



As we approach the halfway mark for the year, Erie Together's teams are continuing to work on the priorities and goals identified by the community. There are many individuals, organizations, schools, businesses, and other entities collaborating to make positive headway to prevent and reduce poverty in our region. We know that intentional efforts build upon each other and lead to positive change, so we continue to move forward, full speed ahead.

Learn Highlights

- Erie Together's early childhood readiness and success team is developing a community-wide technology-based campaign to generate awareness on the importance of high quality early childhood education and third grade reading proficiency. The text campaign will feature a weekly activity or statistic to help children prepare for kindergarten and is planned to launch in July in coordination with the Block by Block summer learning events. Additionally, Erie Together representatives have been involved in the local "Campaign for Grade Level Reading" push in partnership with United Way of Erie County and others. This group plans to have a School Community Readiness plan addressing school readiness, summer learning, and school attendance in place in the coming months.
- Erie Together is working with local school districts, businesses, and economic and workforce development stakeholders to increase the number of students graduating high school on time and ready for the next step. Here are the goals the group is targeting in 2017/18 that are guiding its work:
 - Eight of 10 participating districts will have developed at least one pathway by June 2018, reflected through their course catalog and student scheduling.
 - Three of five planned industry advisory groups will be in place. (Engineering & Industrial Technology, Science and Health, and Business, Finance & Information Technology) by June 2018.
 - By June 30, 2018, 100% of students from participating districts will complete a career planning activity (i.e. an interest inventory or a written career plan, etc.) by the end of the 8th grade year.
- The "Erie County Education and Training Consortium" is a group of high ranking officials from pre-K through post-secondary education and training entities and other community leaders brought together by Erie Together and Emerge 2040 to identify our region's top education and training-related priorities and rally efforts and resources to address them. The group has met twice and will meet again in late July.

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

www.ErieTogether.org

Work Highlights

Erie Together teams are finding ways to help individuals understand required skills and connect with local supports to develop those skills in order to help more Erie County residents find and maintain family-sustaining employment. The team is looking into expanding the Commonwealth of PA's "Job Gateway" database to serve as a one-stop-shop for those looking for skill and training providers. The team will also be looking for ways to help individuals understand the skills needed (basic, soft, and technical) within industry sectors.

Thrive Highlights

This team is researching existing programs, both locally and across the U.S. to identify best practices for creating peer-to-peer mentoring opportunities. Existing programs include Erie Together's *Getting Ahead* program, *Blue Zones Moai*, and others. Additionally, the team is putting a plan in place to introduce employers to successful graduates of Erie Together's *Getting Ahead* program to help fill open positions.

Other Community News

United Way's PA 2-1-1 Northwest is a phone and online resource to help individuals find health and human services to address everyday needs and crisis situations. The resource publicly launched on Tuesday, May 23rd. Individuals can access the resource by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting pa211nw.org. Organizations can visit UnitedWayErie.org/211 to create or update listings.

ResCare has a number of job opportunities in Northwest Pennsylvania, specifically here in Erie. The company website has additional information and a list of available positions. Interviews will begin this week.

The Bethany Outreach Center, a volunteer driven Christian organization, that addresses the material, educational, vocational, and spiritual needs of the residents of the lower east side Erie neighborhood is currently seeking a part-time Executive Director. A full job description can be found on their [website](#).