

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

Executive Summary:

Booker T. Washington stated that “success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed”. Honoring Black History month, Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) continued utilizing the Results Count framework to move families beyond their obstacles towards more positive results. USI works to illuminate disparate outcomes resulting from systemic racism, while closing equity gaps by increasing employment and livable wage income, improving educational outcomes, and addressing holistic needs of youth and families. 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 and services.

Working to disrupt patterns and other factors that negatively impact economic mobility for the families of Beecher Terrace, this month’s resident meeting focused on Economic Mobility including areas of employment, college readiness and homeownership. Guest Presenters were our Choice Partners from Louisville Urban League, Louisville Central Community Center and LMHA-Family Self-Sufficiency Program and Homeownership Programs. There were 31 attendees, 12 residents that participated in the virtual resident meeting. Additionally, in respect to Black History Month, the resident meeting was kicked off by our Beecher Terrace ECDL leader, J. Hoskins. Ms. Hoskins delivered a presentation of the History of the Russell and Beecher Terrace.

- There are 405 households and 769 individuals (90% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services. USI has exceeded previous goal of 80% engagement and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families enrolled and actively participating in supportive services. One engagement strategy utilized this month was contacting families to offer free tickets to attend the Shriner’s Circus. These tickets were obtained as a leverage from Kosair’s Hospital. There were 83 total tickets distributed to Beecher Terrace residents.

Currently, 63% of those work able residents are employed. There were two jobs reported this month. This month’s job placements included a warehouse and hairstylist positions.

- 67% of those employed are working full time
- 72% have been working for longer than a year, with only 12% obtaining employment within the last 6 months.

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.

78% of February’s service linkages to community resources are for basic needs such as rental and utility support, household needs and food, and mental health services. Approximately 33 families were connected to over 14 different partners and resources for their services and support. Furthermore, regarding service linkages, USI added four additional families to the homeownership pipeline. Two families were referred to FSS and two families were referred to Louisville Urban League Homeownership Program. Strategic planning yielded a goal of connecting 25 families to

the pipeline process by the end of 2022. Within the last two months, 7(30%) of 25 targeted families total have been connected to the homeownership pipeline.

Lastly, due to the decline in Covid cases, additional monthly highlights include the start of the Art and Soul 12-week program for seniors. Art and Soul is funded through the Creative Aging Grant awarded from the Kentucky Arts Council. Led by experienced instructors, owners of Genesis Arts Kentucky, this program allows seniors to work on both arthritic movement and artistic expression. There are currently 8 seniors currently participating in the weekly in-person sessions.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	405 (90%) and 769 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 90% enrollment rate of eligible households. Due to the earlier spike of the omicron variant of COVID, direct care opportunities with residents were significantly reduced. As the reported cases began to decline, strategies and activities were executed but on a smaller scale to observe all CDC guidelines related to decrease the likelihood of COVID spread. As a result, USI continued phone check ins to assess needs and make appropriate supportive service linkages. USI staff continued prioritizing reaching out to seniors, residents with chronic illness, and families impacted by changes with closings of schools and childcare. Despite enrolling one new Beecher Terrace family and efforts to re-engage residents, there was a decline of 5 households this month. Unfortunately, two residents opted out of supportive services and 3 residents passed away, additionally two households were closed due to inactivity and lack of response to multiple attempts to reach the families. USI conducts various outreach strategies to engage and inform residents. Such strategies include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)Providing a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents. 2)Conducting door knocking to share flyers and but also to sharing information regarding available family support services. 3)Utilizing ONE call system that sends mass phone calls, texts and emails 4)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 any violations. 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. USI staff assisted several residents with becoming aware of outstanding balances and establishing payment plans when necessary. The reports that USI received had approximately 39 residents with an outstanding balance. USI staff conducted outreach to 95% of families reported with rental balances. Approximately 31% of residents with a delinquent balance are in process of obtaining rental support.</p>	

Economic Mobility:

# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (225 total)	2021 Target: 181 or 80% 141- 63% 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.

2021 EMPLOYMENT TARGETS:

- 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%)

Currently, 63% of those work able residents are employed. There were two jobs reported this month. This month's job placements included a warehouse and hairstylist positions.

