



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Tonya
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Myers Phillips
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.
Donavan McKinney
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Soulardarity
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
2200 Hunt St., Highland Park, MI 48203
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
City of Highland Park
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Tonya Myers Phillips, House District 7
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. Soulardarity, a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Highland Park, Michigan, wants to provide 60 solar-powered streetlights on 10-12 residential blocks in Highland Park. The requested \$1,700,000 grant will fund the manufacture and installation of the lights as well as operation and maintenance costs of the solar lights for up to 10 years. Soulardarity, in partnership with Michigan-based manufacturers and installation contractors, has already installed 17 solar streetlights through grassroots fundraising efforts. After gaining

national attention on the TODAY Show, the organization is set to install 60 more in 2025 through philanthropic support and strong partnerships.

The project strengthens public infrastructure, improves resident safety and quality of life, and stimulates job creation. Solar-powered streetlights are off-grid, cost-efficient, and climate-resilient assets that deliver long-term savings and environmental benefit.

The absence of lighting in Highland Park leaves residents vulnerable to crime, isolation, and hazardous conditions for children, elders, and working families. Solar-powered lighting on residential streets is a one-time, cost-effective infrastructure investment that promotes public safety, equity, and energy independence while reducing ongoing utility expenses. Moreover, this investment would:

- Eliminates monthly utility costs associated with grid-powered lighting and gains lighting that continues to function during grid outages.
- Create local workforce opportunities in solar manufacturing, installation, and maintenance

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.**

1700000

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.'

Kendrich Bates, Chair; Nancy Gambrill, Vice Chair; Kimberly McDade, Member; Joel Simmons, Treasurer; Camille Sippel, Secretary; Michelle Jones, 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:

Upon receipt- Sept. 30, 2026

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

Yes