

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

Executive Summary:

This month, utilizing the Results Count Framework, Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI) continued working diligently to create strategies to address the comprehensive needs of Beecher Terrace. Our team increased case management and outreach efforts to residents on and off-site to continue community and relationship building with all Beecher Terrace households to create safe spaces for individuals and families to share their vision and create plans to work towards thriving outcomes by supporting access to access to move families toward stable and thriving by providing direct connections 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 My “First Teacher” Pilot Launch Luncheon, monthly resident meeting, and other advancements across all pillars and services. This month’s events include:

My “First Teacher” Pilot Launch Luncheon (held 2/9/23) – Urban Strategies, Inc., in collaboration with Play Cousins Collective, hosted an informational luncheon for families with children 0-5 about the “My First Teacher” Pilot Program, which allows our youth and families to make proper transitions through the early learning pipeline. There were 7 total attendees.

Paint & Sip (held 2/15/23) – Urban Strategies, Inc., in collaboration with Black Lives Matter, hosted a painting session with senior residents to help introduce a new form of therapy, by promoting socialization, alleviating anxiety, depression and other forms of stress. There were 8 total attendees.

Monthly Resident Meeting (held 02/20/23) The purpose of this meeting was to provide a direct connection to free senior support and programming in the Russell neighborhood, Beecher Terrace Health Fair updates, and resident council updates. Our special guests for the evening included Ms. Andrea Moirre and Ms. Jackie Floyd from ElderServe. There were 20 total attendees.

There are 417 households and 797 individuals (92% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services. 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	418 (92%) and 798 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.
- 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.

This month, in collaboration with JenCare Urban Strategies, Inc hosted **BINGO with a Purpose** to discuss the importance of regular check-ups with primary care providers, and directly connect residents with resources and programming offered by JenCare. 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.

# and % of Work Able-Bodied employed residents (235 total)	2022 Target: 181 or 80% 149 or 64% of Beecher Terrace Work-Able Residents are employed.
# and % of 18–24-year-old youth in secondary education and/or job training (51 eligible)	2023 Target: 20 or 70% 18 or 35% 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 (45 or 70%)

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

- 71% of those employed are working full time.
- 89% have been working for longer than a year, with 2.4% 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 on-site 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 with Dress for Success, Goodwill Excel Center, and other employment support services that are resident driven and requested.
- (Increase Access to Employment) USI continues to seek employment opportunities that provide flexible scheduling, transportation accessibility and a pathway towards living wages. In January, USI staff began hosting "Working Wednesday", a bi-weekly session designed to support unemployed residents in their pathway toward employment and livable wage income through direct connections to employers and other partners that support employment placement.
- (Disabled and Chronically Ill) 26% 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.

This month, USI worked to connect 4 residents to employment opportunities with the YMCA in membership services, the Galt House Hotel in hospitality services, and Treyton Oak Towers in senior care services.

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 conducting monthly meetings with Metro United Way to discuss our ongoing partnerships, progress in registering youth in their services, and developing strategies to increase enrollment and overall participation in activities and services. 75% of the targeted population has been screened for developmental delays. This month USI's Project Manager will complete training for Ages & Stages, as a result USI staff will be able to continue conducting 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 has partnered 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. USI also partners with Catholic Charities, OVEC, 4C's and YMCA to move youth through the early learning pipeline that helps expectant mothers before birth to assist with kindergarten registration. 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)
- I'd Rather Be Reading (32 Enrolled)
- Sowing Seeds with Faith (4 Enrolled)
- Sports and Cultural Programs (4 Enrolled)
- MOLO Village (4 Enrolled)
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters (1 Referred)

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)

61% of Beecher Terrace adults report having a chronic health condition. The most noted illnesses include high blood pressure, asthma, and depression. 14% 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 bank

There were 5 health chats conducted with our residents during this month.