

ITEM #: 26
DATE: 11-12-24
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: **AGREEMENTS WITH ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH
RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS****

BACKGROUND:

On August 12, 2024, City Council approved authorizing staff to enter into an agreement with a consultant for up to \$12,000 to provide assistance with hosting community conversations around homelessness using unallocated ASSET funding. In August 2024, Story County Board of Supervisors also approved \$12,000 to fund this effort. On October 31, 2024, the City, on behalf of the Analysis on Social Services Evaluation Team (ASSET), issued Request for Proposal #2025-071 Community Conversations around Homelessness & Homelessness Prevention (RFP) that will culminate in a county-wide action plan to address homelessness. The RFP will close on November 26, 2024. ASSET anticipates hiring a consultant through the RFP process in late December, and the final county-wide action plan is anticipated by April 30, 2025.

Rather than wait until January 2025 to begin community conversations around homelessness, there are some interim steps that can be taken now. Therefore, City staff is proposing to enter into two agreements with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISU Extension and Outreach) to provide assistance with:

- Agreement #1: Developing an asset map of current services being provided to individuals experiencing homelessness, a list of identified gap services, and recommendations regarding how to enhance interagency collaborations; and,
- Agreement #2: Conducting direct outreach to individuals currently experiencing homelessness that will result in a report that captures the experiences of engaged participants. The goal is to connect with 15 participants.

These two agreements with ISU Extension and Outreach are not duplicative of what is being requested in the RFP. The outcomes will be provided to the selected RFP consultant as a source of information to be considered. Furthermore, the outcomes complement the longer-term goal of the RFP to develop a county-wide action plan.

The total cost of the two agreements is \$7,500, with each agreement set at \$3,750. To further support outreach engagements with individuals experiencing homelessness in the short term, staff is requesting an additional \$500 to be able to purchase items for an appreciation bag that will be given to participants. Altogether, staff is requesting that \$8,000 of Council Contingency funding be made available. The current unallocated balance in the Council Contingency is \$139,535.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the two agreements with ISU Extension and Outreach for up to \$7,500 and an additional \$500 for outreach engagement supplies from Council Contingency Fund.
2. Deny the two agreements with ISU Extension and Outreach and the \$8,000 total funding request.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approving the contracts with ISU Extension and Outreach will allow the City to ramp up and move in a timely manner to engage service providers and individuals experiencing homelessness in finding community solutions to the homelessness situation in Ames. This work will feed into the goal of the RFP to develop a county-wide action plan to address homelessness. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[ISUCED Service Provider Asset Mapping Agreement.pdf](#)

[ISUCED Outreach Agreement.pdf](#)