



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.
Representative Schuette
Representative Tate
Senator Chang
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Empowerment Plan
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
7640 Kercheval Ave. Detroit, MI 48214
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:
Joe Tate District 9
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.
EMPOWERMENT PLAN'S FELLOWSHIP: A PATHWAY TO STABILITY
Empowerment Plan addresses homelessness in two critical ways. First, we elevate families from poverty through our two-year fellowship program by providing training and supportive services for single parents experiencing homelessness in Detroit. Second, fellows produce innovative and life-saving EMPWR sleeping bag coats, which are

distributed to those in need across the globe. Roughly 60% of the paid work week is dedicated to coat production, and the remaining 40% of paid time is devoted to on-site programming, resource navigation, and supportive services. By combining on-the-job training and employment in industrial manufacturing with life skills, career training, and supportive services, individuals are equipped with the skills, experience, and resources needed to transition to a more financially secure and stable life. By taking a wrap-around approach to overcoming barriers to employment, Empowerment Plan is committed to peeling back the layers of obstacles commonly faced by displaced, low-income, minority, single parents.

a. The Cost-Effectiveness of Our Solution: Chronic homelessness costs taxpayers an average of \$83,000 per person annually due to expenses related to law enforcement, emergency healthcare, and the criminal justice system. In contrast, comprehensive, supportive programs like the Empowerment Plan's fellowship demonstrate a remarkable reduction in societal costs—up to 60% less per individual—by providing housing and critical support services.

IMPACT OF STATE FUNDING

Over the past two years, state funding has allowed us to revamp our workforce program into a structured, two-year fellowship designed to address inequities. Key outcomes in 2024/2025 include:

b. Expanded Services: With new hires in programming and case management, we have enhanced support services to remove barriers, offering career guidance, financial coaching, and mental health support. This year, 63 fellows progressed toward independence, and we distributed over 12,000 coats to unsheltered individuals worldwide.

c. Enhanced Fellowship Structure: Our fellowship combines industrial manufacturing, on-the-job training, and wrap-around services. In 2024, 90% of our fellows were adults with dependents, many of whom were single mothers. Participants earned up to \$20/hour, including incentives, and gained the stability needed to rebuild their lives.

We respectfully request \$1 million to sustain and grow our workforce development program, transforming the lives of Detroit's homeless population while building pathways to stability for countless families. Together, we can end the cycle of homelessness, foster resilience, and create sustainable opportunities for future generations.

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.

["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.'

Toya Allen, Sheilah Clay, Tiffany Ford, Chad Kilpatrick, Tim Melton, Tony Mirafzali, Veronika Scott (CEO & Founder), Sean Vanderelzen, Shannon Warren, Steve Hamp (Board Chair), and Peter Remington. Website with board list here; ABOUT — EMPOWERMENT PLAN

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 2025-September 2026

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

Yes



EMPOWERMENT PLAN

A CALL FOR CONTINUED FUNDING: ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

In 2023, the U.S. experienced a staggering **653,100 people** experiencing homelessness, with approximately **40% being unsheltered**. Cities nationwide are struggling to manage this crisis, often escalating the problem rather than addressing the root causes of homelessness. The Empowerment Plan stands at the forefront of a more effective holistic solution—one that offers sustainable, cost-efficient pathways out of homelessness through paid employment, career training, and holistic support services.

I. EMPOWERMENT PLAN'S FELLOWSHIP: A PATHWAY TO STABILITY

Empowerment Plan addresses homelessness in two critical ways. First, we elevate families from poverty through our **two-year fellowship program** by providing training and supportive services for single parents experiencing homelessness in Detroit. Second, fellows produce innovative and life-saving EMPWR sleeping bag coats, which are distributed to those in need across the globe. Roughly **60% of the paid work week is dedicated to coat production, and the remaining 40% of paid time is devoted to on-site programming, resource navigation, and supportive services**. By combining on-the-job training and employment in industrial manufacturing with life skills, career training, and supportive services, individuals are equipped with the skills, experience, and resources needed to transition to a more financially secure and stable life. By taking a wrap-around approach to overcoming barriers to employment, Empowerment Plan is committed to peeling back the layers of obstacles commonly faced by displaced, low-income, minority, single parents.

