



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Luke
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Meerman
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.
Rep. Bryan Posthumus
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Hope Network
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
3075 Orchard Vista Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Construction of this facility would be in the City of Kentwood but is subject to change if a suitable location is found at a lower cost.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Phil Skaggs, District 80
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 legislatively directed spending item would support Hope Network's DART 2.0 Project. Hope Network's Developmental Adolescent Residential Treatment program serves vulnerable youth in West Michigan who grapple with developmental disabilities and cognitive impairments, including but not limited to autism spectrum disorder, attachment disorders, ADHD, PTSD, behavioral disorders, and learning disabilities. The program, which specializes in homing individuals aged 8-18, offers 20 youth beds but

they aim to double that amount through state funding and private contributions. This will require a new facility and Hope Network is exploring its options in Kent County. The total cost of this project is \$30,000,000 and Hope Network is only seeking \$3,000,000 from the state. This program will serve the public and ensure low- and moderate-income families have access to care. This public need does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.

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.

3000000

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

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.'

Board: Matthew Heyen, Board Chair; Patrick Miles, Jr., Board Vice Chair; Gavin Mohr, Board Treasurer; Thomas Svitkovich, Ed.D, Board Secretary; Lynn Ferris, Board Member; Kathie Hoekstra, Board Member; Sandi Judson, Board Member; Jennifer Jurgens, Board Member; Bill Lettinga, Jr., Board Member; Jeff Lumppp, Board Member; Sidney Rubin, Board Member; Bob Von Kaenel, Board Member; Tom Rosenbach, Board Member. Officers: Bob Von Kaenel, President & CEO; Tim Becker, Chief Operating Officer; Jaime Counterman, Chief Advancement Officer; Kim Dorer, Chief People Officer; John McInerney, Chief Information Officer; Kiran Taylor, MD, Chief Medical Officer; Nathan Ter Beek, Chief Financial Officer

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:

Anticipated start date is in the spring of 2026 and will unfold over a 2-3 year period.

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

Yes



FUNDING REQUEST

Hope Network
3075 Orchard Vista Dr SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546

jcounerman@hopenetwork.org
Website address: <https://hopenetwork.org/>

Joseph Haveman
Director of Government Affairs, Hope Network
3075 Orchard Vista Drive SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
jhaveman@hopenetwork.org
W: 616-836-0402

Timothy Becker
Chief Operating Officer
tbecker@hopenetwork.org
W: 616-460-7062

Status of the planning and environmental work for the project:

Hope Network is currently focused on actively searching for a suitable 10-acre property within a school district that aligns with our project's outcomes. As we progress, planning and environmental work details will progress and be made available.

Weblink to the project website or relevant planning document for this project:

<https://hopenetwork.org/expandedchildrensresidential>

The DART project emerges as a response to the pressing housing requirements of vulnerable youth in West Michigan, homing in on individuals aged 8-18 who grapple with developmental disabilities and/or cognitive impairments, necessitating specialized residential treatment. This demographic encompasses a spectrum of diagnoses, ranging from autism spectrum disorder, attachment disorders, ADHD, mood and/or behavioral disorders, PTSD, severe learning disabilities, to complex developmental conditions and cognitive impairments. Acting as a vital lifeline for low and moderate-income families, the project addresses significant challenges encountered when relying on the Community Mental Health system for care. A majority of youth benefiting from DART's services hail from low and moderate-income populations, with many relying on Medicaid assistance. These families often contend with prolonged waits for a diagnosis of cognitive behavioral disabilities, resulting in obstacles to accessing early treatment. Consequently, older children may necessitate more extensive and intensive treatments due to delayed intervention. The escalating prevalence of autism and other behavioral health diagnoses, with one in 36 children born falling on the autism spectrum, underscores the urgency of addressing severe behavioral problems in children aged 8-18 within home settings. This reality contributes to an overwhelming demand for services, evident in state facilities and nationwide trends reflecting a significant waiting list for this population. The DART project uniquely steps into this breach in child welfare, offering essential services where other resources prove unavailable or insufficient. In the larger context, Hope Network's DART project aligns seamlessly with the three CDBG National Objectives:

1. The project directly benefits low- and moderate-income individuals and communities by providing housing and support services to vulnerable youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
2. DART assumes a crucial role in preventing the exacerbation of slums or blight by addressing the urgent housing and mental health needs of the targeted youth population, contributing to a healthier and more stable community.
3. The project responds to immediate and serious threats to the health and welfare of the community by furnishing essential services for youth with complex developmental conditions, thereby filling a critical gap where other funding sources fall short or remain unavailable.

Our goal is to secure seed funding through the State of Michigan and use that to move us forward with a capital campaign. We are also in discussions with construction management firms for a public, private partnership where a balance of funding would be provided by the construction company/landlord. The public share and capital campaign portion would allow us to buy down the lease to own a portion of the project.

