



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Pa Vang Goldbeck, Assistant City Manager
Date: January 31, 2025
Subject: FY 2025/26 ASSET Allocation Recommendations

The ASSET volunteers have made the final recommendations for FY 2025/26 funding. Total recommendations by funder are as follows:

	FY 2024/25 Approved	FY 2025/26 Volunteer Recommended	% Change	Dollar Change
Story County	\$ 1,635,456	\$ 1,749,598	6.9%	\$ 114,142
United Way of Story County	\$ 1,147,484	\$ 1,198,623	4.5%	\$ 51,139
ISU Student Government	\$ 276,892	\$ 270,546	-2.2%	\$ -6,346
City of Ames	\$ 1,880,999	\$ 1,881,334	.02%	\$ 335
TOTAL	\$ 4,940,831	\$ 5,100,101	3.2%	\$ 159,270

The City Council approved a 5% increase for FY 2025/26 for a total of \$2,020,807 in available funds. This increase of \$96,229 over FY 2024/25 is earmarked for continuous improvement and housing, so the amount available for ASSET volunteers to allocate remained the same as FY 2024/25 for a total of \$1,924,578.

Story County funding comes from several sources – General Fund (property tax), Local Option Sales Tax, and Public Health. For FY 2025/26, the County authorized approximately a 5% increase to both General Fund and Local Option Sales Tax and decreased Public Health funding by \$10,000. In total, Story County has \$1,868,513 of available funding.

United Way of Story County (UWSC) provided a 3.4% increase for a total of \$1,198,623 in available funding. UWSC also supports programming outside the ASSET process through grants and internal programs.

ISU Student Government authorized about a 1.2% decrease for a total of \$273,532.

The total of agency requests for FY 2025/26 for all funders is \$6,322,422 or a 25.6% increase over the current allocated and approved FY 2024/25 amount.

The table above shows an increase in recommendations for FY 2025/26 by 3.2%. There is an additional \$43,244 of unallocated City funds that are reserved for basic needs, including, but not limited to, housing, food insecurity, or childcare. This unallocated amount does not include the 5% increase (\$96,229) in City funds earmarked for continuous improvement and housing. Details about these funds are provided in this memo under the “Other Notes” section.

Staff Comments Regarding City Funding for FY 2025/26

The ASSET volunteers approved FY 2025/26 recommendations on January 23. These recommendations will be presented for the City Council's approval at the Budget Wrap-Up meeting scheduled for February 11, 2025. City staff and ASSET volunteers will be available to answer your questions at that time. After the Council reviews and approves the final allocation amounts to include in the City budget, they will be incorporated into the City budget approval process.

City staff will then prepare contracts with the agencies for these services and return them for City Council approval later this spring.

The complete list of funding recommendations is attached. **Notable service changes and volunteer discussions related to City-funded services are described below.**

- **Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance** – A new service Good Neighbor added for FY 2025/26 is the emergency assistance for basic needs - navigator. The navigator connects those needing assistance with known community resources. The request from the City is \$2,516. The volunteers recommended \$1,739, which is 69% of the request.
- **HIRTA** - For FY 2024/25, HIRTA received \$49,359 for transportation services in Ames. For FY 2025/26, HIRTA requested \$51,000, a 3.3% increase. Volunteers recommended maintaining the previous level of funding for HIRTA across all funders, and to sequester the funds until each funder determines that HIRTA understands completed data needs to be submitted timely and participation in ASSET process is required.
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** requested \$32,537 for FY 2025/26, a 18.10% increase from what was allocated for FY 2024/25. Volunteers recommended maintaining the previous level of funding for NAMI's services, which include advocacy for social development, public education, and the Wellness Center. The volunteers also recommended sequestering \$12,400 for the Wellness Center pending a meeting between NAMI's executive director and ASSET funders to address their budget form and any necessary administrative reporting.
- **Prairie Flower Children's Center** is a new ASSET agency in FY 2025/26 and requested a total of \$24,749 from the City for its Day Care – Children and Day Care – School Age services. The funding will be used to support sliding scale fees for families. The recommended allocation for the City is \$15,300, with \$9,000 towards children services and \$6,300 towards school-aged children services.
- **The Bridge Home (TBH)** – In FY 2024/25 no services were purchased from TBH. Volunteers recommended zero funding for FY 2025/26 at this time. However, volunteers and funder staff recognize that TBH is an important community partner and volunteers recommend that funder staff continue engaging in conversations with TBH to allow the agency the possibility to access any unallocated funds to use towards meeting basic needs. Basic needs include, but are not limited to, housing, food insecurity or childcare.
- **The American Red Cross** was funded \$9,933 for FY 2024/25. Their request for FY 2025/26 is for the same amount of \$9,933. In FY 2023/24, the Red Cross did not receive any funding due to missing the grant process. Volunteers are recommending a 74.8% decrease in funding for FY 2025/26 for \$2,500.
- **The Community Academy** split its only funded service in FY 2024/25, Youth Development and Social Adjustment, into two services in FY 2025/26, adding Out-of-School Program as a new service. This change allows The Community Academy to make separate requests for its summer experience and its out of school program during the school year, both of which serve youth ages 5-18. The Community Academy's request

for FY 2025/26 to the City was \$42,000, which is \$32,000 more than what is allocated for the current fiscal year. These services meets the City's priority of youth development and skill enhancement, and the recommended funding allocation for the City is \$16,500 or a 65% increase.

