




USI | URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.
Families at the Center of Results

East Meadows San Antonio, Texas

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East Meadows in Wheatley Courts

Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI) has worked in San Antonio since 2013 supporting individuals living in Wheatley Courts public housing development. Through a people-centered, results-focused lens, USI provides intentional family support to the household and successfully increases employment rates and youth participation in enrichment programs. Previously, through the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) program, USI's case management model to support public housing residents has been considered a best practice by the National Association for Latino

Community Asset Builders (NALCAB). During a review of EastPoint Neighborhood Investment Initiatives in 2019, USI's evidence of success included 78% of former Wheatley Courts households engaged in family support services, representing the 2nd highest rank in the nation for CNI grants in terms of residents actively engaged with case management.

Since 2019, USI has been a grantee of the United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County Successful Students Impact Council (SSIC). Through this funding opportunity, USI has been able to sustain educational initiatives for children and youth in Kinder-8th grades.

44% and 76% of scholars are enrolled in reading and math support respectively



USI provides whole school support to 110 K-5th grade scholars



Propelling Educational Success:

USI addresses the need for equitable innovative programming by connecting in-school youth to experiences that motivate learning, develop relationships, and inspire a vision for STEAM related careers. USI collaborates with local education partners such as the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to facilitate an inquiry-based literacy mentoring program and implement innovative math activities for youth. Our education program uses reading and math as tools to strengthen family bonds. In addition to academics, there is a community component to the program which motivates and inspire youth to find their "spark" which in turn leads to greater personal and academic success.



www.urbanstrategiesinc.org



Improving Health & Wellness:

Developmental relationships are close connections through which young people discover who they are, cultivate abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them. The Search Institute has identified five elements— expressed in 20 specific actions—that make relationships powerful in young people’s lives: 1) Express Care, 2) Provide Support, 3) Challenge Growth, 4) Share Power, and 5) Expand Possibilities. These elements are weaved into the foundation of this program because research has shown a well-intentioned curriculum and social service system will not be effective unless its implementation builds on and enhances the quality of developmental relationships in the classroom or the community. Young people do best when they experience strong, positive relationships in all parts of their lives. Youth who experience strong developmental relationships are more likely to show signs of positive development in many areas, including increased academic motivation; increased social-emotional growth and learning; increased sense of personal responsibility; and reduced engagement in a variety of high-risk behaviors

Cultural Competency in Community:

USI is a proud recipient of the San Antonio African American Community Fund which is committed to supporting programs that advance the value and importance of education and foster a diverse network of African American leaders in the San Antonio area. Through this opportunity, USI assists youth with exposure to field trips and activities to learn and experience the positive historical influence of African American leaders.

Family Support Services:

USI creates opportunities for families to engage in positive and meaningful experiences leading to more engagement in the home to promote healthy social and emotional living. One way USI promotes learning as a family is by offering Winter Engagement Baskets that include board games, recipe cards, kitchen tools, and books. USI hosts events in the community such as Back to School Bash and Game Night. Every child that attends the Back to School Bash receives a backpack with school supplies, books, and math materials. Staff connect with families to see how their summer ended and encourage them to kick-off the new school year positively. At Game Night we intentionally play games that support reading and math skills and allow families an opportunity to problem solve together.

All Families are Stable and Thriving

USI Human Capital Communities

In order to create successful and thriving neighborhoods that include equitable pathways to social and economic mobility for families. USI plans and coordinates a thoughtful network of supports that operate concurrently with community revitalization efforts during the Planning, Redevelopment, and Sustainable life cycles of each community. To ensure the coordination of

these supports, USI provides a seamless family supportive services system to offer residents a single point of entry to a full continuum of resources, services, and programs. In support of Human Capital Communities, USI coordinates with property management staff for the delivery of on-site programs and services.