



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

---

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Stephen
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Wooden
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.  
John Fitzgerald House District 83, Carol Glanville House District 84, Kristian Grant House District 82, Phil Skaggs House District 80, Bryan Posthumus House District 90, Pat Out House District 91, Luke Meerman House District 89
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
250 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
The location is yet to be determined. A search for suitable facilities in Kent County is ongoing
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
As the specific location is not yet finalized, the house district is not yet known but it is likely to be House District 81 (Wooden), House District 82 (Grant), House District 83 (Fitzgerald) or House District 84 (Glanville).
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 Complex Care Housing initiative represents a thoughtful collaboration between Dégagé Ministries, Mel Trotter Ministries, Trinity Health Grand Rapids, Catherine's

Health Center, and , Network 180 and the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation to provide housing and support services for individuals who:

- Are diagnosed with severe mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorder (SUD); and
- Have experienced chronic homelessness for several years; and
- Have not been successful in other housing models, including traditional permanent supportive housing (PSH).

A pilot program for 25 individuals who meet these criteria was started in January of 2024 by Dégagé Ministries at 129 Jefferson Ave SE, Grand Rapids. The program provides housing as well as 24-hour onsite support, case management, and onsite medical and psychiatric care. All 25 residents remain housed to date. What started as a transitional housing program is now transitioning to also include PSH. It is estimated that an additional 100 to 150 individuals in Kent County may need a similar housing option. The current pilot has already demonstrated a significant public benefit. While the housing + complex care model is solving for the needs of a very challenging population, it has also demonstrated a significant reduction in the use of emergency response services (88% reduction among target population), district court appearances, county jail time, emergency room visits (72% reduction among target population), and public health expense (significant reductions of both medical hospitalization and psychiatric hospitalizations). It has also reduced the population of individuals choosing to sleep on the streets, risking their own health and impacting the public perception of safety within the community.

The pilot has proven that providing adequate housing, along with the appropriate level of care and supportive services, can create an outsized public benefit while changing the lives of the individuals being served for the better. The next phase of work requires a scaling up of this successful model to address a larger segment of the chronically homeless population. Kent County has agreed to serve as a fiduciary for public funds invested into this initiative and provide technical assistance through the Administrator's office and Community Action Department.

In April, Mel Trotter launched its pilot project to begin services for the first five men with complex needs and will cross-train with Dégagé's experienced staff. The search for a long-term location at greater scale is already underway. The requested funding will help support these efforts by helping finance the creation of a second facility. The new facility is anticipated to serve 30 to 50 residents in year one and add an additional 15 to 25 residents in following years. Residents will pay 30% of their annual income towards housing. This project will include dedicated on-site spaces for case management visits, medical care, and behavioral health treatment. In doing so, the project will provide numerous public benefits, including the following:

- This model has already demonstrated significant improvement in quality of life and long-term outcomes for individuals served.
- This initiative delivers measurable outcomes for system resources, including reducing unnecessary emergency room use, public safety calls for service, district court filings and procedures, and emergency medical services.
- This model supports efforts to reduce chronic and unsheltered homelessness in Kent County which creates vibrant commercial corridors as well as clean, healthy, and safe public spaces for residents, visitors, businesses, and employees.

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.

["Federal","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.'

a. James Byl (President), Jeff Lump (Treasurer), Brad Thomas (Secretary), Rick Baker (Director), Jennifer Crowley (Director)

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:

May 4 2026 to ongoing

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

Yes

**GRAND  
RAPIDS  
CHAMBER**

---

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Wooden  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Wooden,

I write to express the strong support of the Grand Rapids Chamber for the request for legislatively directed funding to support permanent supportive housing with complex care services in Kent County.

This funding will help scale the Complex Care Housing Initiative that has already had remarkable and measurable success during the previous year in Kent County. The Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation has had the opportunity to partner with funders, community leaders and providers in support of the 100 in 100 Kent County effort.

The effort will soon have successfully housed 100 individuals with chronic homelessness and provided stabilization case management. While we are thrilled by the work being done to improve outcomes – it is clear that our community has a greater need for housing with complex care services.

The outcomes created by Degage in one year of providing services show that this type of facility can not only vastly improve the quality of life for vulnerable individuals but provide significant system benefits in health care, public safety and emergency systems.

Mel Trotter recently launched a pilot program that will serve up to 8 individuals in mid-April, but we are already supporting the partners as they search for the facilities it will take to fully support our neighbors and enhance community vibrancy.

Your support will amplify the impact of private philanthropy and local units of government who have stepped up to support the service providers transforming system outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration.



Rick Baker  
President & CEO



April 23, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Wooden  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Wooden,

We write to express our strong support of the request for legislatively directed funding to support permanent supportive housing with complex care services in Kent County. This funding will help scale the Complex Care Housing Initiative that has already had remarkable and measurable success during the previous year in Kent County.

The Complex Care Housing initiative represents a thoughtful collaboration between Dégagé Ministries, Mel Trotter Ministries, Trinity Health Grand Rapids, Catherine's Health Center, and Network 180 to provide housing and support services for individuals who have co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders, have experienced chronic homelessness for multiple years, and who have not been successful in other housing models, including traditional permanent supportive housing (PSH.)

A pilot program for 25 individuals who meet these criteria was started in January of 2024 by Dégagé Ministries at 129 Jefferson Ave SE. The program provides housing and 24-hour onsite support, case management, and onsite medical and psychiatric care. All 25 residents remain housed to date. Mel Trotter launched a pilot program that will serve up to 8 individuals in mid-April. It is estimated that an additional 100 individuals in Kent County may need similar support.

Dégagé and Mel Trotter are now seeking additional property to build or renovate into additional units for PSH with Complex Care services. Your support will amplify the impact of private philanthropy and local units of government who have stepped up to support the service providers transforming system outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ben Greene, Chair  
Kent County Board of Commissioners

Al Vanderberg  
County Administrator

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Wooden  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Wooden,

We write in support of the request for legislatively directed funding to support permanent supportive housing with complex care services in Kent County through the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation.

This funding will help scale the Complex Care Housing Initiative that has already had remarkable and measurable success during the previous year in Kent County.

The Complex Care Housing Initiative represents a thoughtful collaboration between Dégagé Ministries, Mel Trotter Ministries, Trinity Health Grand Rapids, Catherine's Health Center, Network 180 and the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber Foundation to provide housing and support services for individuals with severe mental illness and substance use disorder and who have experienced chronic homelessness for several years and who have not been successful in other housing models including traditional permanent supportive housing (PSH.)

A pilot program for 25 individuals who meet these criteria was started in January of 2024 by Dégagé Ministries at 129 Jefferson Ave SE. The program provides housing and 24-hour onsite support, case management, and onsite medical and psychiatric care. All 25 residents remain housed to date.

Mel Trotter launched a pilot program that will serve up to 8 individuals in mid-April. It is estimated that an additional 100 individuals in Kent County may need similar support. Our organizations, with the support of other private, public and philanthropic partners are now looking for facilities to meet these needs, and state investment would support the critical work underway.


Thank you for your consideration.

Thelma Ensink



Executive Director  
Dégagé Ministries

Chris Palusky



CEO  
Mel Trotter Ministries