

URBAN STRATEGIES INC, USI

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2024

"A community is like a ship, everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." —Henrik Ibsen

This month USI has continued to focus on the supporting the families, through community engagement, family supportive services, continuous outreach and simply meeting residents where they are. USI is working toward connecting residents with more community partners that have a service that will benefit our families in a way to excel and prepare for a future that will result in success. The support for the families is our 1st priority. We ensure that residents are aware of the relationship between USI and the family. USI takes measures to connect with residents and to work beside them as they set, work toward, and accomplish goals.

The goal for April was to get families connected with summer youth programs and jobs and continue to support John G. Jones and LMHA with Section 3 job opportunities. Residents who reside in Beecher Terrace or former residents

USI currently has 393 households and 751 individuals in Supportive Services. USI still exceeds its goal of over 80% eligible families in Family Support Services. Through the continuous relocation services, USI still partner with LMHA, MBM, CT-Associates, and New Directions. This ongoing support allows our FSS to have a relationship with property management ensuring that residents are lease compliant, up to date with current information on policies and procedures, have access to accurate information as to property details and more. These relationships have helped USI build rapport with staff at properties. Having these relationships is not only useful for resident purposes, but for USI to continue to build throughout the community. To be effective and work as a team, USI is staying up to date with the latest relocation process and the guidelines for the new upcoming properties in the community. Building new communities allows residents to have an opportunity for change and for some, a fresh start, with that, we encourage residents to gain a sense of what it feels like to be in a new neighborhood. We strive to get residents acclimated become engaged in their new neighborhoods. In this report we will outline our engagement strategies through monthly meetings, family support services, and partnership collaborations.

This month's activities and events include:

Section 3 Job Recruitment: (April 9th, 11th and 22nd) Section 3 jobs are continuing to arise as the project goes on. USI is partnered with the General Contractor, John G. Jones and LMHA to recruit candidates for the upcoming positions. There are multiple positions that have been needing filled, so far some include, carpentry, masonry, excavating, and more. Some of these

positions require immediate fill and skilled workers. We have been in the community this month at the YMCA at the Republic Bank and did other recruiting at Beecher Terrace Community Room. This month we have reached 10 individuals, in which one is in process to be hired for carpentry. USI has partnered with Youth Build to seek potential candidates and has made connections with the Louisville Urban League. USI will continue to be in the community as the project is still under development.

Chair Yoga: (April,12) Chair Yoga was introduced to our 55+ population. Chair Yoga is designed to help with the following health benefits, decreased levels of stress, anxiety, depression, lower cholesterol, and blood pressure, improve energy, get better sleep quality, less pain and reduce body mass index. Our 55+ population is our most vulnerable population, and we strive to improve their life and health in any way we can. Chair Yoga also increases balance and mobility. We have several residents that use a walker or mobile chair daily, and this would be most beneficial for this target population. We had 6 participants on site in this group.

Town Hall/ Resident Meeting: (April 15th). Our Resident meeting for this month replicated a Town Hall meeting. With the upcoming election, we wanted to introduce candidates that were on the ballot for District 4, which is in the Russell Community. Representatives for this upcoming election, Stan Moore, Ken Herndon, and Bridgette Smith came out along with Candidate Attica Scott who is currently running for Senate. USI was able to set up this meeting as a panel style and residents were allowed to ask questions pertaining to the community as well as what these candidates think are vital for District 4. This was an opportunity for residents to speak one on one with the candidates and to put a face with a name when its time to vote. We are to bring the people into the community who are looking to enhance the community with the neighbors involved. This event had 45 participants.

Oak Street Health Bingo: (April 17) Oak Street Health continues to support our 55+ population. Bingo is in high demand at Beecher Terrace. Many residents like to come down and fellowship, talk about their health, grab a healthy snack, and win great prizes. Oak Street comes to the community bi-monthly to discuss preventative health measures, nutrition, health concerns amongst the black and brown community and other topics residents want to engage. The purpose of this connection is to give residents the opportunity to discuss any health needs, assess to make sure they are connected to the care they need and overall introduce residents to new facilities and Providers if needed. There were 6 participants at this event.

