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. Because of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant awarded in 2016, the Near North Side is moving towards positive and measurable change that will improve the neighborhood’s livability and opportunities for all residents, new and returning. Recent actions driving towards results that Urban leads include:

**Enrolling Families in Case Management:** In Year 1 of the Choice Neighborhoods implementation grant, Urban began case management with 150 actively participating families. These families are being supported with new collaborative initiatives, which to-date include the Bi-State Equitable Bike Share and the Generate Health BUILD 2.0 Challenge.

**Addressing Income Gaps:** Preservation Square households earn a median income of only $8,796 per year — far below a living wage of $55,000. Urban is working with local partners to connect residents to new employment opportunities with sustainable incomes to put families on a clear pathway towards self-sufficiency. Already, 60 residents have taken part in workforce development and training opportunities.

**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. Urban has secured committed partnerships with 18 distinct organizations, and has completed surveys on healthy living, safety, transit, and civic participation with 323 residents.

**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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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families Enrolled</th>
<th>150</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surveys Completed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.