

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **FY 2021/22 ASSET PRIORITIES**

BACKGROUND:

The ASSET funding process for FY 2021/22 will begin in August 2020. 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 2121.

Last year the priorities underwent significant change in that the City's ASSET volunteers recommended 1) prioritizing the sub-bullets and 2) adding more specificity to some of the priorities. Council supported both of these recommendations which resulted in the following as the City's current priorities:

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

- 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
- Medical and dental services
- Housing cost offset programs, including utility assistance
- Sheltering
- Transportation cost offset programs
- Legal assistance
- Disaster response

#2 Meet mental health and chemical dependency needs

- Ensure substance abuse prevention and treatment is available in the community
- Provide outpatient emergency access to services
- Provide crisis intervention services
- Provide access to non-emergency services

#3 Youth development services and activities

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

The Mayor and City Council members continue their involvement with the comprehensive review of the ASSET process, specifically in the areas of establishing a

set of shared priorities amongst the Joint Funders and incorporating outcome data in decision making.

It was anticipated that the Community Needs Assessment would have reached a stage of completion by now where the top needs would've been identified and included in the Joint Funder's shared priorities so that the shared priorities could have been piloted during the FY 2021/22 ASSET process. **Unfortunately, the work on the Community Needs Assessment was put on hold in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** It was only until this month that the work has re-started and with a different approach given the information and lessons learned during the first few months of the pandemic. **The completion of the Assessment is now delayed until early 2021. Therefore, individual ASSET Funder priorities will again be needed for the upcoming funding cycle.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the City's ASSET priorities for FY 2021/22, unchanged from FY 2020/21.
2. Adopt modified priorities for the FY 2021/22 ASSET process.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The ASSET volunteers have reviewed the priorities and several of the priorities mirror the current needs in the community since experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the final work product or recommended set of revisions to the process has been delayed, so it would seem premature to establish new priorities for FY 2021/22.

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 2021/22 ASSET priorities unchanged from FY 2020/21.



Priorities for 2021/22

(NOTE: Priority categories AND sub-bullets are in priority order)

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

- Quality childcare cost offset programs, including daycare and State of Iowa licensed in-home facilities
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