



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Jay
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
DeBoyer
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.  
Alabas Farhat
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
American Arab Chamber of Commerce
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
12740 West Warren Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
Dearborn, Michigan
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Alabas Farhat - 3rd 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 American Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is establishing a National Hub for Arab American Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Global Trade in Dearborn, Michigan. This transformative project will redevelop a vacant Comerica Bank building into a 40,000–50,000 square foot flagship facility that will anchor economic revitalization, innovation, and inclusive business development in the heart of Southeast Michigan. The Hub will house a small business incubator, international trade center, global soft-landing zone for foreign companies, and a cultural business attraction space that

celebrates Michigan's diversity while facilitating cross-border commerce. It is designed to serve as a national focal point for Arab American businesses and entrepreneurs, and to attract international partnerships—especially from the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region—making Michigan a gateway for global trade.

The project will deliver wide-ranging public benefits:

- Job creation: Over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs are projected within five years, spanning technology, manufacturing, creative industries, and small business support services.
- Economic impact: An estimated \$27 million in annual economic activity will be generated, along with \$5 million in additional tax revenue for the state.
- Foreign direct investment: The Hub is expected to attract \$80 million in international capital by creating a welcoming environment for startups and investors seeking a U.S. entry point.
- Entrepreneurship & workforce development: Through the Tejara Innovation Hub, the center will incubate New American and underrepresented founders, offering wraparound services such as mentorship, legal guidance, financial literacy, and market access.
- Statewide competitiveness: The Hub strengthens Michigan's standing as a forward-looking, globally engaged economy and aligns with broader state goals around economic inclusion, immigrant integration, and regional economic development.

The project does not violate Article IV, § 30 of the Michigan Constitution as it serves a clear public purpose—supporting job creation, small business acceleration, foreign direct investment, and statewide tax revenue growth.

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.**

10000000

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.'

Ahmad Chebbani, Ali Dagher, James Berry, Fouad Ashkar, Mahmoud Al-Hadidi, Saif Alsenad, Amal Berry, Ahmed Boomrod, Ghida Dagher, Dean Elali, Zenna Elhasan, Jerome Ervin Record Jr., Ramzi Hassoun, Mohamad Hammoud, Mohamad Issa, Jessica Pellegrino, Ibrahim Osta, Carl Rashid Jr., Ali Safiedine, Meghan Storey, Mary Zatina

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: 2026. End: 2029

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

Yes

THE AMERICAN ARAB  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

# NATIONAL HUB FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION & GLOBAL TRADE

The AACC is launching a transformative 40,000-50,000 square foot Hub in Dearborn, Michigan, designed to be the nation's premier center for Arab American entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development. This multi-functional space will not only elevate Michigan's economy but also position the state as a key player in global trade, international business attraction, & talent dev.

The Hub will provide essential support for small businesses, foster local and international entrepreneurial connections, and enhance Michigan's global competitiveness. By driving innovation and entrepreneurship for New Americans, it will create pathways for local growth and international collaboration, particularly with incubators and accelerators in the MENA region.



The AACC is seeking \$10 million in funding as part of its \$19 million campaign goal.

## KEY FEATURES & FUNCTIONS:

- **National Hub for Arab American Entrepreneurship:** The center will serve as a focal point for Arab American business from across the country, providing data, access to resources, mentorship, and partnerships to help them scale and succeed.
- **Tejara Innovation Hub, a Transformative Incubator & Accelerator For New Americans:** Dedicated spaces for aspiring and established entrepreneurs, with programming designed to cultivate talent and bring new business ideas to life. Implementing the best incubation practices from across the globe. Housing dozens of partner organizations to enable effective collaboration and resource sharing.
- **Cultural & International Business Attraction Space:** Fostering an environment for international business attraction, networking, and economic development while showcasing the rich cultural diversity of Arab American communities.
- **International Soft Landing & Global Business Development Hub:** The center will facilitate Michigan's engagement with innovation hubs in the MENA region and around the world, creating pathways for international startups and businesses to establish their presence in the U.S. and vice versa. This hub will ensure Michigan's role in the future of global trade and entrepreneurship.

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT & DELIVERABLES

DRIVING LONG-TERM  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

**\$27  
MILLION**

in annual economic impact is projected to be generated for the state of Michigan through increased small business activity, job creation, and enhanced global trade connections.

RETURN OF  
INVESTMENT

**\$3.50  
RETURN**

in statewide economic activity is expected for every dollar invested in this project, creating a multiplier effect through business growth, employment, and international trade.

CATALYST FOR JOB  
CREATION

**1,000+  
JOBS**

are estimated to be created by the project over the next five years, spanning various sectors including technology, manufacturing, and service industries, contributing significantly to Michigan's workforce development goals.

ELEVATING MICHIGAN  
GLOBALLY

**\$80  
MILLION**

in foreign direct investment is set to be attracted within its first five years by fostering international trade partnerships and establishing Michigan as a gateway to the MENA region.

BOOSTING STATE  
REVENUES

**\$5  
MILLION**

in additional annual tax revenue is expected from the enhanced business environment and international collaborations, supporting essential public services across Michigan.



April 24, 2025

Dear Bilal,

As Mayor of the City of Dearborn, I am proud to express my strong support for the American Arab Chamber of Commerce's (AACC) legislative request to establish a National Hub for Arab American Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Global Trade in Dearborn.

This long-anticipated project represents a transformative investment not only for our city but for the entire State of Michigan; serving as a premier center for small business development, international trade, and workforce innovation. As the first of its kind in the United States, the Hub is poised to become a regional and statewide economic catalyst, connecting Michigan's businesses with global trade networks, advancing innovation, and positioning our state as a national leader in innovative economic growth.

The AACC has long been a cornerstone of our entrepreneurial ecosystem, with a decades-long track record of empowering immigrant and minority-owned businesses. Through its Tejara program and expansive network of partners, AACC has successfully delivered high-impact programming in business incubation, mentorship, access to capital, and international soft-landing support for new market entrants.

This National Hub will take that work to the next level by bringing together public and private sector stakeholders to establish a centralized space for:

- Small business incubation and acceleration
- Global trade and investment attraction
- Entrepreneurship training and technical assistance
- Cultural and international business exchange

The proposal aligns strongly with Michigan's long-term economic development strategy and Dearborn's priorities; particularly our commitment to creating a city that is economically resilient, globally connected, and inclusive by design. It addresses the urgent need for equitable infrastructure that supports minority-owned and immigrant-led businesses while complementing our city's investments in workforce development, innovation, and sustainable growth.



MAYOR ABDULLAH H. HAMMOUD  
CITY OF DEARBORN

The Hub holds significant potential to catalyze economic activity, generate quality jobs, and attract international investment across Dearborn and the broader region, advancing our shared vision of a city that leads not just in service but in opportunity.

I fully support the American Arab Chamber of Commerce's request for state investment in this initiative and strongly encourage my colleagues in government to do the same. This is a rare and timely opportunity to strengthen Michigan's national and global standing while investing in the entrepreneurial spirit that defines Dearborn and drives our State forward.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Abdullah H. Hammoud  
Mayor, City of Dearborn