

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MODIFY FY 2020/21 ASSET CONTRACT WITH RAISING READERS DUE TO COVID-19

BACKGROUND:

Raising Readers is requesting the City modify its FY 2020/21 ASSET contract allocation by redirecting \$9,119.32 from Thrive By Five to Out of School Learning. Raising Readers is experiencing very limited opportunities to provide Thrive By Five services due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to be in classrooms and daycare settings in person to meet with children. Raising Readers is able to reach some children virtually, but only if the child has the appropriate equipment (computer/electronic device and headphones) and is in a setting where they can be supervised during the reading session. Most preschools and daycares do not currently have extra staffing to manage this.

The Out of School Learning program (also known as the Harrison Barnes Reading Academy) typically sees highest utilization during the summer months to help address the “summer slide.” However, the program is currently seeing a significant demand due to the hybrid school schedules and families needing extra support. The Out of School Learning program has approximately 16 students on a waiting list compared to a normal year that has 2-3 students on the waiting list.

The revised allocations appear in the table below.

Service	Original Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation
Thrive By Five	\$10,937	-\$9,119.32	\$ 1,817.68
Out of School Learning	\$14,666	+\$9,119.32	\$23,785.32
TOTAL	\$25,603	0	\$25,603

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request from Raising Readers to redirect \$9,119.32 from Thrive By Five to Out of School Learning in the City’s FY 2020/21 ASSET allocation.
2. Do not approve the request.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Raising Readers is adjusting programming as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of its programs, Thrive By Five, is facing limitations due to the in-person nature of

providing the service. Out of School Learning, on the other hand, is in higher demand and provides skill development and support to children and families during times when school schedules and models of teaching are frequently changing.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the request to modify the City's FY 2020/21 contract with Raising Readers as described above.



Proposal: Raising Readers in Story County (RRSC) is requesting a reallocation of ASSET funding from Thrive by Five to Out of School Learning due to COVID.

Rationale: Our Thrive by Five programs which were projected to serve a large number of clients have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

<u>Total Units Served Last Year</u>	<u>Units Currently Serving/ Projected to Serve</u>
3315.7	300

RRSC is still providing programs but due to the pandemic, they are just on a much smaller scale. Numbers are small for StoryPals despite our recruiting efforts. We have reached out to various partner agencies, opened enrollment to the public, have met with preschool principals in Ames, Nevada and Zearing, and communicated with childcare centers. Since RRSC is not able to go to the schools due to COVID, most of our partners are not able to allocate staff to help students with the virtual devices. Step into Storybooks will also be much smaller events due to the social distancing requirements. StoryTime is meeting virtually which has not been well attended.

RRSC will utilize the reallocated Thrive by Five funds in the Out of School Learning category by serving online first graders, additional students in HBRA and students who are currently on our waitlist for HBRA. The online first grade teacher for Ames Community School District reached out to RRSC to inquire about having volunteers work with the first graders on their reading. The

education of this age group of students has been adversely affected by the pandemic. Their Kindergarten year was disrupted in the spring and now their first grade year is being disrupted as well. If RRSC is granted the opportunity to reallocate funds from the Thrive by Five category to the Out of School Learning category, we will be able to help those students as well as other children through our Out of School programming.

RRSC has received a phenomenal response to Out of School programming this fiscal year as we currently have 56 students enrolled in the virtual Harrison Barnes Reading Academy (HBRA). In previous years we have averaged 30 students in our face-to-face school year program of the Reading Academy. If we are able to reallocate funds to continue to serve the increased number of HBRA students and an additional 12 first graders, it brings the total school year students served in Out of School Learning to 68. Additionally, we currently have a waitlist of 16 for the virtual HBRA program versus in a normal year we have a waitlist of 2-3 students and are able to accommodate them by the end of the year. Including this past summer program we will serve 279 students in Out of School Learning; compared to last summer and school year where we served 168. Community response has shown that the need for Out of School Learning is greater this year than in the past as compared to Thrive by Five.

OSL - Out of School Learning

TBF - Thrive By Five

Units Served

	Projected # of Units This Year (All ASSET funders)	Units Served Last Year (All ASSET funders)
OSL	872.7	605
TBF	327	2087

*Projected Thrive by Five Units are based on StoryPals and LENA Home programming. As Step into StoryBooks has to completely change due to Covid -19 and is in coordination with other organizations, an estimate is not included.

Approved City Funding

	Amount Approved	Amount Spent	Balance
OSL	\$14,666	\$10,895.88	\$3,770.12
TBF	\$10,937	0	\$10,937

Proposed City OSL Funding

	Requested Amount to be moved from TBF	Current OSL Balance	New OSL Balance	New Units (based on \$107.88/unit)	Projected OSL Units
City	\$9,119.32	\$3,770.12	\$12,889.44	119.5	235

Proposed City TBF Funding

	Amount Left in TBF	New Units (based on \$10.39/unit)	Projected TB5 Units
City	\$1,817.68	175	300