

Urban Strategies, INC (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
July 2023

Executive Summary:

As we, USI continue to engage families within Case Management, while supporting them and increasing their opportunities for generational growth, we are keeping our families a #1 priority. Through intensive Case Management, supportive services, community resources, USI exemplifies a system in which failing families is not an option. Many families are still in a war from childhood trauma, generational gaps, depression, dealing with anxiety, and much more. Urban Strategies is involved with these families to break down those barriers and alleviate those concerns that are within our realm. Being able to have many community partners, such as those working in housing, health and wellness, education and employment make this work less challenging. There are many components when strategizing doing this work, we can navigate through the data, using the Results Count Framework. This method has been factual when analyzing data to target areas in which more work needs to be done.

Currently, USI holds 392 families in Case Management, which includes 751 individuals. USI still maintains over 85% eligible families enrolled. These families are enrolled and actively participating in Case Management. USI can thrive with the help of the partners, such as LMHA, MBM, and other property managers when it comes to connect our families to ensure the wellbeing of their housing and other available sources. The relocation process is still in effect, USI will continue to make sure residents are up to date with information as it pertains to housing. USI will make sure residents know the importance of being lease compliant, and make them aware to keep utility bills current, refrain from any issues that may keep them being evicted and to keep updated contact information. This partnership is very critical to this work, we are making every effort to do our due diligence in helping residents know “their right the return”. There are many ways in which this work can be done, but the best way is to remain transparent when working with the residents in this community.

This month’s resident programming and activities include:

Monthly Resident Meeting: This month’s resident meeting was held on July 17th, 2023. In this meeting there were 23 attendees. Commonwealth Credit Union requested to return to Beecher to discuss the importance of Credit. Commonwealth visited our site earlier this year and would like to continue to come out to educate residents on financial literacy. Commonwealth CU wanted to come back to Beecher to uplift the importance of having Good Credit and why having a Credit Card may help increase credit score and boost current credit. Many residents spoke about having credit as being a negative, but

after speaking with the reps from the credit union, some showed a little more interest in learning the differences between unsecured/secured credit cards.

Resident Council was also in attendance to speak on the resident's behalf about any concerns that residents may have. Tenants have been Tenants are beginning to share more information with resident council to have things addressed to MBM. This is a way in which matters are formally addressed and to also establish a relationship with the council. The resident council meets with MBM every other month to be able to be a go between for management and residents, in which a voice is speaking for all residents.

HEAL 2 LIVE, a new, therapeutic, talk out loud, cry if you need, fellowship, all in one space carried out by a resident who had a vision. A resident, Y.J. wanted to create a space for residents who were suffering from grief, anxiety, depression and just couldn't get out of the house for any reason. This group was put together for all residents to feel connected, welcomed and just to allow themselves to be present in a space that was for all who may have been suffering, or even those who aren't dealing with anything, but may want that connection. This event started on July 13th and will meet every other month. This 1st event welcomed 7 individuals who are going to commit to bring one person in addition to themselves back. This group will allow participants to be able to connect with professionals in the mental health field, possible speakers focusing on grief and depression, community leaders and more.

JCPS meets Beecher Terrace: Beecher Terrace got a chance to have a one on one with administrative staff from the school system. This session was on July 31st in which all residents with school age children were invited. This session USI brought together families to speak with JCPS about the new school times, bus changes, (including routes and times). We were able to give away over 50 + backpacks with school supplies, which were donated by Commonwealth Credit Union and local church, Bates Memorial Baptist Church, located in Smoketown. USI had over 34 families to show up for this event. Many parents were not aware of the many changes and having this meeting allowed them to connect with.

Family Supportive Services-OUTREACH and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	751 Participants
392 and 86 %	

Updates on Outreach and Engagement:

In the past two weeks, USI has been able to engage 73 families with focus on education, employment and health and wellness. Engaging these 73 families, we were able to do outreach, through phone calls, mailed letter, in which led to home visits and office visits. Many families expressed their interest in new

opportunities, ie; home ownership, new jobs and new school times for children. To effectively get this information, the intention was to be strategic and creative. There were many phone calls made, but no answer, we reached out to LMHA for assistance with current addresses and contact information. We mailed out “I’m thinking of you” cards. This was very helpful in getting engagement numbers increased. We also did home visits with information pertaining to new and upcoming housing and school for our youth. During these home visits, USI gathered much needed data to update our records. We were able to update over 200 touchpoints in our system called “LEARN”. This helped us with where we need to work with these families and assist them to access their needs. USI will continue these efforts. We will continue the following:

1. Providing a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents,
2. Canvassing the community to share monthly calendars, flyers, and info regarding family support services.
3. Utilizing the ONE CALL systems to increase targeted outreach to identified populations.
4. Better use of social media to engage and promote opportunities and successes of Beecher residents and supporting Choice Partners
5. Creating and sending a newsletter to our residents each month to highlight past and upcoming events within each pillar, provide contacts to partners and other resources.

