods has resulted in blighted and neglected properties, concentrated poverty, limited neighborhood amenities, and weaker community networks. This project will build on Our West Bayfront's first year as an independent neighborhood organization that provides resources to property owners, builds capacity within neighborhood associations, and enhances parks and public spaces with both physical improvements and new programming. OWB will work in conjunction with Erie's other community-based initiatives as part of a collaborative approach to strengthening the City's core commercial and residential neighborhoods with the goal of attracting new residents, businesses, and investment. This project will focus on four primary areas. First, it will improve property conditions in a targeted area by providing resources to 25 property owners for repairs/rehabilitation of their properties. Second, it will address blight through the acquisition and rehabilitation of two blighted properties. Third, it will support commercial district revitalization with the first phase of a rehabilitation of a vacant historic mixed-use property. Fourth, it will improve parks and public spaces with the implementation of the first phase of Bayview Park enhancements.</p>
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<p>10 Thousand Friends of Pennsylvania - New Castle, Lawrence County</p>	<p>NPP 2/6</p>	<p>\$180,000</p>	<p>Poverty, Education/Employment, Crime and Homeownership/Blight are all problems in the South Side neighborhood that we are addressing. Blight, vacant properties, unkept lots, a vacant hospital building, and empty store fronts are key problems to be addressed. New Castle's South Side suffers from significant disinvestment and as a result has a high degree of vacancy and blight. This has discouraged investment in the neighborhood. As a result, population has declined, and the remaining population has a higher concentration of low-income households, making it difficult to support existing businesses and services. We will address the problems of vacancy and blight by expanding a combination of blight removal, demolition, property acquisition, land bank improvements to existing housing stock, reuse of the largest unused commercial site, improving public parks and street infrastructure, expanded human services, and longer-term investments in the business district and new housing. 10,000 Friends plans to retain up to three experts to assist in project management in their respective specialties, as well as provide a sustained, engaged presence in the New Castle community, in coordination and under the strategic direction of 10,000 Friends' President and senior staff. These experts bring experience and expertise in: a) social services, tax credits, proposal development, etc.; b) municipal government, county, law enforcement agency, and transit agency expertise and relationships through many years working in the City of New Castle; and c) real estate development, construction, finance, and infrastructure project implementation. Each contribute to different parts of the projects planned for Year 2 of this NPP, which will build on the year-one successes of this project. The attached budget justification, project narrative and community impact assessment quantify the outcomes, including blight removal, land acquisition, community service and development projects.</p>
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<p>SSJ Neighborhood Network - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NPP 3/6</p>	<p>\$200,000</p>	<p>PHYSICAL IMAGE: Purchase and redevelop one blighted property, replacing it with community green space; complete at least 10 business or residential façade improvements, install urban art; organize at least 2 community clean-up events. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Provide incentives to recruit new businesses; expand entrepreneurial opportunities for youth with the creation of 6 part-time jobs for teens. CRIME PREVENTION: Increase neighborhood watch participation; install video surveillance in high risk areas; implement Byrne Justice Grant with local police. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Purchase one vacant single-family or multi-unit property, rehabilitating it for affordable housing or use in our home ownership program. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Coordinate a weekly, seasonal farmers market; create opportunity for increased, nutritional self-sufficiency through community garden opportunities; organize at least 3 community engagement events.</p>
<p>Bayfront East Side Taskforce - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>NPP 1/6</p>	<p>\$280,000</p>	<p>BEST's overall goal is to develop a vibrant neighborhood that will be a source of pride for East Bayfront residents by using the healthy neighborhoods approach. Create a positive neighborhood image. Promote a viable real estate market. Promote property improvements and reduce code violations. Encourage stronger social connections. Encourage economic development. Specific Projects for this application include: Project # 1-MAINTAIN SAFE AND AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS. Project #2 -STRATEGIC PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR BLIGHT REMOVAL. Project # 3- HOME OWNER & TENANT EDUCATION. Project #4- HOME REPAIR FUND. Project # 5- SUBSIDIZE AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS. Project #6- IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY AND REDUCE CRIME. Project # 7- CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ATTRACTIVE GREENSPACE Project # 8- IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE. Project # 9- PROMOTION OF THE EAST BAYFRONT NEIGHBORHOOD. Project #10- NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH</p>

