

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

Executive Summary

Urban Strategies Inc is committed to supporting many families across the US. With Louisville being a city redeveloping neighborhoods and bringing communities together daily, we are in support in doing so. Being a part of the Russell community in the past 6 years USI's mission has not wavered, and that is to ensure that the families being served are stable and thriving. Family Services is not only a resource, but a bridge to close the gap between individuals and any barriers upon them to keep them from reaching their goals. USI strives to make sure families are connected to organizations in the community to reach realistic goals. We work in a unique way using a model; "Results Count Framework" to measure data in areas of concern. This helps us to see where the work can begin when working with the families. Individual and Family Plans are set to build goals toward earning a HS diploma, receiving mental health services, advocating for housing stability, early childhood programming, putting in school youth in after school programs, employment, and transportation barriers, to name a few. There are several community partners in which help the families we serve navigate this process; it takes a village. Our number one priority is to be intentional when it comes to setting the foundation for each family.

There are currently 392 families in Family Support Services, which includes 751 individuals. USI still maintains over 85% eligible families enrolled. These families are enrolled and actively participating. USI continues to uphold these numbers, being that families are aware of the services we offer and simply because they can count on us. USI is there to help families flourish, where they can accomplish goals, and connect the dots where they may not be able to see. The outcomes vary from family to family, but the work is less challenging when families commit to doing the work alongside the Family Support Specialists. Working closely with community partners is crucial when doing this work. There are existing services in the community that families may not be able to activate, but having relationship with USI can make the connection.

This month's resident programming and activities include:

Monthly Resident Meeting: This month's resident meeting was held on August 21st, 2023. In this meeting there were 26 attendees. Jackie Floyd, a well-known and respected community leader was present to present information pertaining to the Russell Community. She was able to invite our senior population out to Elder Serve. Elder Serve is a newly re-opened Senior Adult Day Center. Many of the residents at Beecher Terrace Senior are accustomed to visiting their church, activities within the building, being with family, and some even stated bingo. Elder Serve is a place where they can interact with other seniors

their age and be out in the community meeting new people. Jackie was there to also enlighten Beecher residents about the upcoming election and their voting rights.

The Resident Council Update. Resident council members continue to attend resident meetings to address concerns that residents may have. Tenants are beginning to share more information with resident council to have concerns addressed to MBM, if need be or to be a part of upcoming events/programs. 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 a go between for management and residents. The voice of the council speaks for most residents. The resident council is also communicating with residents about local and city concerns, ie, speed bumps, traffic lights and more lighting around the neighborhood to make the residents more comfortable if traveling while it is dark outside.

DIGITUNITY: A computer workshop that was held on August 23rd. This workshop was for the 1st 10 participants to sign up. Raedawn Long, from LMHA hosted this workshop on site at the Beecher Terrace Senior Building. This workshop was designed to bring basic computer skills to a population in which technology can be a barrier. This was a one- time workshop, in which computers were provided to participants while in the class. Many residents who struggle with technology can lead to and its parameters. During this workshop, they were taught the logistics of knowing computer keys outside of letters and numbers, how to use a search engine, recognizing google, and password protection, to name a few. A grant was awarded to the community in which this was offered. Participants will also be entered into a drawing to win a laptop and they also receive a \$25 gift card upon completion.

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. This meeting was the 2nd meeting held of its kind on 8/24/23. This session held 5 participants. 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. During these sessions professional counselors, mentors and trainers will facilitate bringing residents to an intimate space in which they are connected.

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:

USI has been diligent with engaging families and being consistent with keeping individuals in Family Support Services. The focus has been on those who have not been so active in the past 90 days and with that we were targeting those individuals.

During a time in which new housing opportunities are becoming available, new partnerships are happening and new schools are opening. USI is on the ground ensuring our families are informed. Many families are eager to relocate and with the help of USI staff, and LMHA, we have been keeping them up to date with any new information as it relates to housing. As we are continuing these relationships, it's been easier to stay in contact with families. During this time frame, USI has re-engaged over 85 families, primarily focusing on education and employment. We are at 99% for adults and children who have health care, our families are receiving info weekly about housing updates. Being able to have accurate information pertaining to JCPS, and job opportunities in the community is very important to this work.

USI continues to raise outreach efforts with the following strategies that has helped reach our organizational goals when it comes to engagement:

- Providing a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents,
- Canvassing the community to share monthly calendars, flyers, and info regarding family support services.
- Utilizing the ONE CALL systems to increase targeted outreach to identified populations.
- Use of social media to engage and promote opportunities and successes of Beecher residents and supporting Choice Partners
- “Property Pop Ins”- USI staff will host 2-hour tabling time in designated areas on site. This time will be useful to have intimate private conversations with residents to discuss any concerns that may have pertaining to housing, employment, children, life, etc.

Economic Mobility:

<p># and % of Able-Bodied employed residents 214 and 57%</p>	<p>2023 Target -170 or 90%</p> <p>Current Employment rate 131 or 80%</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%)
- 80% of the work-able residents are employed.
- Build resumes with current unemployed population.
- Increase job opportunities, 2nd income for those receiving Social Security income.
- Provide resources for those who are currently awaiting disability, ie attorneys, documentation from physicians.

