

ITEM #: 17

DEPT: ADMIN

## Staff Report

# UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS AMES AND STORY COUNTY ACTION PLAN 2025 REPORT

July 14, 2026

### BACKGROUND:

On May 13, 2025, the City Council accepted the "[Homelessness Ames and Story County Strategic Plan 2025](#)" report and directed staff to work with other Analysis on Social Services Evaluation Team (ASSET) funders (Story County, United Way of Story County and ISU Student Government) to identify and work on priority items.

On May 27, 2026, approximately one year since the report was available, the City of Ames, in partnership with Story County held an "Update on the 2025 Homelessness Action Plan" event at the Ames Public Library, open to the public. The event was held from 1:00-3:00 pm and approximately 60 people attended, including the media. During the session, attendees could read about actions taken in the last year from various entities and interact with City, Story County, and service provider staff members that were present. Attachment A includes a few photos and a list of media coverage of the event.

**Attachment B is the one-page document outlining the nine recommendations from the Homelessness Action Plan report. Attachment C outlines the activities taken by the City as it relates to the nine recommendations. Attachment D is the handout Story County provided about actions they have taken related to the nine recommendations.**

Although City Council was invited to attend the May 27 event, City staff wanted to present this information formally to the Council as well.

The next steps in the process will be to continue working on the priority recommendations from the report, in addition to strengthening the ASSET process where over \$2 million from City funds are used to purchase human services from nonprofit agencies in Ames. Below is an overview of the work ahead as it relates to supporting homelessness services:

### FY 2026/27 WORK AREA PRIORITIES:

- Issuing a City Request for Proposal for case management services to support individuals at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. The City Council allocated \$100,000 towards this effort from its ASSET allocation for FY 2026/27.
- Continuing to support the Homelessness Outreach Support Team (HOST) through applying for grants and seeking additional partners to financially support their efforts. As

of 2025, the City has been the only entity to provide flex fund (\$21,250). Earlier this month, the City once again applied for an IFA grant on behalf of HOST.

- Becoming involved in the Homelessness Task Force as appropriate once the task force is created. Story County has indicated they are gathering information to begin forming this group.
- Working with the ASSET agencies to further strengthen and support service delivery.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

**Approximately a year has passed since the release of the Homelessness Action Report. Providing an update to the community is important. While there is no one silver bullet or strategy to implement, the updates indicate that action is being taken and there are ongoing efforts to implement solutions that help this vulnerable population.**

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Attachment A: Photos and Media Coverage - May 27, 2026.docx](#)

[Attachment B: Homelessness Action Plan Handout.pdf](#)

[Attachment C: 2026 Updates on the Nine Recommendations - City Actions.docx](#)

[Attachment D: 2026 Story County Update on Homelessness Action Plan.pdf](#)