<p>Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, New York, PA, Pacific Northwest Community - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$56,250</p>	<p>The area served by the Eastside Grassroots Coalition is described as at-risk in Erie's Comprehensive Plan, Erie Refocused. The plan warns that without significant and immediate intervention in the neighborhood, it could fall under the 'distressed' category as more properties become distressed. Currently, 39% of properties experience moderate or severe distress, with only 21% in good or excellent condition. In order to tackle this issue, this proposed project will take several steps to prevent further decay of the neighborhood. The major focus of this project is on granting homeowners micro grants to complete façade repairs and tear down blighted property. Additionally, this project will turn vacant lots into greenspaces and erect welcome signage identifying the neighborhood. All of these actions will contribute to beautifying and stabilizing the neighborhood as well as building a sense of community through placemaking. This project will help stabilize the neighborhood in a number of measurable ways. The first way is through completing a minimum of 5 home façade renovations with a maximum award of \$10,000 each, or 10 renovations with a maximum of \$5,000 each, or any combination thereof for a total of \$55,000 in home facade repairs. The next output of this project will be the demolition of at least one officially listed blighted property in collaboration with the Erie Redevelopment Authority. Additionally, a minimum of 3 vacant lots will be cleared and landscaped by this project with a common theme tying them together along Buffalo Rd., the largest thoroughfare through the area served by the Eastside Grassroots Coalition. These three actions all contribute to a similar outcome of reducing blight and signs of distress, thus improving the overall appearance of the neighborhood. Additionally, the last output of installing welcome signage will aid in improving the appearance of the neighborhood.</p>
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<p>SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$97,500</p>	<p>Project will provide needed upgrades to SafeNet's Bridge House, a transitional housing program for women and children who became homeless when fleeing domestic violence. Bridge House has been in existence since 1986 and is PA's first transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence. Built in 1917, Bridge had substantial renovation in 1986. Due to age, some major structural and maintenance projects are needed to secure the building. 1986 renovations were awarded a Lady Slipper award for the Neighborhood Improvement created by painting Bridge House in historically accurate colors. Renovations are now 32 years old: roof, boiler/ radiators are at the end of their useful lives. Severe winter weather has damaged the foundation on the west. The solution involves creating a water diversion to a cistern. Additional renovations for health/ safety of Bridge residents: bathroom renovations, repairs to the large porch and yard, and replacing worn carpeting. Homeless survivors of domestic violence needing transitional housing are those most damaged by abuse. They have barriers that must be overcome to rebuild their lives. Bridge House houses 7 families at a time. At capacity, Bridge House will serve 28 families a year. 75% of th families also have resident children. Children are profoundly affected by homelessness. Bridge will intervene at his critical time . Repairs will provide the survivors a safe, secure and affordable place to build their lives, find permanent housing and increase their earned income. The outcomes of this project would be: To secure the building with new roof/gutters system, protect it from water build-up, and other renovations which will continue the services offered. To continue to provide transitional housing in a safe, supportive environment. To continue to help victims of domestic violence find safe, affordable permanent housing and to become self-sufficient</p>
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<p>Climate Changers, Inc. - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>	<p>We plan to reduce recidivism, increase the workforce, and provide transitional rehabilitative housing for women released from prison. The fundamental problem is, two-thirds of the women released from prison are re-arrested and return to prison within the first three years of freedom. More than half return to prison within the first year. Inmates learn additional criminogenic behaviors while they are incarcerated and have no "real- life" learning experiences to help them reject and re-direct these behaviors. The Total Change Women's Program will decrease the rate of recidivism in the City of Erie using evidenced based practices which include a three phase process; Phase 1 - In Prison Classes, Phase 2 - Residential Reentry Programs, and Phase 3 - Aftercare Community Support System. Another considerable problem is the lack of a certified transitional rehabilitation facility for women close to Erie. We have acquired a vacated 194,000 sq. ft. building from the Erie Diocese in a high-risk neighborhood and plan to renovate it to house The Women's Total Change Program. The facility has 14 bedrooms/28 beds and will accommodate approx. 54 women per year, where they will fulfill their court mandated rehabilitation orders, receive job training and be employed by one of our local participating companies or create their own business. The Center will have a designated area for women to reunite with their children through family activities and parenting classes. Members of the TCP will live in a special, residential setting, be fed, provided with intense, personal life skills training (an extension of the inmate TCP), specific GED, job skills and trade instruction then strategically placed in the job market. This initiative will create 12 new full-time positions, retain 2 positions and introduce approx. 54 skilled individuals to the job market who previously cost the county \$36,000 per year.</p>
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<p>Warren Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council - Warren, Warren County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$75,000</p>	<p>Housing is an on going need for the residents of Warren County. Various realities contribute to this situation: generational poverty, population decline, little or no economic growth, affordability, age of housing stock, and a growing lack of options. At Risk populations have extreme difficulty in locating safe and affordable housing. This is particularly true of ex-offenders attempting to re-enter the community. These individuals often face the prospect of no job, no hope, no support system, and no place to live. Often becoming homeless or returning to jail. In fact, many remain incarcerated longer than required, costing the local County Government funds unnecessarily. This project seeks to create an alternative for this population by creating a viable option by renovating an older home into 2 (two) apartments. The Agency will officially close on the facility located at 116 Crescent Park on Friday August 31. The Agency is proposing to create two (2) apartments for individuals being released from the Warren County Prison. The facility is located on a main transportation hub immediately across from the downtown area of the City of Warren. The location is easily accessible to all services. The apartment building is in need of extensive renovations. Neighborhood Assistance Funds will be utilized for the renovations and create two (2) safe, affordable units. When completed and occupied, the Agency intends to house four (4) individuals per year for up to 6 months, providing support services, job locator assistance, budget counseling, permanent housing locator assistance, and other services as outlined in their Individual Service Plan. The Agency will utilize these funds to renovate an existing duplex. The building, although in good condition, needs completely updated to today's Uniform Code Standards. Renovations include: new kitchens, new bathrooms, electrical and plumbing upgrades, furnace upgrade, painting (interior and exterior), windows, roof, and weatherized for energy efficiently.</p>
