

# Education

**Adult Basic Education:** Welcoming adults who are interested in improving their basic skills in reading, writing, and math or earning their GED. Classes are free and designed to meet the students' needs by increasing academic skills while providing opportunities to learn about careers and employment. Our growing adult education programs are seeking dedicated individuals to tutor adults studying for the GED® or studying English as a Second Language.

**English as a Second Language:** Classes to improve your English language comprehension in speaking, reading, and writing.

**GED® Testing Center:** GECAC operates the only GED® test site in Erie County. Hundreds of people have passed the GED® test with the help of GECAC and have gone on to college and better jobs.



**Tuition Scholarships:** Applications are accepted for tuition assistance for college students and financial assistance to attend private K-12 schools in Erie County.

**Upward Bound:** Students are prepared to attend college through a collaboration with several school districts. Our program offers services at the students' home schools and on the campus of Edinboro University of PA during the academic year and a six-week summer session.



# Housing

**Housing and Rental Assistance:** Offering emergency relief for rent and deposit payments for households experiencing a financial crisis impacting their housing, health, and safety. Assistance is available for renters being evicted or couch surfing and the homeless.

**Housing Counseling:** Our HUD and PHFA certified housing counselors provide free guidance and advice to help families and individuals improve their housing conditions and meet the responsibility of homeownership. Counselors provide the insights and answers you need to make financial choices that are right for you.

**Rent Rebate:** Provides relief to low-income seniors in the form of property tax and rent relief. Assistance to complete the applications is available at no cost from the GECAC Area Agency on Aging.

**Utility Assistance:** Assistance to qualifying individuals who require financial help to prevent disconnection of a gas or electric service for overdue bills.

# Employment & Income

**Money Works For You:** Helping low-income individuals save money through a matched savings program. Those saving \$500 will be matched with \$500 for a total of \$1,000 for a home purchase, small business, or college tuition. Participants will attend a financial and money management workshop series.

**New Choices:** Individuals looking for work learn how to prepare themselves for the job market. Learned skills include interviewing, computers, conflict resolution, management of money and time, and more.

**Senior Community Service Employment Program:** (SCSEP) is a paid employment-training program that helps mature workers transition into meaningful employment. SCSEP offers wages for participants while they gain valuable experience with partner community service agencies in supportive, real-work settings.

**Summer JAM:** Summer Jobs and More provides job readiness training, career exploration, and summer employment for youth living in Erie County. Youth are matched with employers and are paid an hourly wage.



**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance:** Moderate to low-income families will have their Federal and State taxes prepared for free. IRS certified volunteers work to ensure that eligible tax filers receive all their tax credits and deductions.

**Work Ready:** The Erie County Assistance Office refers clients to this program. Work Ready utilizes several tools and resources to assist those who are ready to work at overcoming their short-term and long-term challenges that have hindered them from gaining employment.



GREATER ERIE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Helping People. Changing Lives.

Providing services  
throughout Erie County  
GECAC Headquarters

18 West 9th Street  
Erie, PA 16501

May 2022



GREATER ERIE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Helping People. Changing Lives.

# GECAC Directory of Programs & Services

The Greater Erie Community Action Committee, better known as GECAC, is Erie County's Community Action Agency. It was created to change people's lives, improve our community and make it a better place to live. We are dedicated to helping people help themselves as they move from poverty to self-sufficiency. 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.

# Helping People. Changing Lives.



Greater Erie Community Action Committee | 814-459-4581  
www.gecac.org | www.facebook.com/gecacerie



## Aging

If you are a senior or a family member and don't know where to begin to get assistance or information, GECAC has a helpline just for you. To speak directly to a trusted caseworker that will help guide you through the steps please call:  
**Senior Helpline (814) 459-4581 ext. 400**

### Caregiver of an Adult Support

If an older person relies on you to provide unpaid help with day-to-day activities, GECAC's Caregiver Support program wants to financially assist you. As a caregiver, you may be eligible to receive up to \$600 per month to help with your out-of-pocket expenses.

### Caregiver of Grandchildren Support

Grandparents who are raising your grandchildren—we have money available to help you. Caring for others takes time, energy, and especially money. Our program will pay for your grandchildren's: clothing, personal care items, school supplies, dues for recreational and extracurricular activities, tuition, and daycare.

