

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **FY 2023/24 ASSET PRIORITIES**

BACKGROUND:

The ASSET funding process for FY 2023/24 will begin in August 2022. ASSET volunteers will conduct their agency visits to discuss services, gather information, and submit written reports that will be used for the agency hearings and work sessions scheduled in January 2023.

Last year the City's ASSET priorities were realigned with the results of the 2020 Story County Community Needs Assessment. These priorities for FY 2022/23 are as follows:

#1 Meet mental health and substance use disorder needs through

- A. Community-based and outpatient mental health services
- B. Outpatient emergency access and crisis intervention services
- C. Awareness and education about suicide prevention and services
- D. Substance use prevention and treatment availability

#2 Meet basic needs with an emphasis on low to moderate income through

- A. Food cost offset programs to assist in providing nutritious perishables and staples
- B. Housing cost offset programs including utility assistance
- C. Sheltering
- D. Quality childcare cost offset programs, including daycare and State of Iowa licensed in-home facilities
- E. Financial literacy and education programs
- F. Medical and dental services
- G. Transportation cost offset programs
- H. Legal assistance
- I. Disaster response

#3 Provide youth development services and activities through

- A. Skill development and enhancement
- B. Summer enrichment/prevention of loss of learning

City Council held a workshop on June 21, 2022 to discuss inclusion and diversity in establishing ASSET funding priorities for FY 2023/24. At that workshop, Council approved expanding the statement in Priority #2 "with an emphasis on low to moderate income" to be inclusive of all three categories and service areas. Another change that Council approved was removing the descriptor "quality" from "quality childcare." The

justification for this change is that that all services are expected to be offered and provided in a quality manner.

City staff met with the City's ASSET volunteers on July 11th to review the priorities and Council's recent modifications. The volunteers recommend these additional changes 1) clarifying emergency shelter, 2) re-inserting "quality" in "quality childcare" as the term refers to national standards and best practices in the areas of teaching and assessment, developmentally appropriate curriculum, and staff competencies, and 3) reprioritizing medical and dental services above financial literacy and education programs.

The volunteers are recommending the following set of priorities for the FY 2023-24 funding cycle:

***Categories 1, 2, and 3 are in priority order
as are the lettered services in each category.***

An emphasis is placed on low to moderate income in all categories and services.

#1 Meet mental health and substance use disorder needs through

- A. Community-based and outpatient mental health services
- B. Outpatient emergency access and crisis intervention services
- C. Awareness and education about suicide prevention and services
- D. Substance use prevention and treatment availability

#2 Meet basic needs through

- A. Food cost offset programs to assist in providing nutritious perishables and staples
- B. Housing cost offset programs including utility assistance
- C. Sheltering, including emergency shelter (length of stay in emergency shelter is dependent upon the population group being served)**
- D. **Quality** childcare cost offset programs, including daycare and State of Iowa licensed in-home facilities
- E. Medical and dental services**
- F. Financial literacy and education programs**
- G. Transportation cost offset programs
- H. Legal assistance
- I. Disaster response

#3 Provide youth development services and activities through

- A. Skill development and enhancement
- B. Summer enrichment/prevention of loss of learning

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the ASSET priorities for FY 2023/24.
2. Do not approve the ASSET priorities and refer back to staff for further information.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City's ASSET volunteers have reviewed the priorities in conjunction with community needs and feedback from the allocation process last January. The volunteers have provided input that help clarify the service areas.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1, as described above.