

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR ASSET FUNDING FOR DENTAL CLINIC TRANSITION**

**BACKGROUND:**

Primary Health Care (PHC) is a community health center that serves medically insured, uninsured, and underinsured with their health care needs. With clinic locations in Des Moines, Marshalltown, and Ames, PHC offers an array of services including general medical and preventative care, OB, behavioral health, and HIV/STI support services.

PHC also operates dental clinics in its Des Moines and Marshalltown locations. In late spring 2020, Mid Iowa Community Action Agency (MICA) approached PHC about taking over dental clinic services. MICA's dental clinic is financially supported through the ASSET process. **Council has budgeted funding for MICA's dental clinic in the amount of \$95,000 for FY 2020/21. However, due to the pending transition of the dental clinic from MICA to PHC, the FY 2020/21 MICA contract approved by Council on August 25, 2020 did not include the \$95,000 for dental clinic services. At the time the contract was approved, Council was also alerted that a funding request from PHC for these funds may be forthcoming.**

PHC is requesting the funds that were originally intended for MICA's dental clinic services. In its request (Attachment A), PHC indicates utilizing these funds for items such as dental clinic equipment, supplies, and lab services. PHC plans to operate six dental operatories, which doubles the number of operatories previously available. Therefore, more clients can receive services. PHC anticipates beginning to serve clients in February 2021.

PHC has initiated similar requests to Story County and United Way of Story for the funds they had initially allocated to MICA's dental clinic.

Going forward, PHC has been approved as an ASSET agency and has submitted a budget request for the FY 2021/22 funding cycle. Therefore, future funding will be considered through the ASSET process.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve PHC's request for funding for the opening of a dental clinic at its Ames clinic location, in the amount of \$95,000 and direct staff to draft a contract to be approved by Council at a future date.
2. Approve funding for PHC in some other amount and direct staff to draft a contract to be approved by Council at a future date.

3. Do not approve the request.

**CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Dental services are a high human service priority of the Council’s under the service category “Meet basic needs with emphasis on low to moderate income.” The co-location of the dental clinic at PHC’s Ames medical clinic creates better access to a broad array of services, promotes a holistic approach to care, and improves health outcomes.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving funding for dental clinic services in the amount of \$95,000 for FY 2020/21.



September 29, 2020

Dear Ames City Council Members,

PHC is preparing to open a safety net dental clinic in February of 2021. The clinic will be located at 3510 Lincoln Way in Ames and will be co-located with our medical clinic. Medical and dental care at one location provides patients easier access to a broad range of services as well as improved health outcomes.

MICA had previously operated the Story County Dental Clinic, serving uninsured, under-insured and Medicaid patients. A combination of staffing challenges and Covid-19 led them to close their doors in March of this year. The transition from MICA has been cordial and collaborative; and they have gifted PHC a number of pieces of equipment.

PHC is seeking FY20/21 funding that the City of Ames had previously allocated to MICA through the ASSET process. As the Story County Dental Clinic is no longer in operation and PHC is filling that gap in care, we request the funds shift to help support the clinic PHC is building out and for ongoing operations. Expenses include (although not an exhaustive list):

- Equipment for six dental operatories
- Sterilization & infection control safety equipment and measures, compliant with new infection control guidelines instituted due to pandemic
- Supplies
- Lab Services

A snapshot of the number of uninsured, Medicaid, or insured patients we expect to serve:

- 1,200 patients from February to June 2021
- 3,600 patients in FY22 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)
- 5,280 patients in FY23
- 6,000 patients in FY24 and going forward

PHC has applied for and was accepted into the ASSET process. A budget request for FY2021/22 has been submitted for consideration.

If you would like more specific details about the project or have any questions, I would be happy to provide that information. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to apply for this funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Kelly Huntsman" in a cursive, flowing script.

Kelly Huntsman, CEO