

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**                   **2014/2015 ASSET PRIORITIES**

**BACKGROUND:**

The City's ASSET Priorities as adopted by the City Council for 2013/14 are (from higher to lower priority):

- Emphasis on assistance to low and moderate income families
- Meeting basic needs
- Crisis intervention
- Prevention
- Transportation

In preparation for the 2014/15 funding cycle, the City's ASSET volunteers met in May and early June to discuss the priorities (listed above) and to review data to develop an understanding of needs in the community. The volunteers' recommended changes to the priorities were presented to the City Council on July 9, 2013. The Council discussion at the meeting provided a few recommended changes for the volunteers to consider. The volunteers reviewed the recommendations made by the City Council and suggested the changes as presented below:

**Recommendations for 2014/2015 Priorities**

**#1 Meet basic needs, with emphasis on low to moderate income:**

- Housing cost offset programs, including **utility assistance**
- **Sheltering**
- Quality childcare cost offset programs, including daycare and State of Iowa licensed in home facilities
- Food cost offset programs, to assist in providing nutritious perishables and staples
- Transportation cost offset programs for the elderly and families
- **Legal assistance**
- **Disaster response**

**#2 Meet mental health and chemical dependency needs**

- Provide outpatient emergency access to services
- Provide crisis intervention services
- Provide access to non-emergency services
- Ensure substance abuse preventions and treatment is available in the community

### **#3 Youth development services and activities**

The volunteers also noted that the City Council had identified youth in its goals as being a priority to help strengthen the community.

### **#4 Removed - related to awareness funding assistance**

The volunteers have also developed a consensus to remove # 4 related to awareness of services. The volunteers appreciated and understood the concerns that were raised by City Council on July 9th regarding the importance of using ASSET dollars to provide services.

**The volunteers recognize that the changes to the priorities are not significantly different from prior years, given the constraints of data to make more targeted recommendations. Volunteers have been encouraged to discuss these concerns about data availability at the August 15, 2013 ASSET meeting and to request that ASSET consider ways to provide the data that is necessary to answer questions about needs.**

The ASSET funding process will begin on August 28, 2013 for 2014/15. ASSET volunteers will then begin their agency visits to discuss services and gather information in preparation for the hearings and work sessions in January, 2014.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the ASSET priorities as presented above for 2014/15.
2. Do not change the priorities and approve the existing priorities.
3. Make further modifications to the priorities presented above.

### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

ASSET volunteers have reviewed the community needs and have responded to the City Council's requested changes. They are seeking approval of the recommendations as provided above.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as stated above.