

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **FY 2022/23 ASSET PRIORITIES**

BACKGROUND:

The ASSET funding process for FY 2022/23 will begin in August 2021. 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 2022.

Last year the priorities were kept the same as FY 2020/21 because the results of the 2020 Community Needs Assessment were delayed due to COVID-19. The City's current priorities are as follows:

- #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

In early 2021, the Assessment results became available and the ASSET Joint Funders held a special meeting on May 5, 2021 where the Assessment process and results were presented.

Across all sources of the data collection methods used in the Assessment, the top health and human service needs are as follows (listed in priority order with the most important listed first):

- Mental health services
- Food security
- Housing
- Child care
- Suicide prevention
- Income

The same Assessment presentation was given to the full ASSET Board on May 13, 2021. **City staff met with the City ASSET volunteers in June to review the current priorities and compare them to the Assessment results. Overall, the needs categories and individual service areas under each category are supported by the Assessment results. The changes being recommended more closely align in priority with the Assessment results and add a couple of service areas.**

The changes include 1) re-prioritization of the mental health and substance use category over the basic needs category, 2) the addition of suicide prevention services, 3) the re-prioritization of food and housing over childcare, and 4) the addition of financial literacy and education. There were no changes made to Category #3 youth development services and activities.

The volunteers are recommending the following set of priorities for the FY 2022-23 funding cycle with Categories 1, 2, and 3 listed in priority order as well as the lettered services in each category:

#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

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the City's ASSET priorities for FY 2022/23
2. Adopt modified priorities for the FY 2022/23 ASSET process.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City's ASSET volunteers have reviewed the priorities in light of the 2020 Community Needs Assessment and found that most of the needs categories and service areas were relevant to the Assessment results. The changes that are being recommended are intended to more closely align in priority with the six top needs from the Assessment.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1, as stated above.



Priorities for FY 2022-23

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

#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

This list of priorities is guided by the results of the 2020 Story County Community Needs Assessment.