Priorities for FY 2026-2027

*Categories 1-5 are in priority order
as are the lettered services in each category.*

An emphasis is placed on low to moderate income individuals and families in all categories and services.

1. **Basic Needs**
    a. Short-term rent and utility assistance
    b. Food insecurity and meal gap reduction
    c. Reliable transportation access
    d. Legal support
    e. Medical and dental services

2. **Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability**
    a. Transitional and supportive housing
    b. Housing navigation services

3. **Mental Health and Meaningful Connections**
    a. Mental health and substance use treatment access
    b. Social isolation reduction opportunities
    c. Crisis intervention and victim advocacy

4. **Quality, Affordable Childcare**
    a. Sliding fee scale options for childcare

5. **Out of School Learning Opportunities**
    a. Academic skill development and youth engagement
    b. Participation barrier reduction through financial and transportation support
    c. Summer and after-school academic programming

ASSET Funder Priorities
(Approved – ____8/19/25_____BOS Meeting for FY27 Budget)

1. **Essential Basic Human Needs**

   - Food and nutrition
   - Emergency shelter services for individuals and families
   - Affordable, quality housing (including temporary/transitional housing, services and supports allowing people to remain in their homes—rent and utility assistance, senior and disability* services, etc.)
   - Affordable, quality childcare
   - Access to health services (physical, behavioral, mental*), dental, substance use disorder services
   - Transportation

2. **Financial Stability and Empowerment**

   - Income (job training, skills upgrade)
   - Legal assistance
   - Access to emergency and victim advocacy services
   - Probation and Reentry services
   - Programs and services that empower, support, and eliminate barriers for individuals and families

3. **Education and Youth Development**

   - Social and educational development opportunities (summer enrichment, out of school programs, and similar educational services)
   - Education and awareness (public education and awareness, financial literacy, budget counseling, as well as training that enhances an agency's ability to provide quality services to an increasingly diverse County population)

NOTES for Agencies and Volunteers:

1. Categories and services are in priority order as listed.
2. *Although Story County considers mental health and disability services to be priorities, it cannot levy to pay for these services. Therefore, they are NOT funded through ASSET at this time.
3. Services funded by Story County must be accessible and available to residents throughout Story County, this does not exclude funding for services located in Ames.
4. The Board of Supervisors is interested in understanding how agencies are promoting fairness and addressing varying needs within their programs. Annual reports should include implementation and data collection methods, especially those aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of new initiatives.

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ISU GSB FY 2026-27 ASSET Funding Priorities

1. **Basic Needs [Financial Stability]**

   -Expand emergency rent and utility assistance through local housing nonprofits

   -Improve access to hygiene supplies, clothing closets, food pantries, etc.

   -Promote short-term emergency housing options for displaced or unhoused students.

   -Promote awareness of basic needs services through coordinated outreach and communication.

2. **Mental Health [Health]**

   -Promote access to outpatient mental health services

   -Expand crisis prevention programs through community health departments and peer support initiatives.

   -Develop public education and awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and promote wellness.

3. **Assault Care [Health]**

   -Expand sexual abuse support services through crisis centers and Title IX offices.

   -Improve domestic abuse support by connecting students with confidential advocacy and legal aid.

   -Develop public education and awareness campaigns to reduce stigma.

4. **Substance Abuse [Health]**

   -Provide rehabilitation programs focusing on student-centered recovery support and community reintegration.

   -Launch treatment outreach programs that discourage substance use and promote early intervention.

   -Offer harm reduction resources in coordination with public health agencies.

5. **Childcare [Education]**

   -Promote access to affordable infant and toddler care.

   -Expand school-age care options for parenting students during classes and study hours.

6. **Diversity And Inclusion [Education]**

-Programs Empowering Traditionally Discriminated-Against Communities & Peoples (e.g. disability status, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, etc.)

-Promote social and family development programs focused on identity, belonging, and equity.

7. **Legal Aid [Financial Stability]**

   -Offer support for civil cases, including housing, immigration, and employment law, through free legal clinics.

   -Assist students navigating probation services and reentry.

ASSET Priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027

Priorities and subpriorities are listed in rank order.

1. **Basic Needs**
   A. Short-term rent and utility assistance
   B. Food insecurity and meal gap reduction
   C. Reliable transportation access

2. **Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability**
   A. Transitional and supportive housing
   B. Housing navigation services
   C. Legal support for housing stability

3. **Mental Health and Meaningful Connections**
   A. Mental health and substance use treatment access
   B. Social isolation reduction opportunities
   C. Crisis intervention and victim advocacy

4. **Quality, Affordable Child Care**
   A. Sliding fee scale options for child care

5. **Third Grade Literacy Attainment**
   A. Evidence-based curriculum and wrap-around support for at-risk learners
   B. Family barrier removal for literacy service access

6. **Kindergarten Readiness**
   A. Evidence-based programming for ages 0-5
   B. Family engagement in parent-child interaction programming

7. **Out of School Learning Opportunities**
   A. Academic skill development and youth engagement
   B. Participation barrier reduction through financial and transportation support
   C. Summer and after-school academic programming

8. **Budget and Credit Counseling**
   A. Representative payee services for vulnerable populations

Approved by the United Way of Story County Board of Directors on July 31, 2025.