

St. Louis County, Missouri Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2024 Report



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY

St. Louis County, Missouri

2024 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

St. Louis County accepted its share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) on July 17, 2021. Since then, in coordination with the St. Louis County Council, the County Executive has worked to appropriate funds to programs with an equitable impact for our residents.

The 2023 SLFRF Recovery Plan covers St. Louis County's expenditures for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. In that time, \$193,083,973.50 of its \$193,112,667.10 total award has been allocated by the County Council and signed into ordinance by the County Executive. These allocations represent over 99% of the total award that St. Louis County received, with \$28,693.00 remaining to be appropriated. The County Council, working with the County Executive and County departments, plans to work together to strategize how to best allocate the remainder of the total award.

From July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, St. Louis County government has been busy at work to allocate these funds to address both the immediate public health response needs in the community, while also looking forward to best achieve a strong and equitable recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report details the status of each of those projects, including the required metrics, data, and goals.

St. Louis County has focused our recovery efforts thus far in four categories:

- **Public Health: \$3,834,958.50 allocated through June 30, 2024**
 - Funds in this category can be used to address the most direct public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the broader health impacts of COVID-19.
 - St. Louis County has placed a priority on utilizing SLFRF dollars in this category, allocating funds to items including testing, vaccination, vaccination incentive programs, and other eligible public health expenses.
- **Negative Economic Impacts: \$49,093,065.00 allocated through June 30, 2024**
 - Funds in this category can be used to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including services to households, small businesses, non-profits, and other impacted industries.
 - St. Louis County has placed a priority on utilizing SLFRF dollars in this category, allocating funds to projects including the GrandPads tablet program and St. Louis County's Rental and Utility Assistance Program.
- **Public Health Sector Capacity: \$773,817.75 allocated through June 30, 2024**
 - Funds in this category can be used to support public sector workforce, including payroll, rehiring of public sector workers, and building of public sector capacity.
 - St. Louis County has placed a priority of on utilizing SLFRF dollars in this category, allocating funds to our Public Health Payroll costs, addressing the

need created by the COVID-19 pandemic for Public Health services in our community.

- **Premium Pay: \$5,746,108.00 allocated through June 30, 2024**
 - Funds in this category can be used to provide pay increases to eligible workers, prioritizing low-income workers and those who face an increased degree of risk as a result of working during the pandemic.
 - St. Louis County has placed a priority on utilizing SLFRF dollars in this category, allocating funds to eligible public sector employees throughout St. Louis County government.

In addition to the four categories and projects above, St. Louis County remains committed to utilizing these SLFRF dollars in a fiscally prudent, responsible, and transparent manner. With these goals in mind, St. Louis County has also chosen to allocate funds toward Revenue Replacement (\$122,909,842.00) and to cover required Administrative Expenses; direct and indirect costs associated with the receipt and use of ARPA funds (\$11,500,000.00). There remains \$28,693 that has not yet been appropriated. The funds set for Revenue Replacement are used to partially compensate for the incredible loss in revenue that St. Louis County experienced as a result of the pandemic. These funds are essential in allowing St. Louis County to continue providing the same excellent level of service our residents are accustomed to, without requiring revenue increases through other avenues. SLFRF guidance also recommends utilizing a portion of these funds for administrative expenses, including legal responsibilities, compliance, program design, auditing, monitoring, reporting, and other important components required in administering these programs.

St. Louis County is committed to transparency throughout the course of allocating and spending these SLFRF dollars. The County created an [online tool](#) in March 2021 that allows residents to track up-to-date and easily understand data on how these SLFRF dollars are being administered. We are also proud of our efforts in reaching out to the community, through town halls, virtual events, canvassing, and a county-wide community needs survey, all conducted in spring 2021. In particular, our [Community Needs Survey](#) attracted the attention of many throughout the county, receiving 3,346 responses, with respondents providing feedback from every single zip code in St. Louis County.