Total Amount Needed: \$30 Million

Total Requested: \$3 Million

Are funds being requested for this project through a different appropriations bill this upcoming fiscal year? If so which bill and how much?

Hope Network is actively collaborating with the State legislature and DHHS to secure project funding. At the time of this application, no funding has been requested for this project through a separate appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year.

What is the total dollar amount to complete the project?

The total cost for project completion is estimated to be \$30 million. This comprehensive project is expected to unfold over a 2-3 year period, necessitating funding from various sources beyond the upcoming Hope Network is actively collaborating with the State legislature and DHHS to secure project funding. At the time of this application, no funding has been requested for this project through a separate appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year.

Are funds being requested for this project through another Member of Congress this upcoming fiscal year?

There are not currently any funds being requested for this project through another Member of Congress this upcoming fiscal year. However, Hope Network has plans to share the details of this project with Congresswomen Hillary Scholten.

List any funding partners as well as pending request for other federal state, local or private funding.

Hope Network's Capital Campaign for this DART Project is still in the planning phase. The project's primary pending request is this FY 25 Federal Appropriations request (\$3,000,000). Hope Network intends to put forth additional requests for this project with private, local, state, and federal funders for the remaining project cost. Hope Network is actively collaborating with the State legislature and DHHS to secure project funding.

In which Michigan county will this project be completed? Kent

Type of entity: Nonprofit Organization

Brief Description of Entity:

For over 60 years, we've had a "whatever it takes" mentality at Hope Network. Whenever a person is facing a physical, social or mental barrier, we step in even when others can't or won't. We are changing the way wellness gets delivered for over 34,000 people annually across Michigan. Sometime what we do looks like healthcare. Sometimes it looks more like a social service. Whatever the case, it's pretty much impossible to define what Hope Network is. So instead, we just say that we help people overcome.

Project Name: Developmental Adolescent Residential Treatment (DART)

What is the purpose or goal of the project:

The goal of the DART project is to build a new facility, doubling Hope Network's current 20 bed youth residential treatment capacity and creating a more therapeutic environment for the youth we serve. Youth served are developmentally disabled and / or cognitively impaired with a range of diagnoses that may include autism spectrum disorder, attachment disorders, ADHD, mood and/or behavioral disorders, PTSD, severe learning disabilities, complex developmental conditions, and/or cognitive impairments.

Overall, the new building will prioritize increased safety, security, and comprehensive treatment services, fostering a seamless transition back to a home or community setting that empowers individuals to live as independently as possible.

How does the project meet a local, state, or national need?

Child welfare in the State of Michigan faces a critical challenge as multiple child residential care institutions have been closed, resulting in a growing number of children requiring institutional care without sufficient available beds. Data reveals a staggering 60% decrease in the youth served in residential care treatment since 2019, mirroring nationwide trends. The remaining shelters in the state, along with local hospitals, bear the burden of accommodating this overflow of children. Unfortunately, these facilities are ill-equipped to provide the necessary behavioral treatment. Compounding the issue, shelter staff generally lack the training to effectively work with the developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired population. This leaves vulnerable children susceptible to additional trauma experiences, potentially leading to aggressive or self-injurious behavior in the absence of staff with proper training to manage these complexities. Furthermore, youth placed in hospitals are enduring prolonged stays beyond medical necessity due to the shortage of available community or child caring institution beds. Lingering in these facilities can result in mental health or behavioral regression, further institutionalization, and re-traumatization, exacerbating the intensity and duration of undesirable behaviors. The scarcity of child caring institution beds, especially when residential treatment is imperative, places a strain on various facets of society, including the family unit, school system, short-term shelters, out-patient community centers, local hospitals, and emergency services. We currently have 20 kids on our waitlist. Addressing this crisis, Hope Network's DART Project aims to meet local, state, and national needs by increasing the availability of beds staffed with individuals trained to work with this population. This initiative seeks to provide safety, security, and treatment, facilitating the successful transition of these youth back to a home or community setting.

How would you justify this project as a good use of taxpayer money?

The DART project is a justified allocation of taxpayer money because the increased demand for services, stemming from the scarcity of residential beds, imposes financial burdens on all systems involved, ultimately funded by the taxpayers of the State of Michigan. Investing in proactive and appropriate therapeutic interventions generally proves to be more cost-effective than relying on reactionary measures with higher long-term costs.

Describe other local, stat, private or federal entities supporting this request:

Hope Network aims to partner with local school districts that cater to DART's target demographic of children aged 8-18 with cognitive deficits and behavioral health diagnoses, such as Kentwood Public Schools.

