

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

**Executive Summary:**

Recognizing the toll of the protest movement for racial justice and the COVID 19 pandemic, Urban Strategies, Inc. continues to focus on identifying and meeting the needs of all Beecher Terrace residents. With a prioritized equity lens, USI Louisville remains diligent in efforts to align with partners and community resources that share strategic goals targeted to move residents and families towards sustainable thriving outcomes. This report will highlight forward movement in all areas of family support including housing stability, economic stability, education and health and wellness.

In addition to safe and socially distanced home visits and weekly phone check ins, USI continues to employ strategies aimed to engage at least 80% of all eligible households. This month's approach included working with various property managers, cultivating relationships with new landlords and utilizing emergency and crisis support information to locate hard to reach residents. As a result, in November, USI increased case management enrollment by 4 households or 6 residents. There are currently 413 Households (72% eligible) and 813 enrolled. USI also continues to play a critical role in the reoccupancy process; assisting with the completion and navigation of appropriate documents, ensuring residents experience a virtual tour of intended unit and property, and most importantly answering questions, addressing concerns and supporting residents who verbalize inhibitions related to reoccupancy.

USI hosted its fourth monthly virtual resident meeting. November's resident meeting focused on Health and Wellness and featured guests from the Republic Bank's YMCA and JenCare. There were approximately 28 attendees, 11 were Beecher Terrace residents. Each month there has been a steady increase of resident attendance and participation in discussion. LMHA staff continues to participate in resident meetings to provide updates and feedback regarding housing concerns.

During the month of November, USI kicked off the Equitable Community Development Leadership Program (ECDL). This program was created to support residents in understanding the physical development process and guiding residents into community leadership roles to drive an equitable community development agenda. This program will span a total of six (6) months and will empower participants in exerting leadership that has a positive impact on themselves, their families, and the community. There were 9 Beecher Terrace Leaders that participated in ECDL orientation and Equity Training. There are an additional 4 residents that requested to participate in the orientation and training.

With knowledge that the coronavirus pandemic has impacted people of color disproportionately in various areas ranging from infection rates to deaths, in addition to the ongoing stressors of financial, social and economic inequities, USI has initiated a partnership with the Maryhurst Renewal Treatment Program (Maryhurst). Maryhurst will provide community based concentrated mental and emotional supports to our Beecher Terrace families, with the capacity to offer therapeutic services to all family members regardless of age. Maryhurst also has a unique program that allows families to be paired with a "Community Support Associate" that supports families in navigating community support systems and developing self-advocacy skills.

## Case Management - Outreach and Engagement:

<b>Total Households in Grant Award</b> 767	<b>Total Eligible Households</b> 579
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	413 (72%) and 813 participants
<b>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:</b>	
<p>USI enrolled an additional 4 Households and 6 participants in case management services this month. USI continues to check in with residents to assess their needs and develop plans and correlating tasks. USI continues to collaborate with LMHA property managers to execute preemptive strategies to address issues that may threaten housing stability such as non-payment of rent, potential violations, and other housing concerns. USI has been deliberate in establishing relationships with landlords (outside of LMHA) to replicate similar strategies utilized with LMHA to ensure residents remain stably housed.</p> <p>USI partnered with the gentlemen of Kappa Alpha Psi and provided full Thanksgiving meals for five Beecher Terrace Families. (A leveraged amount of \$625)</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 executing strategies aimed to reach the target of employing 80% of the workable population. Currently, 59% of those work able are employed. In addition to meeting urgent basic care needs and preventing eviction, USI has taken a deeper dive to evaluate and strengthen several pain points in the Economic Mobility pipeline. USI will continue to match residents with career interests and skill sets but will now employ strategies to targeted populations such as those without a GED, or residents that have been unemployed for than 3+ years.</p> <p>USI is developing a partnership with “The Power of Work” Program. This is a state funded initiative led by Goodwill Jobs and KentuckianaWorks (only accepting residents that receive TANF and Foodstamps). This program offers two approaches to teach financial literacy and job readiness specifically aimed to move individuals out of poverty and obtain skills that need to be financially secure. Upon completion of this program residents can obtain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. An in-depth career assessment</li><li>2. GED/TABE testing</li><li>3. Culturally competent soft skills, resume building, conflict resolution skills</li><li>4. Graduation that includes connection to potential employers</li><li>5. Soft Skills Certification</li><li>6. Work Readiness Certification</li><li>7. One credit from JCTC</li></ol>
--

8. Power of Work pays up to 60% of employee's wage for a specific amount of time.

There are current 15 adults receiving TANF and 330 adults receiving food stamps. USI is specifically targeting referring 30 unemployed residents that also need to obtain GED or High School Diploma. USI referred 10 residents in the month of November and an MOU is being developed.

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 methods used by case managers.

In Progress: Senior Project Manger met with Shauntrice Martin of Feed the West and The Black Market. This food drive initiative has evolved into a free-standing grocery store offering paid fellowships to work and train community members. 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:

**Virtual Parent Hub Sessions** – USI Education Specialist facilitated the first virtual parent hub session. This month's parent hub focused on early childhood needs and resources and included a guest presentation by K. Broecker at Metro United Way on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. This presentation was recorded and posted on the Educational Specialist Blog Corner so that it can be played and reviewed multiple times when a family may present with the need.

**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 also continue to use secured grant funds to pay past due internet bills that may prohibit youth from participating in NTI. USI paid the past due bills for 3 families during the month of November.

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

**Increasing Partnerships:** USI has released an RFP to increase direct services for Beecher families. The deadline for proposal submission was November 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 10 proposals submitted. The proposals will be reviewed and scored. Next step may include organization interviews before awarding contracts.

USI also met with Evolve 502 and will be entering a MOU partnership along with Bellarmine University. USI, Bellarmine and Evolve 502 continued discussions around completion of the MOU in progress

## Health and Wellness:

# and % of residents who have health insurance	(791) – 97 % of Residents have Health Insurance
--	---

### **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, YMCA, Family Health Centers and JenCare, USI staff can provide information regarding health benefits, resources and tools, when needed. Often times, the holiday season can bring joy and excitement, for others the holiday season can trigger issues of trauma and loss. For this reason, November’s Health Chats focused on “Staying Healthy for the Holidays” which offers tips and suggestions to support physical, mental, and emotional health during the holidays. There were 25 Health Chats conducted in November. The topic will continue throughout December.

**Walking Wednesdays.** USI staff have been conducting Walking Wednesdays for Seniors for 2 months. This program has holistic benefits that support the residents, socially, physically, mentally and emotionally. There were 4 Beecher residents that participated consistently each week. 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.