

# HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Councils of Government were created in PA under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law of 1972. The Erie Area COG was formed in 1993. EACOG has influenced many important regional accomplishments including:

- Passage of the Homestead Tax Exemption
- Passage of the Hotel/Motel Tax
- Creation of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
- Creation of a Joint purchasing program in 1996 that includes as many as 30 participants today, saving millions of dollars.
- Administration of the Erie County Signing Region Trust program since 2007, installing over 200 Guideway Signs
- Development of an Egovernment program to assist municipalities with information technology, broadband expansion, website development, social media creation and general IT advancements
- 2013 recipient of the Local Government Excellence Award from Governor Corbett for Information Technology collaboration for the sharepoint site development and permitting portal initiative.
- Negotiated Franchise Agreements with Time Warner Cable on behalf of 11 municipalities.
- Assisted with stormwater management through facilitating cooperation between MS4 communities
- Facilitated multi-municipal Emergency Management coordination
- Public works committee encouraged multi-municipal equipment sharing

## CURRENT EACOG INITIATIVES

### Egovernment IT Support Program

- Website and social media development
- Build and support document sharing platforms
- Project Management and assistance with website creation
- Tech support for municipalities

### Municipal Training Series

- Launched training series on April 20, 2016 with Zoning Hearing Board member workshop: 57 individuals participated representing 19 municipalities, survey showed that 95% found the workshop to be informative
- Accepting input from municipalities on training needs
- Securing speakers, locations, sponsorships
- Possible Future topics: Planning Commissions, Comprehensive Planning, Right to Know Requests, CoStars Purchasing, Economic Development, and Authorities and Commissions best practices

### Joint Purchasing Committee

- Bid solicitation and administration for Road Materials, General Items and Gas and Diesel Fuel bids
- Resulting in significant savings due to bulk pricing and bid process administration
- All Erie County municipalities are welcome to participate
- Accepting recommendations for new products, services and materials to include in bid solicitation

### Multi-municipal Erie Area Trail Network Project

- Hosted "Trail Summit" on March 23, 2016 in partnership with Emerge 2040, over 40 trail advocates and municipal officials attended
- Currently seeking grant opportunities for creation of a cohesive identity and branding for a "Network of Erie Area Trails"
- Welcoming municipal officials to serve on the steering committee

Funded by:



**E.C.G.R.A.**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY



The Erie  
Community  
Foundation



## ERIE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

### 2016-2018 Strategic Plan Executive Summary

#### ABOUT THE EACOG

- Serves as a Spokesperson for municipalities
- Advocates for Regional Priorities and Policies
- Assembles elected officials
- Coordinates Regional Programs
- Facilitates Effective Communications
- Provides Staff Support for key initiatives

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#### VISION

*All municipalities in Erie County collaborating to achieve excellence.*

#### MISSION

*The Erie Area Council of Governments creates partnerships, builds consensus, advocates for multi-municipal solutions and leads intergovernmental cooperation.*





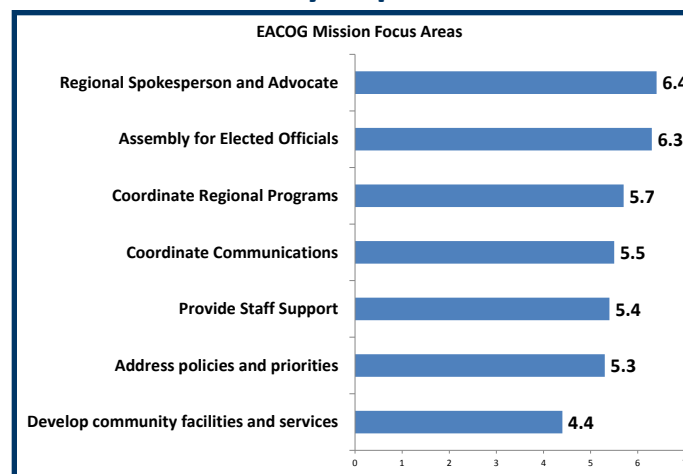
# 2015-2016 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



## STRATEGIC PLANNING METHODOLOGY

- Evaluate past performance
- Review current operations and programs
- Interview members and non-members
- Survey to assess municipal needs
- Conduct best practice research
- Host delegate retreat
- Prioritize goals & objectives
- Develop action plan

