

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
October 2021

Executive Summary:

This month, Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) responded to ramifications of community trauma, residual effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and individualized needs of Beecher Terrace families by executing results-based strategies and connecting residents to community resources and programs aimed to move families towards thriving and equitable results. This report will reflect advancements in supportive services across all pillars including housing stability, economic mobility, education and health and wellness.

Providing supportive services to all Beecher families including those living on newly developed site and families living throughout Louisville provides unique opportunities for innovation, capacity building and partnerships. During the month of October, USI hosted the first hybrid resident meeting targeting all residents by having both an in person and virtual option for attendance. Understanding that belonging to a community is critical to overall wellbeing; the focus of the resident meeting was “Connections and Community”. Guest speakers included community stakeholders from Russell Place of Promise (J. Floyd) and Commonwealth Credit Union (M. Channel) but most importantly Beecher residents were encouraged to lead and facilitate portions of the meeting, as well. Residents were informed of multiple ways that they can increase their connections to each other and throughout the Russell community. There were approximately 30 attendees (20 residents) present for October’s meeting.

Recognizing two key elements of community building (Purpose and Connection), Urban Strategies worked to implement strategies to assist the Beecher Terrace Resident Council and other resident leaders while also working to engage and connect with the entire community. USI facilitated 3 meetings with the Resident Council. The Council members held a monthly meeting with McCormack Baron Property Management and worked together to make suggestions and edits to the governing by-laws. The Council will vote on final edits next month and move forward with voting for leadership offices.

USI collaborated with community partners and held several events (onsite) in the month of October in order to provide opportunities for residents to benefit from supporting organizations while establishing real life connections with each other: Beecher Talks Youth Session (8 Community Partners and 23 attendees), Trunk or Treat Event (6 Partners including Maryhurst, MOLO, Girls Scouts of Ky. Play Cousins and 65 attendees), JenCare Senior Luncheon (12 attendees).

As previously mentioned, USI continues to collaborate with aligned partners to support residents in the various areas that build capacity for Beecher Terrace residents and families. During this month, USI finalized an MOU agreement with OVEC and is awaiting a fee schedule to finalize a supportive service agreement with the YMCA. Both will provide secured slots and support for the early childhood pipeline. Working to engage more youth in early childhood will support both pillars of Education and Economic Mobility. USI also began initiating partnerships with Genesis Arts of Ky and Obsidian Sportsman and Defense Club.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	404(90%) and 778 participants
<p>Updates on Outreach and Engagement: (Key meetings ad conducted to engage residents, increase residents in family support services or to support residents who are actively participating with USI:</p> <p>USI continues efforts to enroll and engage all eligible Beecher Terrace families. USI maintains a 90% enrollment rate of eligible households, exceeding the 80% goal. 2 Beecher Households were moved to inactive. USI Family Support Specialists (FSS) continues to support our relocated and returning families, in addition to providing support for new Beecher Terrace residents moving onto the newly developed site. USI’s staff maintains daily office hours in both the Family and Senior sides of Beecher Terrace to ensure accessibility and availability with all Beecher Residents.</p> <p>USI continues to collaborate with LMHA property managers, McCormack Baron Management group, and other landlords to assist residents with all concerns impacting housing stability. This includes continuing to meet with residents and property management staff to process late rent situations and lease violations by developing a plan of action to rectify violation. LMHA property managers and MBM both submit monthly reports that highlight residents requiring support due to late rent or other lease violations. USI staff then immediately follows up with resident and/or property management.</p> <p>USI continues to use social media to engage and promote opportunities to Beecher residents and supporting partners.</p>	

