



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Jimmie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Wilson Jr.
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:
We The People Opportunity Farm
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
300 Green Rd, Ann Arbor, MI, 48105
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Good Soil Cafe, 979 Ecorse Rd, Ypsilanti MI, 48198
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Jimmie Wilson Jr., District 32
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.
Good Soil Cafe, is a social enterprise project of We The People Opportunity Farm (WTPOF), designed to provide employment, healing, and opportunity to formerly incarcerated individuals seeking to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their communities. Located at 979 Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti Township - an iconic building of cultural and historical significance with high visibility - the cafe will serve as a welcoming community hub and a transformative space centered on redemption, workforce development and economic empowerment. Many community members have

expressed a need in having more local businesses and community gathering spaces on this side of the township and Good Soil Cafe aims to meet that need.

The funding requested will support both the planning and implementation phases of the cafe, through architectural planning, interior buildout, equipment acquisition, and business operations infrastructure needs. This legislatively directed spending item provides a clear public benefit by advancing workforce reintegration, reducing recidivism, and revitalizing a key corridor in Ypsilanti Township. This funding ask is sound public policy and aligns with the State of Michigan's goals to invest in economic opportunities and equity.

(Please see attached project proposal document for further information)

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.

200000

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

["None"]

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.'

President Victoria Harris-Burton, Treasurer Brian Jones-Chance, Board Members: Jordan Else, Justin Harper, Cormac Levenson

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:

10/01/2025-09/30/2026

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

Yes

Proposal for State of Michigan Funding

Submitted by We The People Opportunity Farm (WTPOF)

Request Amount: \$200,000

Project Title: Good Soil Café – A Social Enterprise Rooted in Redemption and Community

We The People Opportunity Farm (WTPOF), a nonprofit dedicated to empowering formerly incarcerated individuals through meaningful work, healing, and community, respectfully submits this proposal to the State of Michigan for a \$200,000 investment toward the planning and implementation of *Good Soil Café*. This café will serve as a transformative social enterprise designed to employ and be operated by individuals who are ready to turn their lives around after incarceration.

Project Overview

Good Soil Café will be located in the iconic building at **979 Ecorse Rd in Ypsilanti**, a historically significant and highly visible location. The café is more than a place to grab a cup of coffee—it's a soil-changing space where people, stories, and second chances take root. The project builds upon WTPOF's proven success in running a paid internship program for formerly incarcerated individuals, by offering permanent employment pathways, job training, and a nurturing environment infused with community connection and purpose.

Funding Use & Current Status

We are requesting **\$200,000** to support both the *planning and implementation* phases of the café. Early-stage planning is already underway, including stakeholder engagement, concept development, and preliminary coordination with trusted community partners. These funds will help us expand that momentum into tangible next steps: architectural plans, interior buildout, equipment acquisition, and business operations infrastructure.

Equity, Employment, and Community Impact

At its core, Good Soil Café is about healing, dignity, and workforce development. Every cup poured will represent a second chance. By providing stable employment, barista training, and wraparound supports, we aim to reduce recidivism, restore hope, and offer a model for how local businesses can be built around impact and inclusion.

Community Partnership & Support

This initiative has strong grassroots and institutional support. We are in collaboration with organizations such as **Zingerman's Community of Businesses, Argus Farm Stop, A Brighter Way**, and **SPARK East Innovation Center**, among others. These partners provide mentoring, cultural development, workforce training, and business incubation—all of which will contribute to the long-term success of Good Soil Café.