

# 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.**





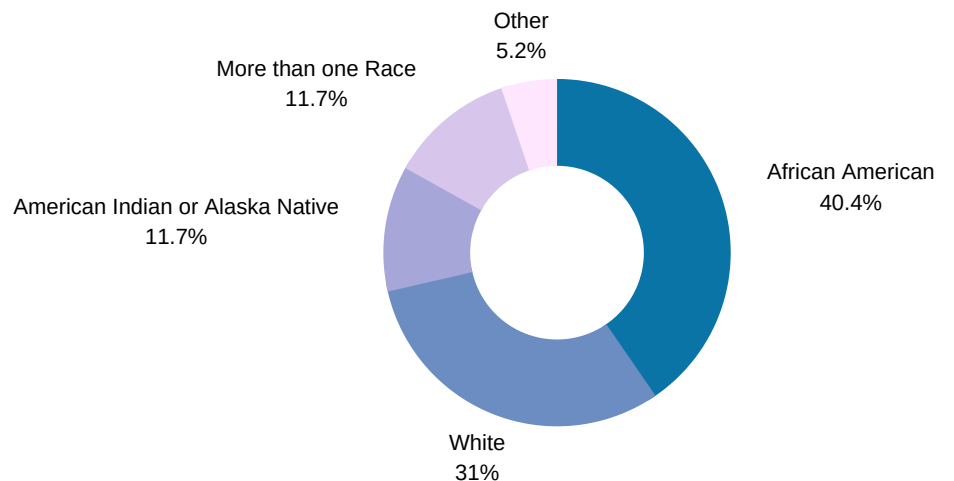
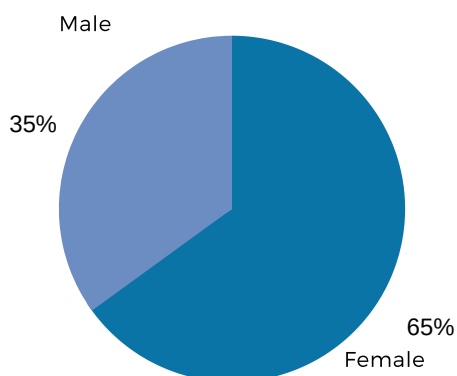
## OUR RESIDENTS



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)

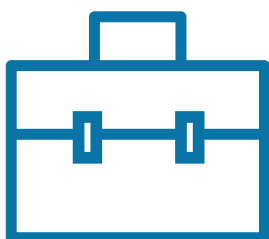
## EDUCATION

- **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