



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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:
Starfish Family Enterprises
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
30000 Hiveley Street Inkser, MI 48141
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Brightmoor Neighborhood, Detroit
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Whitsett, District 4
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.
 - a. How it provides a public benefit
 - i. The Brightmoor neighborhood is a child care desert and families with young children have few options for high-quality early childhood education.
 - ii. Opening this location would add up to 96 new slots, bringing relief to families and setting them up for success.
 - b. Why is it an appropriate use of taxpayer funding

- i. High-quality early childhood education is vital to any neighborhood revitalization. Without it, the economic stability and mobility of the neighborhood are stunted. Parents and caregivers rely on high-quality early childhood education in order to work, driving both their individual economic mobility and the neighborhood's economic stability.
- ii. Through the additional slots created by this project, we help ensure Michiganders are getting back to work and contributing to our state and local communities.
- c. Demonstrate it does not violate Article IV, S30, MCL

9. Attach documents here if needed:

N/A

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

4,000,000

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

[None]

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

Starfish Family Services was founded in 1963

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.'

Marijata Daniel Echols	Board Chair
George Netschke	Vice Chair
Scott Brown	Treasurer
Judith McNeeley	Secretary
Errol Hau	Board Member
Carla Burney-Jones	Board Member
Ron Solish	Board Member
Christie Donn	Board Member

Wendy Dunson	Board Member
Emily Ford	Board Member
Bryan Keiler	Board Member
Velma Jean Overman	Board Member
Mark Petroff	Board Member
Ann Raftery	Board Member
Janet Witkowski	Board Member

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:

- a. Start: First Quarter 2026
- b. End: First Quarter 2029

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

Yes