

Tidewater Gardens

Norfolk, Virginia

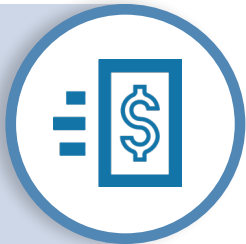
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Tidewater Gardens

In partnership with the City of Norfolk, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA), the Mayor’s St. Paul’s Advisory Committee, Tidewater Gardens residents, and a robust network of service providers, People First^{USI} team members connect families to supportive services, community resources, and opportunities in each of our identified key service pillars: Housing, Education, Health and Wellness, and Economic Mobility.

75% of the assessed work-able residents are employed



Propelling Educational Success:

People First^{USI} approached a mother of three children to support her in finding an early learning program or preschool to best meet her autistic child’s needs. Her distrust of the system and little faith of institutions successfully supporting her child, she was hesitant to partner. In collaboration with the resident’s Family Support Specialist (FSS), the Education Specialist began attending home visits to speak with the parent. The objective was to determine what the parent desired for her child, the benefits of schooling, and what she would consider appropriate. The parent was receptive and began taking small steps to discuss her child attending early education. Partnerships and trust-building efforts are one of many ways People First^{USI} supports education decisions.

93% of residents are connected to a primary care provider



Improving Health & Wellness:

People First^{USI} is working with partners to develop a lifestyle class titled “Cook Healthy” centered on enjoying comfort food with fewer calories. In alignment with this effort, The People First Team met with Precise Portions to assist in recruiting families to join a program that promotes managing healthy eating and better food choices. In December 2022, People First^{USI} began referring families to this program.

20 students enrolled in family support are projected to graduate in 2022-2023



579 households are actively engaged with People First^{USI}.



Moving Families to Economic Self-Sufficiency:

People First^{USI} is working with families to support their employment and economic mobility goals. This includes mock interviews, uncovering their Why, identifying proper work-life balance, and creating a realistic budget.

Relocation and Family Support:

In December 2022, a relocated resident and single parent of three desired support managing their Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), lease, and relationship with their landlord. People First^{USI} was persistent in their outreach to keep this resident on track. The resident was initially resistant due to a lack of trust, but with small conversations and texts, not pushing too fast but allowing them the opportunity, they begin a trusting relationship with staff. After several conversations and visits, the resident shared that they were scheduled to move and had no idea plan even with the voucher; They were afraid of becoming homeless. Eventually, with the support of their People First^{USI} Family Support Specialist, they found a HCV unit and additional support with the security deposit through a People First^{USI} partner.



All Families are Stable and Thriving

Our Experience with Choice Neighborhoods

Urban Strategies partners with a diversity of stakeholders in Choice Neighborhoods sites to create and implement comprehensive neighborhood plans with a focus on human service needs. We owe our success with Choice Neighborhoods to our commitment to using a Results-Based Accountability framework that governs our approach to service delivery. We are using data to constantly measure and improve our programs for children and families

in real time. Using our LEARN (Learning for Effective Actions to Re-vitalize Neighborhoods) performance measurement system, Urban continuously builds evidence on what works best for the more than 30,000 families we serve. We aim to further build upon early successes with Choice to realize our organizational vision that "All families are stable and thriving".