

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

Summary:

This month, Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) continued providing comprehensive family support services through strategic service coordination and resident engagement. Utilizing the Results Count Framework, USI works to close equity gaps by implementing targeted strategies aimed to promote economic self-sufficiency for families, enhance the quality of life for Seniors and over all well-being for all Beecher Terrace residents. Additionally, increasing access and connection to opportunities that lead to thriving outcomes. This report will reflect highlights from engagement strategies, such as monthly resident meetings, back to school and work events and marked progress across all pillars.

- There are 414 households and 791 individuals (92% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services (increase of two HH from last month). USI has exceeded previous goal of 80% engagement and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families enrolled and actively participating in supportive services. 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. Recognizing the importance of assisting with community development amongst the residents of Beecher Terrace, it is equally important to assist BT residents with establishing a sense of community and connection with their neighborhood, including community partners and resources. There were several engagement strategies utilized this month. This month's events included:

Monthly Resident Meeting: (Held on 8/15/22) This month's resident meeting focused on highlighting programs and resources within the Health and Wellness pillar. Understanding that structural and social barriers often limits information and accessibility needed for an optimum lifestyle. This month's guest presenters shared information, tools and additional supports aimed to dismantle these barriers, creating more choices, and enhancing the power of people and communities. Guest presenters represented Therapy Heroes, Oak Street Health and Louisville Metro Fire Department. There were approximately 45 attendees.

Resident Council Update: In August, USI conferred with resident council nominees and a voting ballot was developed to represent all offices and committees, according to the resident written by-laws. During this month's resident meeting, each nominee was allowed address the room and share why they wanted the council position and why residents should in fact cast their vote for them. To capture all voices of Beecher, residents were given a two-week window to cast votes. Winners will be announced and presented at the next resident meeting.

Currently, 63% of those work able residents are employed. There were no new jobs reported this month. This month's job placements included a position with Norton's Healthcare and 2 position in the fast food industry.

- 70% of those employed are working full time
- 79% have been working for longer than a year (increase of 5% from last month), with only 5% obtaining employment within the last 6 months.

Lastly, as school as returned to session, USI continues to nurture and maintain partnerships that provide quality out of school time for youth. Bellarmine University renewed its commitment to Beecher Terrace youth and families. Bellarmine will be providing approximately 25 slots for both in-person and virtual tutoring opportunities. USI will also work closely with Choice partners LCCC and MOLO to ensure connection to their youth and community services.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	414 (92%) and 791 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 is maintaining a 92% enrollment rate of eligible households. Implementing strategies that includes outreach to inactive households, USI re-activated two original BT households. Each month USI conducts various outreach strategies to engage and inform residents. Per request of Beecher Residents, each month USI will partner with a community resource and to host and facilitate <u>Bingo With a Purpose Sessions</u> that allows residents to establish a trusting rapport with each other but also become informed on vital information intended to support the families and community. This month's Bingo session was cancelled. Bingo With a Purpose will resume next month with the FPL Western Branch. The Western Library Branch as committed to sponsoring and facilitating the resident requested Book Club; to be launched next month. Also, to increase accessibility, USI staff and partners have begun to have "Pop-Up" sessions outside, nearest the family homes and high traffic zones on site. Pop Ups will feature resources and opportunities in all 5 service pillars. 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) Canvassing/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 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 and Senior Project Manager participates in ongoing collaborative sessions aimed to better support and coordinate rental support for residents and Property Management.</p>	

Economic Mobility:

# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (231 total)	2021 Target: 181 or 80% 149- 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- 34% 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.

- 70% of those employed are working full time
- 75% 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:

- **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 15 referrals for early learning programs both OVEC and YMCA. There are 5 youth enrolled in OVEC and 4 youth enrolled in YMCA.
- **Increase Access to Employment)** USI continues to seek career opportunities that provide flexible scheduling, bus line accessibility and path towards living wages. This month, USI implored strategies to provide intensive support with all unemployed workable residents. Due to the medical industry being identified as a top 3 career interest of BT residents, USI worked to ensure that information was shared about current openings and the recruitment and hiring process. Residents were also provided with work readiness resources and additional linkages. Each resident received a series of individual and follow up calls in addition to ONE call alerts regarding the employment opportunities with Norton’s Healthcare. USI conducts **bi-weekly pop-ups** to share most recent and up to date employment opportunities. Residents attending Economic Mobility receive information regarding available jobs, career training opportunities, in addition to other wealth building supports and services.
- **(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.

- **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. To date there have been 10 families connected to the Homeownership Pipeline. 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.
 - **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.
- **Generational Wealth Building Series (GWBS):** Commonwealth Credit Union has agreed to sponsor an ongoing generational wealth building series. This series will be conducted onsite at Beecher Terrace. The targeted result for the GWBS is to engage more residents in the discussion and subsequent changes or actions that maximize the likelihood of building and increasing generational wealth. The GWBS will include sessions (but not limited too) such as debt management, credit repair, investment and savings and home ownership. Although the series will be open for all ages, there will be targeted strategies aimed to link youth 16-24 to assist with establishing best practices as they are transitioning into adulthood. USI and Commonwealth will finalize series design this month and implement next month.

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: USI's Education Specialist has now begun to conduct Ages and Stages screenings with Beecher families. Currently 76% of targeted population has been screened for developmental delays. This is a 7% increase since last month.

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. **56%** of 0-4 Beecher Youth(34/63) enrolled in early learning programs. Breakdown as follows:

- Early Headstart: 27%
- Headstart: 9%
- PreK in Public School: 3%
- Licensed Childcare Center: 28%
- Licensed Childcare Home: 3%
- Unlicensed (family, church) 13%

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.

Back to School/Back to Work Bash: USI hosted the family engagement event in order help prepare families with returning back to school. USI obtained donations for school supplies, in addition to providing information regarding bussing, bus stops, etc. USI also provided childcare and employment information to take full advantage of this transition times with families. There were 30 attendees to this event.

Quality OST and Social and Emotional Supports: USI staff and partners have worked to recruit and enroll youth in the following OST programs:

- Girl Scouts of Ky: Onsite (unlimited slots) {17 active youth}
- LCCC: Site Based/Russell (25 slots)
- Bellarmine University (25 slots)
- Musical programming sponsored by Councilman J. Arthur (in progress)

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(750) – 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)

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:

Strengthening Partnerships: Supporting Seniors USI continues to strengthen relationships with partners and resources targeted for Seniors. This month the following partners supported Beecher Seniors:

- JenCare/UK Nutrition Provide food and nutrition classes each week for the seniors; in addition to resources and information increasing access quality health care

Increasing Food Security:

- Kroger Mobile Bi-weekly mobile unit stops at and surrounding Beecher Terrace to increase access to affordable healthy food
- Dare to Care/MOLO/CTCT Each organization provides food boxes and basic care necessities

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. This month's Health Chats continued from last month focusing on "Preparing youth for Back to School (reminding about physicals, necessary screenings and shots and other medical needs)" 15 Residents received intensive Health Chats this month.