

2025 Community Innovation Grant Awardees

Project Name	PI	Unit	Amount	Description
Health Law Clinic	Laura McNally	Law	\$5,000	This project aims to develop and provide training to law students and attorneys offering pro bono services through legal clinics for Cleveland residents. Clinics are conducted by CWRU Law School in collaboration with community agencies to provide free estate planning services to residents. This training will be developed and conducted by a Master of Social Work-level contractor with expertise in trauma-informed services, interpersonal communication, and implications of sociohistoric factors affecting estate planning within marginalized communities. Training will increase law students' and lawyers' knowledge of historical context, cultural humility, and skills for engaging diverse communities to enhance the impact of legal clinics.
Telling Their Stories: Women Farmers at the Forefront of the Agroecological Movement in NE Ohio	Jessica Kelley	Sociology	\$5,000	Community gardens in urban spaces are often dismissed as hobbies. However, this belies a deeper agroecological transition underway in Cleveland—rooted in feminist empowerment and food justice. Using photovoice methods, we will interview smallholder women farmers in Northeast Ohio about their farming practices, networks, and the barriers they face within conventional food systems. Interviews will be conducted on-site during the growing season, with participants taking photos to document their experiences and values. This project centers women's voices, uplifts alternative food systems, and produces visual narratives that speak to empowerment, sustainability, and community-driven agricultural futures.
NIMC Power Building in Buckeye	Mark Joseph	MSASS	\$2,500	We seek to amplify power-building that aims for racial healing and collective liberation in the Greater Buckeye Neighborhood, starting with a demonstration project adjacent to Woodhill Station West, a new mixed-income building. This project will target neighbors on the streets from Wamelink to Kennedy and will strategically connect to community empowerment activities throughout the neighborhood led by collaborators such as Burten, Bell, Carr; Neighborhood Connections; and Buckeye Ministry in Missions Alliance. We will continue to work closely with the Community Life team at The Community Builders who support residents at the new building and promote engagement in the wider community.