St. Louis County continues to utilize its SLFRF dollars to respond to the impacts the pandemic had on our community. Utilizing these funds to combat issues in public health, negative economic impacts, supporting County employees, and restoring the devastating impact of lost revenue has resulted in a more resilient St. Louis County. In the remaining years of SLFRF eligibility, we will continue to deploy these funds strategically to ensure that their use will have the greatest possible impact. We remain committed to using these funds in a manner that will make the most impact, listening to our residents and businesses, and remaining transparent throughout the process from ideas to implementation.

Uses of Funds

Though June 30, 2024, St. Louis County has appropriated \$193,083,974.10 of its \$193,112,667.10 total award, with \$28,693.00 remaining to be appropriated, following the guidance required by the Department of Treasury.

Public Health (EC 1)

St. Louis County, being the most populated County in the State of Missouri, faced numerous health impacts as a result of the pandemic. To best respond to those impacts, St. Louis County is allocating a substantial portion of the SLFRF monies to address public health impacts.

Using SLFRF dollars, St. Louis County allocated \$3,061,140.75 to the Department of Public Health for the immediate use on COVID-19 related expenses, including testing supplies, community health clinics, corrections medicine, inventory management, and both new County positions as well as contracted clinical staff to assist in these efforts.

St. Louis County also allocated \$875,000.00 for the support of a COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Program, administered by the Department of Public Health and the Department of Human Services. Under this program, \$500,000.00 was allocated for the purchase of \$100 grocery store gift cards, \$250,000.00 for \$50 gasoline gift cards, and \$125,000.00 in \$50 gift cards to support local restaurants, coffee shops, and other local businesses. These gift cards were distributed to county residents who became fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at a DPH vaccination event and applied during the designated period.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

St. Louis County has allocated \$49,093,065.00 in SLFRF dollars toward this category, including two projects which address rental assistance and internet access programs.

\$2,000,000.00 has been allocated to the GrandPads program, which provides free tablet computer devices to eligible seniors in St. Louis County. Partnering with St. Louis County libraries, these easy-to-use devices are distributed to our senior residents to allow them to access the internet and stay connected with their loved ones as well as friends and health care providers.

Patron User Stats	
Total Patrons	2865
Total Hours of Use	791,244
Outgoing Connected Video Chats	9,325
Total Companions	9,754

\$5,000,000.00 has been allocated to our Rental Assistance which provides funds to landlords of people who are suffering an income reduction and are unable to afford their rent. A summary below includes the amount of both Utility and Rental assistance we have been able to provide to our residents.

Rental Assistance	
Number of Households Funded	604
Total Paid to Households	\$3,395,093.03
Mean Award Amount	\$5,824.33
Median Award Amount	\$4,735.78
Department Indirect Cost	\$291,827.21

• The utility assistance table below is current and there is no additional data to report. In February 2024, \$1,000,000 was reallocated to Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) to provide utility assistance as a form of household assistance to impacted households. It is anticipated that the expenditure of these funds will begin in July 2024 and the reimbursement request for services provided for July is due to DHS by August 15, 2024.

Utility Assistance	
Number of Households with Utilities Funded	359
Total Utilities Paid to Households	\$313,079.76
Mean Award Amount	\$557.11
Median Award Amount	\$360.22

Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)

Ensuring the continuation of Public Health services to our residents and businesses throughout the County has been vital. Because of this need, St. Louis County has allocated \$773,817.75 to our Department of Public Health to cover payrolls costs of those employees providing public health services.

Premium Pay (EC 4)

County services did not stop as a result of the pandemic, and certain employees are required to interact directly with the public. St. Louis County implemented a premium pay program for eligible employees across our Departments of Justice Services, Transportation and Public Works, Revenue, and Administration with an allocation of \$5,746,108.00 to cover those costs.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide needed fiscal relief for recipients that have experienced revenue loss due to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Specifically, SLFRF funding may be used to pay for “government services” in an amount equal to the revenue loss experienced by the recipient due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. It is important to note that these projects should not be considered ARPA SLFRF expenditures, but rather are included in this report for information purposes only.

As of June 30, 2024, St. Louis County has allocated \$122,909,842.00 into this category.

