



# MICHIGAN SENATE

## Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

Date Submitted: 05/04/2026

**1. Sponsoring legislator's full name:**

Senator Winnie Brinks

**2. Cosponsoring legislators' names (if applicable):**

N/A

**3. Intended legislatively directed spending item recipient:**

Michigan State University - Rx Kids

**4. Physical address of legislatively directed spending item recipient and the intended location of the project or activity:**

The administrative address for the program is Michigan State University, 426 Auditorium Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48824. Funding is distributed to eligible low-income residents across a defined set of communities throughout the state. These include the cities of Flint, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, Detroit, Saginaw, Ypsilanti, Benton Harbor, Niles, Buchanan, Dearborn, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Inkster, Melvindale, River Rouge, Hazel Park, Mount Clemens, and Center Line. In addition, eligible residents in Royal Oak Township, Buena Vista Township, Bridgeport Township, and Benton Charter Township are included. The program also covers multiple counties, including Clare, Gladwin, Roscommon, Lake, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Schoolcraft, Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Dickinson, Iron, and Montmorency Counties.

**5. The recipient's employer identification number:**

38-6005984

**6. Requested amount of the legislatively directed spending item:**

\$20,000,000.00

**7. What is the purpose and how does the legislatively directed spending item provide a public benefit that is an appropriate use of taxpayer money?**

Rx Kids provides direct financial support to expectant mothers and families with infants during pregnancy and the first year of life, the most critical period for healthy development. The program delivers a clear public benefit by improving maternal and infant health, reducing financial stress on families, and supporting stronger early childhood outcomes. When families have stable resources during this window, babies are healthier, parents are better able to access care, and communities are stronger. This is an appropriate and fiscally responsible use of taxpayer funds because it is a targeted, time-limited investment that advances established public policy goals, including improving health outcomes, supporting family stability, and reducing poverty. These outcomes align with the intended use of public resources, including federal TANF funding, to support low-income families and promote self-sufficiency. By improving outcomes early, Rx Kids helps reduce reliance on more costly public systems over time, including healthcare, child welfare, and other safety net services. The program is designed to be simple, efficient, and accountable, ensuring funds are delivered directly to families with strong oversight and minimal administrative cost. This legislatively directed spending item represents a prudent and effective investment in the health, stability, and long-term success of Michigan families.

Boilerplate from FY 26: Sec. 689. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for prenatal and infant support program, the department shall allocate \$20,000,000.00 of TANF revenue for programs that are intended to improve the economic stability of households with very young children. (2) In allocating the funds referenced in subsection (1), the department shall give preference to programs that demonstrate the following: (a) Effectiveness in improving the economic stability of households with pregnant women at a minimum of 20 weeks gestation, and with young children. 163 (b) Partnerships with local health care providers and nonprofit human service agencies that provide for improved maternal and infant health outcomes. (c) Compliance with TANF requirements established by the Administration for Children and Families within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. (3) By September 30 of the current fiscal year, the department, through agreements with contracted implementing agencies, shall report to the standard report recipients information for the previous fiscal year on the aggregated demographic data of all program recipients regardless of underlying funding source. The report must include, but not be limited to, aggregated recipient data from contracted implementing agencies with each contracted implementing agency providing the age, race, ethnicity, Hispanic or Latino origin, federal poverty level, funding source, and zip codes of all program recipients.

- 8. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received or been awarded any of the following types of funding in the past 5 years? If so, how much? Check all that apply:**

Federal, State, Local

**Amount**

\$325,000,000.00

- 9. Estimated time frame for completion of the legislatively directed spending item project:**

September 2025

- 10. Is the recipient a nonprofit corporation?**

Yes

*Additional Information for Nonprofit Corporations (if applicable)*

*The answer to questions 1 to 3 must be "Yes" for the nonprofit corporation to qualify for a legislatively directed spending item.*

- 1. Has the nonprofit corporation continuously operated in this state for the preceding 36 months?**

Yes

- 2. Has the nonprofit corporation had a physical office in this state for not less than the preceding 12 consecutive months?**

Yes

- 3. Does the organization have a board of directors?**

Yes

- 4. List all of the officers and active members on the board of directors:**

a. Rebecca Bahar-Cook b. Mike Balow c. Dennis Denno d. Renee Knake Jefferson e. Sandy Pierce f. Rema Vassar g. Brianna T. Scott h. Kelly Tebay

*Certification By Sponsoring Legislator*

*"I certify that my immediate family members, legislative staff members, and I have no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the requested legislatively directed spending item."*

*"I certify that the intended recipient of this legislatively directed spending item is not a for-profit entity."*

*"I certify that the information in this form is true to the best of my knowledge."*

*Senator Winnie Brinks*