

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

Executive Summary:

During the month of May, Urban Strategies continued delivering quality family support services and comprehensively addressing needs, aspirations, and barriers of all Beecher Terrace families. USI-Louisville remains intensively focused on collaborating with Choice partners and community resources to move families towards thriving results. This month's report will highlight progress made in efforts to engage residents, increase employment and income of workable residents, strengthen academic readiness and proficiency of youth, and lastly improve the physical, mental, and overall well-being of each participant.

There are currently 401 Households (89% of eligible) and 763 participants enrolled in family support services (formerly called case management services), exceeding the previous goal of 80%. USI-Louisville continues to service relocated residents while also providing onsite support for new Beecher Terrace families. This month, the USI-Louisville team received SmartSheets training to better support Beecher families maneuvering through the reoccupancy process. Utilizing the SmartSheets Program, USI staff will receive timely alerts and notifications informing staff of resident's needs or placement in the leasing pipeline. USI Family Support Specialist continue to spend a large bulk of time assisting residents with acquiring appropriate documents and necessary paperwork required in the reoccupancy transition.

USI's Family Support Specialists (FSS) continues to establish development plans and service linkages to meet the needs identified and driven by residents and families. Despite Urban Strategies executing targeted strategies in the cornerstone pillars of Economic Mobility, Education, and Health and Wellness, approximately 40% of service linkages within the last six months have been in the pillar of Housing Stability; connecting residents to basic and emergency services primarily used to provide additional supports for rent, utilities, and food. As a result of the continuous needs to support residents with basic and emergency needs, USI Project Manager met with the Director and Vice President of Community Ministries to seek additional supports and resources for families. Consequently, during this month, USI established a partnership with the Louisville's Neighbor Network. This new collaborative includes the Association of Community Ministries, Louisville Urban League, Urban Strategies, Community Health Workers, and other local case managers. This initiative initially has three objectives: 1) Provide funding for immediate needs beyond rent and utility support. USI staff will be able to access funds to assist residents with issues such as household needs and repairs, clothing, medication, supplies for children, transportation, etc. 2)Address systemic barriers that seem to negatively impact resident's access to funding support such as transportation, processing time, or challenging eligibility requirements. 3)Make significant steps towards equitable change such as developing and implementing compassionate local policies and financial support for pilot programming.

USI Louisville actively strives to engage all Beecher families in dual generational activities and by facilitating monthly resident meetings. This month's meeting focused on "Launching Summer Opportunities and Housing Updates. The featured guest included N. Woods from the Western Library Branch and D. Fleming of Sowing Seeds with Faith. In addition to the guest, USI staff provided information for additional summer programs such as Summer Works, JCPS and others.

Lastly, LMHA and McCormack Baron provided housing updates and responded to questions and concerns for residents and staff. There were 28 attendees at May's Resident Meeting.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	401(89%) and 763 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>During the month of May, USI has moved 15 families to inactive status due to conducting several methods of outreach to no avail. Additionally, 4 residents opted out of family support services. Seven residents were re-engaged (previously inactive) into services. Moreover, 4 new residents were enrolled in family support services. USI continues to exceed the targeted goal of 80% enrollment of eligible residents and will continue executing strategies to recruit and enroll eligible Beecher families in Family Support Services.</p> <p>During the month May, USI received approximately 200 tickets to the Kosair's Circus (\$2000 leverage). Approximately 80 residents, ranging from youth to Seniors and 6 USI staff attended the Circus.</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 (214 total)	2021 Target: 171 or 80% 140- 65% 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% 12 – 43% 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>During the month of May, the workable employment rate increased 4%. Currently, 65% of those work able residents are employed. This is an increase of 4% during the month of May. There were</p>	

7 residents that obtained jobs during the month. The job placements include Papa Johns, Day Cleaning Co., Colt Call Center, Temp agencies, and other food service jobs.

