



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Alabas
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Farhat
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.
Rep. Erin Byrnes, District 15
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
ACCESS
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
2651 Saulino Court, Dearborn, MI 48120
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Representative Alabas Farhat, 3rd 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. ACCESS is the nation's leading organization committed to uplifting Arab American and MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) communities through direct services and innovative education, policy, advocacy and research programs. Funds are hereby requested to rehabilitate and expand the ACCESS Innovation Center, which will centralize the agency's core educational, training, and research work under one roof. This will not only serve educators, students, entrepreneurs, and community members across northeast Detroit and Dearborn, but will lend itself to greater efficiency and collaboration

between ACCESS' different programs. The building, which was purchased last year, is located directly adjacent to the Arab American National Museum on the city's primary bus line, which runs along the Michigan Avenue corridor linking Detroit to East Dearborn. The ACCESS Innovation Center will serve as a hub for our agency's critical educational work generated by ACCESS' Youth and Education department, National Network for Arab American Communities, Center for Arab Narratives, Business Development program, and Arab American National Museum. The new center will house office and classroom space designated for ESL services, entrepreneurship programs and workshops, capacity-building programs for our National Network for Arab American Communities, and research and convening space for the Center for Arab Narratives, which informs policies and services for Arab Americans and other immigrant communities at both state and federal levels. In addition, it will provide critical overflow for the Arab American National Museum's growing education programs, which include comprehensive workshops, outreach, and trainings tailored to educators, students, and administrators.

The realization of this project will build long-term capacity for our organizational work, as we look to centralize offices and classroom space for critical public facing programs in order to meet the different needs of our growing communities in a comprehensive and holistic manner. ACCESS' Youth & Education Department, which is currently housed in Dearborn's South End, delivers year-round literacy, ESL, STEM skills, and career readiness programming in high-need communities across the region. The Center for Arab Narratives, housed at the Arab American National Museum, generates community-driven research that informs census data, voting rights, and mental and physical health policy issues that affect Arab Americans and other immigrant communities. Similarly, ACCESS' National Network for Arab American Communities builds capacity and empowers its member organizations through trainings, networking, advocacy, and civic engagement resources. ACCESS also supports local economic development through business education and tailored technical assistance, enabling entrepreneurs to grow and thrive. Finally, the Arab American National Museum offers K-12 lesson plans aligned with Michigan's educational standards, educator and administrator workshops, and cultural experiences that integrate Arab American narratives into classrooms. Since opening in 2005, the Museum has contributed to the community economic development of East Dearborn, as walking traffic has increased, and new businesses and galleries continue to emerge along the Michigan Avenue corridor. We are confident that this project will engender even more growth and engagement opportunities for our local neighborhoods, our staff, and ultimately, the city of Dearborn.

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.

5000000

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 Ezzeddine, Ph.D. - Chair; Hussien Shousher - Vice Chair; Ramsey Aljahmi - Treasurer; Christopher Khoury, MBA, MSc - Secretary; Rasha Demashkieh – At Large; Rana Elmir – At Large; Michael Juchno – At Large; Members: Ibrahim Alhasbani; Hon. David Allen; Barbara Bressack; Dr. Basim Dubaybo; Hon. Charlene Elder; Mona Hanna, MD, MPH, FAAP; Aoun Jaber; Muna Jondy Brenda Lever; Robert Richard

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:

10/1/25 to 9/30/27

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

Yes

Wayne County Commission

Sam Baydoun
Commissioner District 13
Wayne County Commission



WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION
500 GRISWOLD, 7TH FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

Commission Office:
(313) 224-0934
Fax: (313) 967-6940
sbaydoun@waynecounty.com

The Honorable Alabas A. Farhat
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Farhat,

I am writing to you in strong support of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) request for \$5 million from the State of Michigan Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items to rehabilitate and expand ACCESS' Innovation Center. The requested funding is crucial for ACCESS, a unique and comprehensive human services organization in the Metro Detroit region, to realize its goal of expanding its facilities and capacity to effectively address the increasing needs of diverse community segments in Wayne County and beyond. The expansion will foster program growth, educational outreach and positive impact in our communities. This transformative center will be a highly beneficial resource, annually empowering thousands of educators, students, entrepreneurs, and community members locally and nationally.

As Commission Vice-Chair Pro Tempore of the Wayne County Commission, I have had the honor for many years of serving and collaborating with ACCESS to support and deliver vital programming to our communities in Wayne County, from primary healthcare and accessible substance use disorder treatment services to economic empowerment programs. As a trusted partner and a cornerstone institution in the region, ACCESS has grown to over 10 locations and provides more than 120 programs, dedicated to meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals. ACCESS' holistic approach encompasses a wide range of programs in primary and mental health, workforce development, education, and basic needs. By addressing these critical areas, ACCESS ensures that individuals and families receive comprehensive support, enabling them to thrive in all aspects of life. By empowering people and families, youth and adults, to achieve their full potential, ACCESS has played a pivotal role in strengthening communities and driving positive societal transformation.

