



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Karen
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Whitsett
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:  
Michigan Fitness Foundation
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
2843 Eyde Parkway, East Lansing, MI 48823
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:  
Julie Brixie, District 73
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.  
Michigan Farm to Family: CSA is a community-driven solution to improving nutrition security for families with limited resources while strengthening local food systems. Developed by Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF), this innovative program increases the purchasing power of households experiencing food insecurity and connects them directly with Michigan farmers through incentivized Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares.

Unlike traditional CSAs that require full upfront payment, a barrier for many low-income families, this model allows families to pay just 25% of the weekly cost for a produce box using their Michigan Bridge Card, while the program covers the remaining balance. For example, if a weekly CSA share costs \$20, the family pays only \$5 with SNAP benefits, and the program pays the remaining \$15. This structure improves year-round affordability and access to Michigan-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Michigan Farm to Family: CSA supports both single-farm and multi-farm CSA models. The multi-farm model, often coordinated by nonprofit aggregators or retail partners, allows as many as 30 small-scale farmers to contribute to a single CSA program. This:

- Reduces the administrative burden on individual farmers
- Enhances long-term sustainability through crop specialization and shared resources
- Increases resilience by mitigating risks from weather or harvest variability

The program benefits the local economy by creating a new revenue stream for family farms and building local food infrastructure. Over four years:

- More than \$1 million has been invested directly into community farms and food systems
- This has generated an estimated \$1.7 million in economic impact statewide
- At full implementation, each CSA—serving on average 30 families over 18 weeks—costs approximately \$12,000, or \$400 per family, to deliver about 325 lbs of fresh food per household

Community host sites expand their capacity to serve low-income residents by offering a tangible solution that addresses food insecurity, nutrition, and community well-being.

These trusted organizations help build lasting relationships and ensure the CSA program reflects local needs and strengths.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

N/A

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

500,000

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

[State, 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.'

- Maria Adams-Lawton
- Wayman Britt
- Willie Burton
- Geraldine Jackson
- Vincent Kirkwood
- Elizabeth Kutter
- Brigitte LaPointe
- Brian McGrain
- Megan Uphoff

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