



Priorities for FY 2025-26

*Categories 1, 2, and 3 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 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 through

- A. Sheltering, including emergency shelter (length of stay in emergency shelter is dependent upon the population group being served)
- B. Housing cost offset programs including utility assistance
- C. Food cost offset programs to assist in providing nutritious perishables and staples
- D. Quality childcare cost offset programs, including daycare and State of Iowa licensed in-home facilities
- E. Medical and dental services
- F. Financial literacy and education programs
- 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



STORY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

900 6th Street • Nevada, IA 50201
Phone: 515-382-7200 • Fax: 515-382-7206
Website: <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov>

ASSET Funder Priorities

(Approved – 7/23/24 BOS Meeting for FY26 Budget)

1. Services addressing basic 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—utilities, senior services, etc.)
- Affordable, quality childcare
- Access to medical, dental, substance abuse, and co-occurring care
- Transportation

2. Services addressing safety and well-being needs

- Legal assistance
- Social and educational development and opportunities
- Access to emergency and victim advocacy services
- Programs and services that empower, eliminate barriers from the path of, and support individuals and families

3. Services promoting self-sufficiency

- Income (job training, skills upgrade)
- 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. Mental health and disability services are funded by the state and cannot be funded by counties. Story County is in the Central Iowa Community Services (CICS) region; CICS receives state funds to provide MHDS services.
3. Services funded by Story County must be accessible and available to countywide residents, this does not exclude funding for services located in Ames.
4. The Board of Supervisors is interested in knowing how agencies are embedding equity into programs. Annual reports should include implementation and data collection methods, particularly those designed to show the effectiveness of new programs.



United Way of Story County

United Way of Story County (UWSC) Priorities

United Way of Story County commits to placing diversity, equity, and inclusion practices at the center of our work. Our Board of Directors, President and CEO, and staff provide support and leadership to these efforts and ensure daily implementation. It is our goal that our partners, strategies, and investments embrace this work as critical to achieving success in the areas of health, education, and financial stability. This is the heart of what it means to LIVE UNITED.

These priorities are to be used in grants during FY25 and in the upcoming ASSET allocations (FY26). Categories and sub-bullets are in priority order, as numbered. Within these categories, agencies who intentionally engage and track underserved populations within their programs will be given priority. Please note that results and strategies with the same numbers have the same priority.

HEALTH:

- 1. Story County residents of all ages are mentally healthy and socially connected.**
 - i. Increase awareness of behavioral health (including mental health and substance use). Grow awareness of available prevention and treatment services
 - ii. Increase opportunities to reduce social isolation, increase positive, healthy social interactions and experiences, and receive social-emotional support.
 - iii. Improve access to behavioral health services (including mental health and substance use)
- 2. Story County residents have access to enough food and healthy food.**
 - i. Improve access to and/or an ability to prepare nutritious food
 - ii. Reduce the meal gap
- 3. Story County residents are physically well.**
 - i. Increase access to physical and dental health care
 - ii. Equip individuals to negotiate the healthcare system
 - iii. Promote safety

EDUCATION *(note: the first two #1 and the strategies under each are equal priorities for UWSC):*

- 1. Children enter school developmentally on track**
 - i. Address child and family basic needs
 - i. Foster child development
 - i. Provide resources and supports to families and caregivers that strengthen interactions and promote early learning in a home environment
 - ii. Increase capacity of high-quality ECE in Story County
- 1. Children exit 3rd grade reading at grade level and maintain proficiency until graduation**
 - i. Address child and family basic needs
 - i. Foster child development
 - i. Involve the community to increase wrap-around supports
- 2. Learners develop the skills needed for life and career, including but not limited to civic literacy, employability skills, financial literacy, and health literacy**
 - i. Ensure learners are engaged
 - ii. Decrease barriers to participation and success
 - iii. Ensure families and/or support systems are engaged

FINANCIAL STABILITY:

- 1. Story County residents can meet their basic needs**
 - i. Provide housing assistance
 - i. Provide emergency services
 - ii. Grow knowledge of community resources to help meet basic needs
 - iii. Ensure access to reliable transportation
- 2. Story County residents have meaningful opportunities to increase their household income**
 - i. Assist individuals in securing or maintaining employment
 - i. Provide affordable childcare to working parents
 - ii. Provide supports for additional workforce-related education/training
 - iii. Promote the development of soft skills and other workplace readiness skills
 - iv. Facilitate access to tax refunds
- 3. Story County residents have increased financial capability**
 - i. Support access to banks' financial services
 - ii. Provide financial education
 - iii. Increase financial opportunity