



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:
The Avenue Family Network, dba Caring Connection / The Empowerment Center for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
777 Riverview Drive, Bldg B Benton Harbor, MI 49023
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
The Empowerment Center for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
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. Caring Connection's Empowerment Center is a vital program that serves all of Berrien County, population 152,700 (2020 US census). The Center operates a 23-bed emergency intimate partner shelter that houses women and children who are in unsafe, dangerous situations and need protection. The shelter is most often full, and houses 10-12 children (infants to teens) on a regular basis. Children are registered for school to assume as 'normal' routine, as possible. The family is offered trauma-informed counseling to help the victim understand the dynamics for the abuse. They also offer community-based services that include case management, legal advocacy, and counseling. They operate a

small outpatient office in Three Oaks (southern Berrien County) to accommodate taxpayers located in the south county. Additionally, their sexual assault team works with local law enforcement to respond to sexual assault calls from area hospital emergency rooms. The Center offers advocacy and support for victims, 14 years and older, who have been sexually assaulted. Sexual assault victims are offered ongoing services. Ongoing training and educational programming are offered county-wide for law enforcement, clergy, human service providers and taxpayers. All services meet the MDHHS – Division of Victim Services Standards. These free services help prevent domestic and sexual violence through outreach and support. The Empowerment Center keeps victims safe when they have been victimized, are frightened, and have nowhere else to turn. Without the Empowerment Center, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault will have nowhere to turn. Women may have no other choice but to remain in violent living situations and children will continue to be exposed to violence that breeds more violence in the community. Support for Caring Connection's Empowerment Center, a nonprofit 5201 C-3 organization serves all individuals. This request complies with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Providing access to safe housing, employment or educational opportunities, and counseling is a long-term benefit to the public and the community.

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.

350000

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

["Federal","State","Local","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.'

Pam Pancoast, Board President; Alex Moore, CPA Secretary/Treasurer; Brett Weir; Jan Reimann; Dr. Eric Lester; Amy Nichols; Ray Bell

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:

October 1, 2025- September 30, 2026

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

Yes