

LIAISON REPORT

AGENCY: University and Community Childcare LIAISONS: Seth Carter & Meagan Richard

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.

- UCC's target population for services ranges from Infants of 6 weeks to children 11 years old. Most children come from the Ames or ISU community, 54.97% and 38.22% respectively.
- It is typical that some of those served in the Ames community are also ISU students, 55% of service receivers are ISU students.
- Infant, toddler, and preschool children may enroll full days throughout the year. Kindergarten through fifth grade children may attend before and after school during the academic year. The school-age program is open full days during public school vacations.
- Service is provided for mildly ill children who cannot attend their regularly scheduled child care programs. This service is available to all members of the ISU/Ames/Story County community. The Comfort Zone service is only provided during the academic year.
- The ASSET priorities addressed pertain to Childcare and Youth Development.

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.

- UCC has maintained accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In October 2016 a 5 year renewal was granted by complying with NAEYC's standards of quality for early learning programs.
- A 5 star rating on the Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS) was renewed March 2018, the highest rating available.
- UCC has a large candidate pool available for finding part-time help. Those interested are normally perusing education in fields related to child development or childcare.

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.

- Finding Full Time staff has become increasingly difficult. There have been long periods of time where several substitute assistant teachers were used to fill vacancies.
- The lowest rates available on the sliding fee scale are still challenging for ISU student families to meet for infants, young toddlers, and early school aged children. Additional support in these areas is requested.
- The availability of these services are scarce to the target population. There is currently a waiting list of 166 children, 88 babies & 78 toddlers. The waiting list does roll over but not all of the families on the waiting list will be served.

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.

- A budget increase has been requested to allow higher cost reduction to ISU student families.
- If funding levels decreased the cost reduction to families would be directly impacted.

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.

- The board meets 10 times a year, monthly with two exceptions. The board is composed of 19 members including Ex-Officio members (4), primarily of families who utilize the service. There are 3 community members who do not use the service that sit on the board, they are seeking to double that at 6 members. Executive positions are elected annually.
- The board meetings are very encompassing and provide adequate opportunity for members to discuss issues facing the agency. Committee reports include, director search, fundraising, public relations, grant, and general. A financial report is also given every meeting.

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.

- Our main contact to UCC is continuing to seek to leave when the time is right for the agency. Future liaisons should be prepared to work with someone who is new to the ASSET process.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT:

Additional information to share:

Full time, 4 year degree holding professionals, are paid ~\$26,000 annually at the agency as teachers. This is likely related to the agencies difficulties in finding a new full time teacher.