

PEOPLE STRATEGY YEAR IN REVIEW

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE



USI | URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.

Families at the Center of Results

LETTER FROM THE SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

tahira taqi

What a year! We went into 2020 ready to hit the ground running -- but as we know, COVID had other plans. It was a year met with challenges, loss, frustration and growth, but through it all, I am grateful for the authentic and trusting relationships with our partners and residents that were strengthened during this tumultuous year. Despite the uncertainty of 2020, with the help of our dedicated partners, residents,

stakeholders and case management team, we were still able to advance equitable results for families. I look forward to a new year and opportunities to collaborate and innovate with each of you to help our families thrive. A huge thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our Choice Neighborhood families.

With deep appreciation,

Tahira Taqi



LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

alecia leonard

In looking back on 2020, the word that keeps coming to mind is resilient. The resilience of the families we have the privilege to work alongside has shown up this year like never before in the way neighbors have checked in and supported one another, found creative solutions to really challenging circumstances, and continued to achieve their goals despite systemic inequities. Resilience has also been in full display with our team and partners who never missed a beat adjusting to new processes and protocols to ensure safety. Partners emerged and

adapted to meet new needs and remove barriers created or magnified by the pandemic.

As we head into 2021, I am extremely hopeful that we will bring all that has been learned throughout this last year to bear in our collective pursuit of *All RiverWest families being stable and thriving*. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to the families served through the RiverWest Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

With Gratitude,

Alecia Leonard



**MISSION: ALL
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES WILL BE
STABLE AND THRIVING**

2020: A TIMELINE

January

- All People Partner Meeting
- Relocation & Resident Meeting

March

- Resident Job Fair onsite
- Brightwaters resident meeting

May

- Phase II Relocation Started
- Virtual Celebrating the Journey with Eugene Field and Webster kiddos
- Food & resource delivery, weekly
- Received COVID-19 Barrier Removal funding through Tulsa Community Foundation and Tulsa Area United Way

July

- Food & resource delivery, weekly
- Discovery Lab kit dropoff

September

- Food & resource delivery, weekly
- Eugene Field Pre-K enrollment event
- Awarded TSET grant

November

- Brightwater resident meeting



February

- Mobile Eatery onsite
- Resident Meeting

April

- Food & resource delivery, weekly

June

- Virtual Resident Meeting
- Food & resource delivery, weekly
- Ozobot camp with Discovery Lab
- Food & dairy pickup at Gathering Place

August

- Phase II Relocation Completed
- Virtual Resident Meeting
- Food & resource delivery, weekly

October

- Brightwater resident meeting & Halloween gift bags

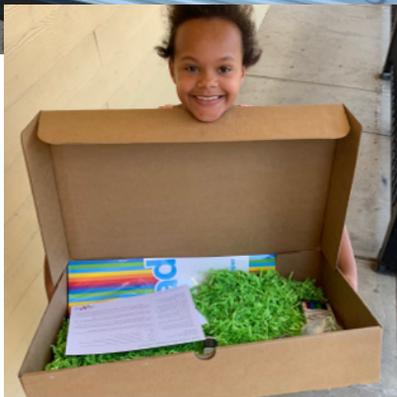
December

- Brightwater resident meeting
- Holiday photos & raffle giveaway onsite and for relocated families
- Discovery Lab kit dropoff
- Awarded Tulsa Area United Way grant
- Food delivery to kids at Brightwaters with the Food Bank

COVID RESPONSE

When COVID hit and things started shutting down in March 2020, our first response was to go into resource deployment mode as we shifted our case management model to focus on COVID support for Choice families. Our case management team made weekly calls to families, knowing that COVID impacted all aspects of our families' lives, including:

- **Basic Needs Compromised:** Food, supplies, Rental and utility payments, toiletries, prescription drug assistance)
- **Routines disrupted, Need to feel Safe:** Coping strategies, stress management referrals, unemployment and employment support,, disinfectants/face masks
- **Boredom, Loneliness:** Ways to connect with others (e.g., computer and internet access), staff videos, domestic violence referrals
- **Parent Esteem:** Homework help, family literacy, be self-reliant
- **Actualization - Stability:** Covid-19 tax checks, Census



USI had a good grasp of our families' needs through consistent communication between case managers and residents. **With the wonderful support provided by our partners**, USI was able to provide necessities to families throughout COVID.

