

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
January 2022

Executive Summary:

Recognizing that “one’s health is their greatest wealth” and considering the exacerbated toll of the of the Covid 19 newest omicron variant, Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) utilized the month of January to focus on Health and Wellness by executing Results Based strategies aimed to close equity gaps and move families closer to thriving outcomes. In addition to aligning resources to address the acute needs of Beecher Terrace families, January also included evaluating trend data to establish targets and strategies for 2022, and training and professional development of staff to ensure the highest quality of service to the residents.

According to the Lancet medical journal, 1 in 10 premature deaths are attributed to sedentary lifestyles that lead to heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. This information about premature death and disease led to USI applying for the Creative Aging Grant through the Kentucky Arts Council. In January we were notified that we were selected for the award. Funding from this grant will pay for the Art&Soul program. Art&Soul will be a 12-week program that challenges senior citizens in Beecher Terrace and Russell neighborhood to grow and express themselves through creative movement combined with arthritis exercises and visual art. Meeting for three-hour sessions twice a week, senior participants will celebrate their individuality, resilience and strength through an alternating schedule of dance and visual art instruction, culminating with a body of artistic work. In collaboration with Russell based women-led non-profit Genesis Arts Kentucky, Inc., our senior participants will receive hands-on arts programming from experienced instructors Portia White and Gwendolyn Murphy who have a combined arts education experience of over 40 years -- specifically focused on West Louisville. Art & Soul will provide seniors with an opportunity to both share existing artistic talents or foster new ones -- but most importantly to express themselves in an empowering setting.

Due to the rampant increase of positive Covid cases, positive cases reaching over 2,000 cases/day, USI returned to facilitating a virtual resident meeting. This month’s meeting included Health and Wellness partners, YMCA, resident leaders, and a Housing Panel that included LMHA, McCormack Baron Management and McCormack Baron Salazar. USI staff kicked off the meeting engaging residents in a vision board activity that allowed all residents to share their thoughts and voices regarding their vision for the Beecher Terrace community. Residents were informed and updated about opportunities across all pillars, including onsite and offsite housing opportunities. There were 36 attendees, 19 residents that participated in the resident meeting.

There are 410 households and 780 individuals (91% of eligible households) enrolled in case management services. USI has exceeded previous goal of 80% and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families enrolled and actively participating in supportive services. Moreover, USI continues to partner with both LMHA, MBM, and other property management services to fully support residents throughout the relocation and reoccupancy process. This support includes providing accurate and up to date information, aiding with navigation of housing and utility support programs, and assisting with lease cancelations and other barriers that may prohibit reoccupancy.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	410 (91%) and 780 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 91% enrollment rate of eligible households. As previously mentioned, due to the spike of covid cases, USI staff significantly reduced direct contact with residents to help protect safety of residents and staff. As a result, USI significantly increased phone check ins to assess needs and make appropriate supportive service linkages. Staff prioritized reaching out to seniors, residents with chronic illness, and families impacted by swift changes with closings of childcares and NTI support. USI staff connected 6 BT residents to rental assistance programs and 13 residents to utility assistance programs. USI utilizes various strategies to engage and inform residents. Such strategies include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)Utilizing ONE call system that sends mass phone calls, texts and emails 2)Use of social media to engage and promote opportunities and successes of Beecher residents and supporting Choice Partners. <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. USI staff continue 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 to support a resolution.</p>	

Economic Mobility:	
# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (227 total)	2021 Target: 181 or 80% 140- 62% of Beecher Terrace Work-Able Residents are employed
# and % of 18-24 year old youth in secondary education and/or job training (32 eligible)	2021 Target: 20 or 70% 11– 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 (22 or 70%) <p>Currently, 62% of those work able residents are employed. There were 4 jobs obtained this month. This month’s job placements include nursing facility, retail stores and food industry. Additionally, there were 2 jobs that ended in the month of January, as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67% of those employed are working full time (decrease of 1% from last month) 	