Promoting equitable outcomes

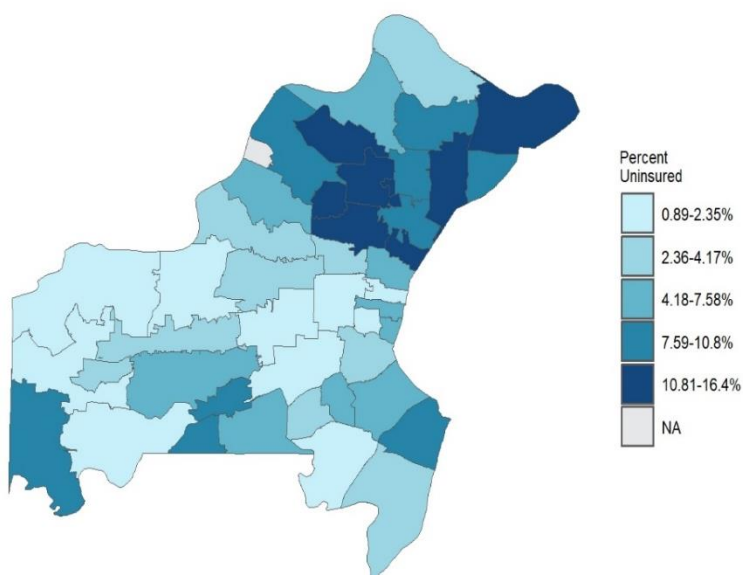
St. Louis County is dedicated to ensuring that all State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) are utilized in ways that promotes equitable outcomes that tackle systemic issues that predate the pandemic. In St. Louis County, one of our biggest focuses remains access to health care services.

Access to care is the ability to get health care when and where you need it at a price you can afford. Lack of access is of most concern in North St. Louis County compared to other regions of the County due to factors such as lack of health insurance, relatively high levels of poverty, limited health care facilities in the geographical region, and transportation challenges. Inadequate access to care can contribute to limited or delayed utilization of primary and preventive care, delayed identification of illness, preventable emergency department and hospitalization utilization, and ultimately worse health outcomes.

St. Louis County has identified key indicators which show the scale of the issues impacting North St. Louis County.

Lack Of Health Insurance

Population without Health Insurance by Zip Code, 2018-2022

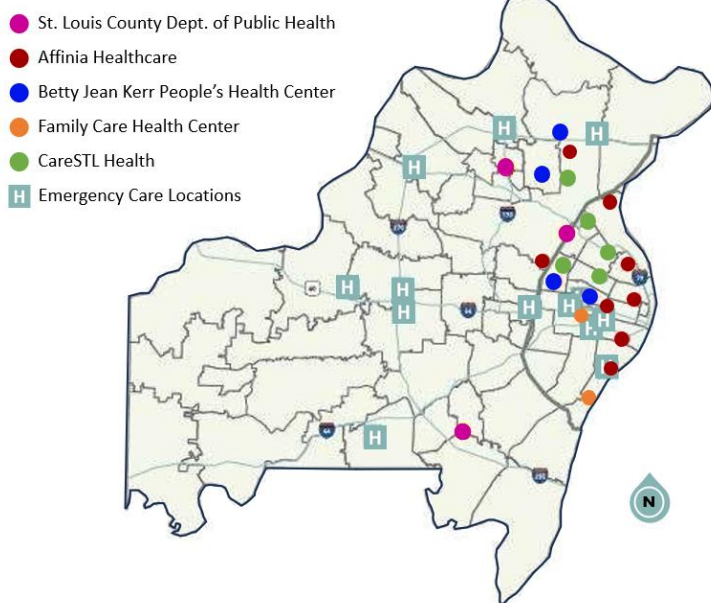


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

North St. Louis County has the largest proportion of residents without health insurance in the County. These zip codes with many uninsured residents are also the zip codes where a high proportion of residents live in poverty.

