



# MICHIGAN SENATE

## Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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Date Submitted: 01/28/2026

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

Senator Mark Huizenga

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

N/A

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

Van Andel Institute

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

333 Bostwick Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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

522000820

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

\$1,000,000.00

**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?**

The purpose of funding the Van Andel Institute (VAI) is to sustain the state's long-term commitment to biomedical research, education, and economic development—core activities that deliver clear and lasting public benefit. Continued support for VAI enables groundbreaking research into cancer, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other major illnesses. Advances in these areas have the potential to reduce long-term healthcare costs, improve quality of life, and strengthen Michigan's position as a leader in medical innovation. VAI is widely regarded as a cornerstone of Grand Rapids' Medical Mile, one of the nation's most prominent biomedical research hubs. The Institute also plays a vital role in the regional economy. VAI employs scientists, technicians, educators, and support staff—high-quality, high-paying jobs that contribute to West Michigan's economic growth

and talent attraction. In addition, research institutions like VAI generate significant indirect employment in fields such as construction, technology, hospitality, and professional services. Beyond research and economic impact, VAI provides hands-on science education programs for Michigan students and teachers, with a strong emphasis on STEM-based, experiential learning. The Institute also offers online resources and professional development for educators. These programs help cultivate the next generation of researchers, healthcare professionals, and STEM-skilled workers essential to Michigan's future.

**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

**Amount**

\$125,000,000.00

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

Fiscal Year 2026

**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:**

Institute Board of Trustees: David Van Andel (Chairman/CEO), Connie Chang (COO), John Kennedy (President/CEO), Mark Meijer (President), Kyle Van Andel (Board Observer).

*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 Mark Huizenga*