- 72% have been working for longer than a year, with only 14% 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:**
- **(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 targeted families that have identified lack of childcare as a barrier to employment to benefit from this opportunity. USI also works closely with OVEC, MiniVersity and other Earl Childhood providers. There are currently 7 youth referred to OVEC (increased by 1 referral this month). Families are continuing to gather needed documents for approval and enrollment. There are currently 3 youth currently referred to YMCA early childhood program
- **Increase 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 opportunities with **Urban League**, Senior Jobs Program and the Workforce Wednesday Initiative. ECDL resident leader, K. Dozier has partnered with USI to assist any Beecher residents that would like to participate in training or the Senior Jobs Program. USI staff will target residents weekly to participate in the virtual workforce opportunity that gives residents direct access to hiring employers from various sectors of the community. This event also provides barrier removal support for those needing second chance employment or others needing supplemental documentation such as social security cards and driver's license. **Ahead Staffing.** This partnership 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
- **(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. One resident reported finally obtaining his approval for disability.
- **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.

- **Homeownership Pipeline** Urban Strategies remains committed to moving families to more thriving results in terms of Economic Mobility beyond obtaining employment. Recent, strategic planning yielded an established a goal to connecting 25 Beecher Terrace families to the Homeownership Pipeline by the end of 2022. The Homeownership pipeline includes partnerships and resources that assist families at any point of the homeownership process. This ranges from budgeting, financial literacy and repair to connecting residents with lending officers and realtors that are all invested and aligned in advancing equity around wealth building and home ownership. This month there were three families connected to the pipeline via homeownerships programs with FSS and Louisville Urban League and financial management with Goodwill Industries.
 - **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** The FSS program helps families to increase their earnings and build financial capability and assets (1).
 - **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.
 - **Homeownership programs and supports.** Several Choice Partners and community resources have programs to support various stages of the homeownership process. Such resources include LCCC, Louisville Urban League, Goodwill Industries, Diamond Key Realtors, and others(2).

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 Early Childhood Enrollment: USI continues to partner with Catholic Charities, OVEC, 4C's and YMCA to move youth through the early learning pipeline that helps expectant mothers before birth to assistance with Kindergarten registration. 50% (increase of 1% from last month) of 0-4 Beecher Youth(32/66) enrolled in early learning programs. Breakdown as follows:

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| ▪ Early Headstart: | 17% |
| ▪ Headstart: | 8% |
| ▪ PreK in Public School: | 14% |
| ▪ Licensed Childcare Center: | 20% |
| ▪ Licensed Childcare Home: | 1.5% |
| ▪ Unlicensed (family, church) | 3% |

USI continues to work closely with OVEC and other partners to assist youth with registration to Headstart/Early Headstart and Licensed Childcare. USI staff are working to follow up with all referred families to further assist with missing documentation and facilitate connection with early

childhood partners. The primary barrier tends to be obtaining all supportive documents such as birth certificates or complications that arise with obtaining childcare subsidies.

Quality OST and Social and Emotional Supports: USI staff and partners have worked to recruit and enroll youth in the following OST programs: Several programs were unable to meet due to safety concerns regarding covid. USI staff did support youth and families that needed to transition participation in virtual opportunities. USI Education Specialist also worked to increase capacity for virtual opportunities for partners and residents.

- Girl Scouts of Ky: Onsite (unlimited slots) {7 active youth}
- Sowing Seeds with Faith: Onsite and Virtual (25 slots) (8 youth enrolled)
- Bellarmine University: Virtual (45-50 slots) {4 enrolled/3 waitlisted}
- I Would Rather Be Reading: Site Based/TBD (45 slots) {8 youth enrolled}
- LCCC: Site Based/Russell (25 slots) 8 youth were referred this 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. Working to obtain and sustain an overall healthy lifestyle ranges from the people you spend time with to the air around you that you breathe. Therefore, 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/KSU: Nutrition Classes (15 Senior Residents attended)
Dare to Care Food Box deliveries
- Hope Buss: Food and Basic Care Package Deliveries

Other Programs were planned and canceled due to Covid

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 Prioritizing Mental Health and COVID Interventions. 21 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:

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