Economic Mobility:	
# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (224 total)	2021 Target: 182 or 80% 136- 60% of Beecher Terrace Work-Able Residents are employed
# and % of 18-24 year old youth in secondary education and/or job training (28 eligible)	2021 Target: 20 or 70% 9 – 35% of individuals between 18-24 are employed.
<p>2021 EMPLOYMENT TARGETS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase working work-able to (182 or 80%) ➤ Increase the number of 18–24-year-old youth in post-secondary education and/or job training (19 or 70%) <p>Currently, 60% of those work able residents are employed. There were 3 jobs obtained this month. This month’s job placements include Unemployment Office, Tarc 3 and KFC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% of those employed are working full time (decrease of 1% from last month) • 77% have been working for longer than a year, with only 12% obtaining employment within the last 6 months. <p>USI strives to achieve the goal of employing 80% of Beecher Terrace workable households by executing various strategies to match residents with career interests and skill sets. Strategies include:</p>	

Working to Remove Barriers that impact Employment:

- **(Childcare)** Lack of childcare and transportation have been identified as the top 2 barriers to employment. USI has partnered with Chestnut YMCA to provide 25 early childhood slots for families with 3 and 4 yr. old youth. USI will also target families that have identified lack of childcare as a barrier to employment to benefit from this opportunity.
(Increasing Access to Employment) USI continues to seek employment opportunities that provide flexible scheduling, bus line accessibility and path towards living wages. This month USI staff worked to connect residents to an opportunity with Urban League and UPS. UPS conducted on the spot interviews and documentation completion. This event also provided barrier removal support for those needing second chance employment or others needing supplemental documentation such as social security cards and driver’s license. Working with Ahead Staffing allows USI staff to expedite the hiring process and addresses the transportation barrier that often prohibits unemployment. Ahead Staffing has several positions that align with expressed interests of residents such as warehouse, construction and medical. Ahead Staffing also has background and drug test friendly job placements that sometimes deter residents from employment. To increase access to employment, USI staff can assist residents with completing necessary documentation and remit on behalf of the resident. There were 2 referrals to Ahead Staffing this month.
(Increase Career Training) In order to assist residents to return to the workforce, increase wages or transition careers, extensive job training may be necessary. USI works to connect residents with career development opportunities that are resident driven and requested. The top 3 career interests expressed are warehouse/manufacturing, medical and food and culinary. There were 2 residents enrolled in the Common Table Culinary Program this month.
(Disabled and Chronically Ill) 16% of the unemployed work able population has self-reported as chronically ill or in chronic pain, currently seeking disability and ultimately does not wish to obtain employment. USI Family Support Specialists continue to support residents throughout the disability application process which often includes, assisting with paperwork and obtaining supporting documents, ensuring medical appointments are kept, and connecting to legal services when necessary.
- **Increase Access to Section 3 Opportunities:** USI staff have identified residents that have career interests in construction and other Section 3 opportunities. Likewise, USI continues to work closely with Messer and McCormack Baron to ensure that resident’s benefit from section 3 employment opportunities. Both Messer and MBM share current openings and future needs, USI then shares via our One Call system and various methods used by our Family Support Specialists.

Education:

Updates on Education: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving educational outcomes for children this month)

USI is implementing the following strategies to advance educational outcomes and increase parent engagement:

Increase Ages and Stages Questionnaire Efficiency/Completion: USI continues to work with Metro United Way and Play Cousins to identify barriers and opportunities to increase Beecher Terrace family’s participation and survey completion of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires.

PlayCousins is now offering in person, onsite hours at Beecher Terrace to assist with developmental screenings. The PlayCousin’s family advocate utilizes this time to meet and recruit new families while working to re-engage inactive families. PlayCousins will host and facilitate ongoing Pop-up Play Dates and Parent Cafes for Beecher and Russell families. Play Cousin’s offered supportive services for 3 events this month with Beecher families.

Increase Early Childhood Enrollment: 42% of 0-4 Beecher Youth(26/63) enrolled in early learning programs. Breakdown as follows:

- Early Headstart: 22%
- Headstart: 5%
- PreK in Public School: 6%
- Licensed Childcare Center: 20%
- Licensed Childcare Home: 1.5%
- Unlicensed (family, church) 3%

USI continues to work closely with OVEC to assist youth with registration to Headstart/Early Headstart. USI staff are working to follow up with all referred families to further assist with missing documentation and facilitate connection with OVEC staff. The primary barrier tends to be obtaining all supportive documents such as birth certificates or complications that arise with obtaining childcare subsidies. The MOU agreement with OVEC was finalized this month.

Quality OST and Social and Emotional Supports: USI staff and partners have worked to recruit and enroll youth in the following OST programs:

Girl Scouts of Ky	Onsite (unlimited slots) { 17 referred } (6 active attendees)
Sowing Seeds with Faith	Onsite and Virtual (25 slots) { 15 referred } (10 slots filled)
Bellarmino University	Virtual (45-50 slots) { 6 referred }
I Would Rather Be Reading	Site Based/TBD (45 slots) { 2 Referred } (5 slots filled)
LCCC	Site Based/Russell (25 slots) { 12 referred } (3 slots filled)

USI Family Support Specialists and Education Specialist are working to increase enrollment and attendance to youth programming opportunities. USI has begun to recruit youth for a youth focus group to help guide strategies and services for Beecher and Russell youth. There were 5 youth that initially committed to participating in the focus group. The youth focus group will meet next month.

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(741) – 99% of Residents have Health Insurance
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Updates on Health and Wellness: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving health and wellness outcomes for residents this month)

60% of Beecher Terrace residents report having a chronic health condition. Such illnesses range from high blood pressure, asthma, and depression. USI utilizes a holistic approach to execute strategies aimed to provide support that looks at the whole person; the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. This month’s strategies include:

Strengthening Partnerships: Supporting Seniors USI continues to strengthen relationships with partners and resources targeted for Seniors. This month the following partners supported Beecher Seniors:

MOLO Village	Computer Classes (Approximately 6 Residents attend weekly) Bingo (8 Residents participate weekly) Dare to Care Food Box deliveries
JenCare	Senior Luncheon (9 Residents)

Resident Driven, Resident Led Activities. Beecher Resident Leaders have chosen to work with USI to lead onsite Health strategies:

Fit Club-Family Fitness Program—The fit club will focus on being Healthy at Home and is led by ECDL participant B. Turner. The Fit Club will meet monthly and share physical and nutritional options in addition to discovering multiple ways to optimize well-being at home. Resident Leader B. Turner addressed residents during resident meeting to share information regarding the FitClub. The FitClub also managed a table during the Trunk or Treat Youth event.

Increasing Mental Health Support and Connection In response to the increase in community violence and fragile mental health connected to the pandemic and other issues, USI is working closer with Maryhurst and other mental health partners. USI partnered with Maryhurst Renewal to facilitate a Community Group Session focused on youth. Youth and families were able to meet with a licensed therapist but also hear from several youth resources. USI and Maryhurst will conduct quarterly sessions aimed to address mental and social issues impacting the Beecher families and community. Subsequently, USI staff are working to connect individual families directly to mental health supports and ensuring that residents are actively participating.

Conducting Monthly Targeted Health Chats. Each month a topic is chosen, in addition to selected residents and families. Through collaborative efforts with Passport, YMCA, Family Health Centers and JenCare, USI staff can provide information regarding health benefits, resources, and tools, when needed. Due to the overwhelming increase in COVID cases and its consequential effects such as disproportionately higher rates of disease, death and collective negative social impacts for Black communities, this month’s Health Chats focused on Breast Cancer Awareness and COVID Interventions. 19 Residents received intensive Health Chats this month.

Additionally, to mitigate disproportionate outcomes of the COVID pandemic, USI staff also continued conducting outreach and assisting residents with registering for the Covid vaccination. The results are as follows:

6 Residents	Do Not want Vaccine or Info
0 Resident	Remain Undecided
0 Residents	Refused to Discuss
13 Residents	Already Received Vacc