- 67% of those employed are working full time
- 72% have been working for longer than a year, with only 12% 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 closes with OVEC, MiniVersity and other Early Childhood providers. There were 11 referrals for early learning programs, yet one enrollment to OVEC in February
- **(Increase Career Training)** In order to assist residents to return to the workforce, increase wages or transition careers, extensive job training may be necessary. USI works to connect residents with career development opportunities that are resident driven and requested. The top 3 career interests expressed are warehouse/manufacturing, medical and food and culinary. There were 4residents enrolled in work training programs. One resident enrolled in the Common Table program with Catholic Charities and 3 residents were referred to GoodWill.
- **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. LUL attended this month's staff meeting to offer up to date information regarding the program. **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. One resident applied for a position with Ahead staffing. **(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 four families connected to the pipeline via homeownerships programs with FSS (2 families) and Louisville Urban League(2 families).
 - **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** The FSS program helps families to increase their earnings and build financial capability and assets (Two residents were referred to the FSS program this month).
 - **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.

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:

Ages and Stages Developmental Screenings: We have continued to conduct ongoing monthly meetings with Play Cousins and Metro United Way to discuss our ongoing partnerships, progress in registering youth in their services, and developing strategies in increase enrollment an overall participation in activities and services. 53% of targeted population has been screened for developmental delays.

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% of 0-4 Beecher Youth(32/66) enrolled in early learning programs. Breakdown as follows:

- 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. Also due to limited funding for the subsidy program, many families are deemed ineligible. There were 11 referrals to early learning programs with only 1 enrollment. This enrollment required significant advocacy by the education specialist due to resident initially being told she was ineligible due to being over the income limit.

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) {15 active youth/7 new members this month}
- Sowing Seeds with Faith: Onsite (25 slots) (4 youth enrolled)
- Bellarmine University: Virtual (45-50 slots) {4 enrolled/3 waitlisted}
- I Would Rather Be Reading: Site Based/TBD (45 slots) {18 youth enrolled}
- LCCC: Site Based/Russell : Temporarily suspended

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(741) – 98% of Residents have Health Insurance												
<p>Updates on Health and Wellness: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving health and wellness outcomes for residents this month)</p> <p>58% of Beecher Terrace residents report having a chronic health condition. Illnesses include high blood pressure, asthma, and depression. Understanding that housing is a social determinant of health has long been established. Factors such as housing stability, quality, safety, and affordability all affect health outcomes. Therefore, in addition to efforts to stabilize housing, USI utilizes a holistic approach to execute strategies aimed to provide support that looks at the health and wellness of the whole person; the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. This month’s strategies include:</p> <p>Strengthening Partnerships: Supporting Seniors USI continues to strengthen relationships with partners and resources targeted for Seniors. This month the following partners supported Beecher Seniors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOLO Village/KSU: Dare to Care Food Box deliveries • Hope Buss: Food and Basic Care Package Deliveries • Genesis Arts: Art and Soul Program (3 hr. sessions twice a week) <p>Other Programs were planned and canceled due to Covid</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 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 “Seven Strategies to Live a Heart Healthy Lifestyle” and COVID interventions and supports. This month, health chats also included assessing if families are participating in trauma reducing programs and activities. 22 Residents received intensive Health Chats this month.</p> <p>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:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>12 Residents</td> <td>Do Not want Vaccine or Info</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 Resident</td> <td>Remain Undecided</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 Residents</td> <td>Refused to Discuss</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Residents</td> <td>Already Received Vaccine</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>4 Residents</td> <td>Participate in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 Residents</td> <td>Not Participating in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities</td> </tr> </table> <p>As a result of assessing for participation of trauma reducing programs, 12 individuals were referred to mental health and trauma reducing programs, 5 residents were enrolled.</p>		12 Residents	Do Not want Vaccine or Info	0 Resident	Remain Undecided	0 Residents	Refused to Discuss	10 Residents	Already Received Vaccine	4 Residents	Participate in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities	18 Residents	Not Participating in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities
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