Near North Side
St. Louis, Missouri

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Preservation Square

The Near North Side of St. Louis is a community that for years has been deeply affected by a combination of purposeful disinvestment and a mass-exodus of blue-collar jobs. In particular, the Preservation Square and O’Fallon Place public housing developments have become places facing a severe concentration of poverty.

Enrolling Families in Case Management:
In Year 1 of the CNI grant, USI began case management with only (13) 9.2% household actively participating families with completed assessments. Gaining a better sense of the community needs, a stronger framework for engagement in year 3, year to date (148) 79.1% of households now have completed assessments and are actively working to become more stable and thriving in partnership with USI and our committed partners.

Addressing Income Gaps: Preservation Square households earn a median income of only $7,736 per year – far below a living wage of $55,000. Working with local partners to connect residents to new employment opportunities and sustainable incomes USI is working with local partners to connect residents to new employment opportunities with sustainable income, putting families on a clear pathway toward self-sufficiency, within 3 years the average annual income is $17,008. Specifically an increase in the average annual income of more than 50%, the unemployment was 82.6% in year once has shifted to the majority of heads of household working the unemployment rate is now 42.3%. More importantly, USI is able to celebrate with our working able-bodied population an average 639 days worked.

Fostering Strategic Partnerships:
Collaborating closely with local service
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”.