

**Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI)**  
**Beecher Terrace Monthly Report**  
**February 2021**

**Executive Summary:**

During the month of February, USI-Louisville excitedly celebrated the homecoming of former Beecher Terrace residents to the Senior Building at the newly developed Beecher Terrace. Despite community concerns regarding gentrification and displacement, USI alongside LMHA and MBM began implementing the Right to Return strategy that includes a lifetime preference for former Beecher Terrace residents. Additionally, USI remains committed to supporting families' both strategically and comprehensively, utilizing the Results Count framework to move individuals towards more positive outcomes.

There are 412 households and 812 individuals (92% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services (formerly called case management) with USI. USI-Louisville has exceeded previous goal of 80% and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families enrolled and actively participating in supportive services. In February, USI developed an FAQ to better inform the larger community of the benefits of intensive family support services but more importantly to engage new families moving into the newly redeveloped property. The USI team is also working closely with LMHA to reach out to residents eligible for phase 2 of reoccupancy. USI is working to provide accurate and up to date information, while assisting with navigation of various systems with housing and utility support.

During this month, USI launched the virtual tutoring program with Bellarmine and Evolve 502. This partnership has yielded a two-model approach aimed to support targeted BT and Russell residents, but also will build capacity of other community NTI hubs. This two-model approach allows "General" college students to support Beecher Terrace youth in completing NTI assignments, homework completion and Education major students to support in both reading literacy and comprehension. Bellarmine has identified 25 tutors/slots and the USI-Louisville team has simultaneously identified youth to be matched with Bellarmine tutors. All slots have been filled with approximately 15 youth. It is expected that the number of participants will continue to grow. However, this cohort required more intensive services which is why the number of participants in held at 15. USI's Senior Project Manager and Education Specialist participate in ongoing biweekly supervision for identified tutors to ensure any barriers to participation are removed.

In efforts to provide support to families due to heightened stressors and pandemic related issues, USI has a finalized MOU with Maryhurst. Maryhurst will provide individual and group services to targeted families. Maryhurst staff will also provide in kind support to the USI team to approach needed mental health concerns and discussions with families.

Currently, there are three Supportive Service Agreements in process with successful RFP respondents for Education: LCCC, Sowing Seeds with Faith and Collaborative for Teaching and Learning. There is an additional Supportive Service Agreement in process with BluBoi Entertainment, LLC for a video production to highlight the success of Beecher Terrace residents and partners. A Supportive Service Agreement with YMCA is also being modified and will target increasing enrollment in early childhood.

## Case Management - Outreach and Engagement:

<b>Total Households in Grant Award</b> 767	<b>Total Eligible Households</b> 451
# and % of HH and People in Family Support Services	412 (92%) and 812 participants
<p><b>Updates on Outreach and Engagement: (Key meetings ad conducted to engage residents, increase residents in family support services or to support residents who are active in services with USI:</b>            During the month of February, USI staff reactivated one inactive family but also lost two families due to death.</p> <p>USI utilized the reoccupancy process to reach out to those outside of family support services. USI continues to collaborate with LMHA to obtain up to date phone numbers and addresses, offering both relocation and on-going support and services. USI continues to work with LMHA and MBM to problem solve issues that arise during this transitional time.</p> <p>USI also collaborates with LMHA property managers to remain proactive and solution focused regarding issues that impact lease compliance, 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.</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 received additional training from Unite Us to increase usage and efficiency of referrals and connection to community resources. This training will directly support our partnership with the Power of Work program as well as resident connection to Covid Relief funds. USI staff received additional training regarding eviction prevention services in order to better support the needs and circumstances of residents. USI's Family Support Specialists (formerly Case Managers) continue to assist families with establishing payment plans to eliminate past due balances for utilities and rent.</p> <p>Currently, 61% of those work able are employed (an increase of 1% this month). USI continues to match residents with career interests and skill sets employing strategies aimed to assist targeted populations such as those without a GED, or residents that have been unemployed for than 3+ years. USI has referred 21 residents to the Power of Work Program. Power of Work staff has confirmed receiving referrals and has begun completing benefits check to place referred residents to most appropriate program. This month USI staff also focused on warehouse and manufacturing opportunities due to scattered proximity throughout the city and flexibility with various shift opportunities.</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 MBM share current openings and future needs, USI then shares via our One Call system and various methods used by our Family Support Specialists. USI continues to address barriers to Section 3 and long-term employment. Transportation continues to be an ongoing barrier that prohibits employment that may travel or have working hours beyond the range of TARC. USI is working with partners to develop strategies to remove this barriers, including KIPDA, Metro Planning Organization (MPO), and Goodwill.</p>
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## Education:

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

USI has implemented the following strategies to advance educational outcomes and increase parent engagement:

**Identify Tutoring Needs and Matches- Both** Bellarmine and USI worked to identify tutors with submitted biographies to most appropriate youth match. Tutors and youth are using the Learn to Be platform to meet and conduct tutoring sessions. Tutors have begun working with families and debrief their experiences bi-weekly. Debriefing sessions has allowed USI to further identify needs of the family such as lack of school supplies.

**Barrier Removal/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 continues to utilize grant funds to pay past due internet bills that may prohibit youth from participating in NTI.

**Early Childhood Enrollment:** We have currently enrolled 45% 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. USI-Louisville reached out to all early childhood programs in Russell neighborhood to assess and determine availability and accessibility for families. Education Specialist has developed a brochure to assist families moving into onsite property. Several parents have identified barriers that prohibit their youth from participating in Early Childhood Interventions. USI staff utilized barrier removal funds to assist a family with obtaining their birth certificate in order to assist with early childhood enrollment.

**Increasing Partnerships:** USI is in the process of formalizing agreements with several education partners including: Bellarmine University and Evolve 502, Collaborative for Teaching and Learning/I'd Rather Be Reading, Sowing Seeds and LCCC. USI is also working with YMCA to repurpose funds and increase slots available for early childhood. USI continues to seek culturally competent partnerships that better support and prepare youth for college and/or career readiness.

## 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 Louisville 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 provides information regarding health benefits, resources and tools,

when needed. This month's focus includes discussions regarding maintaining healthy relationships and inquiries regarding concerns and intentions to take/or not the COVID vaccination. There were 25 Health Chats conducted in February.

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.