

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)
Beecher Terrace Monthly Report
October 2020

Executive Summary:

Marked by and intense election cycle with significant social implications and increasing COVID cases amidst a global pandemic, USI Louisville has continued to prioritize addressing the needs and challenges that our residents face on a daily basis. We continue to connect residents to partners and other community resources aimed to move families towards thriving results. This report will reflect the progress of the USI team and others servicing the Beecher Terrace families across all pillars including housing stability, economic mobility, education and health and wellness.

There are currently 409 Households (71% eligible) and 807 enrolled in case management. USI Case Managers have worked intensively with both Beecher residents and LMHA/MBM to inform and assist residents throughout the reoccupancy process. Often times, USI case managers not only assist with obtaining and transferring appropriate documents, but also help residents with decision making regarding to their housing choices and appropriate steps to take to get what they desire. USI Louisville also strives to actively engage residents that are currently enrolled in case management by engaging families in dual generational activities and facilitating monthly resident meetings. October's meeting focused on economic mobility and featured guest from Goodwill. LMHA staff continue to participate in resident meetings to provide updates and feedback regarding housing concerns. USI has received positive feedback from the residents regarding the virtual resident meeting platform.

USI Louisville continues to partner with Choice partners and newer community resources to diligently assist families with basic needs such as food, rent and utility assistance. During the month of October, USI partnered with The Delta Foundation, Creation Gardens and OVEC to distribute 1200 boxes of food that contained fresh veggies, proteins and dairy. Each box also contained voting information regarding voting right restoration and how to vote. There were 214 Beecher and Russell families that received food boxes at the event. It is worthy to note that this event was held at Baxter Park/Community Center (outside) so residents and community members could observe the physical progress of the onsite development. USI continues to work with MOLO to deliver food boxes to residents on a weekly basis and will work with Catholic Charities to expedite resident's access to Covid Relief funding.

Also, this month, USI released a Request for Proposals related to improving outcomes in the Education pillar with all three key indicators identified in the Louisville People Plan; kindergarten readiness, core academic proficiency and high school graduation and college/career readiness. In the RFP responding partners have been asked to identify both in person and virtual service delivery options to ensure that social distancing requirements will not impede resident support.

USI also solidified a partnership with Evolve 502 and Bellarmine University. This partnership will yield a two-model approach aimed to support targeted BT and Russell residents, but also will build capacity of community resources serving youth all throughout Jefferson County. Bellarmine University and USI will utilize Evolve 502's sign.com platform to structure matches for Bellarmine tutors to connect with Beecher youth and community NTI Hubs. The MOU has been drafted.

Case Management - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 579
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	409 (71%) and 807 participants
<p>Updates on Outreach and Engagement: (Key meetings ad conducted to engage residents, increase residents in case management or to support residents who are active in case management with USI:</p> <p>USI enrolled 1 Household and 4 participants in case management services this month. USI continues to check in with residents to assess their needs and develop plans and corresponding tasks. USI has decreased the FRI (Family Risk Index) for 196 (36.6%) families an increase 3% from the previous quarter. USI continues to work with LMHA property managers to identify and address housing stability needs and re-engage inactive families in case management, when needed.</p> <p>USI in conjunction with LMHA, has finalized the Equitable Community Leadership Development Training and Ambassador program. USI will initially target 30 identified or recommended resident leaders to participate in the program. Residents will be offered opportunities to participate in ongoing training to build their leadership skills, provide input, and to serve as Equitable Community Development Ambassadors in the advancement of community outcomes in the pillar that most interests them.</p> <p>USI-Outreach conducted a Pumpkin Carving Contest, a dual generational activity to engage youth and families. 10 families participated and the winners were awarded a family dinner and prizes.</p> <p>USI also partnered with PlayCousins and Russell Place of Promise to host a Fall Festival at Opportunity Corner in Russell.</p> <p>USI continues to use Social Media to engage and promote opportunities to Beecher residents and supporting partners.</p>	

Economic Mobility:

<p>USI staff has continued imploring strategies to reach target of employing 80% of the workable population. Currently, 60% of those work able remain employed. There were 2 residents that gained employment this month, both in the medical profession. In addition to tirelessly meeting basic care needs and preventing eviction process, USI also works to make significant strides to move our families to more thriving results in terms of Economic Mobility. Case Managers are focused on identifying and removing barriers that impact employment, such as childcare and transportation. Case Managers also focused on assisting residents in retaining their employment. There were two people that lost employment last month. USI Case Managers worked to connect</p>
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more residents to the FSS Initiative in October. Two new households were enrolled in the FSS program as a result.

