



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
John
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Fitzgerald
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:
Special Olympics Michigan
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
160 68th SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Representative John Fitzgerald
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 funding supports Special Olympics Michigan Unified Champion Schools strategy expansion to more schools in the state. Currently 615 schools are currently involved. Unified Champion Schools (UCS) unifies students with and without intellectual disabilities to create more accepting and welcoming school environments for all students. Students participate in Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership Activities and Whole School Awareness events that celebrate students and provide them a place to learn and thrive together. 96% of Unified Champion School Liaisons say the Unified Champion

Schools strategy reduces bullying and offensive language. Special Olympics Michigan is a leader in UCS across the U.S. and will utilize funding to support schools in their Unified Champion Schools strategies to engage their students, teachers and communities.

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.

1000000

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

["Federal","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.'

See attached List

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 2025 - Sept. 30 2026

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

Yes



2025
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Transfer Pricing (EVS)

Jennifer Essary
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Charitable Foundations
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Huron Valley Schools
Speech Pathologist
(Retired)

Juliet Dragos
WZZM TV 13
Weeknight News Anchor,
Executive
Producer/Manager 13 On
Your Side Late Night

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and Community Affairs
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Steve Jbara
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SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS FUNDING

ISSUE:

Since 2014, Special Olympics Michigan Unified Champion Schools (UCS) has been supported by the Michigan Department of Education to offer the Unified Champion Schools strategy to create more inclusive schools. To date, 622 schools are Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. Special Olympics has been funded at \$500,000 annually. In 2024, Special Olympics Michigan received \$1 million to be distributed statewide.

Special Olympics Michigan currently has a Unified Champion School in 55 counties in the state of Michigan and they are committed to having a Unified Champion School in every county by 2025. Special Olympics has learned that once a school utilizes the UCS strategy in an area, other schools are more likely to join.

KEY POINTS:

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® is a strategy to engage schools, pre-K through college, in climates of social inclusion, acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students with and without intellectual & developmental disabilities. Unified Champion Schools bring students together in three core areas to create school environments of inclusion and acceptance: Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and whole-school Inclusion activities. These three elements create an environment for students to create meaningful friendships that carry over into the classroom and beyond. Research shows that 96% of educators state that the Unified Champion Schools strategy has made their school more inclusive.

ACTION:

Special Olympics Michigan has received \$500,000 annually since 2014 and is seeking an additional \$500,000 in 2025 to reach more schools. **That million-dollar investment is to grow Michigan as the most inclusive state in the nation to include every county!**



Unified Champion Schools

Unified Champion Schools (UCS) is an education-based strategy that brings together students with and without disabilities to create inclusive and accepting school environments for all students.

In Michigan:

- 622 Unified Champion Schools
- K-12 Program implemented at all levels
- Partnerships with multiple educational organizations (State of Michigan, Head Start, MHSAA, Peer2Peer)
- 100 schools participating in MHSAA Unified Basketball
- 22 students part of the statewide Youth Activation Committee (YAC)
- Detroit Public Schools Community District & Grand Rapids Public Schools as part of Unified Champion City Schools
- 17,000+ students involved in UCS activities in 2024-25
- 25 schools have received National Banner status, the highest honor a UCS can receive

2023 Appropriations Impact Report

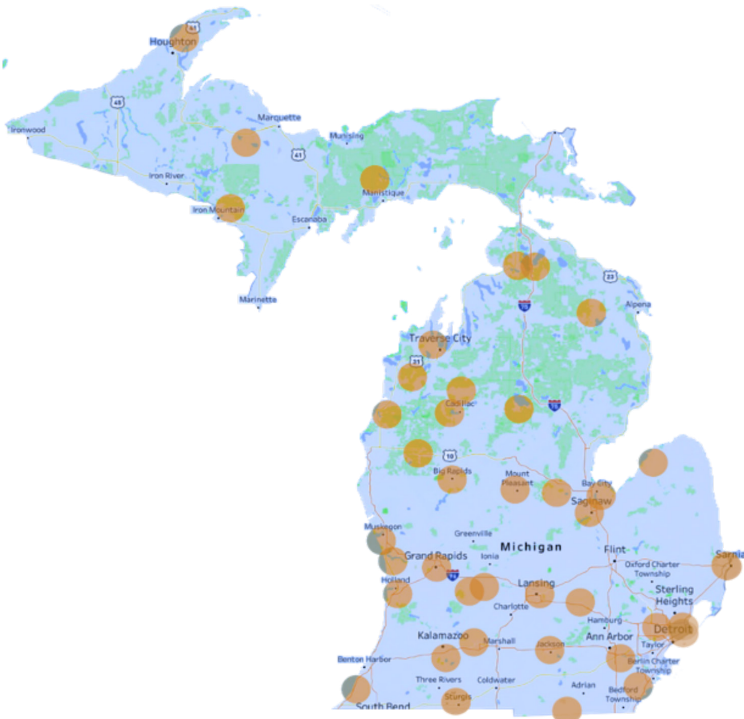


Habitat for Humanity leveraged
\$5 million
in state appropriations funding from
the 2023 state budget to create 45
homes in Michigan with build value of
\$10.6 million.