Beecher Book Club: (April 17th) The book club continues its monthly meetings discussing their chosen book. The book read for April was titled "The Man in my Basement" by Walter Mosley. Reading can relieve stress, enhances sleep, improves memory, and many other health benefits that will improve overall health for our residents. The Louisville Free Public library and USI connects residents to reading for a hobby, but also for health benefits. In this recent event, there were 7 participants.

Family Support Services- Outreach and Engagement:

Total HH IN GRANT:767	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HH: 451
# AND % OF HH IN CASE MANAGEMENT: 393	# OF INDIVIDUALS IN CASE MANAGEMENT: 751

UPDATES ON OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT: USI has continued its engagement strategies with home visits, phone calls, texts messages and mailed letters to engage and re-engage residents who actively participate in Case Management. We have been very successful in using these strategies as it has been effective with the increase in participation. Resident engagement is the glue to this work. It allows our team to build relationships through programming, consistent interaction, meaningful in person meetings, one on one home or office visits and allowing residents to be resilient in spaces where there may have been feared. Our team is equipped with resources which is very vital when engaging with residents. Building relationships with residents is only part of the work we do; the other part is making connections with community partners to be able to talk to residents about what the community has in store for them. We have been strong in numbers when we target specific areas in their life where goals are set. Rather it be employment, earning a GED, getting children connected to programming, obtain better housing, etc, we work alongside to make sure the goal is met. A strategic plan is put into place to keep the individual on track and to stay engaged. The strategies we currently have in place for resident engagement are the following:

- 1.) Provide a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents.
- 2.) Canvass the community to share calendars, flyers, and info regarding family support services.
- 3.) Utilize the ONE CALL system to increase targeted outreach to identified populations.
- 4.) 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:

# and % of Able -Bodied Residents: 211	2024 Target: 150 or 70% Current Employment Rate 122 or 57%
# and % of 18-24 y/o youth in Secondary Education and/or training: 19 eligible	2024 Target: 19 or 100% 15 or 74% are employed

2024 Employment Target:

1. Increase Employment Numbers to 150, USI is continuing to push those who are able bodied toward working full or part time.

2. Seek out more Beecher Terrace Residents who are potential candidates to work on the Phase IV development of Beecher Terrace.
3. Residents who have a gap in employment.
4. Resident Ambassadors who can assist with outreach within USI systems.
5. Senior Residents who may want to earn extra income in addition to Social Security.

USI is working continuously to support those who are unemployed. The unemployment numbers have been stagnant. Many residents have expressed they are having a rough time finding employment in the career field that they are most interested. As we thoroughly assess these residents, we are seeking to find a barrier in which is keeping these residents from obtaining employment. The challenges have varied over the 4 months into this year. Transportation and Childcare is the biggest challenge, but residents have stated that the hours have not been tailored around the JCPS school schedule and they have mentioned waiting until the school year ends.

As we approach the school year ending, USI will conduct a survey to determine the bigger concern around unemployment. During the month of April our Family Support Specialist will use this survey targeting the 100 + residents who currently report no income. This will help us to move with each person individually and help set goals within the next 60 days. These goals will be centered around updating/ creating a resume, setting up for interviews, going to job fairs and completing applications for jobs that their interested in. USI will continue to work alongside Goodwill to send residents there for employment opportunities and to connect with a Career coach. The Career Coaches at Goodwill focus primarily on the barriers to gaining employment and work with candidates on a weekly basis. USI will help set the foundation for those residents so that they can feel comfortable as they begin this process.

