



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact**

Edward Stockhausen  
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress  
(216) 952-2293

**CNP announces plan to invest \$2 million  
in Cleveland's network of neighborhood-based Community Development Corporations**

CLEVELAND – Today Cleveland Neighborhood Progress announced a \$2.013 million investment in Cleveland's community development corporations beginning July 1, 2024. The investments, outlined below, represent a new strategy of investing in the capacity of these neighborhood-based organizations based on the needs and priorities of the places they serve.

In total, 17 neighborhood-based, nonprofit organizations that qualified as community development corporations secured commitments of support in this process. That list includes 11 organizations receiving more support than last year, seven of which are receiving grants for the first time. CDCs collectively submitted 108 grant proposals, worth over \$2.5 million. To meet that need, CNP is committing \$2.013 million in this next round of funding, which is an increase of \$600,000 from the current fiscal year. The federated pool of funding that sources these grants includes support from The Cleveland Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners, Rocket Community Fund, and others.

"We know that the best way to lead neighborhood revitalization in Cleveland is through those closest to the ground – the community development corporations that hold the visions of tomorrow with the realities of today in their work," said Tania Menesse, President & CEO of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. "These grants are a down payment on that commitment, alongside our work to directly advance neighborhood projects and systemic change with partners locally and across Ohio."

Those 17 community development corporations. Ayonna Blue Donald, a member of CNP's Board of Directors and chair of CNP's CDC Advancement & Resilience Committee that reviewed all these requests, said, "This investment is only possible due to the buy-in from CNP's funding partners and committee members who have worked for months to review the grant applications."

"We have been intentional to work with CDC leaders at every step of this process," noted Jason Powers, Senior Vice President of CDC Advancement. "The CDC Advancement Model ensures CDCs have the resources they need to serve Cleveland neighborhoods and center residents' voices and experiences, rather than dictating priorities onto those communities."

All community development corporations that applied for support will receive funding through this process. The allocations per organization include:

▪ Burten, Bell, Carr Development Corp. .....\$165,000	▪ Ohio City Inc.....\$77,000
▪ Campus District .....\$40,000	▪ Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp. .....\$152,096
▪ Famicos Foundation.....\$125,000	▪ Slavic Village Development.....\$120,000
▪ Harvard Community Services Center .....\$130,000	▪ St. Clair Superior Development Corp. .....\$165,000
▪ Jefferson-Puritas West Park CDC.....\$165,000	▪ Tremont West Development Corp.....\$97,000
▪ Little Italy Redevelopment.....\$105,000	▪ Union Miles Development Corp.....\$125,000
▪ Metro West Community Development .....\$131,328	▪ University Circle, Inc.....\$90,000
▪ MidTown Cleveland Inc.....\$90,000	▪ West Park Kamm’s Neighborhood Dev. .....\$120,000
▪ Northwest Neighborhoods CDC.....\$126,250	

To finalize these allocations, the CNP team worked with CDC leaders and other stakeholders to develop a new tool that defines and measures the discrete list of activities and work encompassed in the “community development” industry. From community engagement to home repair, and from small business support to neighborhood planning, this new methodology brings clarity to the work of CDCs and provides a measure of understanding for CDCs’ ability to accomplish that work. Over 100 different activities were grouped into six broad categories and 18 subcategories. Those categories, and the aggregate amount of funds awarded to CDCs for that work, include:

▪ Real Estate Development .....	\$472,630
▪ Community Engagement .....	\$403,366
▪ Neighborhood Planning .....	\$281,220
▪ Non-Profit Operations .....	\$277,738
▪ Marketing.....	\$193,720
▪ Partnering.....	\$130,000

These grants will be paid out during Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). In early 2025, CNP will again work with CDCs to complete organizational assessments for a second year of funding.