



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

---

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Brenda
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Carter
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. Donni Steele (54th District)
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Lighthouse MI
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
46156 Woodward Ave, Pontiac, MI 48342
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:  
Rep. Brenda Carter (53rd 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.  
How it provides a public benefit:

The Lighthouse Campus Redevelopment and Expansion will add 98 non-congregate family emergency shelter beds in a new building; consolidate Lighthouse's emergency food service program and establish a client-choice social supermarket; create an Economic Opportunity Center focused on income, employment, and educational needs of the community; increase the availability of on-site supportive services; and redevelop the current administrative building to include an event space and cafe accessible to the public for social connections, special events, and a neighborhood gatherings.

This project addresses socio-economic needs of the City of Pontiac, Oakland County, and Southeastern Michigan. According to the 2019 Census, 8% of Oakland County households lived below the Federal Poverty Level and an additional 22% of county households fell into a category that the United Way defines as Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE). Pontiac, where the campus is located, has been chronically underserved resulting in long-standing disparities in health and economic outcomes for residents. The expanded campus will respond to urgent needs while also working to create a permanent pathway out of poverty for people in our community. This design and integration of services will allow visitors easy access to all the services offered onsite, including those of our health and wellness tenants.

This project will also support Lighthouse's ability to purchase and renovate the Sanctuary Youth Shelter in Royal Oak to serve as the hub for Oakland County's only continuum of care for runaway and homeless youth. After assuming responsibility for these services in 2023, Lighthouse preserved critical programs—Sanctuary, A Step Forward, and GAP—that serve more than 150 youth annually. With nearly 2,500 Oakland County students lacking stable housing, Lighthouse's investment will strengthen outreach, stabilize services, and ensure young people facing homelessness are not left behind.

Why is it an appropriate use of taxpayer funding:

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding because it invests in both emergency and long term solutions to alleviate poverty. By adding new shelter beds, this project can provide more families with a safe place to stay and receive supportive services. This project's Economic Opportunity Center will help meet the income, employment, and educational needs of the community. Lastly, more jobs will be created to scale to the expansion and addition of services.

More than half of the clients in our family emergency shelter in Pontiac are children. HUD's 2024 report on homelessness found that families with children are one of the fastest growing subpopulations. This project works to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty. The runaway and homeless youth shelter and programs support youth and work to empower individuals to achieve stability.

The cost of not addressing homelessness extends far beyond financial implications, impacting individuals, communities, and society as a whole. It leads to increased healthcare costs, higher rates of crime and incarceration, and reduced economic productivity for current and future generations, while also causing significant mental health challenges for individuals experiencing homelessness.

**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.

["State", "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.'

Please see attachment

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 2025 - December 2027

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

Yes

**Lighthouse MI builds equitable communities that alleviate poverty.** Our strategy addresses immediate crises, long-term housing solutions, and systemic changes to close affordable housing gaps. We offer emergency and supportive housing services for runaway youth, pregnant teens, and families.

Headquartered in Pontiac, Lighthouse employs over 70 FTE and operates Oakland County's only Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter in Royal Oak.

Lighthouse locations: **Pontiac, Clarkston, Oak Park, Royal Oak, Southfield and Detroit.**

## BACKGROUND

Lighthouse's Campus Redevelopment and Expansion will build a new family emergency shelter, develop a social supermarket, and expand supportive services. The \$32M project has received \$9.5M from ARPA and raised \$5M from private philanthropy.

Investing in this project now will enable Lighthouse to serve the community sooner and minimize NMTC transaction fees and rising construction costs. **HUD's 2024 report on homelessness found that families with children is one of the fastest growing subpopulations.**

## GOALS

- Provide 154 safe shelter beds for families
- Expand comprehensive supportive services
- Create an accessible and walkable, community-based location
- Job creation in Pontiac
- End homelessness for 450 people every year
- Strengthen pathways out of poverty

## BUDGET REQUEST

**Lighthouse MI requests \$5M to build a new family emergency shelter and expand supportive services to end homelessness.**

To learn more about the Lighting The Way project, please scan the QR code.



### CORE PROGRAMS

Non-Congregant Family Emergency Shelter · Runaway and Homeless Youth ·  
Emergency and Stability Services · Permanent Supportive Housing ·  
Supplemental Food · Transitional Housing · Workforce Development · Eviction  
Prevention · Utility Assistance · Affordable Housing Development



April 17, 2025

Rep. Ann Bollin, Appropriations Chair  
100 N. Capitol Ave., Room 351  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairwoman Bollin:

I am writing in support of Lighthouse's funding request to expand its programs and services through a capital redevelopment project that will help prevent crises and empower individuals and families achieve stability.

Lighthouse is increasing its capacity to respond to poverty and inequity in Oakland County by re-developing and building upon its current headquarters' footprint in Pontiac to create the Lighthouse Campus - a robust and centralized base of operations, a "one-stop shop" for people in need of Lighthouse services, and an anchor for community involvement. The Lighthouse Campus Expansion will add 98 non-congregate family emergency shelter beds in a new building; consolidate Lighthouse's emergency food service program and establish a client-choice social supermarket; create an Economic Opportunity Center focused on income, employment, and educational needs of the community; increase the availability of on-site supportive services; and redevelop the current administrative building to include an event space and cafe accessible to the public for social connections, special events, and a neighborhood placed third space.

Pontiac has been chronically underserved, resulting in longstanding disparities in health and economic outcomes for residents. Lighthouse's expanded campus will help address those disparities by responding to urgent needs while also creating pathways out of poverty for people in our community. This design and integration of services will allow visitors to easily access all the services offered onsite. Additionally, the expansion of Lighthouse's work will create new jobs in the nonprofit and social services sectors in Oakland County.

Lighthouse's experience, history of providing high-quality services to those in need, and commitment to stewarding community resources responsibly and effectively, positions them to implement their plans to address poverty in the county successfully. I hope you will give Lighthouse's funding request your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Coulter".

David Coulter  
Oakland County Executive



Director	Title	Company	Position
Jackie Buchanan	President and CEO	Genisys Credit Union	Chair
Jonathan Burleigh	AVP - Assistant General Counsel	Eli Lilly and Company	Vice Chair
James Campbell	Head of Servicing	RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing	Secretary
Dr. Jacqui Spicer	President	Baker College	Treasurer
Richard Lewnau		Retired, Ford Motor Company	Past Chair
Dr. Dennis Blender	Principal	Blender Consulting Group	Board Member
Patty Corkery	President and CEO	Michigan Credit Union League	Board Member
Sommer Dawson	Executive Director	Accent Pontiac	Board Member
Maurice Edwards	EVP, Operations	Gardner-White Furniture	Board Member
Chanel Hampton	Founder & CEO	Strategic Community Partners	Board Member
Dr. Bryan Kieler	Senior VP, Chief Lending Officer	Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)	Board Member
Scott Stewart	CEO	Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (formerly with Honor Community Health)	Board Member
Susan Wellman	EVP, Strategic Relations	Keating Network	Board Member
Jim Cirolì		Retired - Flagstar Bank	Emeritus
Susan Cooper		Arrowhead Foundation	Emeritus
Dr. Harry Maisel		Retired	Emeritus