- **Paid \$17,000 in rent & utility payments** to support families with housing stability, thanks to a barrier removal fund from the Tulsa Area United Way
- **Distributed 22,500 pounds of food** donated by The Food Bank, Gathering Place and other local partners
- Delivered **over 650 rolls of toilet paper and almost 325 household cleaning items** to families
- Provided **Social Emotional Learnings Kits** from The Opportunity Project and **at-home learning kits** from Discovery Lab
- Over-the-Phone **safety planning and stress management** with families feeling overwhelmed by social distancing and staying at home.
- Provided student access to **internet and computer technology** to support their distance learning requirements for school
- Helped families access reliable school district information to help students with enrollment, virtual learning and homework assistance
- JobsFirst program accommodated new barriers and **supported participants to continue working towards employment goals** in everchanging economic circumstances.



A huge thank you to our partners for providing resources, household necessities and support needed by families throughout COVID. USI could not have done this work without our partners. Thank you.



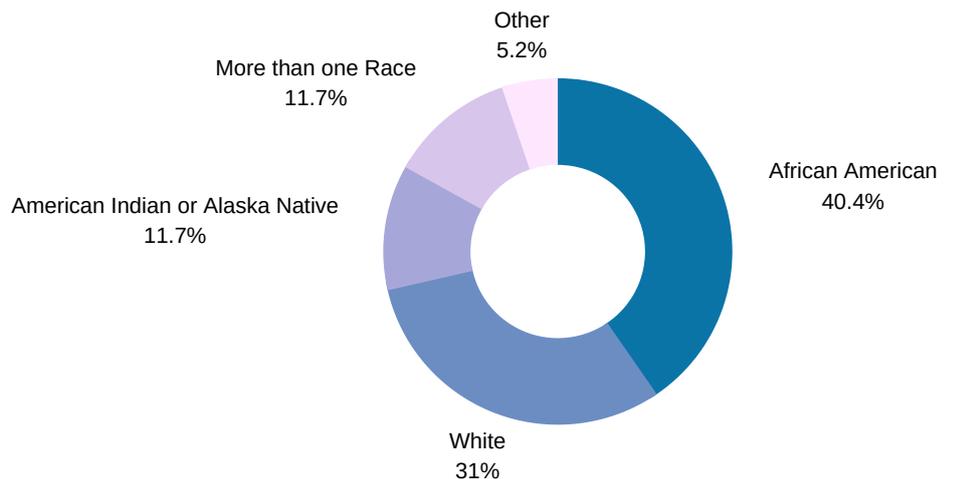
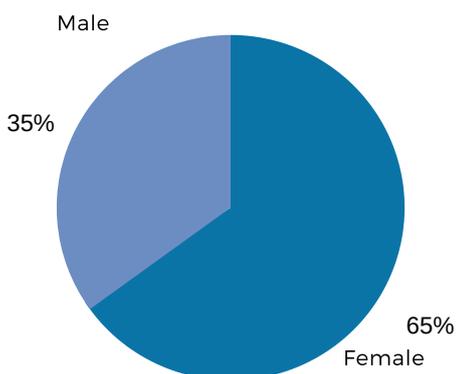
OUR RESIDENTS



804 residents (313 households) actively in case management

- 393 adults, 18+ years old
- 8 adults, 65+ years old
- 411 children, 0-18 years old

7.6% of residents are Hispanic/Latino



2020 ACCORDING TO THE DATA

This data is pulled from LEARN assessment information as of Dec. 31, 2020.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



