



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:
Roth
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:
United Way of Northwest Michigan
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
4075 Copper Ridge Drive Traverse City Michigan
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Traverse City
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
 - District 88 Representative Greg VanWoerkom • District 89 Representative Luke Meerman • District 97 Representative Matthew Bierlein • District 98 Representative Gregory Alexander • District 100 Representative Tom Kunse • District 101 Representative Joseph Fox • District 102 Representative Curt VanderWall • District 103 Representative Betsy Coffia • District 104 Representative John Roth • District 105 Representative Ken Borton • District 106 Representative Cam Cavitt • District 107 Representative Parker Fairbairn
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 will support the expansion of United We Smile, a free dental health clinic operated by United Way of Northwest Michigan, through the purchase of its current operating facility. United We Smile provides no-cost preventive and restorative dental services to underserved children, pregnant women, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. By securing a permanent facility, United Way can ensure long-term sustainability and further expand its service capacity.

This initiative directly addresses health disparities, reduces costly reliance on emergency departments, and strengthens the regional workforce through fewer missed workdays related to oral health issues. As a public health and economic mobility intervention, the project provides a clear public benefit. Data indicates that individuals from across northern Michigan and beyond are visiting this clinic to address their dental care.

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.

2900000

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

["Local", "Federal"]

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.'

Deon Vaughan, JD – Chair Brian Kelsey – Vice Chair Tanya Berg – Secretary Jennifer Rekasi – Treasurer Dr. Sally Ancel, DO Lori Andrzejewski Hall Dr. Abigail (Abbie) Ellsworth, ND Miranda Fisher Angela (Angie) Kopriva, CPA Laura Matchett Susan Taylor, JD Dr. Tom Wertz, DO

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-December 2026

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

Yes



United We Smile, a program of United Way of Northwest Michigan, is dedicated to providing essential dental care to underserved populations, particularly veterans, children and individuals without access to regular dental services.

In the first year United WeSmile has made a significant impact on the oral health and overall well-being of thousands of residents who were not able to access critical dental services before the clinic opened.

Oral health is critical to a person's overall well-being. Without proper dental care, individuals face not only discomfort and pain but also a higher risk of serious health conditions such as infections, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. Unfortunately, for many individuals, especially veterans, access to affordable dental services is out of reach due to financial barriers, lack of insurance coverage, or geographical limitations.

United We Smile (UWS) was designed to address the pressing need for future dentists to receive more training in serving people and families with specific conditions or personal barriers to receiving dental care.

At the UWS dental center, dental interns from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry work under the instruction of local volunteer dentists to receive their final training before graduation, learning how to work within patients' barriers to accessing care.

FIRST YEAR. BY THE NUMBERS
\$1,100,000

OF DONATED SERVICES

135

Dental Interns
Trained

1,400

Active
Patients

2,700

Dental Visits

what patients are saying

"Gus was in constant pain and wasn't eating because of severe dental issues. The cost of dental care was beyond my means but today, Gus is a picture of health and happiness because of United We Smile. You didn't just fix Gus's teeth – it brought my son back."

-Suzana, a single mother about her 3 year old son Gus

"They don't just fix their teeth; they teach us how to care for them at home. We're not just receiving help here; we're part of something bigger and that's what makes this clinic so special. It's not just about us – it's about everyone."

-Rolando and Tanya and their seven children—ages 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 15, and 17

"United We Smile, felt like a lifeline. United We Smile transformed my life. They relieved my pain and restored my ability to eat and speak comfortably."

-John, Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran

United Way of Northwest Michigan is seeking \$2,900,000 to cover the cost of the building for providing services to uninsured Michiganders



**Children, Nursing and Pregnant Women, Special Needs and Bleeding Disorder Patient
Seen by United We Smile since September 2023.**

County	Production	Patients
Alcona	\$3,301.00	2
Alpena	\$15,329.00	6
Antrim	\$96,353.00	59
Barry	\$251.00	1
Benzie	\$100,474.00	69
Charlevoix	\$56,119.00	38
Cheboygan	\$26,429.00	18
Chippewa	\$63,903.00	54
Clare	\$7,810.00	7
Crawford	\$14,473.00	9
Emmet	\$26,907.00	27
Gladwin	\$5,999.00	3
Grand Traverse	\$872,398.00	774
Iosco	\$1,208.00	3
Jackson	\$1,229.00	1
Kalkaska	\$73,904.00	83
Kent	\$662.00	2
Lake	\$19,185.00	9
Lapeer	\$702.00	1
Leelanau	\$84,211.00	73
Livingston	\$1,233.00	2
Mackinac	\$12,144.00	7
Macomb	\$370.00	1
Manistee	\$83,974.00	56
Mason	\$44,946.00	7
Mecosta	\$1,734.00	2
Midland	\$240.00	1
Missaukee	\$8,613.00	12
Montcalm	\$1,272.00	1
Muskegon	\$3,920.00	5
Newaygo	\$22,003.00	12
Oakland	\$195.00	1
Oceana	\$2,656.00	1
Ogemaw	\$16,532.00	2
Osceola	\$37,130.00	17
Oscoda	\$1,779.00	2
Otsego	\$46,297.00	21
Ottawa	\$264.00	1
Presque Isle	\$12,057.00	5
Roscommon	\$5,487.00	7
Wexford	\$245,106.00	191
Total	\$2,024,171.00	1,596



**United Way of
Northwest Michigan**

Veterans

Seen by United We Smile Between September 2023- September 2024

County	Number of Patients	Total Production Value (\$)
Alpena	1	\$ 10,415.00
Antrim	6	\$ 22,814.00
Benzie	5	\$ 20,346.00
Charlevoix	1	\$ 6,595.00
Crawford	2	\$ 10,105.00
Emmet	1	\$ 89,745.00
Grand Traverse	25	\$131,227.00
Kalkaska	2	\$ 4,355.00
Lake	1	\$ 5,549.00
Leelanau	3	\$ 7,895.00
Mackinac	1	\$ 2,671.00
Manistee	5	\$ 23,360.00
Mason	3	\$ 14,849.00
Missaukee	2	\$ 15,252.00
Montmorency	1	\$ 5,795.00
Osceola	4	\$ 18,522.00
Otsego	1	\$ 4,982.00
Presque Isle	1	\$ 4,895.00
Roscommon	1	\$ 4,562.00
Wexford	4	\$ 11,834.00
Total	70	\$415,768.00