



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Karen
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Whitsett
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:  
Playworks
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Durfee Innovation Society, 2740 Collingswood St, Suite 211, Detroit, MI 48206
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:  
Helena Scott, District 8
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. Playworks leverages the power of play to transform children's physical, social, and emotional health through physical activity and safe, meaningful play. Playworks partners with teachers, principals, and local community leaders to provide a tool for their partnering school districts to enhance their recess programming and ensure the kids are both physically and emotionally ready to return to the classroom and engage in productive learning.

The purpose behind this grant request is to allow Playworks to expand its footprint in Michigan, reaching more kids through both in-person and digital services via new communities and partnerships. We are not starting from scratch; we have in-roads into districts through our school relationships and an opportunity to build on that established foundation. We strive to strengthen our existing partnerships, and strategically expand to priority geographies through complimentary services with dedicated partners.

Playworks is committed to increasing its impact as a regional organization and further positioning ourselves as a leader in safe and healthy play for kids in Michigan. We've established an ambitious and inspirational 3-year vision for our future. We strive to reach approximately 35,000 children across at least 50 community-based partnerships. By leveraging scaling strategies like digital and certification services, Playworks will be able to reach more children by empowering a network of schools, districts, and community-based organizations to ensure every child has access to the power of play.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

N/A

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

1,000,000

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

[Private, 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.'

- Chair, Pooja Shah
- Secretary, Ohemaa Nyanin
- Treasurer, Pat Morrin

- Founder/Managing Partner, Brigitte Addimando
- Senior VP, Evelyn Barahona
- Chief Commercial Officer, Brandon Belford
- VP, External Affairs, Leslie Boissiere
- Co-Founder, Kuang Chen
- Etienne Fang
- Angela Glymph-Austin
- Antoniya Marinova
- Kanika Pasricha
- Mark Seiler
- Susan Stone
- Joy Weiss
- Jill Vialet

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 – September 2026

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

Yes