Few Health Care Facilities

St. Louis Safety Net System

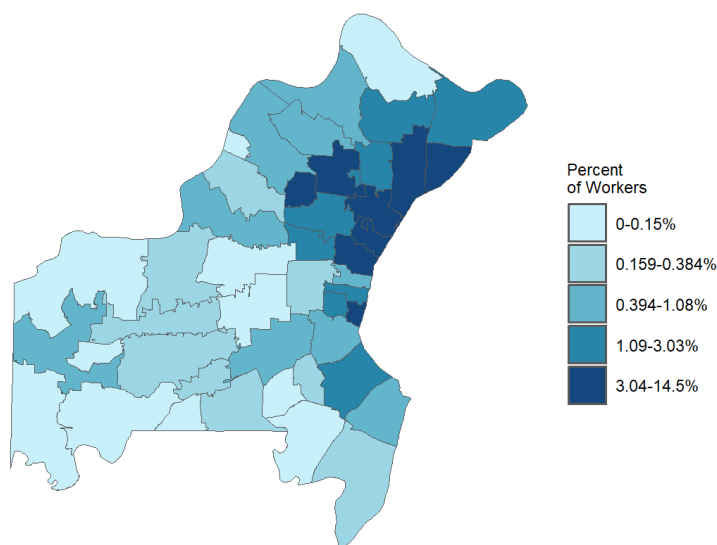


Underinsured and uninsured residents most often utilize safety net facilities because the cost of utilizing services at other facilities is not affordable without insurance. Many areas in St. Louis County with high levels of uninsured residents, particularly areas furthest north such as Florissant, Spanish Lake, and Black Jack, have few safety net health care facilities. Note, the highest density of health centers in this map are located in St. Louis City, with fewer

centers available in North St. Louis County.

Transportation Barriers

Workers Commuting by Public Transportation by Zip Code, 2018-2022



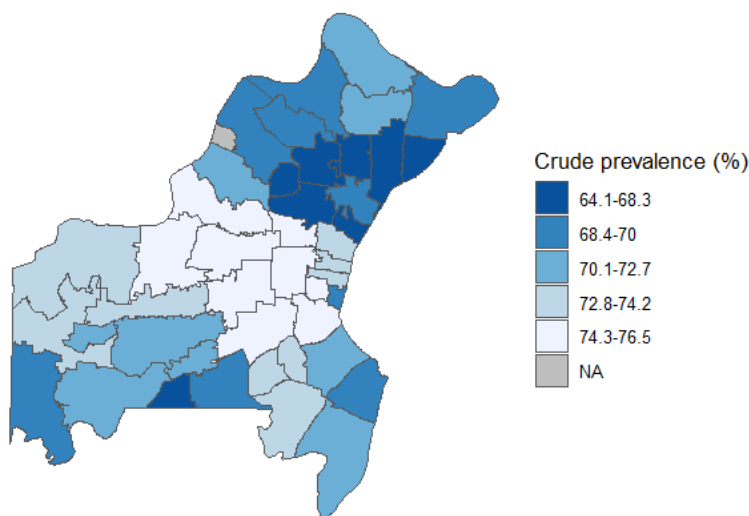
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Transportation is a significant barrier to accessing safety net health care services for uninsured individuals in the St. Louis region. North St. Louis County zip codes have the highest rates of workers traveling by public transportation, which can be undependable and time intensive. Residents are less likely to access needed medical care the longer it takes to reach a facility. Adding to the

time investment to reach services, wait times have increased at most safety net providers.