Through educational and outreach efforts, ACCESS provides the tools for children and adults to learn, connect, realize their potential, advance in their careers, and achieve greater wellness and social and economic mobility. From providing comprehensive youth enrichment initiatives and STEM-focused out of school programming for children to adult ESL, family literacy classes and employment and training services, ACCESS is serving 4,000 children annually, more than 10,000 adults through its workforce development department, and hundreds of adult learners from immigrant communities through its ESL and family literacy courses.

ACCESS is a dynamic organization and essential in closing critical service gaps, particularly for immigrant and underserved communities. ACCESS has also greatly contributed to the local economic development; its entrepreneurship services have helped hundreds of local small businesses to grow and thrive. One of its national institutions, the Arab American National Museum, has contributed to the cultural scene and community economic development of metro Detroit, drawing local and national visitors, and encouraging the emergence of new businesses and galleries along the Michigan Avenue corridor.

The proposed Innovation Center will provide essential services and facilitate the expansion of numerous programs mentioned above. It will also promote enhanced collaboration among ACCESS' departments, resulting in more efficient service delivery that will directly benefit local residents. It will house office and classroom space designated for ESL services, entrepreneurship programs and workshops, as well as capacity-building programs, enrichment offerings, research and convening space for ACCESS' national institutions. The expanded space will support thousands of vulnerable community members, offering education and outreach programs that promote family wellness and strengthen communities locally and nationally. It will facilitate community research, preserve history, and foster storytelling, arts, and culture. Additionally, it will house programs that build the capacity of other nonprofits and attract visitors, artists, and professionals for convenings and educational gatherings.

Given the critical impact this project will have on our communities, I strongly support it and urge the approval of the appropriations request. The ACCESS Innovation Center will be a cornerstone for positive change, making a significant positive difference.

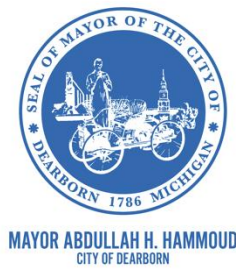
Sincerely,



Sam Baydoun

Vice-Chair Pro Tempore

Wayne County Commission, District 13



April 22, 2025

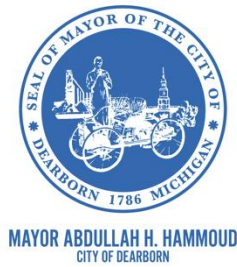
The Honorable Alabas A. Farhat
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Farhat,

I write to you in strong support of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) request for \$5 million from the State of Michigan Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items to rehabilitate and expand ACCESS' Innovation Center. This Center will annually serve thousands of educators, students, entrepreneurs, and community members across northeast Detroit and Dearborn. The requested funding will be vital in allowing ACCESS, a unique holistic human services organization in the Metro Detroit region, to reach its goal of expanding its space and capacity to meet the increased needs of different community segments in the city of Dearborn and beyond.

As a Mayor of Dearborn, I have had the privilege of working alongside ACCESS to support and provide services to the community for many years. As a trusted partner and an anchor institution in the region, ACCESS has reliably served the residents of Dearborn for 54 years, expanding to over 10 locations with more than 120 programs serving the vulnerable communities in the city of Dearborn and the greater Detroit metropolitan tri-county area. In its model of empowerment, ACCESS has been offering essential and innovative programs to meet struggling community members where they are and uplift people at different stages of life. From providing comprehensive youth enrichment initiatives and STEM-focused out of school programming for children, to adult ESL and family literacy classes, ACCESS' educational work is at the heart of its mission. Its educational services continue offering the tools for children and adults to achieve greater wellness and social and economic mobility. Currently, ACCESS annually serves 4,000 children, more than 10,000 adults through its workforce development department, and hundreds of adult learners from immigrant communities through its ESL and family literacy courses. The multifaceted organization plays a crucial role in bridging a critical service gap, especially for immigrant and under-resourced communities, providing essential resources and helping to create pathways to achieving financial stability. ACCESS has also greatly contributed to the local economic development; its entrepreneurship services have helped hundreds of local small businesses to grow and thrive. Additionally, the strategically located Arab American National Museum - a national institution of ACCESS has remained a gem in the community for 20 years. It has contributed to the cultural scene and community economic development of East Dearborn, increasing walking traffic by drawing local and national visitors, and encouraging the emergence of new businesses and galleries along the Michigan Avenue corridor.

The proposed Innovation Center will offer much-needed services and allow the expansion of the many programs highlighted above, while fostering increased collaboration across ACCESS' departments and leading to greater efficiency in service delivery. It will house office and classroom space designated for



ESL services, entrepreneurship programs and workshops, as well as capacity-building programs, enrichment offerings, research and convening space for ACCESS' national institutions. It will serve thousands of vulnerable community members, while providing education and outreach that foster family wellness and build stronger communities in Michigan and nationally. The space will facilitate community research and data, preservation and sharing of history, storytelling, arts and culture, building the capacity of other nonprofits, and bringing national and international visitors, artists, and professionals for convenings and educational events.

For all these reasons, this project has my full support, and I hope the appropriations request will be granted.

Sincerely,

Abdullah H. Hammoud
Mayor, City of Dearborn