

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
January 2023

Executive Summary:

This month, Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI) strategically increased outreach efforts to community partners, and community-based organizations in order to provide residents with direct connections to resources that address the comprehensive needs of Beecher Terrace families. Utilizing the Results Count Framework, USI continues working diligently to close equity gaps and create safe spaces for individuals and families to share their vision and work towards thriving outcomes evidenced by supporting access to employment and livable wage income, improving educational outcomes, and strategically addressing needs of youth and families. This report will reflect highlights that include the USI Legacy Planning (RPOP & Legal Aid Society), monthly resident meeting, and other advancements across all pillars and services.

- **USI Legacy Planning (held 1/24/23)** Urban Strategies, Inc., in collaboration with Russell: Place of Promise and the Legal Aid Society, facilitated a session to assist Beecher Terrace families in the life and transition planning process. During this session, residents completed a Life Will that would aid family members with their life transition process. Specifically, focusing on helping families to secure assets, including family recipes, and other family heirlooms. There were 9 total attendees
- **BINGO with a Purpose (held 01/26/23)** The pillar highlight for this session was health and wellness. Urban Strategies, Inc. invited the Family Health Center to come talk to residents about their center, the type of care they offer, and to connect residents to any additional medical resources and programming. There were 13 total attendees.
- **Monthly Resident Meeting (held 01/30/23)** The purpose of this meeting was to provide a direct connection to life planning and transition and resources, housing updates, and resident council updates. Special guests included the Louisville Urban League, Russell: Place of Promise, New York Life Company, McCormack-Baron. There were 20 total attendees.

There are 419 households and 804 individuals (92% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services (an increase of one household from last month). USI continues to exceed its target of 80% and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families enrolled and actively participating in supportive services. Moreover, USI continues to partner with both LMHA, MBM, and other property and management services to fully support residents throughout the relocation, re occupancy process. This support includes providing accurate and up to date information, aiding with navigation of housing and utility support programs, and assisting with lease cancellations and other barriers that may prohibit re-occupancy. More recently, the support also includes assisting residents through difficult predicaments that impacts the stability of the household.

Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 474
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	419 (92%) and 804 participants

Updates on Outreach and Engagement: (Key meetings are conducted to engage residents, increase residents in family support services or to support residents who are actively participating with USI):

Urban Strategies, Inc. continues various outreach strategies to continue to engage and enroll all eligible Beecher Terrace families in comprehensive supportive services offered by USI and community partners. USI maintains a 92% enrollment rate of eligible households. Continuing to utilize the Results Count Framework, Urban Strategies, Inc. seeks to implement strategies that include providing equitable outreach solutions to inactive households, reactivating original BT households and enrolling new residents. Additional outreach strategies include:

- 1.) Providing a monthly calendar of meetings and events that are accessible for residents.
- 2.) Canvassing/Conducting door knocking to share the monthly calendar, event flyers, and information regarding available family support services.
- 3.) Utilizing 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.

Urban Strategies, Inc. continues to collaborate with LMHA property managers, and other landlords to assist residents with all concerns impacting housing stability. USI staff continued 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. USI staff participates in ongoing collaborative sessions organized to better support and coordinate rental support for both residents and property management. With limited rental support, USI continues to support residents by sharing accurate, up to date information and connecting families with additional linkages and resources that may lend to increasing housing stability.

Economic Mobility:

# and % of Able-Bodied employed residents (235 total)	2022 Target: 181 or 80% 152 or 65% of Beecher Terrace Work-Able Residents are employed (increase of 1% from last month)
# and % of 18–24-year-old youth in secondary education and/or job training (29 eligible)	2023 Target: 20 or 70% 13 or 45% of individuals between 18-24 are employed.

2023 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, 65% of those work able residents are employed. There were 4 job referrals to job placement services:

- 69% of those employed are working full time.
- 84% have been working for longer than a year, with 15% 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 Play Cousins Collective to provide alternative educational opportunities for families with 2 through 5 yr. old youth that would create a pipeline toward quality full-time childcare or school.
- (Increase Career Training) In order to assist residents to return to the workforce, increase wages or transition careers, extensive job training will be necessary. USI recognizes the benefits of career training such as increasing productivity and skill level. Additionally, career training assists residents with keeping current in a world where both technology and societal expectations are rapidly changing. USI works to connect residents with career development opportunities that are resident driven and requested.
- (Increase Access to Employment) USI continues to seek employment opportunities that provide flexible scheduling, bus line accessibility and a pathway towards living wages. This month USI staff began hosting "Working Wednesday", a bi-weekly session designed to assist residents with the online job application and upcoming job fair registration. This month, USI worked to connect 4 residents to career opportunities with Louisville Metro Government.
- (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.

- Homeownership Pipeline Urban Strategies remains committed to moving families to more thriving results in terms of Economic Mobility beyond obtaining employment. Strategic planning yielded a goal of connecting 25 Beecher Terrace families to the Homeownership Pipeline by the end of 2023. 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 was one more family connected to the pipeline via home ownership programs through the LMHA Family Self- Sufficiency program. To date there have been 11 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.

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 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 the series design this month and implement it later January, or early February.

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: Urban Strategies, Inc. will continue connecting families to Play Cousins Collective to conduct the Ages and Stages Survey for development screenings with parents and children ages 0-5. Moreover, USI's Project Manager will be able to make more real time referrals and linkages to address identified needs and prepare the youth and family for kindergarten.

Increase Early Childhood Enrollment: USI is working to partner with PlayCousins Collective for the pilot program, "My First Teacher", which allows our youth and families to make proper transitions through the early learning pipeline. 77% of 0-4 Beecher Youth (51/66) are enrolled in early learning programs. This month denotes an increase of youth enrolled in early learning programs, and licenses child care centers. As FSS staff follow up on all eligible youth, many families report that their paramours and familial relatives are caretaking for the youth.

Breakdown as follows:

- Early Head Start: 56%
- Headstart: 8%
- PreK in Public School: 7%
- Licensed Child Care Center: 29%
- Licensed Child Care Home: 1.2%
- Unlicensed (family, church) 7%

USI continues to work closely with OVEC and other partners to assist youth with registration to Headstart/Early Headstart and Licensed Child Care. 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.

FSS staff continue to follow 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" training to assist families that often struggle with having needed documentation to be properly linked to community resources and support.

Cascade System/Academic Proficiency

As reflected in JCPS's Cascade System, 30% of BT's middle and high school students maintained an average GPA of 2.0 or higher. 4% had 4.0 (all A's), and 18% had between 3.0-3.9 and lastly 28% had between a 2.0-2.9 GPA. Of the remaining 48%, 36% were on the border of passing. USI staff will continue to utilize data from the Cascade system to triage and prioritize outreach linkages to youth resources.

Quality OST and Social and Emotional Supports:

- Girl Scouts of Ky: Onsite (12 slots – 14 active youth)
- Sowing Seeds with Faith (slots limited per week)

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(636) – 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 adults report having a chronic health condition. The most noted illnesses include high blood pressure, asthma, and depression. 15% of youth also report having a chronic illness, as well. 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 Provide 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 weekly food deliveries

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 focused on "Mental Health, Self Care, and Stress Relief". 3 Residents received intensive Health Chats this month.