Lower Utilization of Preventative Care

Colon Cancer Screening by Zip Code, 2021

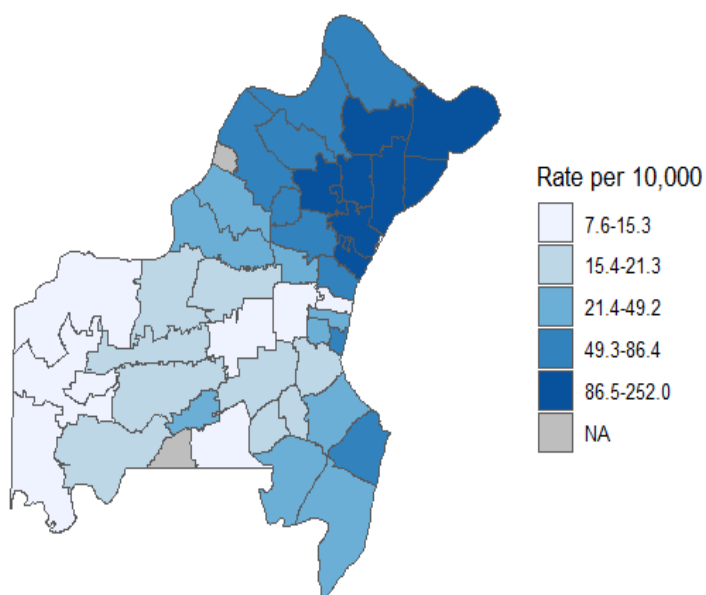


Source: CDC - PLACES

These access challenges are reflected in relatively lower utilization of preventive services and delayed care utilization. For example, proportionately fewer residents in North County get routine colon cancer screenings relative to residents of other parts of the County. The most recent CDC data for colon cancer screening by zip code is as of 2021.

Preventable ER Visits and Hospitalizations

Age-Adjusted Hospital Visit Rate due to Diabetes in Adults Aged 18+ by Zip Code, 2018-2022

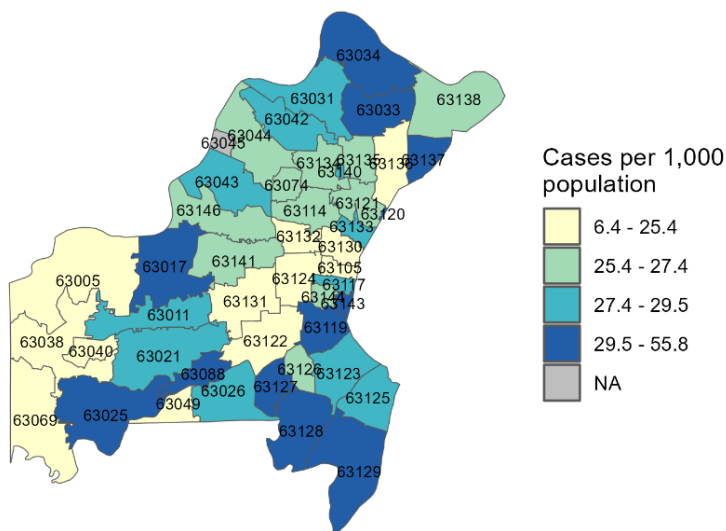


Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Limited or delayed utilization of primary and preventive care can lead to delays in diagnosing and treating illnesses. When illnesses are not treated in a timely manner, they can become more serious and require higher levels of care. This can lead to high levels of preventable emergency department visits and hospitalization.

This pattern is seen in North County, where preventable ER visits are substantially higher than for residents of other areas in the County.

Cumulative COVID-19 Incidence by ZIP Code July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

There are high levels of emergency department use and hospitalization for illnesses that could be better treated earlier in a primary care setting if patients had access. For example, there is a high hospitalization rate due to uncontrolled diabetes in North County zip codes. When chronic diseases are not managed, severe and preventable health consequences can result.

The most recent data for this metric is from the

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as of 2022.

Behavioral health concerns (mental health and substance use) can also often be managed in primary care. However, if not well-managed, behavioral health crises can lead to life-threatening consequences and frequent Emergency Department utilization. Knowing that certain regions of our County have unequal access to services and as a result have had worse health outcomes is foundational to our understanding of how to best utilize SLFRF funds.

Additionally, DPH is tracking a number of COVID-19 metrics which also show disparities in COVID-19 case and vaccination rates.

Cumulative COVID-19 Incidence by Zip Code

DPH continues to track case rates by ZIP Code. For much of the pandemic, case rates were higher in parts of North County and South County. The darker blue ZIP Codes have the highest cumulative incidence rates, though it should be noted that these data include only cases which were diagnosed and reported by health care providers and laboratories. DPH has directed resources, including testing, PPE, vaccination clinics and education, toward areas with high case rates.