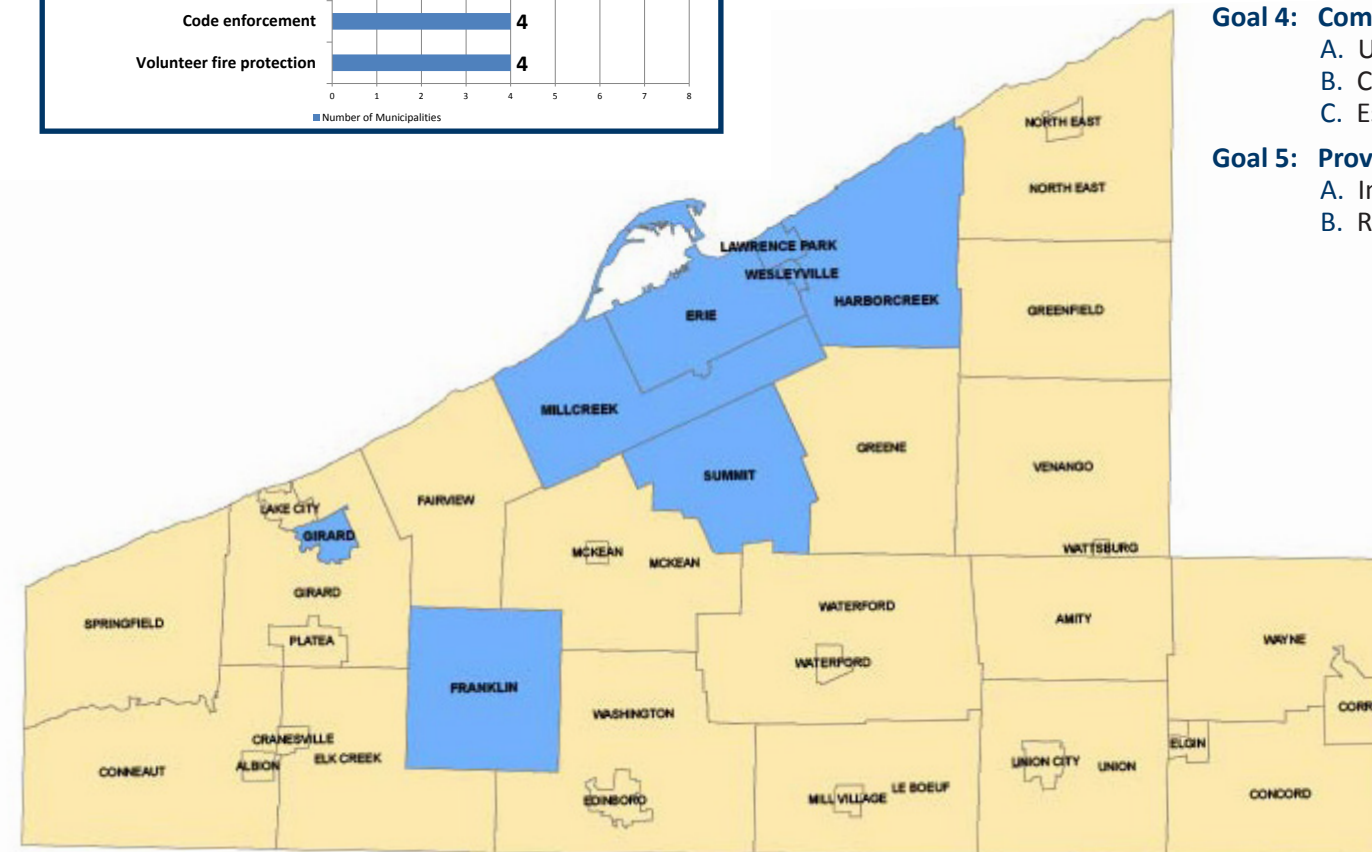
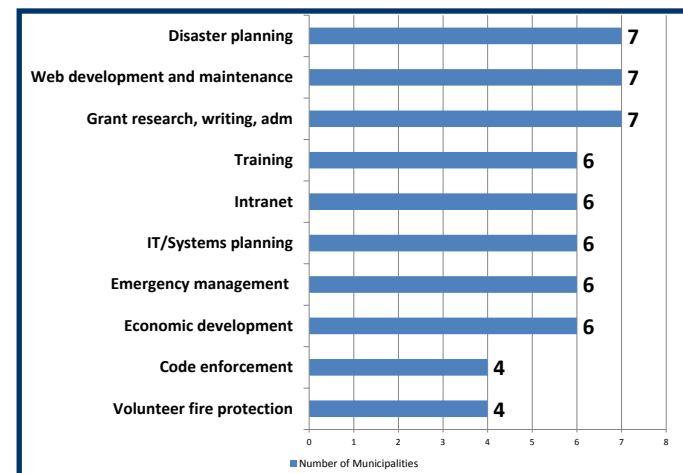
### COG delegates rated Mission Elements as very important



### COG delegates gave mixed reviews on past performance

F 0%  
 D 25%  
 C 38%  
 C+ 13%  
 B 25%  
 B+ 0%  
 A 0%

## Municipal Interest Areas for Shared Services/Collaboration



The EACOG Member Governments represent over 190,000 residents of Erie County.

*"The COG needs to increase engagement, discourage 'what's in it for me' thinking and foster 'what can I bring to the table' thinking. If this happens, ultimately, all municipalities will benefit."*

- Current COG Member

# STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

## 2016-2018 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### Goal 1: Advocate for Regional Issues and Priorities

- Convene an annual "summit" of elected officials at all levels to drive the policy and advocacy agenda
- Develop and implement an annual advocacy agenda
- Embrace regional thinking in municipal planning and decision making

### Goal 2: Expand Membership to all Erie County Municipalities

- Market the value proposition of EACOG
- Provide opportunities for networking and sharing across municipalities
- Organize Governance and Oversight Functions of the COG

### Goal 3: Coordinate Regional Programs, Projects and Initiatives

- Expand purchasing activities to include services and equipment
- Revise purchasing policies to create membership incentives
- Enhance IT and technology support services
- Continue to coordinate the Erie County Signing Region Trust
- Continue to coordinate project committees
- Coordinate training programs that benefit municipalities
- Implement policies, priorities and procedures to address local issues

### Goal 4: Communicate and Coordinate with Key Stakeholders

- Update the EACOG Website
- Coordinate municipal information sharing
- Establish an outcomes/impact measurement and annual report process

### Goal 5: Provide Staff Support to Local Municipalities

- Implement a municipal grant writing service
- Research and develop centralized municipal support services based on needs

## 2016 EACOG PRIORITIES

- Expand the membership of the COG
- Revise joint purchasing practices so that the favorable bid prices are only available to participants and members
- Become a capacity builder not just a service provider
- Provide services to member municipalities when necessary and/or practical
- Create an associate membership for authorities and school districts
- Institute a 3 or more policy for determining creation of new projects and initiatives
- Revise membership dues structure