Hope Network is actively collaborating with the State legislature and DHHS to secure project funding. Additionally, Hope Network plans to engage with influential community leaders, such as Congresswoman Hillary Scholten, to strengthen community ties and garner support for the initiative.



Winnie Brinks
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
MICHIGAN SENATE

29TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1801
FAX: (517) 373-5801
senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov

March 18, 2024

Senator Debbie Stabenow
1025 Spaulding Avenue Southeast, Suite C
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Dear Senator Stabenow,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for Hope Network's Developmental Adolescent Residential Treatment (DART) project. For decades, Hope Network has been a cornerstone of our community, advocating for equitable community health and fostering independence throughout the region.

Hope Network's initiative to double the capacity of beds for youth aged 8-18 with cognitive deficits and behavioral health diagnoses is poised to have a significant positive impact on our region. We are significantly under-resourced when it comes to programs that might serve this population, and this project fills an important gap in services for low- and moderate-income families who are navigating the complexities of Michigan's scarcity of youth residential treatment programs.

Hope Network is a longstanding, trusted partner with a long track record of impact in our community. This youth housing project makes a critical contribution to our network of behavioral health resources. I look forward to the impact it will make, empowering our most vulnerable youth to lead healthy and independent lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winnie Brinks".

Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
29th District



**CASCADE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

March 18, 2024

Senator Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2204

Dear Senator Debbie Stabenow,

As the Director of Cascade Community Foundation, an active supporter and community partner to Hope Network, I am pleased to express my support for their Developmental Adolescent Residential Treatment (DART) project. Further, as a former Hope Network employee, I am very familiar with their important health impact that stands to provide benefits to youth, their families, and local school districts.

The Cascade Community Foundation seeks to work through charitable partnership with area organizations to address community problems and help shape long-term responses and solutions. Hope Network's DART project represents an opportunity to address the vital needs of behavioral health support for local youth ages 8-18 with cognitive deficits and behavioral health diagnoses. This initiative ensures their access to high-quality, empathetic care that prioritizes their autonomy and safety. Furthermore, it serves as a strategic, enduring response to the persistent issue of inadequate residential resources for youth behavioral health at local, state, and federal levels.

As you consider requests for FY 25 Community Funded Projects, I strongly urge you to lend your support to Hope Network's DART Project. This initiative is a crucial community effort at the convergence of health, housing, and safety, dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable youth and their families across our 3rd District and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Swan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Justin" and the last name "Swan" clearly legible.

Justin Swan
Director, Cascade Community Foundation

Cascade Community Foundation
6757 Cascade Rd SE #105
Grand Rapids MI 49546

Federal EIN – 27-4897470
Donor funded 501(c)3
www.cascadecommunityfoundation.com



S-1188, Anderson House Office
Building, Lansing, MI, 48933
517-373-0476

Carol Glanville
Michigan House of Representatives
84

Committees
Chair, Higher Education
Education
Health Policy
Families, Children, and Seniors
Subcommittee on Behavioral Health

March 20, 2024

Sen. Debbie Stabenow
1025 Spaulding Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI, 49546

Dear Senator Debbie Stabenow,

I am writing to express my support for Hope Network's Developmental Adolescent Residential Treatment (DART) project. For over 40 years, Hope Network has been an imperative advocate within our community, championing equitable community health initiatives and fostering self-sufficiency across the West Michigan.

Hope Network's ambitious initiative to increase the number of beds available to children and adolescents, specifically those aged 8-18 who struggle with cognitive impairments and behavioral health issues, is poised to bring about a significant and beneficial transformation to the West Michigan community. This initiative seamlessly aligns with several of our district's strategic Health and Safety priorities, reflecting on our dedication to collaborative efforts. Furthermore, through its efforts to tackle health inequalities on a local, regional, and statewide scale, this initiative holds the potential to provide crucial support to low and moderate-income families grappling with the difficulties stemming from the scarcity of residential treatment programs for youth in Michigan.

Hope Network's project holds the potential to magnify its already significant influence on the health landscape of Grand Rapids and beyond, particularly through the pivotal behavioral health youth housing initiative. By embarking on this endeavor, Hope Network actively contributes to the cultivation of a healthier, more self-reliant, and safer community. I wholeheartedly endorse this project and eagerly anticipate its ongoing success in empowering our most vulnerable youth to lead lives marked by health and independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Glanville".

Carol Glanville, State Representative
The Eighty-Fourth District



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROSALYNN C. BLISS
MAYOR

March 19, 2024

Rep. Hillary Scholten
110 Michigan Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Congresswomen Hillary Scholten,

On behalf of the City of Grand Rapids, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for Hope Network's Developmental Adolescent Residential Treatment (DART) project. For decades, Hope Network has been a cornerstone of our community, advocating for equitable community health and fostering independence throughout the region.

