

SOUTH CITY

MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

Since the 1940's, the South City neighborhood has experienced a rapid decline in stability for residents as result of a dramatic concentration of poverty over time. In particular, the Foote Homes housing development has become associated with high poverty, crime, and lack of opportunity. Despite efforts to rectify this during the 1990's, South City has yet to become safe and thriving. Because of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant awarded in 2015, South City has experienced positive and measureable change that has improved the neighborhood's livability and opportunities for all residents, new and returning. Recent results Urban has tracked include:



16 Partners

361 Surveys
Completed



Fostering Strategic Partnerships: Collaborating closely with local service providers and using data to drive towards results is key to the success of every Choice effort. In Memphis, Urban has forged partnerships with 16 distinct organizations, and has completed surveys on healthy living, safety, transit, and civic participation with 361 residents of South City.



361
Families actively
participating

Supporting Families through Case Management: In Year 2 of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative implementation grant, Urban had 361 families from the South City neighborhood actively participating in case management. One new collaborative effort Urban has forged is with FedEx. This partnership has been especially impactful, as the FedEx has begun a process to hire 50 new employees from the area.

5 Community Events



Leading Events that Build Community: Urban has helped to coordinate and facilitate a number of community events for Foote Homes residents, including the Foote Homes All Zones Residents Meeting, and a Career, Education, and Job Fair.

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 safe and thriving"**.

URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.

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.

