

ITEM #: 17
DATE: 05-14-24
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 TO ASSET CONTRACT WITH THE SALVATION ARMY FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

On February 14, 2023, the City Council approved ASSET’s funding recommendations for FY 2023/24, which included setting aside \$181,650 for ASSET Funders to engage in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for emergency shelter services. Of the \$181,650, the City's contribution is \$66,258. Story County's contribution is \$89,330 and United Way of Story County's (UWSC) contribution is \$26,062.

The RFP process was carried out May-July 2023 by an Evaluation Committee made up of members from the ASSET Administrative Team. One proposal was received from The Bridge Home (TBH). The Evaluation Committee made the recommendation to the Joint Funders to not award the RFP for emergency shelter services and to direct Funder staff to explore potential partnerships with other organizations to provide emergency shelter services. The ASSET Joint Funders held a special meeting on August 10, 2023, to approve the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee.

Between September 2023 and March 2024, Funder staff held approximately six meetings involving three different organizations that provide a variety of housing services and supports, including emergency shelter services. Those organizations were Central Iowa Shelter and Services (CISS), Primary Health Care (PHC) and The Salvation Army (TSA). CISS declined to expand services to Story County, but offered to partner in the future with creating a Housing Command Center model. Primary Health Care also declined to expand its housing services and coordinated intake at this time.

TSA’s emergency shelter program (hotel vouchers) was experiencing increased demands, but was limited by staff capacity and funding since it is funded solely through donations. To address these limitations, TSA leadership recently approved additional staff positions related to shelter services and submitted an ASSET funding request for FY 2023/24 for \$91,000 to provide emergency shelter services during April - June 2024.

The table below summarizes the request:

ASSET Funder	FY 2023/24 Funder Allocation for Emergency Shelter Services	FY 2023/24 TSA Request	Balance of Funder Allocation
City of Ames	\$66,258	\$40,000	\$26,258
Story County	\$89,330	\$40,000	\$49,330
UWSC	\$26,062	\$11,000	\$15,062
TOTALS	\$181,650	\$91,000	\$90,650

At this time, UWSC's board has approved TSA's \$11,000 request. The Story County Board of Supervisors has approved TSA's \$40,000 request. The unit rate is \$103.15. If the City Council approves TSA's request for \$40,000, the City would be purchasing 387 service units.

TSA reported that the week of April 17-24, 2024, the organization assisted with 19 hotel rooms, serving 37 people, including some children. That same week, seven of the 18 individuals who requested assistance were newly unhoused households.

TSA's recent request also included a FY 2024/25 request of \$100,000 from the City, \$11,000 from UWSC, and \$80,000 from Story County. At this time, staff is recommending that the City address the immediate request and will bring forward to Council at a later date the \$100,000 request for FY 2024/25.

Emergency shelter services remains a priority housing service for ASSET Funders. Currently, there is not a clear solution for emergency shelter services; however, there continues to be a community need for temporary housing. Therefore, staff is recommending that of the FY 2023/24 City contribution that was set aside for emergency shelter services (\$66,252 of the \$181,650), \$40,000 be allocated to TSA per their submitted request to provide temporary emergency shelter. Furthermore, that the remaining amount of the City's contribution, \$26,252, be carried over to FY 2024/25 for emergency shelter services.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the amendment to The Salvation Army's FY 2023/24 ASSET contract for an additional \$40,000 from the City to provide temporary emergency shelter services from April 2024-June 2024 and carry over \$26,252 from FY 2023/24 to FY 2024/25 for emergency shelter services.
2. Do not approve the amendment and funding request from The Salvation Army.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There is a community need for emergency shelter services. While there is not a clear long-term solution identified yet, in the interim, the Salvation Army has requested funding to increase its capacity to assist the community with emergency shelter services. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative No.1 as stated above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Salvation Army - Amendment.pdf](#)