



MICHIGAN SENATE

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

Date Submitted: 02/09/2026

1. Sponsoring legislator's full name:

Senator John N. Damoose

2. Cosponsoring legislators' names (if applicable):

N/A

3. Intended legislatively directed spending item recipient:

Area Seniors, Inc (ASI Community, Inc.)

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

102 S Maple Ave, Bellaire, Michigan 49615

5. The recipient's employer identification number:

383206734

6. Requested amount of the legislatively directed spending item:

\$2,148,000.00

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?

ASI Community Recreation Center – Providing Access, Connections, and Opportunities Across the Lifespan ASI Community, Inc. (ASI Community) seeks to build and operate a transformational multi-use year-round recreation center on ASI Community's unused property next to its existing Community Center in Bellaire, Antrim County. This property, located a few blocks from downtown Bellaire, is adjacent to senior and lower income housing and the community bicycle and walking path that serves all members of the community. The construction of the Community Recreation Center will be financed via grants and donations without local taxpayer support. Its operations will be self-sustaining and will positively impact the community for generations. Along with state budgetary support, the local community will provide \$240,000 toward a total capital building cost of \$2,388,000. If Not

Funded, What Happens? When communities lack accessible, year-round spaces, research shows the following risks increase: • Youth in rural, economically challenged communities face limited access to structured after-school enrichment, despite strong programs already operating locally. • Research shows that youth without consistent after-school programming are more likely to struggle academically, socially, and behaviorally, particularly during unsupervised after-school hours. • Youth-serving partners remain constrained by space, limiting equipment storage, expanded enrichment classes, and opportunities to grow impact. • Seniors experience higher rates of isolation and inactivity, especially during winter months. • Social isolation and loneliness among older adults are linked to increased risk of chronic illness, cognitive decline, depression, and premature mortality. • More than one in four adults age 65 and older are physically inactive, increasing fall risk and long-term health challenges. • Residents continue to leave the community for indoor recreation and wellness opportunities, exporting dollars that could support local businesses. • The community misses the chance to fully leverage proven, year-round assets such as Glacial Hills Trails, which demonstrated strong economic impact.

If Funded, What Becomes Possible? When communities invest in accessible, year-round spaces, research and experience show the following outcomes are more likely: • Youth benefit from expanded access to structured after-school enrichment, building on existing programs with space for equipment, mentorship, and added learning opportunities. • Research shows that youth who participate in consistent after-school and enrichment programs demonstrate stronger school engagement, improved behavior, and better social skills. • Seniors gain a safe, accessible place year-round for walking, group activities, and social connection. • Studies show that older adults who remain physically active and socially engaged experience better overall health, improved mood, reduced fall risk, and greater life satisfaction. • Isolation and depression are reduced, particularly during long winter months, through routine, movement, and connection. • With more than 20,000 projected annual visits, the Center supports steady, community-driven economic activity throughout the year. • A novel business model provides affordable 4000 visits annually for youth and family members • The Center complements existing year-round assets like Glacial Hills Trails, reinforcing recreation and community infrastructure as drivers of local economic vitality. • The community gains shared infrastructure that supports health, youth development, economic resilience, and quality of life across generations. The ASI Community Recreation Center (CRC) will provide local communities with a venue, significantly expanding that currently available in Antrim County, by offering a wide range of recreational year-round activities. The CRC will help stimulate the downtown Bellaire economy and contribute to the physical health and mental well-being of its community members. It is conservatively estimated that more than 20,000 visits will be made each year to the CRC. Of these 4000 will be local youth and family visits. It is envisioned that with the popularity of pickleball the costs of other activities such as walking and family use will be dramatically reduced. The CRC will directly benefit lower income families and seniors in this largely rural county. With its location near the heart of Bellaire, the CRC will become a magnet of activity with citizens crossing paths daily. ASI Community's vision is to build a successful Community Recreation Center that will operate self-sufficiently and sustainably,

servicing a diverse range of residents and visitors, youth and families and various communities in Antrim County, all which align with ASI Community's mission to create a unique gathering place for our local community members. ASI Community is a long-standing and highly regarded 501c3 non-profit that has served Antrim County communities since 1995. It operates year-round providing services such as a Farmer's Market, yard sales, outdoor pickleball, billiards, and indoor facilities used for public and private events and groups. ASI Community is the sole owner of its property and is financially stable and debt free.

- 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:**

N/A

Amount

N/A

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

January 2028

- 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:

Cassie Axtell Chris Herb Steve Dell Eric Erlandson Villareal Cherese Bob Rodreguez
Sylvia Schonauer-Kalchik Dave Simcox Stephanie Coppe

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 John N. Damoose*