

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

Executive Summary:

During the month of March, as the first quarter of 2022 ends, Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) remains dedicated to strengthening engagement with residents and reinforcing relationships with Choice partners and community stakeholders. USI continues advancing results by aligning the critical needs of residents with corresponding strategies, partnerships, and resources. Both nationally and locally, USI addresses inequities brought about by structural racism, by working across pillars including Economic Mobility, Education, Health and Wellness and the newly expanded Policy and Influence pillar. This report will reflect highlights in family supportive service efforts and advancements across all pillars and linkages.

Coming full circle, in 1940, Louisville's first Black Girl Scout Troop was formed in the Beecher Terrace Housing Complex, 82 years later, Beecher Terraces is home to the largest troop in the west end. This month the Beecher Terrace troop and its community leaders visited the state capitol. In addition to "celebrating 110 years of helping young women across our commonwealth and our country develop leadership skills and confidence in themselves", the Beecher Terrace troop was able to meet with the governor, state legislators and participate in a variety of other activities.

Additional monthly highlights include the return to in person Choice Service Provider Equity Meetings. This month, USI facilitated three different Service Provider Equity Meetings, focusing on the Economic Mobility, Education and Health and Wellness. USI spotlighted partnerships with Commonwealth Credit Union and Genesis Arts. Moreover, JCPS liaison J. Lowe shared updates and insights regarding substantial changes made within the school district that are likely to impact Beecher Terrace youth and families. Approximately 12 different organizations participated in equity meetings such as Metro United Way, Catholic Charities, Maryhurst Renewal, Family Scholar House and others. Most importantly, ECDL resident leaders were invited to attend equity meetings. Resident leader, A. O'Bannon, not only participated but actively connected with partners as resident barriers and potential solutions were being addressed in the Health and Wellness pillar meeting.

There are 405 households and 770 individuals (90% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services. USI continues to exceed the 80% engagement goal and will continue to execute strategies to maintain a 90% enrolled participation rate. USI continues to intensively support the reoccupancy process, working closely with relocated residents and property management staff, to remove barriers and assist with all relative needs associating with transitioning from their current living arrangements to Beecher Terrace or any offsite properties. Specifically, USI staff often assist with lease cancelation documentation, identify, and obtain support to pay off past housing and utility bills and collaborate with resident to address any barrier that may impact lease compliance or reoccupancy.

Currently, 63% of those work able residents are employed. There were 15 jobs obtained in this year's first quarter and 3 jobs reported this month. This month's job placements included positions with Dept. of Corrections, Walmart and Clifton Oaks Nursing Home. There were also two additional referrals to the Home Ownership Pipeline. One referral to Commonwealth Credit Union for credit repair and one referral to the LMHA Family Self Sufficiency Program.

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 770 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. As previously mentioned, USI maintains a 90% enrollment rate of eligible households. This month USI enrolled one new Beecher Terrace family and continued efforts to re-engage inactive residents. One resident was moved to inactive due to lack of response to multiple attempts to reach the family. Each month 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. This month all covid response and emergency rental supports have been exhausted. After March 28th, there were no more assistance applications processed. USI staff followed up with residents and submitted three additional requests by the end of the month deadline.</p>	

Economic Mobility:	
# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (227 total)	2022 Target: 181 or 80% 144- 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)	2022 Target: 20 or 70% 12– 38% of individuals between 18-24 are employed.
<p>2022 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, 63% of those work able residents are employed. During this first quarter of the year, there were 15 jobs obtained. This month there were three jobs reported this month. This month’s job placements included positions with the Dept. of Corrections, Walmart and Clifton Oaks Nursing Home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68% of those employed are working full time 	

- 71% have been working for longer than a year, with only 13% 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 Early Childhood providers. There were 4 additional referrals to the YMCA early childhood program for early learning programs this month. There have been 15 families referred to OVEC and YMCA. Currently there are two families enrolled with OVEC. Several families have not enrolled due to having outstanding documentation. USI staff worked to follow up on previous referrals and assist with needed documentation to increase enrollment.
- **(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. USI staff met with Common Table Staff this month. USI team toured the facilities and discussed strategies to further increase enrollment and completion of the culinary training program. USI and Common Table staff were able to discuss barriers and potential strategies to increase capacity such as potentially altering hours of operation or possibly offering weekend opportunities.
- **(Increase Access to Employment)** USI continues to seek employment opportunities that provide flexible scheduling, bus line accessibility and path towards living wages. USI partners with the Urban League Senior Jobs Program and the Workforce Wednesday Initiative. USI staff 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 workable 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.

- **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 two more families connected to the pipeline via homeownerships programs with FSS (1 family) and Commonwealth Credit Union Credit Repair (1 family). To date there have been 9 families connected to the Home Ownership pipeline.
- **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** the FSS program helps families to increase their earnings and build financial capability and assets
- **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 implementing 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. 62% 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. 47% of 0-4 Beecher Youth (31/66) enrolled in early learning programs. Breakdown as follows:

- Early Headstart: 17%

- Headstart: 9%
- PreK in Public School: 15%
- 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 are currently 15 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. FSS staff are following up with all referrals to further assist with obtaining documentation and other needed documents. USI is also working with partners to conduct “maintaining important documents” trainings to assist families that often struggle with having needed documentation to be properly linked to community resources and supports.

Quality OST and Social and Emotional Supports:

- Girl Scouts of Ky: Onsite (unlimited slots) {15 active youth/3 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)

Beecher Walks. This month Beecher residents and USI staff reignited the Beecher Walks walking club. This walking program is a health and wellness strategy aimed to encourage Beecher Terrace residents, targeting seniors and residents with chronic health conditions to increase walking, physical activity and socialization. USI staff and participating residents walk every Wednesday morning, starting at the Beecher Terrace Senior Building. This month four Beecher Residents participated in Beecher Walks.

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 “Healthy Benefits of Walking” and COVID interventions and supports. This month, health chats also included assessing if families are participating in trauma reducing programs and activities. 18 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:

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

0 Residents	Participate in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities
14 Residents	Not Participating in Trauma Reducing Programs/Activities