

EDUCATION IS A PATHWAY OUT OF POVERTY

The Greater Erie Community Action Committee, better known as GECAC, is Erie County's Community Action agency. Our nonprofit 501(c)3 organization was created to change people's lives, improve our community and make it a better place to live.

Whether you are working at minimum wage, a senior living on a fixed income or a wage earner suddenly out of work, Community Action is here to help you meet your emergency needs and start you on the road to self-sufficiency.

As Erie County's anti poverty agency, GECAC understands that obtaining a good education is a primary step toward self sufficiency and a significant pathway out of poverty.

Scholarships are made possible through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit. These programs provide tax credits to eligible businesses that contribute to an approved scholarship organization. GECAC is approved by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development as a scholarship organization.

One of more than 1,000 community action agencies nationwide, GECAC is bound by the Promise of Community Action:

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other as they move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

GREATER ERIE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

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EDUCATIONAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS



GREATER ERIE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Helping People. Changing Lives.

Pennsylvania's Tax Credit program is a way for businesses to enrich educational opportunities for students and earn tax credits by donating to an approved non-profit scholarship organization, such as GECAC. Eligible businesses can receive tax credits equal to 75% of their contribution, up to \$750,000 per taxable year. The tax credit may be increased to 90% of the contribution if the business agrees to provide the same amount for two consecutive tax years.

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC)



The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program allows businesses and individuals to redirect their tax dollars and give them to GECAC rather than the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

EITC is a program unique to Pennsylvania that gives companies or individuals up to a 90% tax credit that can then be directed to a scholarship organization to be used specifically for families who qualify for financial aid.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT (OSTC)



The Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) was approved by the State of Pennsylvania in August 2012. OSTC enables eligible students who live in a distressed school district to apply for one of these scholarships to attend a private school. Much like EITC, companies that apply can receive up to a 90% tax credit to be designated to a private school for an opportunity scholarship to qualifying students.

This program is a great use of tax dollars to support private education for families who live in a school district that is not performing well.



Pennsylvania businesses can apply for EITC and OSTC credits through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development's electronic single application system which can be accessed at:

<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>

The Business Application Guide explains the process of applying. Tax credit applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis by day submitted. All applications received on a specific day will be processed on a random basis before moving on to the next day's applications. Applications will be approved until the amount of available tax credits is exhausted.

Important Dates:

May 15 – Business applicants who have fulfilled their 2-year commitment and wish to reapply to renew their 2-year commitment.

May 15 – Businesses who are in the middle of their 2-year commitment.

July 1 – All other businesses