

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

Executive Summary:

“Though the obstacles are great, especially for the residents of Beecher Terrace, it is the USI mission and obligation to our communities to continue with our important equity work to ensure that families are stable and thriving.” This quote by USI President, Esther Shin, was included in the USI impact report released in April, 2021. This report utilizes both qualitative and quantitative data to report progress on key indicators in Economic mobility, Education, and Health and Wellness from grant application through the end of 2020. It further identifies partner contributions and shares stories of impact on some Beecher Terrace residents through the redevelopment. All trend data included in the Impact Report is for families enrolled in services with USI. Currently, 92% of all eligible households are enrolled in our Family Support services. The below outcomes related to Economic Mobility are highlighted in the Impact Report:

- The baseline for employment for Beecher Terrace was 23%. The established target was 46%. At the end of 2020, 59.7% of able-bodied residents had been moved to employment, exceeding the target in the People Plan to be achieved by year 5.
- Wage income of those employed increased from \$15,608 to \$21,086 (People Plan Target: \$23,568) and likewise median income has increased from \$7,540 to \$11,292 (People Plan Target: \$11,310). We are on track to achieve both established income targets by grant end.

In addition to the above Economic Mobility achievements, 36% of those enrolled in family support services have experienced a reduction in their family risk score.

USI continues to work comprehensively with our relocated and returning families, while adding support for new Beecher Terrace residents moving onto the newly developed site. USI staff continues to support the reoccupancy process and currently maintains daily office hours in both the Senior and Family McCormack Baron Management (MBM) offices. During this month of April, the USI team spent several days alongside MBM staff, greeting and supporting residents throughout the leasing process. There are currently 414 households and 802 individuals (92% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services (formerly called case management) with USI. USI-Louisville continues to exceed the previous set goal of 80% and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families both enrolled and actively participating.

USI facilitated several significant meetings throughout the month of April: three Education Equity task group meetings, Youth and Family Townhall, and Monthly Resident meeting.

Kindergarten Readiness Equity Task Group – Included 17 participants representing 10 different organizations.

Academic Proficiency Equity Task Group- Included 10 participants representing 6 different organizations.

Graduation/College or Career Ready Equity Task Group – Included 10 participants representing 5 different organizations.

Each participant made action commitments to continue to support Beecher and Russell families and CNI implementation.

Family and Youth Townhall – April’s Townhall session included presenters and resources for families from birth to graduation. Presenting organizations include: Metro United Way, Play Cousins, OVEC, I Would Rather Be Reading, and Summerworks program.

Monthly Resident Meeting – This month’s meeting provided opportunity to share progress captured in the Impact Report, introduce ECDL Leaders, provide Housing Updates (LMHA) and Q & A.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	414 (92%) and 802 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: During the month of April, USI has moved several families to inactive status due to an ongoing lack of participation or response to our attempts to engage. However, USI maintains a 92 percent engagement rate due to engaging three additional households that are new to the Beecher redeveloped site. USI Beecher Staff and Outreach Specialist will continue executing strategies to recruit and enroll eligible Beecher families in Family Support Services.</p> <p>USI continues to work 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 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 (228 total)	2021 Target: 182 or 80% 139- 61% of Beecher Terrace Work-Able Residents are employed
# and % of 18-24 year old youth in secondary education and/or job training (25 eligible)	2021 Target: 20 or 70% 7 – 28% of individuals between 19-24 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 (17 or 70%) <p>Currently, 61% of those work able are employed. However, 12 of the considered workable households are currently seeking disability and do not wish to obtain employment. USI staff are</p>	

working diligently to assist residents applying for disability and providing the most accurate up to date information. Next month, USI staff will follow up on legal supports to better assist residents with the application and appeal process.

- 67% of those employed are working full time
- 88% have been working for longer than a year, with only 2% obtaining employment within the last 6 months.

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:

- **Providing Intense Support for Unemployed Population:** Family Support Staff will return to supporting those unemployed intensively by establishing clear goals and tasks and making bi-weekly check ins to support residents and remove any barriers that may prevent employment.
- **Increase Job Training Completion For Unemployed Residents:** Several unemployed residents have stated that they did not want to return to work due to still receiving unemployment, especially those that had a significant delay in initiating unemployment payments. However, USI staff are working to engage those who are receiving unemployment in career training opportunities which may yield better long-term employment options.
- **Increase Access to Section 3 Opportunities:** Continuing 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.
- **Increase Access to Available Jobs:** USI's Project Manager and Education Specialist met with several early learning partners that expressed a dire need to hire staff for the early learning program. USI obtained the criteria and benefits several of the available early learning positions. USI agreed to share information with Beecher and Russell residents and also collaborate with partners to facilitate events to target both staff and youth for enrollment. On May 15th USI will host an "All Things Child Care" Event to assist with application and enrollment in childcare and also promote hiring of residents interested in the childcare/teaching career field.

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:

Identify Tutoring Needs and Matches- Both 25 Bellarmine University tutors are working with 19 Beecher Terrace youth. All youth are participating at least 80% of the time. Tutors meet with USI staff and Bellarmine professors biweekly to debrief their experiences. Debriefing sessions allow

USI to further identify needs of the family such as lack of school supplies. This tutoring program ends in May.

Increase Early Childhood Enrollment: There were 15 youth that were referred and applied for early learning opportunities. There were 6 that applied to OVEC and 9 others to other early learning providers. We have currently enrolled 58% of eligible youth for ECE/Headstart with JCPS. USI staff continued to identify barriers such as proper documentation and work conflicts in order to meet the 70% goal for enrollment. USI Senior Project Manager and Education Specialist met with OVEC and 4C's to establish pipeline for Beecher youth. USI staff have begun to assist residents with CCAP subsidies needed for early learning placement. In Progress: Previously discussed childcare hiring and sign up event.

Increasing Partnerships Matched with Need: Within the month of April, USI finalized Supportive Service contracts with CTL/I Would Rather Be Reading, LCCC and Sowing Seeds with Faith. USI is currently in process of formalizing agreements with additional partners including: OVEC, Bellarmine University and Evolve 502, and Girls Scouts of Kentucky. USI is also working with YMCA to repurpose and increase slots available for early childhood. USI continues to seek partnerships that better support and prepare youth for college and/or career readiness.

Collaborative for Teaching and Learning/I Would Rather Be Reading: CTL and IWRBR launched its afterschool program this month. There are currently 15 youth enrolled and attending this program. This initiative offers academic enrichment and trauma informed supports to improve the safety, mastery and connection of youth and families.

USI had several ongoing meetings with JCPS, that included meeting with the Diversity and Equity Team, Russell Neighborhood JCPS FRYSCs, and career planning JCPS staff. Each meeting allows for continued alignment and development of proactive strategies to support families and connect youth with needed resources and opportunities.

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)

USI 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. Such strategies include:

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. April's focus included chat discussions regarding "Increasing Stress Awareness". Only

approximately 15% of residents reported experiencing moderate to high stress often. This topic was chosen to assist with increasing awareness but also to provide solutions and preventative measures to reduce or eliminate stress. 31 residents participated in the Health Chats focused on stress awareness. To mitigate disproportionate outcomes of the COVID pandemic, USI staff also continued conducting outreach and assisting residents with registering for the vaccination. There were an additional 27 residents contacted regarding the vaccine. Of those residents contacted, 15 refused to discuss the vaccine, however, USI completed 3 referrals, 5 reported already obtaining the vaccination, 2 were unsure and 2 were not interested.