

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

Executive Summary:

During the month of August, USI-Louisville continued advancing the Results Count Action Plan that consists of ongoing assessment and engagement of Beecher Terrace residents, increasing employment and living wage opportunities, improving educational outcomes and addressing the holistic health and wellness of each resident. USI staff also remain cognizant and responsive to COVID needs and complexities; all while working to remove barriers that prohibit individuals and families from stabilizing and thriving.

More specifically, USI worked closely with JCPS, Choice Partners and most importantly Beecher Terrace youth and families to conclude summer youth activities and then prepared and assisted families to transition into the 2020/2021 school year. As the summer concluded, 4 youth worked summer jobs; 14 youth participated in On-site Summer Programs (YMCA) and 55 families are participated in Russell Reads/LFPL Summer Reading Programs. Several youth and families submitted completed reading packets, USI staff coordinated with LFPL to pick up rewards and incentives. Rewards and incentives will be delivered directly to youth by USI-LOU staff. Moreover, USI worked to diligently prepare families for NTI 20 (Non-Traditional Instruction). 1) Staff ensured that all families youth have computers/laptops and other devices to complete their schoolwork. 2) Assisted families with accessing the JCPS portal to communicate with teachers, find assignments and other general information and lastly 3) aided with paying past due internet bill via a grant received by Urban Strategies Inc.

USI-LOU returned to hosting monthly resident meetings. August was our first Virtual meeting experience. There were 21 attendees (6 were BT residents). The meeting included presentations by LMHA and JCPS. LMHA presented by PowerPoint, up to date information regarding housing and relocation. LMHA also elicited participation for BT residents to participate in a focus group to make further decisions that impact Beecher Terrace and the Russell community. Additionally, JCPS presented and provided real time information and resources to assist the Non-traditional instruction this year. August's resident meeting also included information regarding voter right restoration and general voting information. More will be shared in next month's meeting.

USI-LOU has continued executing strategies to improve both the physical and mental health of our families. Through partnership with LMHA and Passport, USI has obtained over 800 masks/PPE that will be distributed to our Beecher residents. USI has partnered with Family Health Centers and will be utilizing specific tool kits to conduct Healthy Chats with targeted residents. Beginning in August and continuing throughout September, USI has focused on supporting residents that struggle with hypertension and parents coping with NTI. USI staff are conducting 1:1 check ins and providing resources and making service linkages, when necessary.

Lastly, USI-LOU continued to prepare for the biggest day of local giving with the Give for Good Campaign. Give for Good Louisville is an initiative led by the Community Foundation of Louisville that provides a platform for nonprofit organizations to continue to see vital needs that aren't otherwise being met, develop forward-thinking solutions and take the initiative to make positive change. We will be sharing this experience with our families, partners and other community stakeholders, and encouraging them to be apart of the force for good and #GiveforGoodLOU on September 17 between midnight and 11:59pm.

www.giveforgoodlouisville.org

Case Management - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 579
# and % of HH and People in Case Management	410 (71%) and 808 participants
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>USI staff continue to work towards a goal of 80% participation of eligible residents by executing strategies to re-engage inactive residents and maintain engagement of current residents enrolled in case management. We are currently at 71% and have continued to increase enrollment for 5 consecutive months. USI case managers work closely with LMHA property managers to engage inactive residents and to assist with any issues impacting housing stability.</p> <p>USI has begun to host virtual resident meetings and will also offer additional Pillar Hub meetings, virtually as well.</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 are employed. Approximately, 13 residents are still unemployed due to COVID. Current strategies include: 1) Developing and linking residents to career options that align with their expressed interests 2) Working with residents to improve their digital literacy skills 3) Identifying career opportunities that allow work from home 4) Addressing and removing barriers such as child care, transportation, and fear of the benefits cliff.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2 Residents obtained employment in the month of August (Ford and UPS) 3 Residents have transitioned to in home employment including Humana 2 Residents enrolled in Post-Secondary Education (ATA radiology/JCTC) 1 Resident has returned to working on her GED</p> <p>In efforts to continue to stabilize housing, case managers connected residents to property managers in order to establish payment plans to past due balances.</p>

Education:

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

USI continued to provide personalized assistance to all eligible households applying for ECE/Head Start or Pre K. USI has established a target of 70% of the 45 eligible youth. Currently approximately 50% of eligible youth are currently enrolled. USI case managers have identified barrier prohibiting others from enrolling such as proper documentation. USI has developed strategies to assist with processing documents and working through strategies to assist families with obtaining proper birth certificates

USI assisted all families in case management on up to date educational information such as NTI enrollment, meal sites, and troubleshooting resources.

USI staff met with JCPS and key partners such as Metro United Way to compile a list of both Virtually assisted and In Person NTI camps, NTI childcare, and tutoring and supplemental resources for youth and parents.

Continued to develop new potential partnerships (NCFL and CTL Tutor me in progress) with the purpose of improving literacy through family engagement and also with Rush em' on In to secure slots for Early Childhood.

This month, USI also met with Play Cousins and Metro United Way to align Ages and Stages data, discuss virtual adaptations and to develop strategies to increase Beecher Terrace and Russell community engagement

Health and Wellness:

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

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.

Through partnership with LMHA and Passport, USI has obtained over 800 masks/PPE that will be distributed to our Beecher residents.

USI has partnered with Family Health Centers and will be utilizing specific tool kits to conduct Healthy Chats with targeted residents. The Health Chats will consist of 1:1 structured check ins on targeted topics. Each topic will have a toolkit and resources to share with residents. Additional linkages and referrals will be made if necessary. The first round of Health Chats will focus on Hypertension and Parents Coping with NTI. Case Managers have increased referrals to mental health services and also assisting residents with acquiring prescriptions and medications.