



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Julie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Rogers
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.  
Representative Matt Longjohn, House District 40
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Kalamazoo
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
353 E. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007
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. Julie Rogers-House District 41, Rep Matt Hall-District 42
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.  
YWCA Kalamazoo seeks \$2 million to continue to address the needs of survivors of violence, infants, children, and families in Kalamazoo County and across Southwest Michigan. The \$2 million requested will help retain operations for childcare and early childhood education.

YWCA Kalamazoo is the only provider of full service childcare for those working 2nd and 3rd shift employment in Kalamazoo, supporting the economic development and

sustainability of our community and its businesses. Federal funding uncertainty means YWCA Kalamazoo is facing substantial gaps in funding for tuition-free childcare services, a service covering 112 families in Kalamazoo.

YWCA Kalamazoo hosts many vital and life-saving programs for its community. It is the largest and sole provider of comprehensive emergency services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, labor and human trafficking in Kalamazoo County. The organization operates an over 50-bed shelter with specialized crisis support services for those fleeing violence while working with individuals and families to navigate legal systems, access safe housing, and support economic empowerment. YWCA Kalamazoo runs two childcare centers known collectively as the YWCA Dreamery, the region's only 24/7 early childhood education and drop-in care facility. The Women and Infant Supportive Health (WISH) program is the only restriction-free perinatal home visitation program in Kalamazoo County, serving all families regardless of income, access to transportation, or insurance status.

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.

2000000

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

["Federal","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.'

Dr. Regena Nelson, Artrella Cohn, Susan Springgate, Katie Paauwe, Elisabeth Von Eitzen, Lakeysha Ivy, Dr. Nakia Baylis, Dr. Deveta Gardner, Sonya Datta-Sandhu, Dr. Glinda Rawls, Margaret Patton, Kimberly Brinkman, Kimberly Peterson, Cathy Wortham, Samantha Phillips, Leigh Ann Sayen

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 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

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

Yes

# FUNDING NEEDS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

**YWCA Kalamazoo seeks \$2 million in state appropriated funds to maintain operations of crucial childcare and early childhood education in Kalamazoo.**

## WHY YWCA KALAMAZOO?

YWCA Kalamazoo believes all children deserve to have access to high quality childcare, regardless of a family's income. We are the largest early childhood education provider in Kalamazoo, as well as offering flexible, trauma-responsive, 24/7 childcare to communities with the highest need. We create permanent pathways to gainful employment in the early childhood education (ECE) sector. Our model is proven to help Black and Brown families break the cycle of poverty caused by generations of systemic racism.

- YWCA Kalamazoo operates classrooms in the county's lowest-resourced communities, functioning as **one of the county's largest childcare provider** for infants 0-3.
- **185 children** were enrolled and served in YWCA Kalamazoo's early childhood education programs throughout 2024.
- After 1 year in class, children served by YWCA accelerate beyond benchmark developmental milestones **5% faster** than they did at enrollment
- YWCA offers a pathway to ECE work advancement. In 2024 YWCA Kalamazoo **supported 27 early educators** in obtaining their Child Development Associates (CDA).
- YWCA Kalamazoo's educator quality **exceeds all national sector benchmarks by an average of 42%**.
- In 2023, various tuition assistance programs **covered 65.9%** of tuition for enrollees into our ECE program.
- YWCA Kalamazoo is one of the only providers of **full service childcare for those working 2nd and 3rd shift employees in Kalamazoo**, supporting the economic development and sustainability of our community and its businesses.

## WHY ADDITIONAL FUNDING?

YWCA's intentional focus on our community's most marginalized families requires heightened staffing structures, training capacity, and family support. The children we serve have often been exposed to extraordinary violence. To sustain our current classrooms safely, we must be staffed appropriately. Without additional funding, we will be forced to close several of our classrooms.

- In YWCA Kalamazoo's target neighborhoods, **9 out of 10 children** are not in a high-quality early learning or childcare program.
- YWCA Kalamazoo is designed to **prioritize care for the young children of survivors fleeing violence**, ensuring childcare is not a barrier to a family finding life-saving shelter.
- YWCA Kalamazoo **is one of the few programs in Michigan providing 24/7 childcare** and emergency drop-in services, ensuring families fleeing violence or those working non-traditional working hours sustain access to employment.
- Without additional support, YWCA Kalamazoo **may be forced to close** its childcare operations and classrooms in the next year.
- Federal funding uncertainty means YWCA Kalamazoo is facing substantial gaps in funding for tuition-free childcare services, a service covering **112 families in Kalamazoo**.

## MICHIGAN'S CHILDREN NEED YOU.