USI will work with employers to come to Beecher Terrace to meet individually with potential candidates to have an on-the-spot interview with those who are seeking employment. Our "GET TO WORK" plan is still in the works, and we are having to work toward getting this population to see the future with having secure funds. We know that there have been generations of families of those rely solely on the system and USI will support those who are willing to break the cycle. During May, our strategies for this group will include the following:

1. Target unemployed individuals aged 25-50 to begin the "Get to Work" Plan.
2. Connect 10 Youth to Summer works Program.
3. Conduct Surveys over the course of 2 weeks.
4. Send Residents to Goodwill to connect with a Career Coach.
5. Set up Dates for Mini- Pop up Job Fairs

Education: 2024 Educational Updates:

As we approach the end of the school year for 2023/2024, USI has sought out those families with children to begin Summer Programming. USI would like to connect 50 families to Summer Programming this year and we can accomplish that through speaking with families and hosting summer camp sign ups through May 15th. We have identified over 10 Youth Programs including Summer Works for those who are 16- 24. Summer Programming is important for children. Quality Out of School time programming is very essential to the families we serve. The Russell Schools report card reflects where reading and math scores need to be increased. USI will be strategic in placing our families in programs in which there is an academic focus as well. The academic component helps to keep our children to expand their knowledge and keep them on top of their learning while on break. We will also push reading over the summer break so that our children will be ready to return to school eager to learn for August! Although the school year is ending, we believe that learning never ends. We are committed to connect our families to programs such as Sowing Seeds with Faith, MOLO, YMCA Louisville, I Would Rather Be Reading, (IWRBR), Neighborhood House and the Boys and Girls club of Louisville. Those are to name a few. JCPS is also partnering with IWRBR to conduct the Backpack League, in which 12 of our families are currently signed up to participate.

To have the knowledge is to have power. A phrase that was always instilled in generations before us. That power doesn't always mean authority over others, but to have authority over oneself. The children that we serve may not have an understanding to what that means, but as a community it is our duty to empower and build from those words. USI is going to continue to support families as we connect them to the programs. While doing so, we will also survey parents about the school year and how they thought their child improved or what needs to be improved and what is something that they want to work on for 2024/2025 school year with their child.

It has been a challenge to get data to from JCPS due to new policies. We will work with families to gather what we need to support their child and their educational needs. USI will have to rely on the parent responses to be able to work with them for the upcoming school year. We will use this information to be able to help with improving the child's development. This information will also be helpful in choosing summer program as well.

Early Childhood development is very vital to this work as well. USI continues to work with OVEC to get families connected to childcare for those who are ages 4 and under. Currently, we have 24 out of 45 children who are connected to Early Childhood development. Our efforts will continue to ensure that these children are in the process of being in Early childhood programs.

This Month's Strategies Include:

1. Continue the Summer Youth Program sign ups.
2. Speak with parents to identify any concerns with their child's education to prepare for 2024/25 school year.
3. Promote and connect families who have children aged 16- 24 to the Summerworks program.
4. Implement Summer Reading with our families.

Updates on Health and Wellness:

Number and Percent of Residents who have Health Insurance:	Adults- 405/407 or 99.5% Kids- 298/300 or 99.3%
--	--

Targets:

1. Engage Residents in Activities that promote mental and physical health, ie: book club, exercise with Silver Sneakers at local YMCA.
2. Residents that would like to participate in activities outside of Beecher Terrace. I.E- MOLO, GILDA'S CLUB.
3. Connect families with children to primary care doctors if none is reported and make sure they have Immunizations for the upcoming school year.

Beecher Terrace families are still at 99% when it comes to having Health insurance, that includes adults and children. USI looks at health as the primary focus when it comes to your well-being. To be stable, you must be mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially healthy at some capacity. Your health affects all parts of your body, with, we like to raise awareness when it comes to promoting good health. We serve a population in which chronic illness is generational. We make sure that families are connected to the care they need to stay healthy. USI addresses the stress or psychological distress that are reported during assessments. We are partnered with agencies to help combat these issues if residents make us aware. We currently have the Beecher Book club to help relax and relieve stress. Reading is a tool that helps concur the stress of daily life.

Residents express their need for new providers and wanting a one stop shop. We are partnered with Centerwell, Oak Street and JenCare to get residents the care they desire.

The Month's Strategies Include:

1. Bring more awareness around health policies.
2. Encourage residents to utilize more health benefits.

3. Support Families who need to get immunizations for children.

4. Make seniors more aware of the one stop shop providers and new care centers.