

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

- 1. The sponsoring representative's first name: Alabas
- 2. The sponsoring representative's last name: Farhat
- 3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.

Representative Erin Byrnes, District 15

- 4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for: Armenian Community Center of Greater Detroit
- 5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for: 19310 Ford Road, Dearborn, MI 48128
- 6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity: $\rm N/A$
- Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located: Representative Kelly Breen, District 21
- 8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. With the support of this funding, the Armenian Community Center of Greater Detroit will construct a new, modern facility designed to expand access to a wide array of public-facing programs and services for individuals of all backgrounds across metro Detroit. This investment directly serves the public interest by enhancing community resources that contribute to cultural enrichment, education, and social cohesion—hallmarks of a vibrant and inclusive society.

Cultural Programs:

The new Center will house expanded cultural offerings that are open to all members of the public, regardless of background. Programs will include traditional Armenian dance, music, and visual arts workshops, as well as exhibitions and public performances. These initiatives will serve to celebrate and preserve Armenian heritage while also fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. Through public events, partnerships with local schools, and interactive exhibits, the Center will become a space where diverse communities can learn about and appreciate each other's histories and traditions.

Educational Initiatives:

Education is a core pillar of the Center's mission. The new facility will support a robust suite of educational programs open to the general public. These include Armenian language classes, cultural history seminars, youth leadership academies, and after-school enrichment opportunities. By equipping young people and adults alike with knowledge, skills, and mentorship, the Center supports academic achievement and personal growth for residents across metro Detroit. Particular emphasis will be placed on youth empowerment and leadership development, helping to shape engaged, informed citizens.

Social Activities:

The Center will offer inclusive social programming designed to bring people together and foster a deep sense of community. Regular events such as sports leagues, volunteer projects, seasonal festivals, and senior engagement activities will serve a wide demographic—from young families to older adults. These gatherings promote mental wellness, civic involvement, and neighborly connection across cultural and socioeconomic lines.

Economic and Civic Impact:

Beyond programming, the new Armenian Community Center will contribute to the local economy by creating jobs, attracting visitors, and revitalizing the surrounding area. Its facilities will be made available for community use, including meetings, workshops, and public forums. By serving as a convening space for nonprofits, educational institutions, and civic organizations, the Center will act as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in addressing local challenges.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item. 3000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.["Private"]

- Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item: Non-profit organization
- 13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months? Yes
- 14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months? Yes
- 15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors? Yes
- 16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.' Raffi Ourlian, President Sebouh Hamakorzian, Secretary Toros Chopjian, Treasurer Shant Jamgotchian, Advisor Krista Tossounian, Advisor Aram Manoogian, Advisor Sarkis Arakelian, Advisor
- 17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

- 18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item: June 2026
- 19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate." Yes







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