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<p>Community Shelter Services - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$67,500</p>	<p>CSS will maintain the structural integrity of the buildings that house our programs and reduce our energy consumption. The main building in which our programs and administrative offices are housed was built in 1914. The exterior walls, roof, and sidewalks are in various stages of condition. Our second facility is a rehabilitated motel located in downtown Erie. We are proposing to complete a number of building repairs and improvements to preserve our building for years to come and allow our programs for the homeless to continue at our present locations, with uninterrupted 24/7 year-round services. The west side walls and roof were successfully repaired 2016 as part of a previous phase. The exterior renovation at Lodge on Sass includes restoring the caulking, sealant, and painting the exterior. If this project goes undone, our agency continues to lose money on wasted utilities and limits our ability to use those funds on direct services for our clients. The outcomes of this project are the renovation of the Emergency Shelter that houses 50 men, women, and children nightly; and the 96 individual low or no income housing single room occupancy units in Columbus Apartments and Lodge on Sass. The physical improvements will help reduce our energy consumption, preserve our buildings for years to come, and allow our programs for the homeless to continue at our present locations with uninterrupted 24/7 year-round services.</p>
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<p>St. Martin Center, Inc. - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>SPP</p>	<p>\$120,000</p>	<p>We plan to implement a new initiative; Stable Home Pathway (SHP). SHP will provide comprehensive housing and financial counseling and assistance. Housing is a basic necessity. Whether in a rental unit or one's own home, families need to be in safe, affordable and stable housing. SHP aims to provide Erie families with the tools to be responsible tenants or homeowners. SHP will accomplish this with rental counseling, pre-purchase home buying education, financial literacy counseling, and financial assistance as necessary. Ultimately, better educated and prepared tenants will help prevent blight. Better equipped homeowners will help prevent foreclosure. Overall, more stable tenants and homeowners will help stem the ongoing population decline of the region. Approximately 75 households will avoid homelessness by receiving rent assistance. This range takes into account differences in amounts given depending on need. Additionally, 25 households will receive assistance with down payment and/or closing costs or minor home repairs. Utility assistance will be provided to approximately 50 households as needed to maintain housing. All households will learn the financial tools needed to build savings, pay debt, and work toward a more stable future due to financial counseling. Counseling and assistance will be offered off-site at partnering agencies as well. Counselors will monitor client progress. We will be able to better track outcomes and increase our efficiency through the implementation of a new customer relations management database. Our current client database is cumbersome to use and requires regular costly updates to add additional features. We will also incorporate interpretation services for clients, and additional staff training.</p>
<p>Two Penny Corporation - Erie, Erie County</p>	<p>EZP</p>	<p>\$116,195</p>	<p>With this project we will renovate a unique brick building in downtown Erie's 12th street corridor to accommodate high tech businesses. By upgrading this space, we have attracted PSENERGY, a high tech Erie company, to occupy the first floor. This will give them space to grow from currently 4 employees to 6 by end of 2019. The upgraded space is currently attracting a high tech startup to lease the second and third floors, allowing them to grow their employment to over 20 people by the end of 2019. This project, under the guidance of Gary Matczak Architects, will replace the existing roof and add insulation to code, replace exterior doors, replace HVAC systems, install restrooms on 2nd and 3rd floors, install energy efficient lighting on 3rd floor, install offices on 2nd and 3rd floor, install collaboration space on 1st and 2nd floors, install secondary egress to 3rd floor, remove walls on the 1st floor to create open workspace, install electrical outlets on the first floor, close in stairwells.</p>

<p>Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest PA - Cameron County, Clarion County, Clearfield County, Crawford County, Elk County, Erie County, Forest County, Jefferson County, McKean County, Venango County, Warren County</p>	<p>CFP</p>	<p>\$272,871</p>	<p>The process of getting food to those that are hungry requires a dynamic infrastructure and a sophisticated system. Second Harvest cultivates partnerships with and secures donations from food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, foodservice locations, restaurants, packers and growers, government agencies, individuals and other organizations. Second Harvest then coordinates and facilitates the movement of donated food to member agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Backpack Programs, School Pantries, Produce Express Mobile Distributions, Military Share – a Produce Express Program and the Senior Box Program. The project will accomplish alleviating hunger and inadequate nutrition by distributing food through these programs to the 72,261 individuals that are served in Second Harvest's 11-county service area.</p>
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