From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 reported COVID incidence ranged from 6.4 cases per 1,000 residents in the St. Louis County portion of the 63049 ZIP Code to 55.8 per 1,000 in the St. Louis County portion of the 63120 ZIP Code.

While DPH can currently provide COVID incidence rates, the department no longer has access to updated data regarding the number of vaccine doses individuals have had or demographic data behind the numbers. The most recent data with this information was provided to DPH in November 2022, by the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services.

Vaccination Rates by Zip Code, Region, And Race

Since the beginning of the vaccine rollout, there have been disparities in vaccination rates in specific zip codes in North County, between certain age groups (especially children), and among different races. DPH's vaccination strategy has been largely aimed at increasing vaccination rates in the six lowest zip codes in North County. To accomplish this goal, DPH partnered with community leaders in that area and hosted vaccination clinics and educational events for those residents. Additionally, DPH has closely partnered with school leaders to support more children receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

DPH's entire COVID-19 response has been guided by health equity. Our permanent testing locations are accessible and located in areas where the people who need them the most can access them. We have evaluated our operations to ensure that there are no unnecessary administrative barriers to accessing a test, such as possession of a government ID. Testing is free and requires no proof of insurance. When possible, we do not require appointments and work hard to make sure our capacity can accommodate walk-ins.

Additionally, our lab evaluates how we process samples so that results are returned to residents as quickly as possible and has taken numerous steps to address these fundamental obstacles to public health in our community. DPH's three permanent, primary care clinics are in epicenters of need, and our existing patient population is largely uninsured and African American. DPH is committed to health equity as an organization and has imbued health equity into our COVID-19 response.

Because DPH has been providing these services for more than four years, we have established regular communication channels for announcements about our testing sites and how to access them. These sites are open to all, regardless of proof of insurance, residency, or appointment, when we can accommodate the volume. DPH has intentionally reviewed our operations and how residents access testing. DPH has carefully developed our operations to eliminate as many administrative requirements as possible so that access to testing, vaccinations, and other primary care services are as accessible as possible for all.

DPH monitors COVID-19 case rates across gender, race, age, and region. DPH also monitored COVID-19 vaccination rates across the same categories until October 2022, utilizing vaccine registry data that was previously available to local public health agencies from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. There are existing disparities in case rates, with certain age groups and races testing positive for COVID-19.

While vaccination efforts have scaled down in scope, our vaccination clinics remain accessible and located at our three health centers in areas where the people who need them the most can reach them. In our Corrections Medicine program, each person in custody at the Justice Center is offered opportunities to receive a COVID-19 vaccination; DPH also works to provide visitors to the Justice Center an opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

The St. Louis County Department of Public Health has consistently been a leader in the region when it comes to the public health response to COVID-19. This spirit of excellence has been continued through its vaccination program. Through community outreach, events, public awareness campaigns, incentive programs, and other dedicated efforts, St. Louis County leads the state as the County with the highest percentage of total population fully vaccinated, per the [CDC data dashboard](#) (last updated May 2023).

One strategy utilized through February 2022 was the vaccination gift card program, in which the County was able to incentivize residents to receive the vaccine at one of DPH's vaccination clinics. Though this program has concluded, the vaccination gift card program helped to increase the number of residents receiving vaccination in targeted zip codes.

Community Engagement

St. Louis County has worked throughout the pandemic to ensure that the community is continually updated on the efforts that the County is undertaking to combat this pandemic.

ARPA Equity and Community Impact Score

After St. Louis County successfully completed an ARPA Community Needs Survey project, in which 3,346 responses were collected, an ARPA Funds Workgroup was created to review the feedback collected and develop a process to review community project considerations and make recommendations for projects to fund. This effort was centered around ensuring that projects identified and ultimately funded were centered around the public engagement collected throughout the ARPA Community Needs Survey project and that projects both seemed to be equitable and have a high community impact.

Equity means that the County’s policymaking, service delivery, and distribution of resources account for the different histories, challenges, and needs of the residents of St. Louis County. St. Louis County is equitable when all residents – regardless of their race/ethnicity, nativity, gender, income, or other characteristics – are entirely able to participate in economic vitality, contribute to the region’s readiness for the future, and connect to the region’s assets and resources. Community impact was based on both the relationship between the Community Needs Assessment as well as the impact on the individual County District.

To accomplish this goal, the ARPA Funds Workgroup created a scaled grading system to review each potential project using the St. Louis County ARPA Project Equity Scorecard.

St. Louis County ARPA Project Equity Scorecard

Score	Give each question one point for each answer of YES
YES/NO _____	Is the project in an easily accessible location for the target population? (How does the organization ensure participation for persons without personal means of transportation or who are mobility-impaired?)
YES/NO _____	Is the project targeting local residents most affected by the need identified? (i.e., low-wealth people, people of color, people living with disabilities, new immigrants, historically underserved populations, high crime areas, etc.,)
YES/NO _____	Does the project prioritize sustainable assistance? (Long term job opportunities, community based financial education, long term prevention of unwanted displacement of residents and small businesses from low-income communities and communities of color, safer neighborhoods, etc.)
YES/NO _____	Are geographic areas historically excluded, overlooked, or underserved from assistance being included in the project service scope? (i.e., unincorporated areas)
YES/NO _____	Does the project reach underserved populations which promote qualities of a vibrant community--social connections, education, health, arts and culture, and public safety?

Each member answered the five questions on the scorecard, and one point was then given for each “Yes” answer. The total equity score was then totaled and compared to the equity grading scale. To determine the Community Impact, each member was given the rating/scoring scale of 1 to 5 and asked to complete their scoring for each project.

RATING/SCORING FOR EQUITY				
5 Provides more equity	4 Provides some equity	3 Equity neutral	2 Provides less equity	1 Does not provide equity
RATING/SCORING FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT				
5 Provides more community impact	4 Provides some community impact	3 Community Impact Neutral	2 Provides less community impact	1 Does not provide community impact

The total score for all projects was then combined for each ARPA Funds Workgroup member, with a total possible score of fifteen (15) for each category. All proposed ARPA Projects were reviewed and scoring was completed on October 4, 2022. The following proposed projects received the highest total score (equity and community impact score, total 30 points possible).

Project	Amount Appropriated	Equity Score	Community Impact Score	Total
Child Care Aware	\$5,593,065.00	11	13	24
Demolition of Problem Properties	\$11,000,000.00	14	14	28
Domestic Violence/Mental Health	\$500,000.00	14	13	27
Family Forward	\$800,000.00	12	12	24
Food Insecurity in Dist. 1	\$650,000.00	13	12	25
Food Insecurity in Dist. 4	\$5,000,000.00	15	14	29
South County Strong	\$18,500,000.00	6	13	19
Urban League Senior Housing	\$500,000.00	12	13	25

These recommendations were then sent to County Council for final review and appropriation of funds. As of June 30, 2024, these projects are currently under development with an appropriated total of \$49,093,065.00.

Department of Public Health Advisory Committees

DPH has formed numerous advisory committees to help us connect with different sectors of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We work closely with school leaders, school nurses, youth sports leaders, and restaurateurs. Specifically for the vaccination effort, DPH formed a North County stakeholder group and a South County stakeholder group. Each group was comprised of leaders spanning local government, community organizations, religious organizations, and other service providers. These groups not only were a sounding board for DPH as we adapted vaccination strategies and approaches but also were critical disseminators of DPH's public health message.

As DPH moves forward following the state of emergency period of the pandemic, the North County and South County stakeholder groups have sunsetted. DPH continues to center community engagement in the department's work. Specifically, DPH receives community input through our Public Health Advisory Board, Clinical Consumer Majority Board, community health worker programs, and other community engagement efforts. Similarly, DPH has budgeted funding for the creation of a Community Advisory Board to

further integrate community voice into the department's vaccination and other public health work.