USI continues to identify partners in industries that align with resident interests, in addition to supporting any digital literacy barriers or needs.

USI Senior Project Manager and Economic Mobility Subgroup collaborated and assisted with planning the Annual Economic Mobility Summit. The Summit focused on entrepreneurship and community development through a lens of the impact of systemic racism.

USI continues to work closely with Messer and McCormack Baron to ensure that resident's benefit from Section 3 employment opportunities. Both Messer and MCB share current openings and future needs, USI then shares via our One Call system and various other distribution methods.

In Progress: Senior Project Manger met with Shauntrice Martin of Feed the West and The Black Market. This food drive initiative has evolved to a free-standing grocery store offering paid fellowships where community members can receive training and employment. Ms. Martin has agreed to hold a slot for a Beecher Terrace participant.

Education:

Updates on Education: (Key meetings and activities conducted to support improving educational outcomes for children this month)

USI is conducting the following strategies to advance educational outcomes and increase parent engagement:

Increase Ages and Stages Questionnaire Efficiency/Completion: USI continues to work with Metro United Way and PlayCousins to identify barriers and opportunities to increase Beecher Terrace family participation and survey completion. All three organizations will be employing strategies to increase outreach, connection and follow up with families.

Accessing Technology USI continues to assist families with obtaining laptops and any other technical needs such as assisting with internet assistance and navigation of said technology. USI has partnered with JCPS to ensure that families unable to receive laptops or internet service, may receive hotspots from JCPS. Approximately, 5 families have received hotspots. USI also continue to use funds to pay past due internet bills that may prohibit youth from participating in NTI.

Early Childhood Enrollment: We have currently enrolled 50% of eligible youth for ECE/Headstart with JCPS. USI staff continued to identify barriers such as proper documentation and work conflicts in order to meet the 70% goal for enrollment. Several parents have identified barriers that prohibit their youth from participating in Early Childhood Interventions. USI Case

Managers and the Education Specialist have worked to provide alternative opportunities to support both the youth and families.

Increasing Partnerships: As mentioned earlier, USI has released a RFP to increase direct services for Beecher families. The Regional VP, Senior Project Manager and Educational Specialist facilitated an informational Q and A session for those intending to submit proposals. USI also met with Evolve 502 and will be entering a MOU partnership along with Bellarmine University.

Russell Reads: USI also participated in the annual Jumpstart Initiative “Read for the Record” USI engaged approximately 10 different community locations and read to 65 youth on October 29.

Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(791) – 97 % 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)

USI-LOU has increased intentionality regarding the holistic approach with health and wellness. More in-depth assessments have led to improved strategies to support individuals physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Such strategies include:

Conducting Monthly Targeted Health Chats. Each month a topic is chosen, in addition to selected residents and families. Through collaborative efforts with Passport, Family Health Centers and JenCare, USI staff can provide information regarding health benefits, resources and tools, when needed. October’s Health Chats focused on Breast Cancer Awareness and Hypertension. 48 Chats were held regarding Breast Cancer and 42 Chats were based on Hypertension. Participating residents received vital information, helpful tips and additional referrals and linkages, when needed.

Walking Wednesdays. USI has been conducting Walking Wednesdays for Seniors for 2 months. Walking Wednesdays has holistic benefits that support the residents, socially, physically, mentally and emotionally. The Senior residents continue to offer positive feedback and often even include elder neighbors that are not Beecher Residents. USI will work with resident leaders to eventually have the initiative led and driven by Beecher Terrace residents.

In Progress: USI met with the Louisville Story Program to determine alignment and partnership regarding the development of a Heritage Cookbook. USI will work to engage families regarding collecting and gathering recipes and family stories that are connected. The Louisville Story Program has agreed to partner and enter into an MOU that will include a Russell Neighborhood focus and take a long-term approach.