

**Western New York Economic Development Fund  
Recommendation Memo**

**Not Recommended: Exhibit "D"**

Applicant Name:	Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc.	REDC Region:	Western New York
Project Type:	Infrastructure/Downtown Investment	County:	Erie
Industry:	Tourism	Locality:	City of Buffalo
Amount Requested:	\$1,000,000	Total Project Cost:	\$13,936,356
<b>REGIONAL IMPACT MEASUREMENTS</b>			
Number of Jobs Retained:	0		
Number of Jobs Created:	4		
Average Salary of Jobs:	\$40,613		
Indirect Jobs Created	0		
Other Impact			
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>			
<p>The Buffalo Zoo is requesting \$1 million to assist in the funding of a new \$14 million polar bear habitat. The current bear exhibit, last updated in the 1930s, does not meet modern standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. As a result, Buffalo's adult polar bears have had to be relocated to other zoos out of state. Unless a new exhibit is built, the loss of the Zoo's most popular species will become permanent, which will be devastating to attendance and financial stability.</p>			
<b>OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT</b>			
<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>		
Erie County & City of Buffalo	\$4,085,000		
ESD/Other State	\$926,000		

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<b>PREVIOUS STATE ASSISTANCE OFFERED OR PROVIDED</b>	
<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
EDF	\$37,500
CEFAP	\$100,000
EOF	\$ 1,250,000
Community Projects Grant	\$6,750,000
<b>BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	
<p>Since 2002, the Zoo has been the recipient of various grants from NYS, Erie County and the City of Buffalo totaling \$13,000,000 for various renovation projects at the Zoo. For this project (arctic polar bear exhibit), the Zoo has secured over \$5,000,000 to date in public funded grants.</p>	