

## LIAISON REPORT

AGENCY:  ISU YWCA LIAISON: Jane Acker

**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.

The ISU YWCA is active in four major areas:

GIRLS Power/College Bound mentoring, which matches middle school and high school girls with ISU women as mentors;

Parent/Student Support, which provides programming for spouses of international students at ISU intended to acclimatize them to the Ames community and support their further educational needs and social connections;

International Friendship Fairs, in which ISU international students introduce their culture and country to Story County elementary students and their families and;

the campus YWCA student club, which sponsors the annual week without violence, highlighting issues around domestic violence, and activities addressing racism and racial justice.

Generally, this programming addresses the funder priorities associated with education and youth development. There are other mentoring programs in the county, notably, GRIP, but the programming offered to international student families is unique.

**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.

The YWCA has adapted skillfully to the challenges presented by covid-19 and related limitations on in-person interactions. The ease of executing meetings via zoom has resulted in growth in numbers of ISU mentors and mentees in the GIRLS Power program. The international friendship fairs have been replaced by 20 minute videos "starring" international students, which simplifies logistics to the extent that the videos will now be enjoyed at elementary schools throughout the county rather than just those in Ames. International student spouses are able to participate in weekly Zumba and English language classes online as well, with other programming added as interest or need arises.

**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.

Some of the customary international student spouse activities do not lend themselves to virtual presentation, i.e., orientation to CyRide, how to get a drivers' license, etc. Publicizing club activities is also challenging with fewer ISU students active on campus. The YWCA is doing what they can online, but like all of us looks forward to getting past coronavirus!

**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.

The YWCA's main fundraising event each year is the Women of Achievement presentation. The board has decided to host the event virtually in 2021, but is now brain-storming ways in which to raise money successfully at an online event. Additionally, they have already been notified by the Government of the Student Body to expect serious reduction in funding from that source in fiscal '22.

**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 is active and engaged. Finances appear to be handled competently, reported regularly to the board and audited annually.

**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:** ISU YWCA is a well-managed organization that is doing all it can to adapt to the limitations imposed by the coronavirus pandemic. The need to conduct programs virtually has actually aided some programs (mentoring, friendship fair presentations) while posing serious difficulties for the activities that are dependent on face-to-face interactions, most notably fundraising.