Perkins-Somerset-Oldtown

PSO is a neighborhood just east of downtown Baltimore that is experiencing gentrification, faces health and education challenges, and has a desperate need for a sustainable local economy that supports all residents. Urban is leading the effort to help craft a new vision for the Perkins homes and the surrounding community.

Propelling Educational Success: USI has seen the number and percentage of school-age youth connecting to early learning programs increase to 52%, close to our grant goal of 95%.

Improving Health and Wellness: USI has established partnerships in Baltimore to expand options for healthcare services and improve residents’ access to healthy foods, mental health supports, and recreational facilities. USI has increased the participation in Primary Care participation from 48% to 94%, which is helping families to lead healthier lives.

Moving Families to Economic Self-Sufficiency: USI partners with local job training and workforce development providers in an effort to address the employment barriers Perkins residents have identified and to increase earned income and labor force participation. These strategies get results. For example, coordinated case management and collaboration with partners through Choice has led to a 20% increase in the number of able-bodied residents 18-65 years old who have secured full-time employment since January 2019.

Enrolling Families in Case Management: In Year 1 of the Choice Neighborhoods

52%
of target youth are engaged in early learning

61%
of PSO residents are employed

94%
of residents have a medical home, up from 48% in 2018

87%
of target residents are enrolled
Our Experience with Choice Neighborhoods

Urban Strategies partners with a diversity of stakeholders in twelve 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 Revitalize 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”.

implementation grant, USI enrolled 1,033 individuals from the Perkins neighborhood in case management to connect families to the most needed and promising programs in education, health & wellness, and economic mobility needed to become stable and thriving.