

PERKINS HOMES

Baltimore, Maryland



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN BALTIMORE

USI is a national nonprofit with extensive experience in the design and implementation of place-based human capital development strategies in communities that are undergoing comprehensive physical revitalization. We work with Public Housing Authorities, city government officials, institutions, foundations, developers, property managers, community members and other stakeholders to build comprehensive plans around neighborhood conditions and human service needs.

In 2017, Urban Strategies Inc. was chosen as the lead organization to provide comprehensive case management services to the families of Perkins Homes in Baltimore, Maryland. This Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) project is largely funded by a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant program. In total, there are approximately just under (450) households that are enrolled and receiving services. To ensure all families obtain equitable outcomes, USI Baltimore collaborates with over fifty high impact community partners to address self-reported barriers. In doing so, it is our hope to change the trajectory of many lives that ultimately result in overall positive outcomes.

Over the course of this project, USI has identified several common data trends below:

OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Investment in school safety, increase minimum wage, expand child-care assistance funding for low to moderate income families.

Employment income and average annual salaries have continued to improve since the baseline at a small incremental pace between 5-15% since 2018. Several factors had impacted these numbers to include the pandemic as families had to navigate job loss due to business closing or downsizing, childcare challenges, and the overall health + safety of families. In contrast, new employment opportunities emerged that provided more work from home options and the ability to acquire new skills.



OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



HOUSING STABILITY

Choice Neighborhoods, young adult affordable transitional housing

By not paying rent + utilities in a timely manner, families perpetuate the risk of losing their housing status and becoming homeless. Prior to relocation, up to 30-40% of Heads of Households (HOH) were consistently in rent arrears with HABC for several months and exceeding one or more years. Many have continued to rely on this system + federal funding programs (i.e., rental arrears + utility assistance, etc.) to survive, and temporarily stay afloat. These behaviors further extended post-relocation whereby now, private landlords are not as receptive as HABC to not receiving their monies in a timely manner. Furthermore, many programs have eligibility criteria for disbursement of funding limited to once per year.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Mental healthcare access + coverage, lower Rx costs, access to quality affordable healthcare (i.e. dental, etc.)

Data has continued to show that Heads of Household (HOH) have reported living with one or more chronic health conditions. Most notable conditions reported are (i.e. high blood pressure, Type II Diabetes, obesity, asthma, and depression, etc.). Most recently, 289/68% of HOH self-reported living with a chronic condition. In 2019, the numbers were slightly lower at 242/62%. Although the data shows a slight increase over the past five years, there have been no significant changes. One positive note to highlight that the data depicts is over 276/96% of residents report they are connected to appropriate healthcare services to manage their conditions. Living in communities plagued by food deserts and not having access to fresh affordable produce and healthy foods, has likely contributed to many of these conditions. Also, breaking the cycle of unhealthy eating habits and obtaining access to positive health and wellness education, further impacts residents' ability to lead healthier lifestyles.



EDUCATION

Early Head Start, accessible After-School Programming, Free community college tuition

OUR SUCCESS



977 residents are enrolled in active Family Supportive Services



60% of families have self-reported youth participating in one or more youth enrichment activities



The average income has increased to a rising \$28,873



98% of families have health insurance



POLICY & INFLUENCE

Create access to needed resources within the community, implement better housing policies,