



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Pat
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Outman
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:
Big Brothers Big Sisters Alliance of Michigan (BBBSM)
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
11 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI 48206
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
BBBSM
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr., District 32
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.
Purpose of the Legislatively Directed Spending Item

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Alliance of Michigan (BBBSM) respectfully requests \$2 million to help expand local mentoring programs that directly support at-risk youth and strengthen families and communities across our state. This funding will allow each of the 11 BBBS agencies in Michigan to recruit and support more volunteer mentors — community members stepping up to help children stay on track, stay out of trouble, and succeed in life.

Public Benefit and Responsible Use of Taxpayer Dollars

This is a targeted investment in Michigan's future workforce and public safety. Research shows that mentorship helps reduce government dependency and improves long-term outcomes:

- Mentored youth are 15% more likely to be working full-time and earning more by their mid-20s (Harvard University & U.S. Treasury Department).
- They are 20% more likely to attend college, stay in school, and avoid criminal activity.
- Within just 18 months, youth matched with mentors show fewer disciplinary issues, better emotional self-control, and less risky behavior — results that reduce pressure on public systems like education, law enforcement, and health care.

This is not a handout — it's a hand-up approach. BBBS agencies are leveraging private donations from local individuals and businesses to support mentorship, and we're asking the state to help expand that impact. This investment will allow us to match more youth currently on waitlists — children from families who want their child to succeed, but who need a little extra support to help make that happen.

Compliance with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution

This funding request does not violate Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits appropriations for private purposes. The requested grant is for a public purpose — namely, improving the welfare and future outcomes of vulnerable Michigan children. All expenditures will directly support services that benefit the broader public by strengthening education, reducing crime, and building a more resilient workforce. The funds will be administered through eligible nonprofit agencies that deliver these services transparently and in alignment with state goals.

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.**

2000000

11. **Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["State"]

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.'

Scott Litle, President; Jennifer Spitler, Treasurer; Maggie Munch; Amy Kuchta; Jeff Calhoun; Lisa Humphries

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:

October 15, 2025 - December 31, 2026

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

Yes



The Need is **BIG**.

NOW is the Time to Help!

OUR GOAL

\$2 million in Michigan FY 2025-2026 Budget

Big Brothers Big Sisters Alliance of Michigan (BBBSM) seeks \$2 million to expand statewide mentoring programs for at-risk youth, focusing on **volunteer recruitment, screening, enrollment, and matching support**. The funding will also help expand the service area and programming in areas of the state **currently without mentoring programs**.

Mentors Mean BIG Progress.

The Power of Mentorship: A groundbreaking study conducted by Harvard University and the U.S. Department of Treasury has provided compelling evidence that Big Brothers Big Sisters serves as a scalable solution to reducing socioeconomic disparities. This research, based on three decades of Big Brothers Big Sisters data, highlights mentorship's long-lasting benefits:

- **15% Increase in Earnings:** Mentored youth experienced a 15% boost in earnings between the ages of 20 and 25, significantly improving economic mobility.
- **Higher College Attendance:** Mentored youth are 20% more likely to attend college compared to their non-mentored peers.
- **Improved Behavior:** Within 18 months, mentored youth reported lower absenteeism and fewer school suspensions.
- **Healthier Social Outcomes:** Mentored youth demonstrated improved behaviors, stronger social bonds, and a reduced dependency on social services, leading to broader societal benefits.
- **Closing the Socioeconomic Gap:** The study found that the income of mentored youth as adults was more closely aligned with their mentors than with their families, reducing the socioeconomic gap by two-thirds.



Funding Proposal for Big Brothers Big Sisters Alliance of Michigan (BBBSM)

Request: \$2 million

Introduction: Big Brothers Big Sisters Alliance of Michigan (BBBSM) seeks a \$2 million grant to expand our statewide mentoring programs. This funding will enable us to provide critical support and guidance to vulnerable children facing adversity, ensuring they have the relationships and resources necessary to succeed. By scaling our mentorship initiatives, we can create a lasting impact, helping Michigan's youth build a strong foundation for a brighter future.

Big Brothers Big Sisters creates meaningful connections between young people and caring mentors. These relationships bridge backgrounds, foster mutual understanding, and form lifelong friendships. By amplifying the voices and experiences of those we serve, we create lasting change for children in our community. Mentoring is a social solution with real and tangible impact on young people and in our communities.

The Critical Need: Children today face numerous challenges, from low self-esteem and fixed mindsets to adverse childhood experiences. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as abuse, neglect, and family instability have long-term effects on a child's health, behavior, and academic performance. Research indicates that children from low-income families are disproportionately affected by these challenges. Nearly 90% of the children we serve live in poverty, and research shows that at-risk youth benefit significantly from mentorship. A caring mentor can transform these struggles into opportunities for growth. Strong, effective support systems are essential in helping these children overcome obstacles and achieve long-term success.

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These outcomes highlight how mentorship strengthens emotional resilience, promotes mental well-being, and keeps children on a path to success.

Program Goals and Public Impact: The consistent, enduring presence of a mentor can be life changing—it can mean the difference between staying in school or dropping out, making healthy choices or engaging in risky behaviors, and realizing one’s full potential or falling short of one’s dreams. Our program goes beyond a temporary fix by addressing the root causes of these challenges. By breaking cycles of generational poverty and providing steadfast support, we empower children to envision and achieve a brighter future. Our key goals include:

- **Cultivating Life-Changing Relationships:** Establishing meaningful connections between youth and caring mentors who offer consistent guidance and support.
- **Enhancing Educational Outcomes:** Encouraging academic persistence and success, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to stay in school and excel.
- **Promoting Healthy Behaviors:** Equipping youth with the tools and mindset to make positive, informed decisions that lead to long-term well-being.
- **Empowering Future Leaders:** Fostering environments where children can develop resilience, self-esteem, and the confidence to pursue their dreams.
- **Building Stronger Communities:** Creating a ripple effect of positive change that extends from individual relationships to community-wide benefits.

Your investment in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Alliance of Michigan will create life-changing relationships, open doors of opportunity, and shape a stronger, more prosperous future for the children in our community. Together, we can make a profound difference—one match at a time.

Funding Allocation: Your support will directly impact the essential steps required to create and sustain successful mentorships, including:

- **Volunteer Recruitment:** Engaging and inspiring caring adults to step up as mentors.
- **Volunteer Screening:** Ensuring the safety and compatibility of every mentor through a rigorous vetting process.
- **Enrollment Process:** Matching children with mentors who align with their needs and aspirations.
- **Making a Match:** Carefully pairing mentors and mentees for meaningful, long-term relationships.
- **Match Support:** Offering consistent resources, coaching, and check-ins to ensure lasting success.
- **Expand reach:** Expand the service area we serve or add programing as available.

Conclusion: Investing in BBBSM is an investment in Michigan's future. This funding will empower children facing significant challenges due to economic hardship and trauma, providing them with the guidance and encouragement needed to thrive. By supporting our proven mentoring model, we can help shape resilient, successful youth and strengthen communities across the state. The recent study of Big Brothers Big Sisters mentorships further underscores the effectiveness of investing in our mentorship programs, with increased lifetime earnings allowing the government to recoup costs within just seven years. We invite you to join us in this critical mission to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

