



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Joey
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Andrews
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:
Berrien County
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
701 Main Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Berrien County
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Joey Andrews, House District 38
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. This funding request supports Berrien County's strategic initiative to eliminate blight and repurpose underutilized industrial and commercial properties for future development. The county continues to face challenges resulting from the decline of small-scale manufacturing and the economic impacts of COVID-19, which have left numerous sites vacant and deteriorating. With targeted investment, these properties can be transformed into assets that support housing, business development, and public use.

Priority sites identified for future action include the Ansty Foundry in Stevensville, the Captain's Quarters Condominiums in Benton Harbor, and multiple blighted commercial structures in Benton Township's shopping corridor.

Berrien County is a local unit of government located in southwest Michigan, serving a diverse population across urban, suburban, and rural communities. The County government is responsible for a wide range of public services, including land use planning, public safety, public health, infrastructure, and community development. In recent years, Berrien County has taken an active role in coordinating cross-jurisdictional efforts to eliminate blight, encourage reinvestment, and promote economic growth. The County's Planning and Community Development Department has led successful redevelopment and demolition projects in collaboration with local municipalities, state agencies, and private partners, making it well-positioned to manage and oversee this initiative.

This proposal complies with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The funding will not be directed to any private entity or individual. All activities will be conducted through publicly accountable agencies and authorities to serve a broad and clearly defined public purpose—namely, community redevelopment and economic revitalization.

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.

4000000

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:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

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.'

n/a

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. 1 of 2025 - Sept 30 of 2026

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

Yes