



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Greg
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
VanWoerkom
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.
Jasper Martus
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Boys & Girls Clubs Michigan Alliance
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
8431 Sherwood Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
This project would support Boys & Girls Club organizations across the state of Michigan. Communities include Adrian, Alpena, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Brimley, Detroit, Douglas, Eastpointe, Essexville, Flint, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Holland, Hudson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Menominee, Muskegon, Pinconning, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie, South Haven, Sturgis, Troy, Warren, and Watersmeet.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
N/A Statewide
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. The requested legislatively directed spending item will support workforce development programs across the state of Michigan at their 16 Boys & Girls Club organizations, spanning 28 communities in the upper and lower peninsulas. The impact of this funding

will be felt in communities throughout Michigan, including Adrian, Alpena, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Brimley, Detroit, Douglas, Eastpointe, Essexville, Flint, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Holland, Hudson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Menominee, Muskegon, Pinconning, Saginaw. This funding will support youth in our rural communities, suburban communities, and our cities. Importantly, this funding will also provide crucial support to potentially 40,000 youth across our state. This funding will ensure that a significant number of youths have access to these vital programs.

These programs will provide a significant public benefit and be an appropriate use of taxpayer funding for a number of key reasons. A study by the University of Michigan Ann Arbor found that every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs returns \$6.79 in economic benefits to a Boys & Girls Clubs' community. Boys & Girls Clubs' workforce development programs equip young people with valuable skills, training, and certifications relevant to current and future job markets. This investment will create a more skilled workforce across the state of Michigan.

Boys & Girls Clubs' programs will provide the next generation of workforce with the skills that they need to be successful and ready to be employed. This will contribute to lower unemployment rates, thus reducing the amount of people needing public assistance programs and strengthening our tax base.

Boys & Girls Clubs often have strong community support and partnerships, which can only ensure programs are tailored to respond to local needs.

Boys & Girls Clubs will provide comprehensive programming-- job exploration, skill-building, and transition acumen-- that promotes a source of reliable workers, strengthens readiness for the workforce, and creates a talent pipeline in our state. A strong workforce is vital for the future of the state of Michigan, and our organization is uniquely positioned to partner with the state to meet this goal.

The item would not violate Article IV, S30 of the Michigan Constitution. This request would solely be for the benefit of the state, as our programs would take place across the state.

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.

2000000

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

["State", "Private"]

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.'

Jen Calery, Ray Lipscomb, Casey Hoffman, Dustin Krasny, Dave Ferszt, Peter Wills, Patrick Placzowski, Leon Bell, Michelle Davis, Wally Graffen, Ilana Levinson, Brian Manderfield, Matt Watrous, Josh Westfall

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:

10/01/2025 to 09/30/2025

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

Yes

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express my strong support of the Michigan Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs \$2,000,000 budget ask to provide youth across the state of Michigan with innovative Life & Workforce Readiness programming. This crucial funding will directly support and enhance the Michigan Boys & Girls Clubs' vital workforce development programming for young people across our state.


The Michigan Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs plays an indispensable role in shaping the futures of our youth, providing safe and supportive environments where they can learn, grow, and develop essential skills. In 2023, the Michigan Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs served 37,952 youth with 93% of their surveyed youth reporting that they are on track to graduate high school on time.

This budget request specifically targets the critical need for workforce development, equipping young people with the tools and opportunities necessary to succeed in today's economy. 76% of our members plan to graduate high-school and attend Junior College, Trade School or complete a 4-year college degree program. 93% of Club members (5th to 12th grade only) are on track to graduate on time. Invest \$2,000,000 to provide youth across the state of Michigan with innovative Life & Workforce Readiness programming to students ages 6-18. With this funding Boys & Girls Clubs will provide comprehensive programming-- job exploration, skill-building, and transition acumen-- that promotes a source of reliable workers, strengthens readiness for work force creates a talent pipeline in our State.

The impact of this funding will be felt in communities throughout Michigan, including Adrian, Alpena, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Brimley, Detroit, Douglas, Eastpointe, Essexville, Flint, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Holland, Hudson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Menominee, Muskegon, Pinconning, Saginaw. This funding will support youth in our rural communities, suburban communities, and our cities. Importantly, this funding also provides crucial support to young people residing on military bases within Michigan, ensuring a significant number of youths having access to these vital programs. Investing in the workforce development programs of Boys & Girls Clubs is a direct investment in the future of Michigan. By providing young people with pathways to meaningful employment and career opportunities, we are strengthening our communities, fostering economic growth, and ensuring a brighter future for all Michiganders.


Please accept this letter of support to the Michigan Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs' request. Boys & Girls Clubs are a proven partner in youth development, and this funding will empower them to continue their invaluable work in preparing our young people for success.

Sincerely,



Representative Greg VanWoerkom
(Sponsor)

4/23/25
Date



Representative Jasper Martus
(Co-Sponsor)

4/21/2025
Date



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MICHIGAN**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS: BUDGET REQUEST



Why Boys & Girls Clubs

The Michigan Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs are one of the largest providers of out-of-school time programs for school-aged youth in the state. **Helping every young person be career ready with a plan for the future is not just a “program”, it is a part of our core mission.** Annually we serve over 37,000 youth across the state, with many of them starting work immediately after graduation in their communities. Boys & Girls Clubs have over 150 years of proven results. Nationwide, 44% of U.S. employers report that their greatest needs lie in the area of soft skills. We provide those skills. The Boys & Girls Club members of today are the workforce of tomorrow. **76% of our members plan to graduate high-school and attend Junior College, Trade School or complete a 4-year college degree program and 93% of Club members (5th to 12th grade only) are on track to graduate on time.**

The Need in the State

According to Michigan’s statewide Workforce Plan, the state of Michigan’s goal is to increase the # of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree from 51.1% to 60% by 2030, making Michigan a top-10 state for labor force participation growth by 2027. **A strong workforce is vital for the future of the state of Michigan.**



Workforce Readiness Pillars



Please consider the following investment or legislation:

- Invest \$2,000,000 to provide youth across the state of Michigan with innovative Life & Workforce Readiness programming to students ages 6-18. Boys & Girls Clubs will provide comprehensive programming– job exploration, skill-building, and transition acumen– that promotes a source of reliable workers, strengthens readiness for workforce, and creates a talent pipeline in our State.
- This investment will support Clubs in Adrian, Alpena, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Bridgman, Brimley, Detroit, Douglas, Eastpointe, Essexville, Flint, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Holland, Hudson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Menominee, Muskegon, Pinconning, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Sault Sainte Marie, South Haven, Sturgis, Troy, Warren, and Watersmeet with the potential for growth.