

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FY 2019/20 ASSET PRIORITIES

BACKGROUND:

The ASSET funding process for FY 2019/20 will begin in August 2018. ASSET volunteers will then begin their agency visits to discuss services and gather information this fall. ASSET hearings and work sessions will then take place in January 2019.

In preparation for each upcoming ASSET funding cycle, the City's ASSET volunteers review the priorities that have been set for the current fiscal year. The current priorities are below:

#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
- Medical and dental aid

#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 prevention and treatment is available in the community

#3 Youth development services and activities

- Provide services for social development

These priorities were amended last year by the City Council to add “medical and dental aid” to the list of services under the first priority. The ASSET volunteers’ perspectives regarding the existing priorities vary. One volunteer recommended leaving the priorities as is. Another recommends changing the “sheltering” sub-priority under #1 to “safe

sheltering,” to emphasize the need for sheltering services to be safe environments. A third volunteer recommends modifying the priorities as follows (additions in underline):

#1 Assist residents in crisis and in acute need.

- Housing cost offset programs, including utility assistance
- Temporary Sheltering, emergency and short-term housing assistance
- 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 cost offset programs
- Disaster response
- Medical and dental cost offset programs

#2 Meet mental health and chemical dependency needs

- Ensure substance abuse prevention, emergency treatment, and ongoing treatment is available in the community

#3 Youth development services and activities

- Support research-based solutions to help youth that have been identified as vulnerable

In addition to the volunteers’ specific suggestions regarding the priorities, staff has a few guiding comments as the Council considers how to proceed:

Role of ASSET Priorities – The priorities of each funder are used as the volunteers determine how to best allocate the City’s designated ASSET funds. The priorities adopted by other funders for FY 2018/19 are attached. The Council should note that there are many ASSET agencies doing important work in the community. However, available funds are limited, and not every agency provides a service that aligns with the needs as envisioned by the Council. Therefore, the more specific and narrow the priorities are, the more helpful they can be as a tool for the volunteers to prioritize funding to the services that are truly important to the Council.

Outcomes Measurement – Agencies are now entering their second year of participating in the Clear Impact Scorecard, which the ASSET funders have agreed to incorporate into the ASSET process. This requires the agencies to identify at least one measure to be tracked, showing the benefit to clients made through ASSET funding. The funders are reliant on the leadership of United Way of Story County to manage this outcomes measurement system. Unfortunately, a key staff member for United Way left over the winter to take a role with another agency. Although a new staff person has been hired,

this key staff departure has delayed the implementation of this project for ASSET agencies.

Funding Environment – There is no doubt that ASSET is increasingly being relied upon as a source of funding for human services agencies in the face of shrinking state and federal funds. Since the funders typically allocate a percentage increase for the ASSET process each year, it is not a system that lends itself to new, large, transformational service proposals. This is because in order to fund such proposals, funding to other ASSET services would either need to be decreased or kept flat. **One method to manage this is to focus the City’s priorities on a list of fewer areas the Council wishes to make the most impact.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the City’s FY 2019/20 ASSET priorities, unchanged from FY 2018/19.
2. Adopt modified priorities for the FY 2019/20 ASSET process.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The ASSET volunteers have reviewed the community needs and have considered the City Council’s ASSET priorities. It appears from their feedback that there is no consensus among the volunteers as to how the priorities should read.

Assuming the Council’s current priorities reflect the desires of the Council, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the City’s FY 2019/20 ASSET priorities, unchanged from FY 2018/19.

ASSET Funder Priorities for Fiscal Year 2018/19

Story County

Story County supports the coordination and communication among stakeholders and private and public funding sources to help meet the human service needs for Story County citizens.

Services funded by the county must be available and accessible countywide with an emphasis on:

- Services promoting self-sufficiency and supporting affordable housing and transportation
- Safety, health and well-being of children and adults
- Accessible medical services including substance abuse and co-occurring mental health and substance abuse services
- Prevention and early intervention services that provide outreach, advocacy, and academic success

ISU Student Government (these may be slightly amended at the end of August)

ISU Student Government adopts the following priorities, in the order that they appear, for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 ASSET allocations:

1. Programs and services that provide aid to victims of and promote personal safety regarding all types of violence, abuse, and sexual assault.
2. Substance abuse prevention and treatment and mental health services, both group and individual care.
3. Childcare services, with specific emphasis on infant and toddler care.
4. Programs that empower traditionally discriminated-against peoples.
5. Subsidizing of food pantries, utilities, rent, homeless shelters, and facilities.
6. Legal services that are not provided by Student Legal Services.
7. Services that enhance understanding of the community through service.

United Way of Story County ASSET Priority Statement

UWSC supports a variety of high quality services that address Identified community needs and benefit people who live and/or work in Story County. Special consideration will be given to programs that impact services related to education, income and health.

- Education: children and youth have access to the building blocks for academic success; and community awareness strategies, outreach and advocacy services exist community-wide.
- Income: Individuals and families have basic and emergency needs met and move toward self-sufficiency.

- Health: Essential services for healthy lives are affordable and accessible.

CICS Priorities for Mental Health/Disability Services

The following are Core Service Domains and are consistent with the requirements of Mental Health/Disability Services redesign:

- Treatment designed to improve a person's condition
- Basic crisis response
- Support for employment
- Recovery services
- Service coordination including coordinating physical health and primary care

Additional Core Service Domains ("core-plus services") are also a requirement of Mental Health/Disability Services redesign and include:

- Comprehensive facility and community-based crisis services
- Sub acute services provided in a facility or community-based settings
- Justice system-involved services
- Services supported by evidence-based practices

City of Ames Priorities

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

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