Though the River District – Railyards neighborhood is located just north of the affluent downtown of Sacramento, the community has faced years of isolation and disinvestment. River District – Railyards, including the Twin Rivers housing development, has faced high levels of exclusion for the past 70 years. Urban Strategies is leveraging the Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant awarded in 2015 to produce positive and measureable change that will improve the neighborhood’s livability and opportunities for all residents, new and returning. Urban is currently leading the following following programs for Twin Rivers families:

**Moving Families to Economic Self-Sufficiency**: At present, families in Twin Rivers earn an average of just $15,288 dollars per year. This falls well below the yearly income of $58,000 for an average Sacramento family of three. Urban is partnering with local stakeholders to get residents employed by connecting them to job training and workforce development programs, aligning efforts with the local Promise Zone work group, and maximizing employment retention.

**Improving Health & Wellness**: Urban advocates for enhancements to local systems, like better access to transportation resources, while also working to expand the network of medical resources available to families. For example, in just two years we have helped increase the percentage of residents connected with appropriate care to manage a chronic health condition by 11%. This is critical to a community where 52% live with a chronic condition.

**Propelling Educational Success**: Urban has increased the number of local youth enrolled in the target school within the River District – Railyard community. We also connected kids to Out-of-School Time programs such as activities led by the Boys & Girls Club, Kops N Kids, and the Roberts Center Freedom School, leading to a 136% increase in participation.

**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 stable and thriving”.

136% more students participate in youth programs in 2017 (85 youth versus 36 in 2016)
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.