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. Because of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant awarded in 2013, the Near East Side has experienced positive and measurable change that has improved the neighborhood’s livability and opportunities for all residents, new and returning. Recent results Urban has tracked include:

**Propelling Educational Success:** Urban developed a new partnership with the Columbus Early Learning Center to provide expanded early literacy services to families we serve, with impressive results. From 2015 to 2017, the percentage of children ages 0-5 enrolled in early childhood education programs more than doubled, from 25% to 52%.

**Improving Health & Wellness:** Urban has connected with local healthcare providers and wellness agencies to support families by providing greater access to physical, mental, and emotional needs. In 2017, the percentage of Near East Side residents with health insurance rose to 96% - up from a mere 79% in 2015. Additionally, the percentage of adults with access to a primary care physician rose by 8%.

**Accelerating Gainful Employment:** Urban has supported Near East Side residents as they work to earn a variety of credentials to gain skills needed in today’s workforce. In 2017, 10 residents completed a certificate program and 1 adult learner earned their GED. These strategies have led to employment for 39% of working age adults in 2017, a significant increase from the 22% that were employed in 2015.

**Our Experience with Choice Neighborhoods**

Urban Strategies partners with a diversity of stakeholders in nine Choice Neighborhoods sites to create and implement comprehensive neighborhoods 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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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.