

ITEM #: 25
 DATE: 04-11-23
 DEPT: CMO

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ALLOCATING FY 2022/23 CITY ASSET RESERVED FUNDS FOR HOUSING SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

During its May 24, 2022, meeting, the Council approved ASSET’s recommendation to reserve \$11,652 in unallocated City ASSET funds for FY 2022/23 for housing service needs.

In February 2022, City staff notified agencies contracting with the City to provide housing services of the available funds. Three requests have been made for the funds as follows:

Agency	Service	Original Allocation	Status of Original Allocation	Amount Requested
ACCESS	Emergency Shelter	\$61,296	Funds Exhausted October 2022	\$ 11,652
Salvation Army	Rent/Utility Assistance	\$27,000	Fund Balance of \$9,045	9,000
The Bridge Home	Emergency Shelter	\$92,927	Funds Exhausted February 2023	11,652

ACCESS Request

ACCESS is the sole agency in Story County that provides emergency shelter for domestic violence clients. They are requesting the full amount of funding available, \$11,652, for emergency shelter services. ACCESS exhausted City funds in October 2022 and have had to turn people away due to lack of capacity for the increased need for services. As noted in their request (Attachment A), the number of bed nights and total clients served for FY 2022/23 is on the rise and they anticipate surpassing FY 2021/22 numbers.

Salvation Army Request

Salvation Army provides homeless prevention services that includes rent and utility assistance. While they still have City funds available to draw down and have received community grant funding through United Way, they are requesting \$9,000 to be able to serve more households through the end of the current fiscal year. The months of April, May, and June tend to be very high request months because the moratorium on utility disconnections ends on April 1.

Rent and utility assistance helps prevent homelessness from occurring by keeping individuals and families in their homes. The funds also help people become established in more permanent housing by covering deposits and first month's rent.

The Bridge Home Request

One of the services that the City contracts with The Bridge Home (TBH) for is emergency shelter for individuals and families in the general population. They are requesting the full amount of funds available, \$11,652, for these services. TBH exhausted City funds for shelter in February 2022 and will be making a similar request to Story County for additional shelter funding.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the individual agency requests as follows:
 - a. ACCESS
 - \$5,575 for emergency shelter services for the months of April – June 2023. **Funds shall be used to cover hotel rooms when the current shelter beds are at capacity.**
 - b. Salvation Army
 - \$2,600 for rent and utility assistance for the months of April – June 2023.
 - c. The Bridge Home
 - \$3,477 for emergency shelter services for the months of April – June 2023. **Funds shall be used to cover additional hotel rooms when the current shelter beds and two hotel rooms are at capacity.**

Funds allocated to the services specified above for each agency will not be reallocated to another service or program area in the agency. Any funds not drawn down by June 30, 2023 will revert to the Local Option Sales Tax Fund.

2. Modify the requests.
3. Do not approve the requests.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Housing services are the second and third highest priorities under the basic needs service category for Council's current ASSET priorities. The allocation of City funds will provide the support for this continued need in the community. Similar requests have been made to other ASSET funders, specifically Story County and United Way of Story County.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the allocation of the City's FY 2022/23 reserved ASSET funds to the housing services, as described above.

From: [Michelle Cole](#)
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 12:29 PM
To: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
Subject: FY 2022/2023 City ASSET Funding for Emergency Shelter & Housing Needs

[External Email]

Dear Deb:

Thank you very much for letting us know about this opportunity! We would like to request \$11,652 in additional funding for Emergency Shelter. All of the funds from our ASSET allocation of \$61,296 from the City of Ames for FY23 was spent during the July to October time period. These funds paid for 510 shelter stay nights at \$120 per night unit cost, a rate approved per our ASSET application. The additional \$11,652 would cover a little over 97 additional shelter stay nights. We understand that this funding would need to be spent by June 30, 2023 and are confident we would be able to do that.

As you know, there continues to be a need for emergency shelter for residents of Ames who are fleeing domestic violence. Here are the stats on the number of clients and bed nights, just for Story County residents, only in our Ames shelters. Our fiscal year is from July – June. For FY23, this is only for 7 months of our current fiscal year: July 2022 – January 2023.

Bed Night Totals for Story County				
	Bed nights		Total Clients	
FY23	1,152	July 2022 – Jan. 2023	40	July 2022 – Jan. 2023
FY22	1,671		46	
FY21	1,406		44	
FY20	3,689		51	

There is more need than we are currently able to meet. There are a variety of reasons for this. We do track the number of people reaching out to us that we are not able to accommodate in shelter. Here are the stats of the number of Story County residents that we had to turn away from our shelters in Ames because we did not have capacity.

Turn-Away Totals	
	Story County
	203
FY 23	July 2022 – Jan. 2023
FY 22	369
FY 21	165

FY 20	163
FY 19	243
FY 18	151

As you can see, unfortunately the need exceeds our capacity. Please keep in mind that our advocates are specially-trained and do work with clients by providing crisis counseling, safety planning and co-advocacy with specially-trained members of our staff specializing in sexual assault, domestic violence and homicide/violent crimes. We also work with clients to help identify other shelters to determine with they have capacity to support them as well. In addition to the numbers listed above, our Housing advocates also have “outreach” clients that are not currently staying in our shelter that they provide crisis counseling, safety planning and case management for increased stability and identifying safe housing options.

