



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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:
Life Leaders
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1620 Michigan Ave, Suite 120, Detroit 48216
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:
Joe Tate, District 9.
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.
L!FE Leaders Inc. is seeking an appropriation in the FY26' budget to support sustainable impact and growth of its innovative workforce development training program to serve 2000 youth in Southeast Michigan by 2026. In 2025 L!FE with the support of State Funding, is doubling our youth served from 300 to 600 with a target of serving 2000 youth by 2026. L!FE is successfully developing the interpersonal and professional skills of Detroit youth. The program allows participants to identify their strengths, weaknesses, fields of study they are interested in, and careers they want to pursue. Each L!FE student

creates a comprehensive post-secondary plan that includes their postsecondary goals, desired post-secondary credentials, career interests, and a proposed career track. As students develop their post-secondary plans, they are encouraged to connect with the over 200 organizations, professionals, and educational institutions within L!FE's network of individuals interested in empowering Detroit youth. These connections serve as introductions to career and academic paths our students want to pursue and the individuals interested in supporting their goals.

Through L!FE's immersive educational curriculum, students expand their post-secondary opportunities utilizing Detroit as their classroom. Specifically, students take courses in the following discipline:

1. Career Development

Students take courses and workshops where they develop skills of communication, collaboration, financial literacy, leadership, professional etiquette and more. Through guided research and networking, L!FE students learn about various career and educational paths available to them from College, to Skilled Trades to Entrepreneurship and are networked directly into existing resources and infrastructure to help them achieve the highest attainable level of success in their chosen field. Last Summer, thanks to 2023/24 State Funding allocation, L!FE partnered with Wayne State University, to retain and attract talent to Detroit and Michigan through a comprehensive College, Career and Community Immersion program. By design it fostered youth awareness, and access to opportunities in Detroit through direct experience in education, career and leisure, generating excitement around going to school, working and living in Detroit and connecting youth to free training and \$35/hr internship opportunities.

2. Leadership

L!FE's year-round program is bringing immersive, experiential workforce and leadership development experiences to Detroit youth experiencing socioeconomic and racial inequities. L!FE's workforce development training allows students to develop the skills necessary to make them competitive candidates for scholarships, colleges and universities, workforce training programs, internships, and their careers of choice. L!FE Youth Associates and Detroit Youth Summit Council (DYSC) have successfully executed the Scholarship Marathon generating over \$639,000 in submitted college scholarship applications by 80 Detroit High School Youth with an additional \$200,000+ scholarship applications made available to participating youth to cover gaps in funding and make higher education affordable and accessible to our youth. DYSC has launched with 15 dynamic youth from all seven districts from Detroit who are representing over 410 youth summit attendees and leading coordinated community engagement projects on a monthly basis to take action on issues raised by the youth at the 2024 summit and planning the 2025, 7th annual Detroit Youth Summit.

3. Community Impact

Giving back is paramount to any level of success and is foundational to L!FE Leaders learning-by-doing model. Youth are actively engaged year-round in monthly community service and civic engagement projects to take

actionable steps that contribute to established and thriving communities. Each student participating in L!FE programming is a part-time paid employee, allowing students to hurdle the financial constraints of attending unpaid experiential learning opportunities and internships.

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.

[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.'

Board of Directors

- a. Amy Nederlander (Co-Founder, L!fe Leaders)
- b. Leslie Andrews (Co-Chair)
- c. Howard Handler (President, 313 Presents)
- d. Michael Eidelman (Shareholder, Vedder Price)
- e. Jane Goodman (Freelance Chief Strategy Officer)
- f. Josh Thompson (Co-Founder & CEO Civics Unplugged)
- g. Mitchell Krieger (Data Scientist, Middelink)
- h. Linda Schlessinger (Owner & Founder, Skinnytees)
- i. Mary Messina (Vice President, Communications & Community Strategic Staffing Solutions)

- j. Camille Walker (Banks Community & Technology-Driven Economic Development)
- k. Angelique Peterson-Mayberry (Founding Board Member, Emeritus)
- l. Paul Jones (Development Analyst, Century Partners Development Company)
- m. Kenyatta Antoinette Stephens (CEO, Black Family Development)
- n. Lisa Phillips (Principal, Cass Technical High School)
- o. Jack Llewellyn-Karski (Jack Karski Design)

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:

Anticipated Start Date: October 1, 2025

Anticipated End Date: September 30, 2026

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

Yes