- **The Salvation Army (TSA)** provides a variety of basic needs assistance for things such as rent/utilities, food, and budgeting. In FY 2024/25, TSA introduced a new service, providing Emergency Shelter through hotel vouchers. The City allocated \$5,000 to that service through the ASSET process. In July 2024, the City Council authorized purchasing up to \$100,000 in additional emergency shelter services. For FY 2025/26, TSA requested \$140,000 for Emergency Shelter services, and the recommendation is \$120,000. Finding long-term solutions to address the community need for emergency shelter continues and this service helps meet the immediate needs. Increases are also recommended for Rent and Utility Assistance (\$45,000), Food Pantry (\$26,000), Vehicle Maintenance and Repair (\$4,000), and Rep Payee Services (\$21,000).
- **Primary Health Care (PHC)** operates the Dental Clinic which primarily serves Medicaid recipients as well as uninsured and underinsured individuals. After receiving a 10% increase in City funding in FY 2024/25, PHC requested a 15% increase in FY 2025/26, along with requests for two new services. The request for Community Clinics – Pediatrics, OB/GYN, and Behavioral was \$85,640, and \$22,500 was requested for a Dental Navigator to provide service coordination for the Dental Clinic. The recommendation is to maintain the same level of funding (\$88,382) for the Dental Clinic and to provide \$4,606 for the Pediatrics, OB/GYN, and Behavioral service and \$2,400 for the Dental Navigator. Volunteers expressed some concerns around the broadness of these new services and since they are new, recommended a lower amount.
- **YSS** – Overall, City funding towards YSS is decreasing by 22.7% for a variety of reasons. The organization has opened its new Ember Recovery Campus and is in the process of major transitions. This includes for FY 2025/26 the discontinuation of the Emergency Shelter-Rosedale service and the addition of a new-to-ASSET service of Rapid Rehousing. YSS requested \$10,000 for Rapid Rehousing, and the recommended allocation is \$8,545.

In FY 2024/25, funding received for employment assistance for youth was \$20,931. The FY 2025/26 request is for \$22,000. Volunteers are recommending \$5,253 since this service has not been utilized as much as anticipated. Additionally, the ASSET volunteers recommended sequestration of \$73,849 for Mental Health Outpatient Treatment until there is further discussion on how this service is conducted.

- **YWCA** - In FY 2024/25 YWCA received \$4,366 in funding from the City for advocacy in social development – parent and student support and GIRLS Power Mentoring Program. Volunteers recommended zero funding for FY 2025/26 since YWCA is considered a student organization and will be seeking funding through ISU Student Government through their student organization process.

Other Notes

Across the funders, there is a total of \$162,159 recommended to be set aside for basic needs, including but not limited to: housing, food insecurity, or childcare. This recommendation includes \$43,244 from the City of Ames and \$118,915 from Story County. Beyond this total, an additional \$96,229 is reserved by the City for continuous improvement and housing. The reserved amount could be used to contract for a temporary position to focus on housing service coordination or to implement recommendations from the county-wide homelessness action plan, anticipated to be completed in late April.

Agency	FY 24/25 Approved	FY 25/26 Request	FY 25/26 Recommendation	FY 24/25 to FY 25/26 recommended change %	FY 24/25 to FY 25/26 recommended change \$
ACCESS	135,824	149,404	143,601	5.7%	7,777
ACPC	166,482	121,590	121,590	-27%	-44,892
All Aboard for Kids	11,891	23,112	16,587	39.5%	4,696
American Red Cross	9,933	9,933	2,500	-74.8%	-7,433
Arc of Story County	11,400	11,900	11,400	0	0
Boys & Girls Club	126,093	174,909	130,553	3.5%	4,460
The Bridge Home	0	203,894	0	0	0
Camp Fire	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0
Center for Creative Justice	70,823	74,365	74,365	5%	3,542
ChildServe	24,200	24,200	30,800**	27.2%	6,600
Community Academy	10,000	42,000	16,500	65%	6,500
Good Neighbor	47,800	55,146	54,369	13.7%	6,569
Heartland of Story County	222,368	227,396	222,368	0	0
HIRTA*	49,359	51,000	49,359	0	0
Legal Aid	149,800	163,184	160,000	6.8%	10,200
LSI	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
MGMC Home Health Services	34,178	34,178	34,178	0	0
MICA	33,000	35,000	35,000	6.1%	2,000
NAMI*	27,550	32,537	27,550	0	0
Primary Health Care	88,382	209,940	95,388	7.9%	7,006
Prairie Flower	N/A	24,749	15,300	N/A	15,300
Raising Readers	36,838	40,789	37,808	2.6%	970
RSVP	37,150	38,500	37,350	0.5%	200
The Salvation Army	180,200	237,200	217,200	20.5%	37,000
University Comm Childcare	104,250	114,675	114,675	10%	10,425
YWCA	4,366	10,000	0	-100%	-4,366
YSS*	291,112	337,671	224,893	-22.7%	-66,219
TOTALS	\$1,880,999	\$2,455,273	\$1,881,334	5.6%	\$100,335

* These agencies have all or a portion of their services sequestered for FY 2025/26 per the notes in the staff comment section in this memo. The organizations will need to meet with funder staff to access the funds after any concerns have been addressed.

**After the January 23, 2025 ASSET Board meeting, staff identified that ChildServe's total request for FY 2025/26 was \$6,600 for infant and \$17,600 for children. The total amount requested (\$24,200) was mistakenly presented as the request for children services only. The volunteers recommended fully funding the request, not overfunding. Therefore, staff at a future ASSET board meeting will be requesting this correction. The difference (\$6,600) will be transferred to the unallocated funds at that time.