While we also receive funding from other sources, many of those funds are directed toward client financial assistance. These funds also help victims fleeing violence find safe housing by helping to cover the costs of rental application fees, utilities, security deposits, or rental costs. We also help cover costs of items that will help ensure safety while also progressing toward self-sufficiency like car repairs or transportation costs to work, changing locks, food assistance and basic needs items.

Again, thank you very much for this opportunity to be considered for additional funding. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Michelle

Michelle Cole, MA, CNP

[she/her](#)

Executive Director

ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support)

p | 515-292-0500

c | 515-520-4256

e | Michelle@assaultcarecenter.org



Housing Help Line: [515-292-0543](tel:515-292-0543)

Domestic Violence & Homicide Help Line: [515-292-0519](tel:515-292-0519)

Sexual Assault & Trafficking Help Line: [515-292-5378](tel:515-292-5378)

From: William Stodden <William.Stodden@usc.salvationarmy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Schildroth, Deb <deb.schildroth@cityofames.org>; Kathy Pinkerton <Kathy.Pinkerton@usc.salvationarmy.org>
Subject: RE: The Salvation Army- Request for additional unallocated ASSET Funds

[External Email]

Hello, and Good Afternoon. This is the updated request, tailored to just the Rent and Utility Assistance programs, for the unspent ASSET money.

As per your email to Kathy Pinkerton, Program Director of the Ames Service Center, The Salvation Army of Ames and Story County, we are submitting a written request for access to a portion of the unallocated ASSET funds.

Last year, we received \$27,000 from ASSET for our rent and utility assistance program. We also have added another \$20,000 in funds from the United Way, through a Community Impact Grant, to the Program at the end of 2022. With this money we are able to serve about 14 households a month, depending on the amount of need that we see each month, at about \$400 dollars per household. If we do not serve 14 households in a given month, we roll the money over to the next month and can serve more families and individuals. This money helps families both stay in their homes and pay utility bills, and helps individuals who are currently in temporary living situations find a more permanent living situation by assisting with first month's rent and utility deposits. It has allowed us to have a significant impact on homelessness in Story County. As we are currently the only organization helping adults with no minor children, our rental Assistance program tends to be able to serve not only single people, but we also serve a lot of the elderly and disabled communities who need assistance, where other organizations cannot. In the last fiscal year, we served 674 individuals in 238 households, helping them get into and stay in permanent housing.

From this pool, we request \$9,000, and additionally request that it be for the Rent Assistance Program and Utility Assistance Programs. Right now, with additional grant funding from the United Way we are able to continue funding both programs, and an additional \$9,000 will help us increase the number of people we are able to assist with their rent and utilities. As it is now, when the program runs out of funds that we have dedicated to it during a given month, we have to turn away individuals who come seeking help; both programs always fall far short of actually meeting the need that is in our community at any given time, and we monthly have to turn individuals away. So, an additional amount of money would help the communities in Story County better address housing insecurity by allowing us to increase the amount of individuals we assist. While we still do have just over \$9,000 of unspent ASSET grant money, and we have received a substantial additional grant from the United Way to help fund both of these programs, we project this money will still fall short of need, based on the number of individuals we must turn away monthly. So an additional \$9,000 will be most welcomed in funding the rent and utility assistance programs: With the money we have left from the initial ASSET allocation, the additional United Way Money, and an additional \$9,000 from this round, we will be able to serve an additional 15-16 individuals or families a month through July 1, 2023.

We believe both of these programs meet the City Council's ASSET priorities, which include meeting basic needs through rent and utility assistance. We serve particularly underserved populations, of single individuals and individuals with disabilities- Some 30% of the people we serve have disabilities, and

more than 40% of our clients are in a family with minor children. And in conjunction with our other homelessness prevention programs (representative payee assistance to ensure financial stability, housing assistance through emergency temporary shelter, and food assistance through the Salvation Army Food Pantry and Doing the Most Good Fresh Food Market) we are an integral part in the work of the non-profit community in Story County who help individuals meet basic need in their lives when the State cannot.

We hope the City Council will consider our request and act on it, and we sincerely appreciate your time. Thank you for making this opportunity to access additional funds available to us. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them for you. Meanwhile, have a great afternoon and a good rest of your week and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
William Stodden

From: [Linda Munden](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 2:33 PM
To: [Schildroth, Deb](#)
Subject: Unallocated FY2023 Housing Funds Request

[External Email]

Dear Deb:

The Bridge Home respectfully requests \$11,652 from the City of Ames unallocated FY2023 ASSET funds to provide emergency shelter services. Additional funding will allow us to continue providing emergency shelter services longer at our current levels.

After our February claim, our FY23 City of Ames emergency shelter funds will likely be 100% depleted. According to our records, there are \$7,369.43 remaining in ASSET funds before the February claim. Our average claim was \$12,222.51 this fiscal year through January.

The Bridge Home will additionally seek additional funding from Story County unallocated FY2023 ASSET funds to assist in providing emergency shelter for the entire county.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thank you,

Linda Munden



Linda Munden

The Bridge Home
Senior Executive Director

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