



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Tim
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Kelly
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:  
Michigan College Access Network
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
200 N. Washington Sq., Ste 420 Lansing, MI 48933
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
Statewide impact
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
statewide
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. With an appropriation of \$5 million, MCAN will build on our existing partnerships across the state to deliver the following in support of Michigan's statewide goal of 60% of Michigan residents having a certificate or a degree by 2030:
  - Support Michigan's FAFSA completion efforts.
  - Prepare high schoolers to jump start their careers.
  - Increase Michigan's talent pool.
  - Support adult learners.

- Emphasize accountability in higher education.

Increasing MCAN's appropriation to \$5 million will allow us to further improve student success to increase Michigan's talent pool, while also sustaining our current investments into infrastructure, college access, and equity. MCAN leverages our state appropriation to secure philanthropic and federal funding at a nearly 3:1 ratio, multiplying the impact of Michigan's investment. As the State of Michigan is making historic investments in education and the workforce, MCAN maximizes those efforts through cross-sector, statewide alignment and equity-focused action that delivers vital support to the populations who need it most.

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"]

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.'

Ryan Fewins-Bliss – Executive Director  
Jamie Jacobs – Deputy Director  
Cyekeia Lee – Executive Director of Detroit College Access Network  
Board - Executive Committee  
Sharon Mortensen – Chairperson  
David Gamlin – Vice Chairperson  
Scott Ward – Secretary  
Catherine McNamara – Treasurer  
Board At-Large  
Maddy Day – Board Member  
Ben Frederick – Board Member  
Khalilah Burt Gaston – Board Member  
Greg Handel –

Board Member Melissa Isaac – Board Member John Kaczynski – Board Member Dr. Elizabeth Guerrero Lyons – Board Member Dr. Patrick O'Connor – Board Member Dr. Tarek Sobh – Board Member Dr. Brock Tessman – Board Member

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:

Oct 1, 2025 – Sept 30, 2026

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

Yes



# MCAN's State Appropriation Mobilizes the State Toward Sixty by 30

Funds are leveraged to drive talent and workforce development in Michigan

## OUR FY26 REQUEST: INCREASE INVESTMENT IN COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS THROUGH MCAN'S STATEWIDE NETWORK TO \$5 MILLION FROM THE SCHOOL AID FUND

We're requesting a return to FY24 support of \$5 million in funding from the State of Michigan. Increasing MCAN's appropriation to \$5 million will allow us to further improve student success to increase Michigan's talent pool, while also sustaining our current investments into infrastructure, college access, and equity. MCAN leverages our state appropriation to secure philanthropic and federal funding at a nearly 3:1 ratio, multiplying the impact of Michigan's investment. As the State of Michigan is making historic investments in education and the workforce, MCAN maximizes those efforts through cross-sector, statewide alignment and equity-focused action that delivers vital support to the populations who need it most.

## CENTERING EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR MICHIGAN STUDENTS

- Since our founding in 2010, Michigan College Access Network has worked with partners across the state to ensure **every student in Michigan has the opportunity and support to choose to attend and succeed in college.**
- Our work is **student-centric**, specifically focused on **low-income students, first-generation college-going students, and students of color.**
- MCAN is a true **public-private partnership** that leverages a state budget appropriation to raise philanthropic funding supporting a wide range of college access and success work in communities across the state.
- Our **advocacy work** helps to shape policy and processes to provide **resources, support, and accountability to state investments, all through an equity lens.**

## STRATEGIC INVESTMENT ALIGNS AND AMPLIFIES EFFORTS

- **In fiscal year 2024, we leveraged a \$5 million appropriation toward college access and success**, helping to enhance State of Michigan investments into FAFSA completion and the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, supporting adult learners and college completion efforts, and engaging new workforce partners.
- Working in collaboration with State of Michigan agencies, including the Executive Office of the Governor, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Office of Sixty by 30, MiLEAP, Department of Education, and Department of Treasury, **MCAN aligns college access and success efforts of more than 1,000 Michigan institutions and organizations in our network**, maximizing impact and reducing redundancy.
- The new **Community College Guarantee** aligns with MCAN's work to create an educated Michigan workforce, and we are working with partners across the state to promote this pathway to eligible students and improve transfer pathways from community college to four-year institutions.



COLLEGE IS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

COLLEGE IS A NECESSITY.

COLLEGE IS FOR EVERYONE.

COLLEGE IS A PUBLIC GOOD.



## OUR STRATEGIES ADDRESS THE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT CRISIS

- Through MCAN's College Bound Michigan and AdviseMI programs, **we are integrated into more than 300 Michigan high schools each year**, delivering college-focused support to **tens of thousands of students**.
- Our College Completion Corps program is **helping nearly 4,000 community college students** each year persist and complete degrees and certificates.
- We help create and provide ongoing support for more than 20 **Local College Access Networks** to foster college going cultures in communities across the state.
- We offer a variety of **professional development opportunities** for school counselors, college advisers, educators, and others who work with students, at no cost to the participants.
- MCAN recruited, hired, and trained over 20 Retired Educator FAFSA Specialists throughout the state to assist adult residents with applying for Michigan Reconnect and enrolling in college, with a special focus on adults age 21-24 who are eligible for the temporary expansion of the scholarship.

## MEETING MICHIGAN'S TALENT NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

- Michigan was facing a **talent shortage** even before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted every sector of our educational system, including **more than 50,000 fewer students enrolled in Michigan colleges and universities**.
- Recent data show Michigan is gaining in college attainment, but **we are behind pace to reach the Sixty by 30 goal** needed to build a workforce that is well equipped for the 21st century economy.
- If we want to address the crisis that is stifling the growth of Michigan businesses, **we must fund college access infrastructure at a scale and scope necessary to meet our state's talent needs for economic success**, allowing us to compete with neighboring Midwest states for business and economic interests.

## HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED, GROWING MICHIGAN'S TALENT POOL

With an appropriation of \$5 million, we'll build on our existing partnerships across the state to deliver the following:

- **Support Michigan's FAFSA completion efforts.** MCAN is helping more students connect with vital financial aid resources — including the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, Community College Guarantee, Michigan Reconnect, and other state financial aid programs — by offering professional development, grant support, and other resources around FAFSA completion.
- **Prepare high schoolers to jump start their careers.** MCAN is working with partners to increase participation in programs that offer college credit in high school — including Early and Middle Colleges, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, articulated Career and Technical Education credit, and the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) — to accelerate students' postsecondary pathways or prepare them to enter the workforce.
- **Increase Michigan's talent pool.** MCAN is supporting growth in apprenticeships, specifically those requiring certificates and degrees that will lead to better career outcomes for students. We're developing financial and policy solutions to incentivize colleges to create Credit for Prior Learning, CLEP, and other systems to acknowledge competencies already acquired by students, saving them money and reducing the time it takes to get them back into the labor force.
- **Support adult learners.** MCAN's Retired Educator FAFSA Specialists worked closely with Reconnect Navigators to provide information and FAFSA assistance for adults interested in community college. Other projects, including partnerships to create more CLEP testing centers and work with institutions that serve incarcerated people, are helping to improve college access in underserved populations.
- **Emphasize accountability in higher education.** MCAN is leading efforts for student success to be analyzed through the lens of disaggregated student completion performance data, tying more funding directly to student success outcomes. We are also championing higher education student success efforts, such as basic needs support programs and providing grant dollars to institutions to reduce barriers impacting student completion.



## CONNECT WITH US

Questions on our appropriation request can be directed to Ryan Fewins-Bliss, MCAN executive director, at [ryan@micollegeaccess.org](mailto:ryan@micollegeaccess.org) or 517-898-6353.