

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

Executive Summary:

During the month of March, as residents wrestle with decisions around taking the COVID 19 vaccination and whether or not to send youth back to in-person school, USI-Louisville continues the alignment of resources to address the acute needs of residents. USI-Louisville works to illuminate disparate consequences resulting from systemic racism, while closing equity gaps by increasing employment and livable wage income, improving educational outcomes and addressing holistic needs of youth and families. For a summary of outcomes over the CNI grant cycle, see the attached USI Impact Report.

There are 413 households and 798 individuals (92% of eligible households) enrolled in family support services (formerly called case management) with USI. USI-Louisville continues to exceed the previous set goal of 80% and will work to maintain 90% of eligible families both enrolled and actively participating. USI continues to play a significant role in the reoccupancy process. Through Phase 1 of reoccupancy, USI staff has supported seniors with a range of issues from intervening with landlords to helping set up moving arrangements. USI has been rigorously reaching out to residents in the Phase 2 pipeline to ensure that they have appropriate paperwork and supporting documentation to return back to Beecher Terrace if that is the goal for their family.

USI-Louisville returned to hosting monthly resident meetings. This month's meeting focused on Recognizing and Managing Stress and Trauma and Housing/ReOccupancy Updates. There were 27 attendees (13 were BT residents). Each meeting continues to grow in both attendance and participation. The meeting included presentations by former Beecher resident, W. Whitehead (Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome), K. Dorsey, from our newest mental health partner, Maryhurst Renewal and USI-Louisville Pillar Leaders. P. Bischoff with LMHA provided updated information regarding housing and relocation. Residents were able to ask questions that led to a robust discussion regarding housing needs and concerns.

Additionally, USI continues to collaborate with JCPS, JCPS data team, and other education partners to provide intensive support and monitoring to all youth and families in USI family support services needing early learning or school age services. USI received a real time report that reflected that 83% of Elementary School students enrolled in Family Support Services are passing both Reading and Math subjects, 66% of Middle School students are passing both, while only 44% of High School students are passing both. However, we were also informed that 74% of Elementary Students enrolled in Family Support Services are participating at least 70% of the time, 83% of Middle School Students are participating at least 70% of the time and 72% of High School students are participating at least 70% of the time. JCPS Liaison, Jonathan Lowe, share insights regarding summer programming aimed to support youth that may have experienced the Covid academic slide and simultaneously mitigate barriers such as transportation and food insecurity. USI Education Specialist and team are utilizing this real time data to prioritize outreach to youth and families to connect them to available youth services through partnerships and JCPS Hubs throughout the County.

USI Family Support Services - Outreach and Engagement:

Total Households in Grant Award 767	Total Eligible Households 451
# and % of HH and People in Family Support Services	413 (92%) and 798 participants
<p>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:</p> <p>During the month of March, USI staff reactivated an inactive family but also lost a family due to death.</p> <p>USI utilized the reoccupancy process to strengthen relationships with current families and also 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. USI staff have assisted residents with acquiring needed documentation, communicating with “relocation” landlords to help facilitate the moving process and helping to locate movers in some cases.</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> <p>Nine of the 13 resident leaders participated in the Equitable Community Development Leadership Program. Resident leaders received training by K. Raynor of Goodwill/Kentuckiana Services. Leaders actively participated in training learning to “Navigate the Virtual World”</p>	

Economic Mobility:

<p>Currently, 61% of those work able are employed. However, 7 of the considered workable households are currently seeking disability and do not wish to obtain employment. 67% of those employed are working full time and 85% have been working for longer than a year. USI has continued to work with employed residents to increase retention as employment transitions create undue hardship in all pillar areas. USI strives to achieve the goal of employing 80% of Beecher Terrace workable households by executing various strategies to match residents with career interests and skill sets and works to remove barriers that prohibit many individuals from returning to work such as childcare.</p> <p>USI’s Project Manager and Education Specialist met with two early learning partners that expressed a dire need to hire several staff for the early learning program. USI obtained the criteria and benefits several of the available early learning positions. USI agreed to share information with</p>
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Beecher and Russell residents and also collaborate with partners to facilitate events to target both staff and youth for enrollment.

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 case managers. 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. We continue to work with our partners to enact strategies that address these barriers.

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:

Identify Tutoring Needs and Matches- Both 25 Bellarmine University tutors are working with 19 Beecher Terrace youth. All youth are participating at least 80% of the time. Tutors meet with USI staff and Bellarmine professors biweekly to debrief their experiences. Debriefing sessions have allowed USI to further identify and address the needs of the family such as lack of school supplies.

Early Childhood Enrollment: We have currently enrolled 45% of eligible youth for ECE/Headstart with JCPS. Education Specialist is currently working to enroll an additional 8 youth to available Early learning programs. USI staff continued to identify barriers such as proper documentation and work conflicts in order to meet the 70% goal for enrollment. USI Senior Project Manager and Education Specialist met with OVEC and 4C's to establish pipeline for Beecher youth. USI staff have begun to assist residents with CCAP subsidies needed for early learning placement. USI-Louisville reached out to all early childhood programs in Russell neighborhood to assess and determine availability and accessibility for families. Education Specialist has updated the brochure to include the Russell Ovec Program. 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 and increase slots available for early childhood. USI continues to seek 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

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.

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 chat discussions regarding walking “Why Walk?: Tips on the Benefits of Walking.” This topic was chosen to encourage residents to take a more active role in their physical health through exercise. 25 residents participated in the Health Chats focused on walking. In order to mitigate disproportionate outcomes of the COVID pandemic, USI staff are conducting outreach and assisting residents with registering for the vaccine if interested. There were an additional 31 residents contacted regarding the vaccine, 15 of the residents were not interested in getting the vaccine, 7 already received the shot and 8 were scheduled by USI staff. There were 36 Health Chats in total conducted in March.

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.