During Intensive Family Services, it was discovered that several residents discussed reasons as to why employment has been a barrier, ie transportation, daycare, experience, etc. There are many challenges we all face daily, and how we overcome them vary. We as a team and community must work harder to display the importance of employment, and it's a major issue in our city, it is also a concern in Beecher Terrace. Kentucky is planning to cut back food stamps for those who are not working at least 20 hours a week. This gets more people into the work force; this is an opportunity for all of us to work as a collective to get people back to work. There are many barriers that come into play, when not working for the future of the households that we work with. USI understands the importance of having those conversations. We are tending to those residents in these talks. The quality of insurance is considered when not having a job, having savings for important big buys or a rainy day, social security for the future, retirement, etc. USI has always been very intentional, and having these conversations during supportive service helps residents to know, it's more to a job then a paycheck. We are addressing the cause of not having transportation, asking about driving skills, having a driver's license, and sending them to Goodwill. There are several residents that qualify for the 3C program, in which they can receive daycare at low cost, and many jobs offer training, USI has partnered with Norton to visit our community space to do open interviews. There are several ways in which we are hoping to break the cycle of unemployment. These partnerships will help open doors to careers, not just JOBS! These places of employment were chosen because there is opportunity to grow. OVEC offers employment as well as childcare, so that barrier of childcare can be lifted. These 2 employers are very close to the community, even walking distance.

This Month's strategies include:

- **USI will partner with Norton Healthcare** to be visual at Beecher Terrace. Being that transportation is a barrier for some, having employers on property to do open interviews, complete applications and have face to face conversations about careers at Norton Hospital
- **OVEC will be on site at Beecher Terrace** on September 20, 2023, to discuss job opportunities in education. The location at Russell currently is hiring teachers, teacher aides, and classroom monitoring.
- **Meeting individually with residents that are awaiting disability** to discuss ways in which USI can support and connect them to the proper agencies to move through the process smoothly.

Educational Updates:

TARGETS:

- Increase number of Pre School youth to 75% to be enrolled in early childhood services.
- Decrease number of days missed in school for families who have chronic absenteeism.
- Enroll 21% more students in Quality After School Programming

Jefferson County Public Schools suffered a major setback this school year. Electing to give families the option to select neighborhood schools, time changes for school start and dismissal times, and even having bus shortages. This was a major reality adjustment for most of our community. There were some who were affected by this and some who embraced it. USI jumped in, to comfort families when trying to juggle these changes especially when the ages of children in the home differ. There were several obstacles when the changes began. Some parents had to change work schedules, change schools, or maybe they weren't aware of their child's school being changed. The solution to it all is having an ultimate plan. USI is on the ground working with families to identify and devise these plans. Choosing a school is easy for most, you want a quality school setting, parents want something close to home, administrators who care, and most of all, somewhere to feel your child is safe. JCPS has committed to return to BT to answer any questions parents may have about the school plans, and to also work with parents one on one to help select school options for those entering kindergarten, middle and high school.

As mentioned last month, USI has over 250 + school aged children and 52 children that identify as early childhood. JCPS is our primary partner and resource when it comes to retrieving data. USI will continue to use the data to be able to identify where work is needed. As for early childhood, USI has identified those who are eligible to enter early head start, that are not currently in a program and connect them to OVEC and JCPS. OVEC will make a visit to BT to speak with qualifying families. This school year our goal remains the same and that 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.

This month's strategies will include:

- ? **Increase Early Childhood enrollment:** Invite OVEC to participate in early childhood sign ups. USI has been in contact with JCPS to help educate families on the registration process. JCPS has provided USI with the resources to move this process along.
- ? **Decrease chronic attendance:** Retrieve data from JCPS regarding attendance to speak with families one on one to remove any barriers they face to not be able to get students to school on time or in the classroom.
- ? **Increase Quality OST programming:** Utilize Community room space for HW help from other students who live on site who are achieving above distinguished in school. Connect with SSWF to bring tutors to the property. USE PROGRAMMING from following agencies:

- Girl Scouts of KY (Troop on site)
- LCCC Site Based/ Russell

- Molo Village

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

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

- Focus on Families who currently do not have PCP- 3% of Beecher Terrace Residents have reported they do not have a PCP.
- Engage Residents in Activities that promote mental and physical health.
- Residents who have chronic illness, check in to make sure they have adequate and preventative care.

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:

Strengthening Partnerships: As USI continues these partnerships, we are able to strongly support this population.

Park Duvall 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. Park Duvall will be visiting our property for a 3rd time on 9.19.23 for a Health Screening Event. It is very important that we continue to partner with community clinics who are able to accommodate the needs of the people. We know that going to the Doctor may be scary for some, but if we can address a small health issue before it becomes a big issue, we like to call that a win- win.

We are also excited that Centerwell, another neighboring community clinic will be opening up in the Russell Community, located at 30th and Market Street. We look forward to connecting our Senior and disabled population to their newest location. The highlight of Centerwell will remind residents of their

home at Beecher, a one-stop shop. They won't only be seeing a physician when they visit, its designed to be able to connect with a Community Health Worker, a Support staff person, and a mental health counselor. Centerwell will be back at BT to discuss the dynamics of their new facility as well as hoping to get new patients.

Elderserve is also another community organization which our senior population can benefit from. Once the transportation is up and running, we will be able to have several residents participate in their program soon. There are many opportunities right in the heart of Russell and we want our residents to benefit. The quality of these programs and the many things they offer not only add value to their life, but time as well.

This month's strategies include:

Staying connected with Healthcare Partners:

- Connecting Residents to Centerwell and Park Duvall for Primary Care (Russell Locations)
- Bring Health Care providers to the community to discuss wellness tips and healthy living.

Conducting Monthly Health Chats: Each month USI will conduct targeted conversations around health education. These topics are to get residents focused on the importance of health, mental and physical. With support and collaboration from Healthcare Community Partners, these conversations will serve as a tool for USI to use when gaging with residents.