

# MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTY OF ERIE  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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## Erie County programs win national awards

Erie, PA – Erie County government received seven national awards, including an elite Best in Category honor, for county programs and services in this year's National Association of Counties Achievement Awards.

Erie County received a Best in Category award in the Volunteers category in recognition of the Erie County Department of Veterans Affairs' involvement in community veterans outreach initiatives. Only one program annually receives recognition as Best in Category for each of the NACo Achievement Awards' 18 categories. This is the first year Erie County has received Best in Category honors. It is the only county in Pennsylvania to receive the honor this year.

Six other Erie County programs received Achievement Awards. They are:

- **911 Dispatch Consolidation** – the Erie County Department of Public Safety's transition of 911 dispatch services from East Erie County Communications to the county's 911 Center. (Criminal Justice and Public Safety category)
- **Bike Around the County** – the County Executive's annual public bike ride, designed to inform residents about county services, history and natural assets. (Civic Education and Public Information category)
- **EPIC Outreach** – the Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse's innovative approach to engaging youth, families and communities in prevention efforts. (Human Services category)
- **Ice House** – the Erie County Human Resources Department's internal training program that encourages employees to think entrepreneurially about their work. (Personnel Management, Employment and Training category)
- **Rail Safety Plan** – the Erie County Department of Public Safety's emergency management plan designed to protect waterways from hazardous spills, resulting in mobile response trailers deployed around the county. (Risk and Emergency Management category)
- **Up For the Job** – the County Executive's efforts to bring together community groups to launch an effort to market the Erie region's skilled workforce. (Community and Economic Development category)

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