



WHO WE ARE

Diverse Erie is the Erie County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, created in September 2021 to advance equity and opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in Erie County.

We invest in initiatives and ideas that advance equity in Erie County. Through strategic investing, we leverage public resources to attract private resources toward generational impact.

This summary brings together the full scope of Diverse Erie's investment activity to date, independently modeled and analyzed by Parker Strategy Group using IMPLAN, one of the most widely used economic impact modeling tools in the country.

COMBINED IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Across all three rounds of investment to date, Diverse Erie's work has generated the following combined results:

\$4.7M Total Invested	\$7.6M Total Economic Impact
149 Jobs Supported, Sustained, or Created	\$276,736 State & Local Tax Revenue
For every \$1 invested by Diverse Erie, \$1.63 is returned in economic impact.	

IMPACT BY INITIATIVE

2022-2024 Cumulative Investment (Initial Study Period)

Diverse Erie’s first economic impact study, completed by Parker Strategy Group in March 2025, measured the results of the organization’s founding investment period.

Metric	Result
Total Invested	\$3,500,000
Businesses Funded	54 BIPOC-owned businesses
Total Economic Impact	\$5,700,000
Ripple Effect (Indirect + Induced Impacts)	\$2,200,000
Jobs Supported/Sustained	32
State & Local Tax Revenue	\$193,380
Return on Investment	\$1.63 per \$1 invested

2025 Generational Impact Investments (Healthcare Focus)

This round of Generational Impact Investments directed \$650,000 toward four organizations advancing health equity, workforce development, and community well-being across Erie County.

Metric	Result
Total Invested	\$650,000
Organizations Funded	4
Total Economic Impact	\$1,100,000
Ripple Effect (Indirect + Induced Impacts)	\$476,173
Jobs Supported/Sustained	6
State & Local Tax Revenue	\$44,856

2026 Small Business Mini-Grant Initiative

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 were awarded to 31 BIPOC-owned small businesses across Erie County, directed toward five areas of need: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

Metric	Result
Total Invested	\$539,000
Businesses Funded	31 BIPOC-owned businesses
Total Economic Impact	\$844,800
Ripple Effect (Indirect + Induced Impacts)	\$305,753
Jobs Sustained	105
New Jobs Created	6
State & Local Tax Revenue	\$38,500
Return on Investment	\$1.57 per \$1 invested

2025 GENERATIONAL IMPACT INVESTMENT RECIPIENTS

All four recipients in this round advance healthcare access and quality across Erie County:

Organization	Sector	Award Amount
Birthroot Community Doula Alliance	Maternal Health	\$189,250
Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS)	Healthcare Access / Facility Expansion	\$189,250
AHN Saint Vincent Health System – Talent Attraction Program (TAP)	Healthcare Workforce Development	\$150,000
The Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania	Chronic Disease Prevention / Vision Health	\$121,500
TOTAL		\$650,000

2026 MINI-GRANT AWARDEES

The 2026 Mini-Grant Initiative supported the following 31 BIPOC-owned businesses, listed alphabetically with award amount. Investments across this cohort were directed toward economic stability, education, health care access, neighborhood revitalization, and community well-being.

Business Name	Award Amount
1 of 1 Services, LLC	\$12,500
2 Brothers Auto Service and Sales	\$20,000
Almadina Supermarket	\$25,000
AMB Auto Motive	\$20,000
Barb's Family Learning Group Daycare, LLC	\$20,000
Big Boy Athletics, LLC	\$10,000
Camaraderie BBQ, INC.	\$25,000
CJDJ Erie Properties, LLC	\$10,000
Dapper Don's Styling Lounge	\$12,000
Dinner is Served, LLC	\$15,000
Erie Shish Kabob	\$20,000
Galloway Management Group, LLC	\$20,000
Handled with Care Childcare	\$20,000
Her Power DBA (ABC 24 Hour Child Care)	\$25,000
Johnson Real Estate Properties, LLC	\$25,000
Jordan's Family Childcare Home	\$10,000
Major Coin, LLC	\$5,000
Manus Enterprises	\$25,000

Business Name	Award Amount
Mawad Closeout, LLC	\$25,000
MJ Auto	\$7,500
Omni Insurance Services	\$8,000
Pineapple Productions	\$25,000
Property Solutions-360, LLC	\$20,000
Sew Royalty Embroidery & Custom Designs	\$15,000
State Auto Service	\$15,000
Tamar Auto Service and Sales	\$5,000
Tender Loving Care Place, LLC	\$12,000
The Learning Ladder Early Child Care Center	\$20,000
TLA Divine Creations Salon & Spa	\$22,000
TYS Healthy Healers	\$20,000
Unified Contracting, LLC	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$539,000

TRACKING PROGRESS, BUILDING TRUST

Diverse Erie uses independent economic modeling and equity-focused evaluation tools to track outcomes, such as business growth, workforce participation, job stability, and access to business development. This ensures our investments do not simply fund initiatives, they advance measurable progress for Erie County residents.

- 100% of 2025 investments directly benefited BIPOC-led or BIPOC-serving organizations.
- Diverse Erie has increased its annual investments by 45% since 2023.
- Diverse Erie has maintained two consecutive years of clean audits, with no material weaknesses or deficiencies.
- Nearly 80% of Diverse Erie's annual budget supports direct investment in community partners and local businesses.
- Diverse Erie's \$500,000 Small Business Fund investment helped create a nearly \$2 million regional loan fund, which has originated \$1.7 million in loans and leveraged nearly \$4 million in additional capital.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 PRIORITIES

Diverse Erie's continued work centers on four priorities for the year ahead:

- Expand capital access for small businesses
- Strengthen partnerships with training developers
- Grow community development investments
- Advance regional data systems to track long-term outcomes