### Domiciliary Care

Domiciliary Care provides a supervised, home-like living arrangement for adults aged 18 and older who are unable to live independently in the community. Certified care providers are nurturing individuals who have the desire to give daily, personalized care and attention to residents and encourage a sense of belonging and independence in their own homes. Residents receive room, board, and care services in a family home environment.

### Foster Grandparents Program

Become a Senior Corps volunteer through the Foster Grandparents Program and help at-risk children love learning. Foster Grandparents help children in an educational setting with math, writing, and reading. Volunteers receive a stipend to participate.



### Health & Wellness

Our exercise and wellness classes aim to promote healthier lifestyles among seniors so that there is a measurable improvement in their quality of life. Classes provide older adults with the information they need to age well.

### HomePLUS

Aging services are provided to people living at Schmid Towers and Friendship Apartments to help residents maintain their independence.

### In-Home Care

Many seniors find that as they get older they can't always do the day-to-day things they need to stay safe and healthy on their own. Seniors may need someone to help them with things like bathing, dressing, grooming, and meal preparation. A care manager works closely with the older adult and their family to develop a plan of care to manage daily activities and arrange for providers to meet their needs in order to safely remain in their homes and community.

### Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Ombudsmen are specially trained and certified and have authority under Pennsylvania law to identify, investigate and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, long-term care facility residents. Ombudsmen are advocates for the residents of these facilities. Our priority is to protect the rights of long-term care residents and ensure they receive fair treatment. You can become an Ombudsman volunteer. You will receive training to advocate and empower long-term care residents, improve their quality of life and their quality of care.

### Meals on Wheels

GECAC Meals on Wheels has been guided by a single goal – to support our senior neighbors to extend their independence and health as they age. GECAC offers free meals paid for by the Pennsylvania State Lottery revenue. Every visit comes with a nutritious meal, a safety check, and an assessment of any changes that might impact future medical needs.



### Older Adult Protective Services

Our staff investigates abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

Report Elder Abuse!

Phone lines answer 24 hours a day, every day.

**Daytime Hotline:** (Monday-Friday)

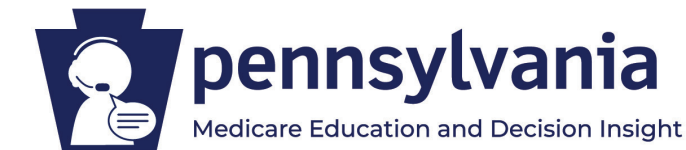
(814) 459-4581 ext. 205

**Evening/Weekend Hotline:**

(814) 451-1520

### PA Medicare Education And Decision Insight

GECAC PA MEDI Counselors assist more than 3,500 seniors concerning Medicare insurance each year free of charge. Counselors help them choose the right coverage plan, provide information, and sort through all of the different benefit options.



### Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Become a Senior Corps volunteer through the RSVP program and use your skills, knowledge, and life experiences to better your community. RSVP is a vibrant, vital, and exciting civic opportunity for people 55+.



### Senior Community Centers

GECAC's senior centers are dedicated to encouraging personal growth, fostering active participation in the community, and helping residents age 60+ achieve and maintain an independent, healthy lifestyle. Our seven senior centers are located throughout Erie County. They offer a wide variety of leisure and educational programs, support groups, special events, and trips. In addition, the centers' staff serve as a resource for GECAC's Area Agency on Aging. LIFT transportation is available at no cost to eligible seniors.

#### Corry Senior Center

25 South First Avenue  
814-664-2477

#### Erie West Senior Center

1210 West 8th Street  
814-451-5634

#### North East Senior Center

50 East Main Street  
814-725-5195

#### Northwestern Senior Center

9 Academy Street, Albion  
814-756-5373

#### R. Benjamin Wiley Central City Senior Center

823 Peach Street, Erie  
814-451-5633

#### Tri-Boro Senior Center

7555 West Ridge Road, Fairview  
814-474-2211

#### Union City Senior Center

27 Johnson Street  
814-438-2146

### Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Senior Farmers' Market Program provides low-income seniors with a voucher that can be exchanged for eligible foods (fruits, vegetables, and fresh-cut herbs) at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.