Perkins-Somerset-Oldtown 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. In 2017, Urban and partners submitted a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation proposal in an effort to secure a grant to develop a comprehensive, mixed-income community where public housing sites currently exist. If awarded the grant, Urban would pursue the following goals with residents:

**Improving Health and Wellness:** If awarded, Urban will expand options for healthcare services and improve residents’ access to healthy foods, mental health supports, and recreational facilities. Evidence from Columbus shows that these strategies work. In two years, Urban has increased the participation in health and fitness programming from 8% to 37%, which is helping families to lead healthier lives.

**Moving Families to Economic Self-Sufficiency:** Urban plans to partner 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. In San Antonio, for example, coordinated case management and collaboration with partners through Choice has led to a 171% increase in the number of able-bodied residents 18-65 years old who have secured full-time employment.

**Propelling Educational Success:** Urban will work with local partners to increase children’s participation in high-quality early learning programs, which is a critical step in moving families out of poverty. Our work in Sacramento, where in only one year we accomplished a 136% improvement in participation, shows that these strategies can achieve change.

**Our Experience with Choice Neighborhoods**

Urban Strategies partners with a diversity of stakeholders in nine 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”.

Urban Strategies, Inc. is a non-partisan, national not-for-profit organization with extensive experience in the design and implementation of human capital building and community development strategies. **Urban supports more than 30,000 families, totaling 100,000 individuals, in 24 unique communities located in 12 major metropolitan areas.**

This year, **Urban celebrates our 40th anniversary** as an organization serving parents and children through a diverse portfolio of human capital transformation efforts – forty years of leading place-based strategies with residents and partners that capitalize on inherent strengths of communities to transform neighborhoods and improve the capacity of local human service systems. Some of our most impactful accomplishments include:

**Accelerating Family Economic Mobility**
Urban is dedicated to leading efforts to find families jobs, keep them employed, and increase their wages. One of the most powerful examples of the impact of this work can be seen in Memphis, where we successfully helped increase families’ wages by more than 200% in just two years. Urban has supported 1,307 households through workforce development, health and wellness, and youth empowerment initiatives.

**Leadership on Major Federal Programs**
Urban Strategies has served a leading role in the implementation of major federally-funded initiatives in 12 major metropolitan areas. This work includes:
- Overseeing more than $40.5 million in support services funding for families impacted by Choice in nine unique communities;
- Planning and coordinating Community Support Services in 12 HOPE VI communities; and
- Assisting with the coordination and implementation of a Byrne Criminal Justice Initiative grant.

**The Strategic Alliance**
Urban Strategies has partnered with the **Center for the Study of Social Policy** and the **National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities at Case Western Reserve University** to help improve, accelerate, and better track the progress of efforts to develop thriving and equitable mixed-income communities. The Alliance is forming a network of cities to collaborate as thought leaders to drive new policies, financing strategies, and accountability frameworks to improve the mixed-income field.