

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

Executive Summary:

Throughout the month of May, USI remained dedicated to strengthening engagement with residents as well as establishing and activating partnerships with community stakeholders to meet the needs of our families and lessen the adverse impact of COVID 19. USI-Louisville continues to also work closely with families to assist them in setting long range goals and connect them to supports that will create opportunities for their success post-pandemic.

All USI sites have continued conducting weekly surveys to assess basic needs, determine access to resources, identify specialized needs of youth, seniors and the recently unemployed. In May, Louisville Metro Housing Authority FSS and USI case managers conducted outreach to a total of 559 Households with 1650 attempts in total. Case managers completed surveys with a total of 315 of the 404 (78%) of the households in case management. For residents who were not reached by phone, case management staff sent post cards, checking on the well-being of residents. Analysis of survey data was used in real time to identify resources and partnerships to assist in meeting the emergent needs. Based on the results of the surveys, from March 18 – May 31, 2020, a total of 260 Family and Individual Development Plans were established. Of those Development Plans, 122 (47%) were for Safe and Stable Housing/Securing Basic Needs. A total of 465 service linkages were made in that same time period with 439 (94%) for Basic Needs Assistance. USI partnered with MOLO Village to unload, sort and distribute between 6,000 – 8,000 lbs. of food to the Beecher Terrace families and the Russell neighborhood. This resulted in 88 Beecher families and numerous Russell families receiving food boxes in the month of May.

In cross referencing survey results with rental payment information from LMHA, we found that families were significantly underreporting their difficulties with payment of rent. USI conducted a factor analysis to develop strategies to continue building trust and ultimately strengthen relationships in hopes to obtain more accurate information. USI-LOU also collaborated with LMHA, particularly property management, to develop a tool to better track resident needs, changes and subsequent termination status.

USI-Louisville also met with McCormack Baron and Messer Construction to improve Section 3 employment pipeline for Beecher Terrace residents. Messer Co. will now inform Urban Strategies of any future job openings as they are available. USI will utilize ONE CALL to send messaging to all unemployed and potentially interested Beecher Terrace residents. Lastly, USI case managers will meet with BT residents to assist with interview preparation and to address barriers that may impact beginning employment.

USI's Vice President of Education Initiatives worked with the Education Specialist and Senior Project Manager to facilitate a meeting with JCPS liaison and data team in order to 1) share 3 year trend data presentation that demonstrates how data can be operationalized to improve targeted strategies 2) Follow up on HUD concerns regards accuracy of cohort population and lastly 3) gain insight and next steps for 20-21 school year to best prepare Beecher Terrace youth. From this discussion JCPS will be examining and potentially making adjustments to the year end data that was originally provided to ensure a more accurate reflection for the Beecher Terrace youth cohort.

Case Management - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 579
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	404 (70%) and 783 participants
# of Family Development Plan (FDP) /Individual Development Plan (IDP) goals closed with a positive outcome	30 Total Closed with Positive Outcome in May
# of new FDPS/IDPS developed	55 FDP/IDPs established in May
<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 staff continued rotating time in office and working from home conducting daily survey calls, safely delivering care packages and food boxes, and most importantly assisting residents navigating systems to connect to resources and supports. USI-LOU increased enrollment by 3 additional households and 8 participants in May.</p> <p>USI-LOU assisted with outreach regarding the Reoccupancy Lottery Meeting. USI assisted residents with completion and returning packets and ensuring that they were informed about the meeting and the process of reoccupancy.</p> <p>Lastly, USI has continued to increase engagement through technology and social media. USI has increased Facebook private group membership by 31% since mid-March. USI Outreach has partnered with other CHOICE partners such as Russell Place of Promise and Urban League to deliver important community resources and information to residents via social media. USI-LOU ended the 30 Days of Family Learning Social Media Campaign. Families received 30 days of tips, ideas and strategies to engage in family fun and learning.</p>	

Economic Mobility:

<p>At the end of May, approximately 22% (30) residents have lost employment due to the impact of the pandemic. 40% of those unemployed have successfully applied for unemployment and 27% have received the unemployment checks. USI staff continues to assist residents with applying for unemployment and the One Louisville Response Fund and filing for IRS stimulus funding.</p> <p>Approximately 5 residents gained new employment during the month of May; including one BT resident that was hired for Section 3 employment. USI-LOU continue to address barriers that impact employment such as lack of childcare.</p> <p>USI staff has worked to 1)connect residents with online employment and training opportunities 2)remove barriers for our under and unbanked residents and 3)connect residents to financial literacy opportunities.</p> <p>In Progress: USI is working with Goodwill to offer more computers and laptops to residents to increase likelihood of employment.</p>
--

Education:

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

Youth Enrollment (see chart breakdown below)

Currently All Daycare and/or Childcare facilities are closed. School and other youth related activities have been shut down until the end of May.

USI-LOU case managers checked in with all families to ensure that NTI was completed for all BT youth. Case Managers worked to resolve any issues or concerns that may impact educational standings. USI-LOU has begun our Adopt-A-Senior Initiative. A Google Survey was developed to identify needs, interests and next steps for graduating Seniors. Invitations to participate were sent out in a creative fashion mimicking a “Senior Graduation Invite”.

USI continues to work with MUW Blocs, JCPS and other Community Resources such as Public Library to become aware of summer programming options. Case Managers also began to inform families about virtual and in person options for OST/Summer Programming. Several families have already registered for YMCA in person summer camps.

USI-LOU partnered with the THE BUTTAFLY SCHOOL to provide books for their summer care packages for the youth. Approximately 20 families were provided with summer care packages that included summer educational tools.

In Progress: in partnership with National Center of Family Learning (NCFL), USI is developing a Russell Reads Family Learning Pilot program. Families are currently being recruited for the program to begin in July.

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)

In lieu of the escalated racial tension and civil unrest, case managers have been intentional with their check in regarding the well being of all families. Residents have been referred to mental health supports as deemed appropriate and interest in attending expressed. Case Managers are also working to assist residents with building and activating their natural support systems.