45 Michigan households
went from being
cost-burdened renters to
affordably owning
their homes.



39 counties receiving
new property tax revenue.



Homes Built

Addresses, City, County and Legislative District.

12010 N Broadway Hastings, 49058 Barry County	Rep District: 79 Senate District: 18
W. Spaulding Ave. Battle Creek, 49037 Calhoun County	Rep District: 44 Senate District: 18
1216 Park Ave. Bay City, 48708 Bay County	Rep District: 96 Senate District: 35
7750 Second St. Thompsonville, 49683 Benzie County	Rep District: 103 Senate District: 32
1130 Lapeer Ave. Port Huron, 48060 St. Clair County	Rep District: 102 Senate District: 36
215 Second St. Manton, 49663 Wexford County	Rep District: 102 Senate District: 36
1400 Jerome Lansing, 48912 Ingham County	Rep District: 77 Senate District: 28
1305 Jerome Lansing, 48912 Ingham County	Rep District: 77 Senate District: 28
5253 Will Dr. Indian River, 49749 Cheboygan County	Rep District: 106 Senate District: 37
5271 Will Dr. Indian River, 49749 Cheboygan County	Rep District: 106 Senate District: 37
25608 D St. Calumet, 49913 Houghton County	Rep District: 110 Senate District: 38
4821 Maryland St. Detroit, 48224 Wayne County	Rep District: 9 Senate District: 10
13898 Justice Way Traverse City, 49684 Grand Traverse County	Rep District: 103 Senate District: 37
Justice Way (New Waves) Traverse City Grand Traverse County	Rep District: 103 Senate District: 37

Continued →

9894 Vineyard St. Bridgman, 48197 Berrien	Rep District: 37 Senate District: 17
424 Riverdale Ave. Manistique, 49854 Schoolcraft County	Rep District: 108 Senate District: 38
399 Elder St. Ypsilanti, 48197 Washtenaw County	Rep District: 33 Senate District: 15
1315 4th Ave. Lake Odessa, 48849 Ionia County	Rep District: 87 Senate District: 18
1102 Lyons St. Mt. Pleasant, 48858 Isabella County	Rep District: 92 Senate District: 34
656 Cooper Jackson, 49201 Jackson County	Rep District: 46 Senate District: 14
1910 Ramona Ave. Portage, 49002 Kalamazoo County	Rep District: 41 Senate District: 19
444 Pleasant St. SW Grand Rapids, 49503 Kent County	Rep District: 84 Senate District: 29
1515 Sheridan Ave. Baldwin, 49304 Lake County	Rep District: 101 Senate District: 33
196 E. 16th St. Holland, 49423 Ottawa County	Rep District: 86 Senate District: 31
7032 E. Michigan Ave. Pigeon, 48755 Huron County	Rep District: 98 Senate District: 25
404 Summit St. Morenci, 49256 Lenawee County	Rep District: 34 Senate District: 16
101 E. Congress St Morenci, 49256 Lenawee County	Rep District: 34 Senate District: 16
326 Grand Fowlerville, 48836 Livingston County	Rep District: 50 Senate District: 22
22054 Oakwood Eastpoint, 48836 Macomb County	Rep District: 12 Senate District: 11
Merkey Rd. Manistee, 49660 Manistee County	Rep District: 102 Senate District: 32

265 Marble St. Ishpeming Twp, 49849 Marquette County	Rep District: 109 Senate District: 38
19888 Park Rd. Big Rapids, 49307 Mecosta County	Rep District: 100 Senate District: 34
726 Stephenson St. Norway, 49870 Dickinson County	Rep District: 109 Senate District: 38
504 Eastlawn Dr. Midland, 48640 Midland County	Rep District: 95 Senate District: 35
607 Bentley Monroe, 48162 Monroe County	Rep District: 30 Senate District: 16
15990 Caring St. Hillman, 49746 Montmorency County	Rep District: 106 Senate District: 36
15600 Caring St. Hillman, 49746 Montmorency County	Rep District: 106 Senate District: 36
7403 McCarty Alanson, 49706 Emmet County	Rep District: 107 Senate District: 37
7866 Greenway Alanson, 49706 Emmet County	Rep District: 107 Senate District: 37
20303 Westover Ave. Southfield, 48075 Oakland County	Rep District: 18 Senate District: 7
108 Northern Oaks Houghton Lake, 48629 Roscommon County	Rep District: 105 Senate District: 36
Covenant Neighborhood Saginaw, 48602 Saginaw County	Rep District: 94 Senate District: 35
310 Linda Ln. Sturgis, 49091 St. Joseph County	Rep District: 36 Senate District: 17
914 W. Summit Muskegon, 49441 Muskegon County	Rep District: 87 Senate District: 32
224 Despelder Grand Haven, 49417 Ottawa County	Rep District: 88 Senate District: 31