

MEDIA RELEASE



COUNTY OF ERIE
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Erie County awards GECAC with Summer JAM 2021 contract

Erie, PA – Erie County government announces it has awarded the contract for the Summer Jobs and More program (Summer JAM) once again to the Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC). This will be the seventh year for GECAC to operate the program.

In 2020 the Summer JAM program provided opportunities for more than 30 employers to offer positions to approximately 89 youth across Erie County with GECAC at the helm. Over 60% of participating youth were under 18 years old, and 65% were new to the program. Because of the pandemic last summer, participation was lower than in the previous years, but GECAC implemented an appropriate strategy to work through it, and the Erie County Department of Health provided a COVID-19 safety training to these youth.

“GECAC’s consistent, creative and concentrated efforts of the Summer JAM program have demonstrated their commitment to the growth and development of Erie County,” said Gary N. Lee, director of administration for Erie County. “We are proud to continue this partnership with them and appreciate their solid investment in, and impact on, our youth.”

GECAC offers recruitment and informational sessions for employers and participants through virtual meetings, outreach at local schools and community centers, social media blasts, and outdoor pop-up events.

Youth are matched with employers based on the employer specifications, geographic proximity and availability of reliable transportation for youth. Then GEGAC provides orientation and training sessions.

The Summer JAM program, a collaborative effort of Erie County, GECAC, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Erie Community Foundation, is open to Erie County residents aged 16 to 21 who meet the program’s household income guidelines. The collaboration has invested approximately \$2.3 million while developing over 1,000 youth leaders since the program’s inception in 2014.

More information about the program can be found at <https://www.gecac.org/work/employment-and-income/summer-jam>.

Contact GECAC at summerjam@gecac.org or 814-897-6571.

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