



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Brenda
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Carter
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.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Detroit Office • 7310 Woodward Ave, Suite 701B, Detroit, MI 48202; Pontiac Office • 46156 Woodward Ave, Suite B- 102, Pontiac, MI, 48342
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Both locations. The funding would support their continued operations for both locations.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Detroit Location: District #3, Sen. Chang. District #7, Rep. Tanya Myers-Phillp; Pontiac location, District #7, Sen. Jeremy Moss, District #53 - Rep. Brenda Carter
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. It does not violate Michigan's Constitution. The wrap around services provided by CEO helps to reduce recidivism rates for previously incarcerated individuals saving tax payer dollars. Job skills training programs provided by CEO helps returning citizens obtain economic stability for themselves and their families.

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.

1500000

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

["State"]

12. 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.'

Yes, the CEO board can be found here: <https://www.ceoworks.org/leadership>

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:

Oct 2025-2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



Center for
Employment
Opportunities

March 25, 2025

Subject: Strengthening Michigan's Reentry Workforce – FY 2025 Support for Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) Michigan

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the entire Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) Michigan based team, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for both CEO and formerly incarcerated Michiganders.

CEO Michigan is requesting your continued support in the FY25 budget for \$1.5M to allow us to provide transitional jobs, vocational services, and upskilling opportunities to individuals returning from incarceration across Michigan.

CEO provides immediate, comprehensive employment services to individuals, focusing on those at the highest risk of recidivism. Individuals come to CEO incredibly motivated to work, but face barriers in (re)accessing the workforce. CEO participants are immediately employed on CEO transitional work crews and are paid daily, which is essential as individuals transition from incarceration back to their communities. At the same time they receive job coaching and job placement services to help them find full-time employment, and then a year of retention services to support them in their career development. CEO also provides advanced training pathways that target high-need industries by providing inter-organizational referrals to training and employer partners, and support the expansion of existing trainings related to high-demand industries.

Since 2018, across our offices in Detroit and Pontiac, we have enrolled over 945 people into transitional employment opportunities, and are on track to serve over 1,000 individuals by the end of June 2025. We have a current wage at placement of \$16.87, well above minimum wage.

This year's request is a slight increase due to the growing operations of our satellite office in Pontiac. CEO Pontiac opened in April of 2022, and since opening has enrolled over 300 individuals returning to the local area. The demand for CEO services in Pontiac is

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**Center for
Employment
Opportunities**

demonstrated by our growing waitlist of individuals due to capacity limitations; with additional funding CEO can serve more people. We've also seen a 28% increase in referrals in our Detroit office this year. Furthermore, CEO continues to invest in advanced training pathways. Currently, we offer a 12-week in house apprenticeship program, commercial driver's license (CDL) training, and IT certifications and plan to build new apprenticeship opportunities with local unions and training offerings in heavy equipment operations, solar installation, information technology, service technicians, and fiber optics.

This investment is critical to ensuring Michiganders with justice-involvement get the support they need to rejoin the labor force, and it positively contributes to public safety and economic outcomes in the state. CEO is an [evidenced based model](#) backed by a randomized control trial study and multiple quasi-experimental designs showing:

- CEO reduces recidivism by 22%;
- Three years post-enrollment into programming, CEO participants are 48% more likely to be employed than the comparison group; and
- For every \$1.00 investment into CEO, there is a \$3.30 taxpayer benefit.

We want to thank you for your support on criminal justice and workforce development reform measures this session, and for considering our request. We look forward to working with you to continue to build on the great work already being done to reform our justice system, promote a strong economy and strengthen communities.

Sincerely,

Oluwatosin Martins
Regional Director, Midwest Region

CEO MICHIGAN

The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is a nonprofit social enterprise providing comprehensive workforce development services to individuals returning home from incarceration. **CEO launched its first Michigan office in Detroit in 2018, and opened a satellite office in Pontiac, Oakland County in April 2022.**

CEO's Evidence-Based Program Model:

CEO's program model has been evaluated to increase both public safety and employment outcomes, with findings showing a **22% reduction in recidivism and 48% increase in employment after 3 years** when measured to the comparison group.



Job Readiness Training

Through paid job orientation, CEO prepares individuals to enter the workforce.



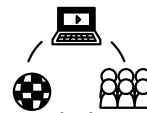
Transitional Employment

Individuals who are employed through CEO get paid daily.



Job Coaching & Job Placement

Through 1:1 job readiness support, CEO guides individuals to full-time jobs.



Advanced Training & Certificates

CEO pays for advanced training in IT, construction, and transportation.



Retention Services

CEO provides ongoing support to ensure participant success in their full time job.

Our Statewide Impact:

Across Michigan, CEO has provided workforce development opportunities to over **945 returning citizens** with the new addition of our Pontiac satellite site. CEO also provides **advanced training opportunities** - specifically in commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), IT, and Heavy Equipment Operator certifications - to foster connections to career pathways that provide a family sustaining wage.

"My training was my whole focus, and I was determined to complete the program. I was confident that it would open up career opportunities for me and increase my chances of finding a quality job because I put the work in."

Read Edris' story on how his Heavy Equipment training at CEO Detroit spearheaded his career.



DETROIT

650+

returning citizens served since opening.

107

individuals, on average, joined our CEO work crews each year since opening in 2018.

290+

permanent job placements.

\$17.01

was the average wage at job placement in FY 2024.

PONTIAC

295+

returning citizens served since 2022. We have made **154 placements into permanent jobs** with an average wage of **\$16.71**.

Data from March 2025

Our Partners in Michigan