A. Our Partners and Detroit Ecosystem: To maximize impact without duplicating resources, we partner with local agencies and community organizations that bring essential services directly to our fellows. Through collaboration with ProLiteracy, Detroit Parent Network, CNS Healthcare, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and other dedicated partners, our Fellowship Curriculum supports financial, digital, educational, and personal development. This comprehensive approach ensures fellows receive the necessary tools and resources to thrive during and after their fellowship. Additionally, we work closely with local shelters and community agencies to identify and recruit candidates who can benefit most from our program. Hiring partners include Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS), Genesis House I and II, Alternative for Girls, Southwest Solutions, Ser Metro, YMCA Interim House, First Step, Covenant House, Detroit At Work, and many more.

B. Addressing Systemic Inequities: Our unique approach also tackles deep-rooted systemic and racial inequities that disproportionately affect people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. By focusing on removing barriers to employment—such as lack of access to childcare, mental health resources, and financial education—we provide fellows with the tools they need to secure long-term, stable employment. Our fellowship participants graduate into careers in high-growth industries such as IT, healthcare, and finance, **earning between \$18–\$21/hour plus benefits**.

C. The Cost-Effectiveness of Our Holistic Solution: Chronic homelessness costs taxpayers an average of \$83,000 per person annually due to expenses related to law enforcement, emergency healthcare, and the criminal justice system. In contrast, comprehensive, supportive programs like the Empowerment Plan's fellowship demonstrate a remarkable reduction in societal costs—**up to 60% less per individual**—by providing housing and critical support services.

II. IMPACT OF STATE FUNDING

Over the past two years, state funding has allowed us to revamp our holistic workforce program into a structured, two-year fellowship designed to address deep-rooted systemic inequities. Key outcomes in 2024/2025 include:

- A. Expanded Services:** With new hires in programming and case management, we have enhanced support services to remove barriers, offering career guidance, financial coaching, and mental health support. This year, 63 fellows progressed toward independence, and we distributed over 12,000 coats to unsheltered individuals worldwide.
- B. Enhanced Fellowship Structure:** Our fellowship combines industrial manufacturing, on-the-job training, and wrap-around services. In 2024, 90% of our fellows were adults with dependents, many of whom were single mothers. Participants earned up to \$20/hour, including incentives, and gained the stability needed to rebuild their lives.

III. A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: SCALING IMPACT

Empowerment Plan is committed to expanding our impact both locally and nationally. With continued state support, we plan to serve 71 fellows in 2025, with the goal of scaling to 90 fellows annually by 2028.

- A. Expanding Fellowship Capacity:** Serve 71 fellows in 2025, scaling to 90+ by 2028.
- B. Increasing Coat Production:** Produce and distribute 13,000 EMPWR coats globally in 2025
- C. Longitudinal Study:** Partner with the University of Michigan to track the long-term impacts of our program and inform the future of our model
- D. Pilot New Location:** Expand the Empowerment Plan's program to other regions in Michigan, creating opportunities for even more individuals experiencing homelessness

IV. EMPOWERMENT PLAN: FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR 2025/2026

We respectfully request \$1 million to sustain and grow our workforce development program, transforming the lives of Detroit's homeless population while building pathways to stability for countless families. Together, we can end the cycle of homelessness, foster resilience, and create sustainable opportunities for future generations.

	2025-2026
Income	\$1,000,000
Administration & Direct Service	\$320,948
Program Wages & Supportive Services	\$385,934
Professional & Contract Services	\$54,483
Materials	\$97,552
Occupancy	\$63,523
Business Expenses	\$77,560
TOTAL	\$1,000,000

Empowerment Plan is proving that compassionate, data-driven solutions to homelessness can break the cycle of homelessness, reduce costs, and strengthen communities. By focusing on empowerment, education, and employment, we are creating a future where individuals affected by homelessness have the tools and resources to build a stable future.

I. FURTHER INFORMATION

Website: www.EmpowermentPlan.org

Contact Information:

Phone: (248) 918-9760

Email: Veronika@empowermentplan.org