



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Amos
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
O'Neal
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:
Victorious Community Development
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
624 S. Outer Dr., Saginaw, MI 48601
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:
Amos O'Neal, District 94
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. Victorious Community Development (VCD) is seeking funding for the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Community Development Center (BMCP CDC). The Center will serve as a source of inspiration and empowerment, offering children and youth development programming, along with other crucial community services.
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","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.'

Christopher Pryor, President/CEO Wardene Talley, Vice President Kenyatta Pryor, Treasurer Gwen Huddleston Lisa Coney Melvin McDowell, Jr, PhD Joseph Ofor-Danwaka, PhD, Director Emeritus Dr. Will McClure, Jr. 9.

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 of June 2025 and be completed in December 2025

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

Yes



346 S 9th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601
info@govcd.org
www.govcd.org

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Amos O'Neal
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative O'Neal:

Victorious Community Development (VCD) is a non-profit corporation with a mission to unlock potential in our Saginaw community through transformative education, training, and economic opportunities. We are dedicated to building strong, safe, healthy, and resilient communities, empowering families and individuals, bolstering children and youth, and transforming lives.

The immediate goal is to transform the former Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School at 346 South 9th Street into the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Community Development Center through renovation and repurposing. This innovative project will not only revitalize a blighted community but also provide a unique educational experience that reshapes the future of our children and youth. This state-of-the-art facility will host a startup social enterprise-based children and youth program that transcends traditional education. With unparalleled support from top-tier educators and professional counselors, we aim to empower learners in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, coding, robotics, virtual augmentation, 3D printing, Lu Interactive Playground, nanotechnology, data analytics, and other STEAM subjects. Through hands-on activities, workshops, and projects, students will gain practical experience in creating algorithms, understanding machine learning concepts, and developing their own AI applications.

Our goal is to foster curiosity and provide access to groundbreaking technology, equipping the next generation with essential skills for the digital age. The program emphasizes creativity and design thinking, integrating artistic principles and practices with scientific and technical fields. It promotes a holistic approach to education and innovation, fostering creativity and collaboration alongside analytical and technical skills. Together, we aspire to create a brighter future for Saginaw's children and youth.

Moreover, the program is meticulously designed to enhance community capacity-building in Saginaw. It aims to elevate skills across various domains, including academic achievement, social development, civic engagement, leadership, and vocational readiness. Grounded in the latest research on effective youth development strategies, we are confident that our program will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our area's children and youth, contributing to a safer, healthier, and more resilient community.

The VCD board believes that this initiative aligns with broader educational and community development goals. With your support, we can create a space where our young people are empowered to succeed



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and contribute positively to society. One of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty is by strengthening the educational opportunities available to our children.

A study by Carnegie Mellon University's Human-Computer Interaction Institute concluded that engaging students through interactive activities, discussions, feedback, and AI-enhanced technologies significantly improves academic performance compared to traditional lectures. Research shows that a learner retains 10% of what they hear, 20% of what they read, and 50% of what they see. However, higher learner retention is possible beyond traditional teaching methods. When students actively participate in the learning experience, the retention rate after three days remains at 90%. Our center will feature outstanding educators committed to nurturing students' academic growth and personal development. While this cutting-edge facility will enhance the learning environment, it is the mentorship and support that will truly impact the lives of our children and youth, helping them thrive both in and out of the classroom.

VCD has been instrumental in providing full-day summer camps, after-school and at-school tutoring, as well as robotics and STEM programs. Notably, the Victorious Scholar program at Jessie Loomis Elementary School has achieved an impressive 238.5% increase in math scores among its 39 student participants. Additionally, VCD owns rental properties, offering safe and affordable housing for families needing a fresh start or working to rebuild their credit. Moreover, our food pantry serves over 500 households per month, providing fresh and healthy groceries and other essential products directly to those facing hunger.

According to a recent State of Michigan Annual Education Report, in the Saginaw School District, 27% of elementary students tested at or above the proficient level for reading, and 20% tested at or above that level for math. Similarly, 26% of middle school students tested at or above the proficient level for reading, and 20% tested at or above that level for math. Furthermore, 12% of high school students tested at or above the proficient level for reading, and 23% tested at or above that level for math. The specific harm to be addressed is far-reaching.

The proposed service area for this program encompasses the City of Saginaw and surrounding communities. The center will serve a diverse student body, primarily Black, followed by White, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian students in grades K-12, through a unique community capacity-building initiative designed to enrich the lives of children and youth during non-school hours. This dynamic program has six multifaceted goals and objectives:

- 1. Education Enhancement**
- 2. Leadership Development**
- 3. Civic Engagement**
- 4. Creativity and Design Thinking**
- 5. Recreation and Well-Being**
- 6. Cutting-Edge Technology Exposure**



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By providing funding, at-risk students will have access to tutoring and state-of-the-art educational programs, helping to break the cycle of generational poverty and empower young people to reach their full potential and make positive contributions to our community. We respectfully request your assistance in researching potential funding sources within the State of Michigan.

We are seeking \$2 million from the state fund as part of our overall \$3.4 million budget for the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Community Development Center project.

If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Christopher V. Pryor

Christopher V. Pryor, Pastor — Board Member
Victorious Community Development, Inc.
cpryor@govcd.org