Economic Mobility:

<p># and % of Able-Bodied employed residents 213 and 57%</p>	<p>2023 Target -170 or 80%</p> <p>Current Employment rate 137 or 79.8%</p>
<p># and % of 18–24-year-old youth in secondary education and/or job training (19 eligible)</p>	<p>2023 Target: 19 or 100%</p> <p>14 or 73% of individuals between 18-24 are employed</p>

2023 Employment Targets:

- Increase working work able to (170 or 80%)
- Currently 79.8% of the work-able residents are employed!!!!
- Apply Wealthy Wednesdays to ALL residents.
- Encourage working from home, partner with LMHA for computers.
- Build out Job Directory for 40203

The number of working individuals has changed due to reporting current job transitions/changes by those who were inactive and now have been reactivated. There were residents who were newly employed, and through the intense strategies of supportive services, engagement has increased as

well. USI will continue to push toward that 80%, in which we are VERY close to our goal to get more individuals working, or job training skills. USI has been diligent in digging up barriers that prevent individuals from maintaining employment and/ or gaining employment. Childcare, transportation, and mental health have been expressed through case management as to why those who are not employed. The number of those who are unemployed are 76, about 10 + of those individuals are waiting on disability to be approved and can't work due to those circumstances. USI will work closely with those individuals in special settings to hope to connect in a way that empowers them to get employed. There are 1 in 7 people in Kentucky who are not working, per Kentucky Center for Economic Policy in article written on May 22, 2023. The 76 individuals mentioned, are a small portion of that larger group. Why did I mention such, if there are 1 in 7, that's about 66 persons we know of that can be working. USI have partnered with employment partner, Norton's Hospital that have various jobs in different fields, which work for Beecher families, they are less than 2 miles away. We are working closely with Norton's; they have committed to coming to our property for job applicants and open interviews. We are hoping to start that process in the middle of August. USI will continue to partake in evidence-based strategies to connect our families to not only "jobs", but employers that have long lasting careers, training to educate candidates in their roles, benefits, 401 K and more. There are too many "JOBS", we want to invest in careers.

Educational Updates:

USI has over 250 + school aged children in Case Management. JCPS is our primary partner and resource when it comes to retrieving information when it comes to the data. There are several parents who have students who have reported that attendance and grades were a big concern. Students are bussed over 10 miles to school from this area and parents can't provide transportation if they miss the bus. For this upcoming school year, JCPS recently visited the site to deliver a message that should be exciting news to families. Children can attend schools closer to their homes, they are able to walk, if school is close and some parents aren't having to worry about getting them there, while in the vicinity. The impact that may affect families, is the new school times. These new times were structured based on bus routes. JCPS provided much needed information as well as backpacks to the students. The parents were able to ask questions pertaining to their child and get the updated info that was needed.

Summer Camp has come to an end. As of July 21st, most of the summer camps have ended. Our families have had the opportunity to attend the camps and possibly have an extended stay, for an after-school program. The summer camps that our families have been engaged with offer after-school programming, income based and/or free. The YMCA offers before and after school programming, Molo Village, Neighborhood House, and Sowing Seeds with Faith all have after school programs. USI will make the connection between the families and the programs that are out here, especially with the new school start and end times. As for early childhood, USI is identifying those who are eligible to enter early head start, that are not currently in a program and connect them to OVEC and JCPS. Many of those parents who have stated they have registered, do not have documents for those children. USI have been assisting with getting birth certificates, social securities, and immunization forms. This school year our goal is to break down any barrier that led to low attendance and grades. We want to make sure our attendance rate is above 70% for this school year.

Number and percent of residents who have health insurance.	714 –99.4%
---	-------------------

Updates on Health and Wellness: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving health and wellness outcomes for residents this month)

Beecher Terrace remains to have 99% of residents insured, either by state or employer.

Therefore, in addition to efforts to stabilize housing, USI utilizes a holistic approach to execute strategies aimed to provide support that looks at health and wellness of the whole person: the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. This month's strategies have included: **Partnership with Park Duvall: Health**, Park Duvall wants to continue to support Beecher in many ways. We will conduct bi-monthly sessions to do health and wellness checks, ie, blood pressure checks, cholesterol checks, sugar and to test for HIV. Many residents will receive health education and healthy meal ideas.

WALKING WEDNESDAYS: USI LEAD GROUP; in 2022 a walking group was established in Beecher Terrace. This group is open to all residents. This is to invite residents to participate with staff to walk around the neighborhood for 30 minutes. This is to promote health, light exercise, but most importantly mental stability through fellowship. USI participates in the walks to allow residents to get to know staff better and to establish even better rapport with the community.

- Wednesdays in May, June, and July (weather permitting)
- All residents are welcomed.
- 9/9:30 walks begin

HEAL 2 LIVE, a new, therapeutic, talk out loud, cry if you need, fellowship, all in one space carried out by a resident who had a vision. A resident, Y.J. wanted to create a space for residents who were suffering from grief, anxiety, depression and just couldn't get out of the house for any reason. This group was put together for all residents to feel connected, welcomed and just to allow themselves to be present in a space that was for all who may have been suffering, or even those who aren't dealing with anything, but may want that connection. This event started on July 13th and will meet every other month. This 1st event welcomed 7 individuals who are going to commit to bring one person in addition to themselves back. This group will allow participants to be able to connect with professionals in the mental health field, possible speakers focusing on grief and depression, community leaders and more.