

# GLOW

## Baltimore, Maryland



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

## 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.

USI was engaged by Central Baltimore Partnership in 2022 to provide wrap around supportive services to 120 single adult head of household families with children in four predominately black Central Baltimore communities, Harwood, Barclay, Midway, and Greenmount West., as part of a larger Greenmount Life Opportunity Wellness (GLOW) initiative with place-based community partners and community development organizations. Approximately 1,204 households within these communities have an income below \$25,000, and 374 of those households are reportedly living in poverty.

Funding from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is supporting the project. Since our partnership began, USI has seen three trend lines and common theme data points.

## OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Strengthen communities through improved access to mental health care

About 1/3 or 36.5% of single adult head of households (95.9% black) have reported feeling higher levels of overwhelm or stress as compared to Baltimore families with housing subsidies through the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. Parents are prioritizing family needs over individual mental health. Locating mental health providers who accept Medicaid, have accessible appointment options, and availability to follow up with families in a timely manner has been strenuous to find.



### POLICY & INFLUENCE

Strengthen the federal government's relationships with federally funded and local municipalities programs



## OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



### ECONOMIC MOBILITY

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

Employment and education goals showed a 43% success rate. Workforce challenges were complicated by the complexities of navigating childcare programs and addressing health needs. Single parents face pronounced difficulties in employment due to the impact of a loss of government benefits, sick children, or routine errands. Securing childcare for children under four years old posed a significant hurdle, with entry requirements for childcare vouchers demanding a job that parents had not yet secured and a mistrust of families to send young children to early childhood providers before they are able to speak to be able to report of any abuse or wrongdoing.



### HOUSING STABILITY

Affordable Housing options for families to maintain in their community at an affordable rate when not accessing or eligible for housing vouchers or subsidies and locate financial or programmatic support when behind on rent

Challenges persist in areas of stability, including rent and utilities. 20% of enrolled families are facing these challenges consistently. Despite local programs for utility assistance, barriers like utilization issues and income thresholds hindered access for most applicants. Community engagement events strongly echoed families' need for rental, landlord, and overall housing support while navigating the open housing market.

## OUR SUCCESS



GLOW enrolled 202 individuals from 64 families in active Family Supportive Services



52% of school aged youth 6-18 are enrolled in out of school activities



\$28,091 is the average annual income for families



98% of families are enrolled in health insurance