- 66% of those employed are working full time
- 82% have been working for longer than a year, with only 8% 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 Legal and Supportive resources for residents applying for disability:** USI Family Support Specialist have identified approximately 12 residents that are considered workable but currently seeking disability and do not wish to obtain employment. Most of the identified residents have significant medical diagnoses or experience chronic pain that impact their daily living. USI staff have made referrals to legal supports but also following up with residents to ensure that medical appointments are kept, and documentation is properly submitted for approval of disability.
- **Increase Job Training Completion for Unemployed Residents:** In order to increase both employment rate of workable residents and increase income towards a living wage, USI Louisville is working to connect residents to various career training opportunities that lead to gainful long-term employment.
 - Power of Work Program: There are 7 residents that continue to work with job coaches with POW program. These residents are receiving support with obtaining GED, resume building and soft skills support.
 - LCCC's SkillUp! ChangeUp! BadgeUp! Initiative: There were 2 residents referred to the rapid upskilling program designed to advance technology skills in the area of data analytics.
 - Transcend: During the month of May, USI has established a National partnership with Randstad. This Transcend initiative is a skilling program with an aim to prepare diverse talent in diverse and untapped communities for temp and temp-to-permanent job opportunities with livable wage incomes.
- **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.
- **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 collaborate with partners to facilitate events to target both staff and youth for enrollment. On May 15th USI cohosted an Early Childhood Education Enrollment and Job Fair. USI collaborated with approximately 10 organizations to promote and recruit Beecher and Russell residents to attend the event. This event yielded an increase of approximately 8 Russell youth enrolled in early learning programs.

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- 25 Bellarmine University tutors concluded working with 19 Beecher Terrace youth and their families. All youth participated at least 80% of the time. Tutors met with USI staff and Bellarmine professors biweekly to debrief their experiences. Debriefing sessions allowed USI to further identify needs of the family such as lack of school supplies. This program was successfully completed at the end of May. USI and Bellarmine will have a debriefing discussion during the month of June. During the debriefing, USI and Bellarmine will determine the scope the program in the fall, when school resumes.

Increase Early Childhood Enrollment: Last month, there were 15 youth that were referred and applied for early learning opportunities. During the month of May, USI Family Support Specialists followed up on all referrals. 11 of the 15 youth continue to require additional supports or documentation before being enrolled into the early learning programs. USI staff are working to address documentation challenges and additional barriers. 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.

Connecting Youth to Summer Opportunities: Currently, USI staff have referred 131 youth to various youth opportunities. Such opportunities include BLOCCS program, JCPS Backpack League, I Would Rather Be Reading, Sowing Seeds with Faith and LCCC. USI will continue working closely with referred families to ensure their attendance to their referred opportunity. Due to the overwhelming impact of COVID 19 on youth and families, several summer programs offer both transportation to and from programming and breakfast and lunch for the youth. USI staff will also visit summer programming routinely through the summer to offer additional support for any concerns that may arise for the youth and families.

Increasing and Strengthening Partnerships: USI continues to strengthen the partnership with JCPS. USI and JCPS continue to have monthly meetings to continue to problem solve and proactively address ongoing concerns with youth and families. USI and JCPS are currently working to provide access to the Cascade Data System. This system will allow USI staff to obtain real time data regarding Beecher Terrace youth's academic performance. The Cascade system will provide insight regarding grades but also attendance and other behavioral concerns. 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.

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(741) – 99% of Residents have Health Insurance
--	--

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:

Beecher Walks: Beecher Walks returned May 12th. This walking program is a health and wellness strategy aimed to encourage Seniors and residents with chronic health conditions to increase walking and physical activity. USI staff and participating residents walk every Wednesday morning, starting at the Beecher Terrace Senior Building. This month USI partnered with MOLO Village and Commonwealth Bank. USI staff walked to the Commonwealth Bank and discussed the importance of financial literacy. There were 3 Beecher Walks sessions during the month of May with a total of 17 residents 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. In honor of Mother’s Day in May, this month’s focus included chat discussions regarding “Women’s Health”. 20 residents participated in the Health Chats focused on importance and concerns specific to Women’s Health. Additionally, in order 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 23 residents contacted regarding the COVID vaccination, 12 of the residents refused to discuss or stated they were not interested in obtaining the vaccine, however, USI completed 3 referrals (2 adults and 1 youth per parent request), and 7 residents reported already obtaining the vaccination.