



# SPOTLIGHT

Erie Together is a countywide collective impact movement to prevent and reduce poverty, and make the Erie region a community of opportunity where everyone can learn, work and thrive. Below are some key milestones, beginning with the inaugural year. For more information, visit [www.erietogether.org](http://www.erietogether.org).

## *Neighborhood and Family-Based Efforts Launch*

Upon release of local report, “The High Cost of Poverty: It Affects Us All,” Erie Together (ET) is formed and begins work to strengthen families and bolster neighborhoods.

## *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.

## *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.

## *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.

## *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.



2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018



## *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.”

## *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.

## *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.

## *Three New Initiatives Take the Stage*

Two ET-created initiatives to prepare students for postsecondary success, careers and life launch: the Youth Civic Engagement Symposium and the Erie Co. Career Pathways Alliance. A third, the Erie Co. Reentry Services & Support Alliance begins serving clients.

## *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.