Larimer / East Liberty

Like neighborhoods in so many other American metropolises, the Larimer/ East Liberty community has experienced severe inequality as a result of the concentration of poverty. The construction of the Hamilton-Larimer and East Liberty Gardens developments segregated residents from resources and opportunity – trends that have continued well into the modern day.

Improving Health & Wellness: USI is encouraging residents to live healthier, more active lifestyles and eat more nutritious food. At the onset of the Choice grant, only 8% of residents participated in health and fitness programming. That number has skyrocketed to 37% in only two years. More residents are also now utilizing new counseling and mental health services.

Moving families to economic self-sufficiency: Thanks to USI’s partnership with Pittsburgh’s workforce development agency, Partner4Work, the percentage of working-age, able-bodied adults working has increased by 10%, and the average earned income has increased to $19,901 compared to $12,289 in 2015.

Propelling Educational Success: USI through its work with local partners has increased children’s participation in high-quality early learning programs to 58.3% as of 9/1/2019. This is a 16% increase since 2015, which is a critical step in setting children up for academic success.

Promoting Housing Choice: A key part of Choice Neighborhoods is replacing distressed public housing with high quality mixed-income housing, and ensuring the opportunity for all relocated residents to return to the new housing. Urban strives to bring back all families who wish to return to the new and improved homes and amenities in the community. To-date, 77 families (56% of all eligible households) have moved into Cornerstone Village.
Our Experience with Choice Neighborhoods

Enrolling and Sustaining Families in Case Management: Larimer/ East Liberty participants in case management services are actively engaging in the programs that Urban has established. Of the 137 households eligible for case management through Choice, 131 (96%) are enrolled. Moreover, 120 (92%) of those eligible households actively participate in case management.

Promoting Housing Stability: Another key part of Choice Neighborhoods is ensuring that residents are safe and stable. USI works closely with residents and property management to ensure that families avoid the upheaval that comes with housing instability. In the last quarter of 2015 alone, 6 residents at Larimer/ East Liberty were evicted. Thanks to the collaborative approach implemented by Urban, the People Team’s efforts resulted in only 4 residents being evicted in two full years from 2016 to 2018.