



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Tom
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Kuhn
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:
South Asian American Voices For Impact
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1616 Delancy Circle, Canton, MI 48188
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 Ranjeev Puri, 24th
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.
Overview: To develop and implement culturally competent recreational and educational programming for South Asian American families in Michigan impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This initiative will be the first of its kind to specifically serve this historically underserved and often invisible community. Programming will provide structured recreational opportunities and social-skill-building workshops designed to support autistic children's development while also offering culturally sensitive resources and support for their families.

Current Status: SAAVI currently has 65 families enrolled in our support group and have over the last 12 months conducted outreach and recreational activities, lectures and support sessions for the target group. We are in the process of building a website called Divyangsupport.org and the website is scheduled to go live by May 1,2025.

Statement of Need: South Asian American families in Michigan face compounded barriers to autism services due to cultural stigma, language limitations, and a lack of targeted outreach. Despite the growing diversity in Michigan, existing autism support programs rarely consider these cultural nuances. SAAVI has identified a significant gap and the Divyang program is designed to bridge it.

Program Description and Goals: Our initiative provides year-round Recreational and Educational Support Services tailored for children on the autism spectrum and their families within the South Asian community. Key goals include:

1. Promoting physical and social development through structured recreation.
2. Enhancing family education via workshops.
3. Reducing stigma and isolation through community-building activities.

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.

250000

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

["None"]

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 (2025): - Chandru Acharya - Dr. Mohana Walambe - Anand Kumar - Jawwad Khan - Sangeeta Khalsa - Santosh Prabhu - Vipul Tripathi - Padmaja Rao | Advisory Board: - Annemarie Graham Hudak - Padma Kuppa - Anshu Verma

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:

Beginning: July 2025; End: June 2026

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

Yes