



Enlightened Solutions, A Social Advocacy Think Tank Focused On Reversing Cleveland's Ranking As The Worst City In America For Black Women

Co-Founders Chinenye Nkemere and Bethany Studenic Create Three-Prong Urgency Campaign to Galvanize Regional Government, Corporations and Nonprofits to Increase Public Accountability Metrics and Standards for Greater Inclusion for Black Women in Our Region.

Enlightened Solutions is thrilled to announce that they are the recipients of a \$50,000 grant from [The Cleveland Foundation](#) from [Black Futures Fund](#)!

In 2022, Cleveland's ranking as both the [poorest big city in America](#) and the [worst place in America for Black Women](#) has remained stagnant.

[Project Noir](#), the phenomenological research project about the lived experiences of Black Women in Northeast Ohio, has been covered by [local media](#) and is positively affirmed by participants. Through this grant, Enlightened Solutions is able to center Black Women, the most marginalized group in Northeast Ohio.

Below are several direct quotes from participants:

- “So everything Enlightened Solutions has done to foster better environments for Black Women--I mean, I'm indebted to y'all ... I simply am so grateful and fortunate to know you both, and I'm so thankful from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity you've given me.”
- “This was the first time I was actually asked about my experiences in a meaningful way. I sent it to my mother. She sent it to her mother (my grandmother). We all agree that we've never had an opportunity to reflect like this.”
- “Seeing my experience backed up and validated by so many other Black Women gave me a sense of freedom I cannot ever explain to you.”



Enlightened Solutions seeks support to amplify urgency around the next steps of Project Noir to create a sustainable healthcare, education, workplace more broadly economic system that includes and invests in the ideas and expertise of Black Women. Implementation of this urgency campaign, advocacy footprint and Board development is expected to begin immediately.

Many thanks to The Cleveland Foundation for financially investing, and thus strengthening, local Black-led and Black-serving organizations and initiatives.

About Enlightened Solutions

Enlightened Solutions is a research and advocacy non-profit think tank that specializes in individual equity and organizational change. As solutions-focused connectors, we set out to build and support a community eager to build radically inclusive 21st Century professional spheres.

About Project Noir

Enlightened Solutions believes that since Cleveland is the epicenter of racial and gender inequality in America, this region is the best place to create solutions. The organization created and dispersed Project Noir, a survey focused on understanding the experiences of Black Women in Cleveland.

Continued systemic marginalization will have catastrophic sustainability, socio-economic and environmental consequences for Northeast Ohio. Inclusion of Black Women within all industries is the key to our interconnected futures.

- To join our urgency campaign, read and share the final report at [**projectnoircle.com**](http://projectnoircle.com).
- To listen to the anonymous voices of Project Noir interviewees in podcast form, visit: [**projectnoircle.com/podcast**](http://projectnoircle.com/podcast). Available on [**Spotify**](#), [**Google Podcast**](#) and [**Apple Podcasts**](#).

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