



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Ron
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Robinson
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. Tom Kuhn
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Construction Education Trust dba Southeast Michigan Construction Academy (SEMCA)
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Current Address: 31800 Sherman Ave, Madison Heights, MI 48071, New Address:  
36250 Van Dyke Ave, Sterling Heights, MI 48312
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:  
Rep. Ron Robinson, 58th District
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. The Southeast Michigan Construction Academy (legal name: Construction Education Trust) requests an appropriation of \$8,000,000 for a nonprofit organization serving as a comprehensive construction career and training center in Southeast Michigan. The funding will support the purchase, construction, renovation, and equipping of training and education facilities, including activities related to a new facility in Sterling Heights. It will also cover the development of curriculum and marketing efforts to enhance outreach

and recruitment in the skilled construction trades, addressing the growing demand for a trained workforce in the region. This expansion is essential to meet the growing demand for skilled trades training in the region. With over 750 students across multiple locations, SEMCA's current facility in Madison Heights has reached its capacity, and this funding will help accommodate the increasing number of students seeking careers in high-demand construction fields with expansion efforts in Southeast Michigan. This investment provides a clear public benefit by addressing Michigan's workforce shortage, creating job opportunities, and supporting local economic growth. SEMCA's proven success in workforce development, such as its recent expansion in Westland, underscores the value of this project. The new facility will directly contribute to Michigan's economy by producing skilled workers to meet construction industry needs while offering career training to local youth.

The appropriation is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds, supporting public workforce development and economic growth in compliance with Michigan's Constitution (Article IV, Section 30). SEMCA's mission and impact clearly demonstrate that the funding will serve the public good and provide long-term benefits to the state's economy and workforce.

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.

8000000

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.'

Sean Fisher - Chairman, James Struble - Treasurer, Andy Barnum - Secretary, Jeff Campbell - Trustee, Kurt Dunham - Trustee, Tad Martin -Trustee, Justin Ocwieja - Trustee

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:

Start Date: May 2025, End Date: December 2026

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

Yes



Representative Ron Robinson  
N-992 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

April 10, 2025

Dear Representative Robinson,

On behalf of the Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the Southeast Michigan Construction Academy's (SEMCA) request for \$8 million in state funding to support the acquisition and development of a new training facility in Sterling Heights.

In 2022, the State of Michigan invested \$3 million to support SEMCA's expansion in Westland. That investment resulted in a 172% enrollment increase, with continued growth expected. In recognition of this tremendous contribution to our community, the Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce proudly presented SEMCA with the **2024 Community Enhancement Award**, alongside recognition from the City of Westland.

SEMCA is a valued partner in our region, playing a critical role in developing Michigan's skilled workforce. Due to growing enrollment, SEMCA has outgrown its current Madison Heights location. The proposed Sterling Heights site—offering nearly 100,000 square feet of training space—will allow SEMCA to significantly expand its impact and better serve students throughout Southeast Michigan. For years, our Chamber has discussed how our state's economic development is reliant on developing the skilled talent needed to upgrade infrastructure in our region, and SEMCA is among those developing the talent.

In addition to training workers for high-demand construction jobs, SEMCA has been a strong community partner, engaging with local K-12 school districts, youth development non-profits, and workforce agencies to expose individuals to construction careers. Their mission aligns directly with our Chamber's vision for a thriving, skilled, and inclusive workforce. SEMCA also helps families realize there are great careers available locally with affordable post-secondary training that doesn't require a four-year degree.

We believe this \$8 million investment will yield long-term returns for our state by supporting workforce development, increasing access to high-demand careers, and strengthening local economies. On behalf of our 1,200 members, we urge you to support SEMCA's funding request and help ensure the continued growth and success of Michigan's construction and skilled trades industries. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan West".

Dan West, IOM, President/CEO  
Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce



**CITY OF**  
**Sterling Heights**  
*Innovating Living*

**Richard J. Notte Sterling Heights City Center**  
City Hall  
40555 Utica Road | P.O. Box 8009  
Sterling Heights, MI | 48311-8009

**City Council**

<i>Mayor</i>	Michael C. Taylor
<i>Mayor Pro Tem</i>	Liz Sierawski
<i>Councilwoman</i>	Deanna Koski
<i>Councilman</i>	Michael V. Radtke Jr.
<i>Councilwoman</i>	Maria G. Schmidt
<i>Councilman</i>	Henry Yanez
<i>Councilwoman</i>	Barbara A. Ziarko

**City Manager** Mark D. Vanderpool

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facebook.com/cityofsterlingheights | Instagram: @cityofsterlingheights  
YouTube: youtube.com/@SHTV

April 23, 2025

Representative Ron Robinson  
N-992 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Robinson:

On behalf of the City of Sterling Heights, I am writing to express our strong support for the Southeast Michigan Construction Academy's (SEMCA) request for \$8 million in state funding to support the acquisition and development of a new training facility in Sterling Heights.

SEMCA is a valued partner in our region, playing a critical role in developing Michigan's skilled workforce. Due to growing enrollment, SEMCA has outgrown its current Madison Heights location. The proposed Sterling Heights site, offering nearly 100,000 square feet of training space, will allow SEMCA to significantly expand its impact and better serve students throughout Southeast Michigan.

In 2022, the State of Michigan invested \$3 million to support SEMCA's expansion in Westland. That investment resulted in a 172% enrollment increase, with continued growth expected. In recognition of this tremendous contribution, the Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce proudly presented SEMCA with the **2024 Community Enhancement Award**, alongside recognition from the City of Westland.

In addition to training workers for high-demand construction jobs, SEMCA has been a strong community partner, engaging with local K-12 school districts, youth development non-profits and workforce agencies to expose individuals to construction careers.

We believe this \$8 million investment will yield long-term returns for our state by supporting workforce development, increasing access to high-demand careers, and strengthening local economies. We urge you to support SEMCA's funding request and help ensure the continued growth and success of Michigan's construction and skilled trades industries. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Taylor  
Mayor