

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
December 2020

Executive Summary:

The year of 2020 brought instability, new challenges, and change and loss for many Beecher residents and families. Through unprecedented perils of the pandemic to ongoing everyday expressions of systemic racism, USI remains focused and steadfast in efforts to support and assist all residents of Beecher Terrace move closer to stable and thriving. Due to the increased levels of stress, potential health consequences and significant economic impact of the pandemic of the events of 2020, USI Louisville has worked continually to increase the number of families who are not only enrolled in case management, but who are actively participating. We employed a variety of strategies throughout the year to engage families consistently and to re-engage families who had not participated actively in the past. These strategies have included safe and socially distanced home visits, weekly check-ins, postcards, and care packages. As a result of these efforts, USI increased participation in case management by 25 Households and 76 individuals. There are currently 413 Households (72% eligible) and 813 people enrolled in case management. Our target remains 80% of all eligible households. We will continue to strive to meet this target through a variety of strategies in 2021.

In December, USI and LMHA continued to partner on behalf of residents around reoccupancy. This includes continuing to hold ongoing collaborative reoccupancy meetings to ensure that we have a seamless process that prioritizes eligible Beecher Terrace families living in housing of their choice, including returning to the newly revitalized community if they so choose. USI continues to assist residents with the completion and navigation of appropriate documents, as well as, answering resident's question and/or addressing their concerns. USI case managers have spent a significant amount of time supporting residents at all levels, including ensuring that they have had a virtual tour of the intended property and unit prior to acceptance.

In November, USI began the Equitable Community Development Leadership (ECDL) series. This program was created to support residents in understanding the physical development process and guide residents into community leadership roles to drive an equitable community development agenda. The program will span a total of six (6) months and will empower participants in exerting leadership that has a positive impact on themselves, their families and the community. Currently, there are 9 Beecher Terrace residents participating in the program. Participants chose to forgo the December meeting due to holiday and other scheduling issues. In January, the program will resume, and additional participants may be added as interest dictates.

In October, USI released a Request for Proposals related to improving outcomes in the Education pillar with all three key indicators identified in the Louisville People Plan; kindergarten readiness, core academic proficiency and high school graduation and college/career readiness. Requests for Proposals of the 10 responding organizations were scored by a team of LMHA and USI staff in December. Partner interviews will be conducted in January with organizations whose proposals are being considered for funding. This process is expected to be finalized by January 18, 2020.

USI has pending MOUs with Maryhurst and Bellarmine.

Case Management - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 579
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	413 (72%) and 813 participants
<p>Updates on Outreach and Engagement: (Key meetings ad conducted to engage residents, increase residents in case management or to support residents who are active in case management with USI:</p> <p>Knowing that the holiday season can be a very trying time for many, USI conducted check ins to assess needs and prevalent concerns and also executed an outreach campaign targeting 25 inactive families. Case managers will continue the implementation of targeted strategies to reengage families who have been inactive in the past.</p> <p>USI collaborates with LMHA property managers to remain proactive and solution focused regarding issues that impact lease compliance, such as non-payment of rent, potential violations, and other housing concerns. USI has been deliberate in establishing relationships with landlords (outside of LMHA) to replicate similar strategies utilized with LMHA.</p> <p>USI obtained donations and provided 10 Beecher Families with full Christmas dinners. (A leveraged amount of \$1250)</p> <p>USI continues to use Social Media to engage and promote opportunities to Beecher residents and supporting partners.</p>	

Economic Mobility:

<p>Due to the significant stress of the holiday season compounded with ongoing pandemic concerns, USI continued intensive follow up on financial wellbeing, in addition to physical and mental health. USI staff ensured that basic needs are being met and referred residents to community resources for utility assistance and to address food insecurities. Case managers are also working to assist residents with establishing payment plans to maintain utilities and avoid eviction. USI continues to partner with Catholic Charities to expedite rental and utility support. Two more families received support during December.</p> <p>Currently, 59% of those work able are employed. USI will continue to match residents with career interests and skill sets but will now employ strategies to targeted populations such as those without a GED, or residents that have been unemployed for than 3+ years. USI has referred 10 residents to the Power of Work Program. Six out of ten (60%) of those residents referred did make initial calls to begin Goodwill's Power of Work program,</p> <p>USI continues to work closely with Messer and McCormack Baron to ensure that resident's benefit from Section 3 employment opportunities. Both Messer and MCB share current openings and future needs, USI then shares via our One Call system and various methods used by case managers.</p>
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Education:

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

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

Virtual Parent Hub Sessions – USI Education Specialist and Project Manager facilitated the second virtual parent hub session. This month’s parent hub focused on managing the stressors of NTI in the home and building peer to peer support. This session has 8 total attendees. Residents were able to voice their thoughts and concerns regarding NTI, particularly those who are juggling employment and supervising NTI completion. Residents were able to identify commonalities and provide tips to help each other. This peer support is critical in normalizing and supporting each other through what is an incredibly stressful experience for many Beecher Terrace families.

Barrier Removal/Accessing Technology USI continues to assist families with obtaining laptops and any other technical needs such as assisting with internet and navigation of said technology. USI also continue to use funds to pay past due internet bills that may prohibit youth from participating in NTI. USI paid the past due bills for one (1) family during the month of December.

Early Childhood Enrollment: We have currently enrolled 45% of eligible youth for ECE/Headstart with JCPS. Enrollment has decreased due to parents expressing concerns regarding executing online Early Childhood Programs in the home, reporting that their younger children struggle with maintaining focus. USI staff continued to identify barriers such as proper documentation and work conflicts in order to meet the 70% goal for enrollment. USI case managers and Education Specialist have worked to provide alternative opportunities to support both the youth and families as needed and available.

Increasing Partnerships: The RFP proposals were reviewed and scored. The scoring team has debriefed scores and proceed to next steps. Those steps include organization interviews before finalizing proposals that will be funded.

USI also met with Evolve 502 and will be entering a MOU partnership along with Bellarmine University. USI, Bellarmine and Evolve 502 continued discussions around completion of the MOU in progress. Bellarmine has signed the MOU and USI legal is currently reviewing.

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(791) – 97 % 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)

In 2020, USI-LOU has increased intentionality regarding the holistic approach with health and wellness. More in-depth assessments have led to improved strategies to support individuals physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

In December, USI continued 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 provides information regarding health benefits, resources and tools, when needed. Often times, the holiday season can bring joy and excitement, for others the holiday season can trigger issues of trauma and loss. For this reason, December's Health Chats focused on "Staying Healthy for the Holidays" which offers tips and suggestions to support physical, mental, and emotional health during the holidays. There were 25 Health Chats conducted in December.

In Progress: USI met with the Louisville Story Program to create alignment and partnership regarding the development of a Heritage Cookbook. USI will work to engage families regarding collecting and gathering recipes and family stories that are connected. The Louisville Story Program has agreed to partner and enter into an MOU that will include a Russell Neighborhood focus and take a long-term approach.