

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH ORCHARD PLACE FOR PROVISION OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

BACKGROUND:

As a result of changes made by the State of Iowa in how it supports childcare provider training and availability, the Center for Child Care Resources (CCR) closed its doors during 2011. CCR had been providing training and support to our local childcare providers.

ASSET volunteers and staff have been discussing our provider training needs with Orchard Place, with which the State has contracted to offer training and support in our county. Orchard Place is charged by the State to serve a twenty county area, which includes Story. Needless to say, the Orchard Place staff will be spread very thin.

The City had designated **\$14,294** to supply childcare providers support services through CCR for Fiscal 2011/12. Since the agency closed, this funding has not been expanded, and is available for reallocation. On November 10, the ASSET volunteers recommended that the City reallocate **\$5,665** from the Local Option Sales Tax Fund, originally designated for CCR to Orchard Place. Orchard Place has gone through the ASSET acceptance process and is eligible for funding. ASSET volunteers and staff are confident that Orchard Place has a plan to use these funds to provide enhanced support services to our local childcare providers. It is anticipated that United Way and Story County will also be providing funds to Orchard Place in the amount of \$4,635 total. These funds will be provided for the **current 2011/12 year**.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council may approve a contract with Orchard Place in the amount of **\$5,665**, for a period of January 25, 2012, through June 30, 2012, for childcare provider support services.
2. The City Council may not enter into a contract at this time and ask staff/ASSEET for more information.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1, and approve a contract with Orchard Place for the balance of 2011/12 Fiscal Year. This contract will provide funding needed by Orchard Place to provide the level of support to our local childcare providers that will maintain existing services. .