- **43.5% of assessed adults have chronic health condition** (down from 48.4% in 2019)
 - Highest are depression, high blood pressure, asthma, arthritis, overweight
- Resident Reported Stress Levels
 - 30.6% report very low to no stress
 - 46.6% reported being somewhat stressed
 - **22.8% report high or severely stressed** (down from 28% in Feb. 2019 and 26.5% in Dec. 2019)
 - 27.2% of households reported higher stress levels due to COVID
- **64.4% of assessed adults report having health insurance**, whereas 94.4% of resident children have health insurance (up from 61.9% of adults having insurance and 91% of children having insurance in 2019)
 - 60.4% of adults have primary care physician or regular clinic (up from 51% in Feb. 2019 and 54.3% in Dec. 2019)
 - 83.33% of resident children (from birth to K entry) have place of healthcare where they usually go
 - 70.9% of adults and 91.4% of children have seen a doctor within past 12 months (up from 63.4% for adults in 2019)
 - 29.7% of adults have received dental care in last 12 months (up from 28.1% in 2019)

EDUCATION

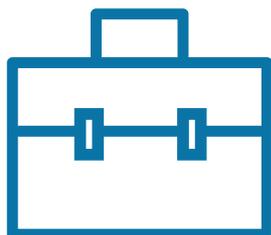
- **33.6% of 3-5 year olds are enrolled in early learning programs** (down from 53% in 2018 and 61.4% in 2019) - many families pulled kids from programs or didn't enroll due to COVID
- **37% of resident youth are involved in positive youth development activities** in out-of-school-time programming, such as after-school program, sports/rec program, academic support/tutoring
- Nearly **62% of parents report reading to children 0-7 years old** at least three times per week
- 89% of parents feel like they have a good relationship with their child's teacher



Highest Level of Adult Education

- Some High School or Less - 28.7%
- HS Diploma or GED - 43.2% (up from 33% in Oct. 2017)
- Some College - 23.1% (up from 20.9% in 2019)
- Associate's or Higher - 5.1%

ECONOMIC MOBILITY



- **Average annual household income: \$16,614** [average annual earned household income is \$23,014] (up from \$11,091 average HH income and \$14,710 average earned HH income)
- **Unemployment rate - 76.8%** (down from 80% unemployment rate in Aug. 2018, but up from 2019's rate of 66.9%)
 - Impact of COVID; 9.4% of residents lost employment as a result of COVID
 - Others unable to work due to health restrictions, disability, training-related barriers (transportation, reliable childcare, care for family member)
- For 63 working residents (18-64), **57.1% have worked for at least the past 6 months**
- 61 unemployed adults actively enrolled in job training or other workforce development with JobsFirst (up from 27 residents in 2019)
- **67% of adults do not have a car** in good working condition

BASIC NEEDS/HOUSING STABILITY

- **21.9% of households state they do not have sufficient income to support basic needs** (down from 48.1% in Feb. 2019 and 34.9% in Dec. 2019)
 - Biggest needs are food, clothing, cleaning products, deodorant, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrush
- TANF - 3.8% of households receive
- SSI - 11.2% of households receive
- SSDI - 9.5% of households receive
- Food stamps - 84.6% of households receive
- WIC - 21.4% of households receive





NETWORK OF PARTNERS

HOUSING STABILITY

Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa
City of Tulsa
Tulsa County Sheriff's Department
Tulsa Police Department
Community Service Council
Simmons Bank
Tulsa Area United Way
Tulsa Community Foundation

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Tulsa Community WorkAdvance
Workforce Tulsa
Tulsa Community College
Goodwill Industries of Tulsa
Tulsa Tech
CEO Works
Key Construction
Stand-by Personnel
Schusterman Family Foundation
George Kaiser Family Foundation

HEALTH & WELLNESS

OSU Clinic
Community Health Connection
Mental Health Association Oklahoma
Global Gardens
YMCA
Domestic Violence Intervention Services
Morton Health Services
Tulsa Health Department
Parent Child Center
Take Control Initiative
Family & Children's Services
LIFE Senior Services
Dayspring Community Services
The Gathering Place
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma
Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust of Oklahoma

EDUCATION

Tulsa Public Schools
CAP Tulsa
City Year
Children's Museum of Tulsa
Tulsa City County Library
IMPACT Tulsa
FabLab Tulsa
The Pencil Box
New Hope Oklahoma
Tristesse Grief Center
Sprouts Child Development
Opportunity Project
Collegiate Hall
Growing Together
Reading Partners