



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Will
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Bruck
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:
Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP).
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1140 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, Michigan 48161
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
The MCOP appropriation request will take place at 1140 S. Telegraph Road in Monroe.
The MCOP Expansion Project will impact thousands of Monroe County residents.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Will Bruck, 30th House 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 MCOP request does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Our request is as follows:
Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP)
Food Bank Warehouse and Agency Expansion

Need: For several decades, MCOP has included emergency and supplemental food distribution in its menu of services. This is due to food insecurity being the top need in MCOP community needs assessments for more than 20 years.

During 2024, MCOP distributed more than 3 million pounds of food. Given inflation and the increasing costs for our most basic needs of housing, heating, food, etc. we again faced a great need in our community. Now that emergency declarations for the pandemic have ceased and COVID funds have ended, there is more importance placed on emergency and supplemental food distribution for struggling families in our community. With the significant growth of our Food Assistance Program, we face challenges of inadequate space. There is more food needed that can be accommodated. This forced MCOP to begin looking at another building expansion for an expanded lobby area for more clients (safely distanced), added warehouse space (for staff and food storage), as well as additional office space to accommodate growth.

Scope of Project: The MCOP Building Expansion Project will take place at 1140 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe. The project incorporates a lobby expansion to safely accommodate more clients, added warehouse and loading space in order to increase food acquisition, and building renovations to incorporate more staffing. The MCOP Board of Directors has committed to invest in our current facility. A set of preliminary conceptual drawings were completed, along with a space analysis of the existing work environment. In addition, survey work was completed and the site plan was reviewed and approved by Monroe Township on May 6, 2024. An additional 6,228 square feet of expanded space will be part of this plan moving forward.

Benefits of the Project: This project will allow MCOP expanded capacity to deliver emergency and supplemental food to low-income individuals, families, and volunteer organizations across Monroe County. These enhancements will also promote a healthy environment for clients in accessing food and other critical services. The impact will be increases in pounds of food distributed and number of clients served. Most recently, Feeding America estimates a total of 15,040 adults and children in Monroe County that are food insecure. With these residents in mind, we turn to the work conducted by the Food Bank Council of Michigan, which determined that the average food insecure individual needs 234 pounds of food on an annual basis. By multiplying our two figures together, we are provided with the goal to distribute at least 3.5 million pounds of food annually to eliminate hunger. With the expansion of our building and warehouse space, we are creating capacity to reach that goal!

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.

["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.'

2025 MCOP Board of Directors: Senator Joseph Bellino, Alt. - Tracy Oberleiter, Representative Reggie Miller, Alt. - Mary Ann Neopolitan, Representative William Bruck, Alt. - Josh Stump, Commissioner David Swartout - Vice Chair, Steve LaTondress - Secretary, Charles Watkins, Linda Needham, Ed Larkins, Larry VanWasshenova - Chair, Nancy Garcia Wain, Ed Sell - Treasurer, Jim Treece, Ron Sweat, Patrick Barley, Aleta Jackson

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:

The anticipated start date of the MCOP Expansion Project is October 2025, with the end date anticipated for September 2026

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

Yes