# Oberlin Community Improvement Corporation

**Mission**: As defined by Ohio law, The Oberlin Community Improvement Corporation (OCIC) is a nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is “*advancing, encouraging, and promoting industrial, economic, commercial and civic development within the City of Oberlin.*”

Unlike private nonprofit Community Development Corporations, OCIC is a public nonprofit whose members are appointed by, and accountable to, the City of Oberlin.

**Ends and Means**

By statute, one end goal of any work OCIC takes on must be *to promote economic and housing development* in the City of Oberlin.

The means OCIC can use to achieve this end include institutional tools for economic development and land reutilization, such as:

* Reclaiming, rehabilitating, and reutilizing vacant, abandoned, or tax-foreclosed property
* Owning, and managing, such properties while facilitating their reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization
* Acquiring, selling, leasing, and managing underutilized real estate to build industrial plants, other businesses, or housing.
* Helping buyers – whether they are governments, nonprofits, or private businesses- to achieve clear the title to the property
* Borrowing money to achieve these projects. OCIC can finance its work through loans, lines of credit, notes, municipal bonds, mortgages, and liens on OCIC owned its property.
* Financing projects that would otherwise not be able to get financing from commercial lenders.
* Serving as the agent for grant applications for government and foundation grants
* To employ an executive director to manage land reutilization. This person is not a City of Oberlin employee.

By its charter, OCIC’s mission includes *civic development*. The end goal of this kind of development is to generate civic capital.

The means OCIC can use to develop civic capital include:

* Sponsoring and supporting resident engagement projects
* Ensuring that community leadership represents all segments of Oberlin’s population, and fostering leadership development.
* Creating structures that facilitate business, government, and nonprofit collaboration
* Prioritizing diversity and equity of opportunity in OCIC’s specific goals and outcomes
* Guiding our decisions based on a clearly articulated community vision and set of values
* Creating two-way communication between residents and businesses and nonprofits
* Making involvement in every aspect of civic affairs a part of Oberlin’s community culture.