Hope Network's initiative to double the capacity of beds for youth aged 8-18 with cognitive deficits and behavioral health diagnoses is poised to have a significant positive impact on Grand Rapids, especially in the 3rd District. This project perfectly aligns with several of our city's strategic Health and Safety priorities, including our commitment to collaborating with partners to address health disparities and focusing on social determinants of health to ensure safety for all. Moreover, this project has the potential to address health disparities at the local, regional, and state levels by uplifting low and moderate-income families who are navigating the complexities of Michigan's scarcity of youth residential treatment programs.

Hope Network's project has the potential to amplify their already substantial impact on the health of Grand Rapids residents and beyond through this crucial behavioral health youth housing project. By undertaking this endeavor, Hope Network is actively contributing to the creation of a healthier, more independent, and safer community. I wholeheartedly endorse this project and eagerly anticipate its continued success in empowering our most vulnerable youth to lead healthy and independent lives.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Bliss
Mayor, City of Grand Rapids

Stories of Program Impact:

1. A young lady removed from her home, along with a sibling, when she was 7 due to extensive abuse and neglect including sexual abuse. She and her sibling were placed in a Child Caring Institution and then her sibling was adopted. That Child Caring Institution closed and due to the lack of available and appropriate beds she was transferred to Hawthorn State Hospital. She was placed at Hawthorn for 20 months. DART partnered with Hawthorn to transition youth in the hospital that no longer needed hospital level care but had no available bed options and worked to transition her to our facility. Due to her diagnosis, the transition process took 6 months of weekly virtual and in person visits in an effort to have the transition be as successful as possible. This young lady's ideal living situation for her to feel safe is to be in a hospital with 5-point restraints. While at Hawthorn she inconsistently attended in-facility schooling and went only once on an outing into the community due to her high level of anxiety and not feeling safe. During this one outing she was in a store less than 5 minutes before requesting to leave because she did not feel safe. She admitted to DART 9 months ago. When her anxiety is overwhelming, she will refuse to get out of bed, urinate on herself, disrobe in the living area, get physically aggressive, refuse school, and refuse to go outside, and will sit and rock herself for hours. While being at DART, our staff and clinical team have provided individualized treatment to a level that now she is consistently meeting onsite with a teacher from the local school district while we assist her in building her tolerance to transition into a local school, she has increased her tolerance for going outside, engaging with peers, and going on outings regularly (van rides, going to the store or park as well as going to the zoo, eating in a restaurant, and going to the movies several times) and is now able to visualize living in an adult foster home.
2. A young man removed from his home at the age of 10 due to mom's incarceration and substance abuse and dad not being in the picture. He was placed in a child caring institution that did not specialize in the developmentally disabled/cognitively impaired population and he was choking himself up to 14 times a day to the point that he would pass out as well as exhibiting physical aggression towards others. Once transitioned to DART, which was a more appropriate population for him, staff and clinicians were able to teach him skills to reduce the need he felt to choke himself and pull his teeth out, reduce his depression and suicidal thoughts through medication management, and he was able to work through his trauma. This young man was not able to move back into his mother's home due to her parental rights being terminated and his sister was deemed not an appropriate placement although she maintains communication and continues contact with him. Last April he met a family interested in adopting him and he transitioned to their home in January. This family is working through the adoption process, and he is thriving while attending school, church, and participating on the track team.
3. I assessed a young man who is currently placed in Indiana because there was no placement in Michigan who could meet his needs. He is 16, autistic, aggressive and has significant medical concerns with seizures and a brain disorder where he has extra grey matter in the wrong part of his brain. Mom cared for him most of his life but after being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer she is needing to focus on her own health now. He is being referred to Dart in the hopes of being closer to mom for visits, while also getting treatment.
4. We also have an 11 year old little girl who has 2 adoptive parents who are involved but unable to care for her in the home due to her increased unsafe behavior. There were no placements in the state of Michigan who were willing or able to help her. She was denied by the Hawthorn center on 3 occasions because they are at capacity. This young girl was then placed in a hospital in West Virginia to get treatment while awaiting someplace closer to home and so mom and dad can be a part of her treatment. She has been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Reactive

Attachment Disorder, Autism and significant cognitive impairment. These conditions manifest as impulsivity, aggression and the need for round the clock care.

5. We have another family who has multiple youth living together in the home with mom and dad. It was discovered that one of the male children offended on another child and exposed himself to another. The parents worked to put safety plans in place. This youth was diagnosed with Autism, Unspecified mood disorder, FASD, neurological developmental disorder. They determined they were unable to keep all the youth safe, and so dad moved to a hunting cabin with this young man. While they work to gain access to treatment for him. It is necessary for the safety of the whole family that they live separately.

Renderings of Proposed Facility:



Floorplan of Proposed Facility:

