



MICHIGAN SENATE

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

Date Submitted: 03/18/2026

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:

The Michigan Center for Rural Health

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

Michigan Center for Rural Health's address is 909 Wilson Road, B-218 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48823. Island addresses: a. Beaver Island Rural Health Clinic: 37304 King's Hwy, Beaver Island, MI 49782 b. Mackinac Island Rural Health Clinic: 7474 Market St, Mackinac Island, MI 49757 c. Boise Blanc Island Medical Center: 441 Sioux Avenue, Pointe Aux Pins, MI 49775 d. Drummond Island Medical Center: 33896 S Townline Rd, Drummond, MI 49726

5. The recipient's employer identification number:

383180997

6. Requested amount of the legislatively directed spending item:

\$1,350,000.00

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 this legislatively directed spending item is to ensure the continued operation and financial stability of the primary healthcare access points serving residents and visitors on Beaver Island, Mackinac Island, Bois Blanc Island, and Drummond Island. These island health centers provide essential primary care, urgent care stabilization, emergency response coordination, and public health services in communities that are geographically isolated and inaccessible by road. Unlike

mainland providers, island health centers operate in uniquely constrained environments. Seasonal population fluctuations, transportation barriers, weather-dependent access, limited workforce availability, and low patient volume under a fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement model make it financially unsustainable to maintain year-round operations without supplemental support. Yet these centers are often the only immediate source of care available to residents, seasonal workers, schoolchildren, and visitors. This investment provides clear and measurable public benefit:

- Ensures Emergency Access and Public Safety o Island health centers serve as first responders for medical emergencies, stabilizing patients prior to transport via boat or air ambulance. Without local access, response times would increase significantly, placing lives at risk and increasing downstream healthcare costs.
- Protects Rural Residents' Access to Care o Island residents include older adults, families, and individuals with chronic conditions who would otherwise face significant barriers to routine and preventive care. Maintaining local services reduces avoidable hospitalizations and emergency department utilization.
- Supports Workforce and Economic Stability o Reliable healthcare infrastructure is foundational to maintain island populations, schools, small businesses, and tourism economies. Access to healthcare is a basic requirement for community viability and economic continuity.
- Cost Avoidance for the State o Modest operational support prevents more expensive emergency transport, uncompensated care burdens, and potential closure of essential access points, which would ultimately require far greater public investment to reestablish. This legislatively directed spending item is not an expansion of services, but rather a stabilization investment. It ensures continuity of essential healthcare infrastructure in communities where market-based reimbursement models cannot sustain operations. Supporting these island health centers represents an appropriate and prudent use of taxpayer dollars to protect public safety, promote equitable access to care, and maintain the viability of Michigan's most geographically isolated communities

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:

State

Amount

\$3,375,000.00

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

one year

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:

- Edward Canfield, D.O. President (Representative of Michigan Osteopathic Association)
- Alfonso C. Ferreira, MD. Immediate Past President (Representative of Michigan State Medical Society)
- Nicholas Derusha, MPA, REHS, CFPH. Vice President. Health Officer, LMAS District Health Dept (Representative of Michigan Association for Local Public Health)
- Beth Nagel – Secretary/Treasurer Division Director, Planning Office Policy, Planning and Legislative Services, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (Representative of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services)
- Hunter Nostrant, CEO MyMichigan Alpena (Representative of Michigan Health & Hospital Association)
- Vacant. Representative for Michigan Nurses Association
- Sam Singh. Senator for the 35th District. (Representative of Michigan State Senate)
- Jennifer Conlin. Representative for the 48th House District. (Representative of Michigan House of Representatives)
- Emily Bergquist. Director, Division of EMS and Trauma, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services. (Representative of Emergency Medical Services)
- Nancy L. Spencer, CEO, Alcona Health Center. (Representative of Michigan Primary Care Association)
- Joyce deJong, D.O. Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Michigan State University (Representative of MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine)
- Suzanne Owen. Senior Health and Equity Advisor, Office of the Governor (Representative of the MI Office of the Governor)

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