

**Boys and Girls Club of Story County**  
**ASSET Visit Report**  
**October 2020**  
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**Mission/Purpose.** The mission of the Boys and Girls Club of Story County is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Affiliated with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, programming offers a safe environment, positively impacting the lives of the youth served.

**Program.** Operating in two locations, the Boys and Girls Club of Story County offers afterschool programming and day programming during summer and school holidays. The Ames program normally serves 120-130 youth/day. The Nevada program is newer/growing and serves approximately eight youth/day. Due to the pandemic, Ames and Nevada locations are operating below capacity.

There is a strong need for this program as it provides a safe place for youth ages 6-18 for meals, afterschool care, and care during summer/school holidays. Youth are able to complete homework, participate in age-appropriate programming and activities, and engage with peers and mentors.

**Pandemic Impact.** The Boys and Girls Club has engaged a number of strategies to navigate the impact of the pandemic and economic environment.

- Prioritized serving elementary age. Some middle school youth are participating. High school youth are welcome when space is available, but are currently not participating.
- Closed down mid-March-July 6. Provided weekly care kits for families including free food and activity packets. Virtual programming was provided through June.
- Opened July 6-mid August for a limited summer program serving fewer than 15 children/day (normally at 120/day with a waiting list). Feedback regarding low participation included parents not ready for children to join group setting and care had already been lined-up. Low enrollment provided time to solidify safety mitigation efforts.
- August 24 opened Nevada afterschool site. Service is for middle school youth, but has expanded to include fourth grade. Other than health mitigation strategies, operations are normal serving 6-12 youth/day. Due to low interest, transportation is no longer provided from the club to home locations.
- August 31 opened Ames club with full-day programming to support hybrid schooling. Afterschool programming was opened late September. Normally capacity is 115, but limit is 60 to support social distancing. Average daily enrollment is currently in the 20s.

**Administration.** The Boys and Girls Club is currently operating with three fulltime staff (director, office/events, and director of Ames program), two part time program coordinators (for Ames and Nevada locations) and approximately ten hourly youth development professionals. Prior to COVID there were five fulltime staff. Two of the five have left for other professional opportunities and filling the positions is on hold to reduce staff expenses during lower enrollment. The board is supportive and committed to the organization. The youth participating through Boys and Girls Club programs are highly diverse and a challenge/priority for the organization continues to be recruiting staff reflective of the population served.

**Financial Resources.** Under normal circumstances the organization's budget consists of ASSET funding (30-40%), program fees (3%) and fundraising through events, individuals and

corporations. Grants and supplemental food programs also support the budget. The annual Gala held January 2020 was record-setting, raising \$107K compared with previous record of \$73K.

The board has guided the organization to build solid reserves, sustaining the club through the current budget-strained environment. Lower enrollment has implications for drawing down ASSET funding to sustain current budget and needed staff structure. Program fees, normally \$75 for the year increased to \$25/week in Ames for afterschool and \$100/week for Day Club (which included afterschool enrollment). Partial scholarships have been secured, however it's still a challenge for families. The club needs sustained participation of 40 youth/day by November to justify all day programming.

For the next ASSET cycle Boys and Girls Club plans to request level funding.

**Future Initiatives.** Goals for the Boys and Girls Club include:

- Implement teen programming.
- Continue to grow the Nevada club.
- Navigate/sustain operations through the pandemic and rebuild program in 2021.
- Review the space utilization study conducted at Ames site in January and February 2020, as pre-pandemic the club was operating at capacity 12 months per year.