

LIAISON REPORT

AGENCY: ACPC LIAISON: Andrea Rich

1. Need for Program. Describe who the target population is and whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing. Indicate the source of this information. Also, indicate how the program/service is different and how it is similar to others and what would happen if the program/service ceased to exist. List the priorities established by ASSET Funders, which the programming addresses.

ACPC provides services for children 18 months to 5th grade. The main center has 115 children aged 18 months to five years. ACPC also provides before and after school care to school age children at five schools and two churches throughout the Ames community. School-aged care is expanded to full day during no-school days and summer vacations.

ACPC provides childcare on a sliding-fee scale to allow lower income families access to high quality, dependable child care. ACPC serves a diverse cross-section of the Ames community, which includes a mix of cultures, ethnicities and incomes.

2. Program Strengths. Pick two to four factors that contribute most importantly to the program/service outcomes. Do not list everything that is satisfactory. We will assume that things not mentioned are okay. For each strength describe some supporting evidence.

ACPC has an active presence in the community with frequent fieldtrips and partnering organizations coming to the center to visit. ACPC children have visited parks, fire departments, and many other locations around Ames, not only for the children's experience but also to enrich the community of Ames.

ACPC benefits from its sliding fee scale, which results in a diverse and dynamic enrollment. Families of many cultural and financial backgrounds make up the student body of ACPC, making a rich learning environment and portrait of our community.

3. Program Weaknesses. Select factors that detract most from the program/service achieving its outcomes. Present details as described above. Recommendations for reducing these weaknesses should follow the discussion of each weakness.

ACPC continues to have difficulty finding qualified staff. Low unemployment has contributed to an employee shortage throughout the Ames Community, which ACPC has also experienced. Full-time staff has remained stable but part-time staff to support lead teachers and meet ACPC's objective of higher staff: child ratio has continued to be an issue.

Ames and Story County are an established childcare desert, with more families seeking childcare that available spots allow. ACPC has not been able to expand to meet the needs of the community due to infrastructure challenges as well as difficulties attracting and retaining staff. This is a missed opportunity for providing additional service to the community.

4. Financial Outlook. Current funding concerns should be described. In addition, the assessment of the program's plan to cope with shrinking resources should be given.

ACPC made an investment in infrastructure in updating their HVAC system as well as updating the building's fire alarm system – a need that was identified during the HVAC renovation. ACPC was able to access an infrastructure grant from the City of Ames to offset some of the costs for the HVAC improvement.

5. Internal Management Practices. Summarize your assessment of the management of the agency, and the role of the Board. If there are deficiencies, details should be provided. Conclude with recommendations when appropriate.

ACPC leadership was engaging and forthcoming during interactions with ASSET volunteers. ACPC has an established and active Board.

6. Agency Suggestions/Comments. Make note of any suggestions, comments or questions agencies may have with regard to the ASSET process, budget forms and or anything else that relates to the process.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT:

ACPC continues to fill a critical need in the community, by providing child care services for roughly 450 toddlers and youth. The agency utilizes ASSET funds to subsidize the sliding fee scale which allows for safe, high-quality, dependable, child care to be open to families that otherwise would not have access.