After World War II, the Eastside Neighborhood and Wheatley Courts public housing development within the community suffered from a dramatic exodus of citizens into the surrounding San Antonio suburbs. Disinvestment in the neighborhood occurred steadily into the present-day. Because of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant awarded in 2012, Eastside 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 is currently leading include:

**Promoting Housing Stability:** A key part of Choice Neighborhoods is the relocation of public housing residents that takes place. Urban strives to bring back all families who wish to return to the new and improved homes and amenities in the community. To-date, Eastside has seen a 46% return rate.

**Accelerating Gainful Employment:** Through strategic case management led by Urban, Wheatley Court residents have already made tremendous strides in securing gainful employment. Between 2013 and 2017, the number of able-bodied residents 18-65 years old who had full-time employment steadily rose by 171%, from 14 to 38. When combined with residents in part-time positions and in training programs, there has been a 32% increase in employment overall. 92% of residents successfully complete training programs they enroll in.

**Propelling Educational Success:** Eastside youth ages 6-17 have seen tremendous gains in educational opportunities since the implementation of Choice. From 2014 to 2017, the percentage of children in youth development programs has increased from 18% to 62%.

**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”.

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**46%** of original public housing residents have returned to Eastside

**62%** of youth participate in development programs
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.