



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS UPDATE | AUGUST 2020

HOUSING UPDATE

PHASE 1

- Site preparation activities are underway in the Phase 1 area, and construction is scheduled to be complete at the end of 2021, resulting in 131 one-, two-, and three-bedroom units in 21 townhome and garden-style buildings.
- MBS and its compliance consultant, along with USI and Altman Charter are collaborating to maximize the number of Section 3 Individuals in jobs on the site.

PHASES 2A & 2B

- Phases 2A and 2B are expected to start construction in Spring 2021.

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

- Although the CARES Act eviction freeze ended, MBM will continue its policy of no evictions or late fees for nonpayment or late rent until further notice.
- USI & MBM collaborated to:
 - Create a Communication Plan to inform residents of emergency protocols.
 - Provide employment and training opportunities to residents (53 residents to date).
 - Connect 3 youth to election poll volunteer opportunities as part of efforts to foster youth leadership.

PEOPLE UPDATE

HOUSING STABILITY

- Case management services were provided to 519 residents in 219 households (HHs), 74% of which are original target HH.
- 85% of HHs have been assessed and have plans to move from “stable to thriving”.
- 41% of families reported falling behind on rental payments and 35% reported falling behind in rental assistance. USI is working with property managers and utility companies to coordinate payments and get funding assistance and 27 HHs are currently receiving assistance.
- USI and St. Louis City received \$30,000 to keep families housed.

EDUCATION

- 89% of families enrolled in USI’s Family Support Program responded to the Annual Youth Questionnaire.
- USI is working with SLPS and Flance to increase access to early learning and family support programs for children ages 0-4. In July, 5 children were referred to Flance.
- USI and the YMCA launched a ‘Virtual Place To Learn’ to focus on reading, math, and tutoring support for students in grades 1-12 with 10 youth referred to date.
- USI is working with the Urban League (formerly Grace Hill Settlement House) to provide St. Louis University’s Overground tutoring program to Jefferson Elementary students.

- USI’s Education Specialist contacts families weekly to support remote learning through guided activity packets and online learning sites, such as Jump Start.
- USI partnered with Love in Action to host a Summer Camp. 20 children from 9 HHs participated (a 6% increase in participation), 67% of which are enrolled in USI’s Family Support Program.
- USI and the SLPS Adult Education Learning Program are connecting youth to graduation counseling, job shadowing, financial literacy education, and other college- and career-readiness opportunities – there are currently 10 HHs on the waitlist for fall enrollment.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- USI is partnering with Affinia to create targeted strategies for 46 HHs without health insurance—39% are now enrolled in outpatient and emergency services, and have pending insurance cards.
- USI and Affinia hosted a health donation drive on July 14th and distributed hand sanitizer, face masks/gloves, clothes, toothpaste, toilet paper, school supplies, detergent, and bottled water to 4 HHs.
- USI, Affinia, and Urban League provided diaper assistance to 18 HHs.
- USI is working with 2 mental health coaches and 1 therapist to create a holistic approach to trauma-informed care.



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PEOPLE UPDATE (continued)

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- USI is partnering with Employment Connection (EC) to eliminate job readiness barriers such as transportation, access to technology/the digital divide, and mental health. 24 residents have been referred to EC, and over half of those residents are enrolled and receiving services.
- USI's Family Support Team assisted a resident in securing employment at Flance and will be supported in training and receiving certifications.

POLICY & RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

- While practicing social distancing, USI staff participated in 8 food drops, 1 health fair, 1 education drive, and 1 summer camp.

- The Washington University Census and Voting Challenge/ Campaign helped USI determine that 33% of the target population is not registered to vote and is now working with residents to learn their stories.
- USI and the YMCA identified 5 families interested in Youth Leadership Groups.
- USI continues to balance the health and safety of staff while supporting the urgent needs of families. Being the only essential link to some of our families, USI has postponed all events and large engagement efforts in August. We will continue to serve while practicing social distancing with virtual meetings and social engagement events, which will be posted on the updated website and social media platforms.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

CCI (COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS) PLAN PROPOSAL

- The CCI Plan proposal aims to provide the infrastructure to create a more equitable Near North Side by offering space for neighbors to gather, work, and learn together.
- Proposed Improvement 1: Economic Empowerment Center (EEC)
- Proposed Improvement 2: Social Entrepreneurship Micro Loan Program
- Proposed Improvement 3: Loretta Hall Park Renewal
- Proposed Improvement 4: 14th Street Corridor Place-Making

CCI ADVISORY GROUPS

- 14th Street Corridor Placemaking and Loretta Hall Park Advisory Group meetings are held every 3rd Thursday of the month (please note meetings are now combined)
- Advisory Group meetings will be held via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT—COVID-19 RESPONSE

- **Near North Side Fresh Food Box Distributions** are held:
 - **Every Wednesday** at Transfiguration Church (1807 Biddle) starting at 11:00am
 - **Every Friday** at Flance Early Learning Center (1908 O'Fallon) Starting at 12:00pm

- Early registration for Neighborhood Leadership Academy starts August 7th—Contact St. Louis Cohort: Claire Ribble, UMSL Extension at 314-400-7287

STAY IN THE LOOP

- For more information on the four elements of the CCI Plan or to attend a virtual monthly Advisory Group meeting call Myisa Whitlock at 314-246-9318
- Residents can visit us online at www.nearnorthstl.com for details on monthly meetings, other Choice Neighborhood related information and current information surrounding COVID-19

KEY DATES & HIGHLIGHTS

→ Join the Critical Community Improvements (CCI) Advisory Group **virtually** on August 20th @ 5:30pm

→ Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92914350203>

→ Dial-In: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 929 1435 0203