

*Helping Michigan's Families in Need*  
Founded 1991 (586) 552-6517



MSAH, P.O. Box 5127  
Warren, Michigan 48090-5127

MICHIGAN SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER  
sportsmenagainsthunger.org

House Appropriations Committee  
Honorable House Representative Shane Hernandez, Chair

**Subject: Legislative Transfer Request 2020-1 / SAH Fund**

May 5, 2020

Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dean Hal, current Executive Director of the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger organization (MSAH) who is contracted by the State of Michigan for the Disbursement of Venison to Michigan Charitable Organizations.

Our organization has a great working cooperative relationship with the State of Michigan and the MDNR. The supplemental/contingency funding of the MDNR Legislative Request 2020-1 page 14 for MSAH from the SAH Fund this year, is essential towards the payment of wild game processors in feeding the hungry of our State through the MSAH program.

Without this funding, the MSAH will not be able to pay the invoices which have exceeded our budget and bank account, for the already distributed ground venison burger used feed the hungry in the communities of our State.

We will also have to halt future acceptance and processing of donated deer for processing through this year's Deer Management and Urban Population programs, which would enable to supply community Food Banks, Pantries and Shelters with venison burger until our new budget year starts on October 1, 2020.

Please, help us and the hungry of our State secure the funding we need to take care of this problem so we can provide more food to the hungry thru our organization. Due to a very successful year of donated venison by the sportsmen and sportswomen of our state. The following information will help to provide insight to our program.

Sincerely,

Dean Hall

MSAH Executive Director  
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msahunger@gmail.com

*Channeling Precious Resources into Opportunities for a better Community*  
To find out more visit us at [www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org](http://www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org)

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger organization (MSAH), since its founding in 1991, has coordinated with Michigan Wild Game Processors and Hunters willing to share the bounty of their harvest, to get ground venison into the freezers of Food Banks, Pantries and Shelters of our State...free of charge to their facilities and at no expense to hunters. Processors working with MSAH process the venison into burger at a cost much lower than a wild game processor would normally charge for their work.

Starting January 1, 2006, due to Public Act(s) 116 and 117 of 2005, funds voluntarily donated at the point of a Hunting/Fishing license sales when asked, by the MDNR or a department agent, if the license purchaser would like to donate \$1 to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program, is collected with the license fee and deposited into the Sportsmen Against Hunger Fund created within the state treasury.

Since January 1, 2007, when the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger organization (MSAH) had first contracted with the State of Michigan for the **Disbursement of Venison to Michigan Charitable Organizations**, we have fulfilled the duties of our contract with the State of Michigan to the very best of our abilities. Including, but not limited to the paying for processing of venison donated through Deer management programs (Urban, CWD, Bovine tuberculosis deer management)

In recent years as for 2019-2020, the budget, which the State of Michigan has allocated the MSAH for processing of donated venison, has not met the yield of the venison generated and distributed to feed the hungry of our Michigan communities. This has resulted in the MSAH utilizing all our allocated State budget. We have had to transfer funds from our administrative to use for processing the venison and had to exhaust all Corporate and Private funding donations to the MSAH through our fund-raising efforts.

The 2019-2020 budget year, which was our most successful venison donation and production year in our history, has once again exhausted our budgeted processing funds far before the end of our budget year. We have had to use 99% of our \$75,000 allocated funds which included our administrative allocation and to use our donated funds from the private and corporate funds available to process the venison distributed to the Food Banks, Pantries and Shelters. We have eight (8) Wild Game Processors that are patiently waiting for MSAH to pay them. This is a good thing mind you; but we have funds in our account that we need access to for emergency processing. Any funds allocated as emergency use money, not used, would be returned to the fund.

As Executive Director, I have halted any salary due me from the MSAH, starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and for the rest of this budget year. My wife and I, as well as other MSAH Directors have personally donated to the MSAH checking account, just to ensure bills get paid

The information for our expenditures to our October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 State of Michigan contract year budget of \$75,000.00. have been included with this

letter. Of those expenditures for processing alone at \$1.35 per processed pound of venison:

**To date, from October 1, 2019 of our Budget Contract Year:**

41 Different processors

Based in 34 Different Counties

Produced **83,112** pounds of ground venison

Distributed to 80 different Food Bank, Pantry and Shelter agencies Creating up to **332,448** hot and nourishing meals for the hungry of our state.

**PAID PROCESSING INVOICES:**

55,039 pounds of that processed venison have been paid for in the amount of \$79,022.13.

**UNPAID PROCESSING INVOICES:**

28,073 pounds have not been paid for, due to no funds remaining in the budget (\$37,898.55 still due processors)

Funds within the SAH fund could be used to pay our processors who with our hunters are the lifeblood of the MSAH organization that make it possible for us to feed the hungry of Michigan. We truly need to have this situation addressed so we can feed more people, and pay our processors.

Respectfully,

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger Executive Director, Board of Directors, and our great Volunteers

PO Box 5127

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P.S. Representatives of the MSAH will make ourselves available to you for a meeting after the Stay Safe, Stay at Home Executive Orders are ended, to learn more about our organization, and our mission.