Near East Side
Columbus, Ohio

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Near East Side

The Near East Side was once a thriving upper middle-class neighborhood, and during the Great Migration, became one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Columbus. In the 1960’s, the community saw a large population loss and general decline as a result of white flight and purposeful disinvestment, which continued well into the modern day.

Propelling Educational Success: USI has worked with a variety of education partners to strengthen connections to educational success. These efforts have led to increasing participation in early learning from 25.0% in 2015 to 47.6% in 2019. Additionally, youth participating in enrichment activities has increase from 22% in 2015 to nearly 40% in 2019.

Accelerating Gainful Employment: Urban has supported Near East Side residents in gaining skills as they work to become ready to join today’s workforce. In 2019, USI has partnered with Jewish Family Services to bring on-site workforce development services to Legacy Pointe at Poindexter. USI’s efforts have led to employment for 61% of working age adults as of September 2019 a 61% increase from the 22% that were employed in 2015.

Improving Health & Wellness: USI has connected with local healthcare providers and wellness agencies to support families by providing greater access to physical, mental, and emotional needs. In 2019, the percentage of Near East Side residents with health insurance rose to 98% - up from 79% in 2015. Additionally, the percentage of adults with access to a primary care physician rose by 8%.

Socially Stabilizing Households: USI has supported families in becoming financially and socially stable. As of September 2019, USI has helped decrease the percentage of families with a high family risk score by 36.4% from families’ baseline. Additionally, USI has assisted families in increasing household income from $8,478 in 2015 to $14,835 as of September of 2019.
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”.

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