

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

Executive Summary:

In the month of June, the general community, and Beecher Terrace families alike, are continuing to transition from panic-stricken, uncertain and grief ridden pandemic times to adjusting how we live, work, and educate our youth. Urban Strategies continues to prioritize addressing the needs and challenges that our residents chronically face and diligently connect residents to partners and other community resources designated to move families towards thriving results. This report will reflect this month's marked progress in efforts to engage Beecher Terrace families in family support services and advancements across all pillars including housing stability, economic mobility, education and health and wellness.

There are currently 399 Households (89% of eligible) and 772 participants enrolled in family support services (formerly called case management services), exceeding the previous goal of 80%. USI-Louisville Family Support Specialist (FSS) continues to support residents throughout the Reoccupancy process; assisting residents with acquiring appropriate documents and necessary paperwork required in the transition. Urban Strategies staff maintains daily office hours in both the Family and Senior sides of Beecher Terrace to ensure accessibility and availability with all Beecher Residents. During this month, a survey was conducted to check in and assess needs and concerns of our newly and current Beecher Terrace families. Highlights of the survey include: 81% of surveyed residents stated that they feel welcomed in the new Beecher home, 87% shared that staff are friendly and accommodating, 63% expressed concerned for their safety in the building and 66% are interested in participating in the resident council. Urban Strategies will continue to work with property management to address the concerns of the residents.

During the month of June, many of our Beecher youth began attending summer programming opportunities and employment placements with Summerworks. Approximately 131 youth were referred to summer programming and employment. USI Louisville staff promptly began following up with families and youth to ensure that youth were attending and addressing any barriers that may impact their attendance. 60% of youth are attending opportunities that include Metro United Way's BLOCCs, LCCC, Sowing Seeds with Faith and I Would Rather Be Reading. Three of our youth were featured in the IWRBR newsletter. Our families attending their program not only receive 1:1 and small group support to gain back months of literacy support, but also received a backpack, school supplies and new shoes.

USI-Louisville continues to have monthly resident meetings to ensure that residents are informed and cognizant of opportunities and resources that will better support their families and lead to success and thriving results. This month's meeting focused on "Home Ownership Opportunities". The featured guests included Family Self-Sufficiency Staff with LMHA and MBM personnel, as well. Residents were also updated on current plans and designs of Baxter Community Center and the Porter Paints location.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	399(89%) and 772 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 June, USI continued efforts to re-engage Beecher families. Despite a slight decline of two households, there was increase of 9 individual participants. Four families were moved to inactive status due to conducting various methods of outreach to no avail. Additionally, there were 6 families that opted out of family support services. Furthermore, seven families were re-engaged (previously inactive) into services. And one family was newly 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>In addition to the survey previously mentioned in the executive summary, an additional survey was conducted to determine if Beecher Residents would like to participate in the Kroger Mobile Market program. The residents overwhelmingly agreed that the Mobile Market is needed and wanted. All residents using the Mobile Market will receive an additional 10% off their purchase. The Mobile Market is scheduled to arrive on July 9th at 10:45am -11:30am.</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. LMHA property managers submit monthly reports and USI staff immediately follows up with both resident and property managers to address any identified concern.</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 (215 total)	2021 Target: 171 or 80% 138- 64% 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>Currently, 64% of those work able residents are employed. There were 2 residents that obtained jobs during the month. The job placements included Red Cross and working with a Temp agency.</p>	

- 66% of those employed are working full time
- 80% have been working for longer than a year, with only 9% 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:

- **Working to Remove Barriers that impact Employment:**
 - (Substance Abuse)** Via caseload management, USI staff conducts monthly (ongoing) assessments of the workable but unemployed population. Several of the unemployed residents struggle with substance abuse and other co-morbid issues. Senior Project Manager met with the Program Manager of Flip the Script. Flip the Script is a non-profit that is new to the Russell Neighborhood that offers intensive outpatient and outpatient services that includes 12-step Meetings and Sponsorship, Peer Specialists, Case Management, and Employment Opportunities. Flip the Script staff has agreed to support USI staff as they address the substance abuse concerns with residents and families. MOU is in progress.
 - (Disabled and Chronically Ill)** 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. In addition to supporting residents with obtaining the appropriate documentation and paperwork. USI staff have made referrals to legal supports but also following up with residents to ensure that medical appointments are kept. Staff also ensure that residents comply with the appeal process which often leads to obtaining an approved outcome.
- **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.
 - (Transcend with Randstad)** Transcend is a “best-in-class” skilling program designed to address widening divides in both skills and opportunities. This initiative is aimed to prepare diverse talent in diverse and untapped communities for temp and temp-to-permanent job opportunities with livable wage incomes. USI-Louisville referred one resident to the next cohort starting in July.
- **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.

Urban Strategies also continues to make strides to move families to more thriving results in terms of Economic Mobility beyond obtaining employment. This month’s resident meeting focused on Home Ownership. USI staff will continue to make referrals to the FSS program (1 in the month of June). Moreover, Senior Project Manager met with the Commonwealth Credit Union. The Commonwealth Credit Union has a community focus that offers second chance opportunities and

benefits for the under/unbanked population such as checking/savings accounts, credit review/repair and other home owning options. MOU is in progress.

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:

Increase Ages and Stages Questionnaire Efficiency/Completion: Urban Strategies 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. Senior Project Manager and Education Specialist met with Play Cousins staff to explore and develop strategies to increase outreach and connection with families. The Play Cousins family advocate will begin to work with USI staff at Beecher once a week. The family advocate will also conduct pop up events for youth and families at Beecher, at least once a month.

Increase Early Childhood Enrollment: USI continues to work closely with OVEC to assist youth with registration to Headstart/Early Headstart. OVEC reports several referred families have not completed their registration and are not responding or returning phone calls. Both, USI and OVEC have agreed to enter into a MOU agreement to assist with sharing information to increase likelihood of Beecher families being approved to attend the OVEC Russell Center. Subsequently, USI staff are working to follow up with all referred families to further assist with missing documentation and facilitate connection with OVEC staff. We have currently enrolled 43% of eligible youth for ECE/Headstart. USI staff continued to identify barriers such as proper documentation and work conflicts to meet the 70% goal for enrollment. To address the barriers of work conflicts, USI is also working to identify early childcare centers that also offer second shift slots for families that work extended hours.

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.

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)	
<p>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:</p>	
<p>Beecher Walks: 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. During the month of June, it rained 3 of the 4 weeks of Beecher Walks. Four residents walked in the rain.</p>	
<p>Strengthening Partnerships: Supporting Seniors USI continues to strengthen the partnership with MOLO Village. MOLO and USI have partnered to offer programs and activities for Seniors aimed to assist with isolation and inaccessibility. Residents were able to play bingo and receive HIV information and testing. 11 Beecher Residents attended the bingo activity and 5 received HIV testing.</p>	
<p>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. This month's Health Chats focused on increasing trauma awareness. Several of our families experience numerous traumas throughout the years are also most likely to not seek treatment or support. 22 residents participated in the Health Chats and 9 individuals were referred to counseling for additional trauma reducing support. 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, 8 of the residents refused to discuss or stated they were not interested in obtaining the vaccine, and 5 stated that they are still unsure. 10 Residents stated that they already had or would like to be registered for the Vaccine.</p>	