

Cleveland
Neighborhood
Progress



investing for vibrancy

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Cleveland Neighborhood Progress part of 12-city, \$8-million pledge from The Kresge Foundation to boost climate resilience efforts

Community development organization receives three year, \$660,000 grant

CLEVELAND – Cleveland Neighborhood Progress is one of twelve U.S. cities that will share \$8 million in Kresge Foundation support to develop more effective climate resilience frameworks in urban low-income communities. The local community development intermediary will receive \$660,000 over three years to develop climate resiliency programming across the city's neighborhoods.

Joel Ratner, President & CEO of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress states, "We are pleased and honored that Cleveland has been identified by The Kresge Foundation as a leader in addressing climate resilience in Cleveland's neighborhoods. Our organization is eager to join with the City and our community development partners to pursue catalytic work to improve environmental conditions in several of Cleveland's neighborhoods."

The grant is provided through The Kresge Foundation's Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative, which aims to improve the resilience of low-income communities in the face of climate change. "We are committed to strengthening the climate resilience field by supporting effective organizations that can create new models and strategies that benefit low-income communities," said Lois DeBacker, managing director of the foundation's Environment Program.

Neighborhood Progress received a planning grant in 2014 from The Kresge Foundation. That grant initiated this work and outlined implementation strategies in Cleveland. The *Cleveland Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Plan*

identified projects, programs, policies, engagement strategies, and future research to lessen overall demand for energy, anticipate and prepare for climate changes and shocks, and foster social cohesion.

This three-year implementation grant allows Neighborhood Progress to work closely with community development corporations in four target neighborhoods – Glenville, Slavic Village, Central and Detroit Shoreway – to coordinate community engagement and outreach. With these CDCs and numerous other partners, Neighborhood Progress will assemble a dedicated team of neighborhood climate ambassadors, advance neighborhood-scale climate adaptation strategies, build off of Cleveland’s extensive weatherization and energy programs, and foster the best possible usage of vacant land in the city. Best practices learned in Cleveland’s four target neighborhoods will be implemented in other city neighborhoods over time.

The initiative is a collaborative effort with the City of Cleveland Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, the Kent State Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, the University at Buffalo’s School of Architecture and Planning, climate and land use researchers, Famicos Foundation, Slavic Village Development, Burten Bell Carr Development, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Enterprise Community Partners, Western Reserve Land Conservancy/Thriving Communities Institute, Environmental Health Watch, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Cleveland is the only freshwater city participating with The Kresge Foundation on this initiative. The eleven other recipient organizations for climate resilience implementation grants are:

- [Align](#), New York, NY
- [Asian Pacific Environment Network](#), Oakland, CA
- [Centro por la Justicia / Southwest Workers Union](#), San Antonio, TX
- [Environmental Health Coalition](#), National City, CA
- [Fifth Avenue Committee](#), Brooklyn – New York, NY
- [Ironbound Community Corp.](#), Newark, NJ
- [Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy](#), Los Angeles, CA
- [Native American Youth and Family Center](#), Portland, OR
- [Neighborhood of Affordable Housing](#), East Boston, MA
- [Tides Center / Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#), Fresno, CA
- [West Harlem Environmental Action](#), New York, NY

For more than 25 years, [Cleveland Neighborhood Progress](#) has been Cleveland’s leading community development funding intermediary, focused on investing in the revitalization of city neighborhoods. It is a private, nonprofit organization that works closely with the City of Cleveland, civic partners, foundations and corporations. Its mission is to foster communities of choice and opportunity throughout Cleveland. In collaboration with its many public, private and non-profit partners, Neighborhood Progress generates big ideas, advocates for them, funds them and promotes them.

The [Kresge Foundation](#) is a \$3.5 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America’s cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, community development in Detroit.

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