Labor Practices

To date, St. Louis County has not yet allocated substantial SLFRF funding toward infrastructure projects, though we continue to ensure that projects adhere to strong labor principles. For all infrastructure projects, St. Louis County ensures employees and contractors comply with Federal and State of Missouri labor regulations. St. Louis County does have a prevailing wage program, which requires that we follow state rules and require prevailing wages for construction contracts over \$75,000 where the Department of Labor has established labor rates. Individuals can complain, making it self-enforcing, and there are penalties for contractors that do not pay the wages.

St. Louis County's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program promotes open and equitable participation by Minority and Women Owned companies seeking to do business with the County. M/WBE Program staff monitor participation goal achievement in construction and professional services contracts, good faith efforts, prompt pay, and workforce utilization. The M/WBE Program also encourages use of minority and women prime consultants/contractors on professional service projects through incentives in the evaluation process.

Potential use of SLFRF dollars on projects administered through a professional services contract will provide an incentive to M/WBE contractors during solicitation. St. Louis County requires contractors that work within County facilities to pay a \$15.00/hour minimum wage which is greater than the state's minimum wage of \$11.15/hour. Finally, through [Ordinance 28,017](#), St. Louis County requires apprenticeship programs by prime contractors on all projects \$75,000 and higher.

Use of Evidence

St. Louis County has a strategy to ensure SLFRF dollars are used for well established, defined, evidence-based programs that have a documented history of effectively addressing the issues they aim to solve. Use of evidence details are provided in the Project Inventory section of this report for projects which have relevant use of evidence components. The County will also commit to collecting data on relevant SLFRF projects which will inform future decisions, updates, or modifications to these projects.

GrandPads

GrandPads offer very detailed usage data that can be accessed as an aggregate report by the St. Louis County Library. These reports include information such as time spent on video calls and Zoom sessions and the time spent with GrandPad support on the phone. Internet usage data is also available to see how many searches and clicks users made while using the GrandPads. Another statistical report that is available is the number of

contacts that GrandPad users add to their devices. This would be an indication of the social connections being made by the users. No funds will be required for evidence-based interventions because the data is readily available on demand. Additional information for this project is included in the Project Inventory section of this document.

Rental Assistance

One of the primary goals of our project was to provide emergency rental assistance to reduce family hardship, housing instability, and homelessness for low-income families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Evidence-based intervention research](#) has been performed with this desired outcome. Building upon the experience of previous iterations of the rental assistance St. Louis County conducted exercises to collect information directly from the community on where the need was. By partnering with the community, community-based organizations, and community leaders, the County was able to collect important data on where the need was, and learned more related to issues of evictions, illegal lockouts, utility struggles, and other challenges that were happening in the community. The feedback received ensured that assistance was provided to those most at risk of eviction/disconnection as soon as possible and guided our strategy and priorities.

Using the evidence collected, priority was given to communities with the highest number of eviction rates, unemployment, COVID infection rates and underserved communities of color. Additional information for this project is included in the Project Inventory section of this document.

Performance Report

Performance management is an integral part of St. Louis County's management of SLFRF dollars. St. Louis County's [Department of Performance, Management, and Budget](#) (PMB), is responsible for the County's over \$800M annual budget and the County's annual business plan. It also serves the County through its performance team by creating, analyzing, and evaluating key performance indicators for County departments to use to improve upon existing operations. With SLFRF dollars, PMB operates in much of the same function, making sure to provide full and transparent information on how funds are being allocated and spent.

Through St. Louis County's [Open Finance](#) tools, data is made publicly available on how not only SLFRF dollars are spent, but also detailed information on every expenditure made using taxpayer dollars. In particular, this spring PMB rolled out their first performance dashboard related to SLFRF expenditures, creating the [ARPA-SLFRF Expenditures Dashboard](#). Following the example of previous transparency portals, this tool allows the public to access real-time data on how SLFRF dollars are being used.

St. Louis County has multiple projects underway utilizing SLFRF dollars, and where available, relevant performance data is included within each project inventory, with a few highlights included below.

Household Assistance: Rent and Utility Aid:

Full details of our Rental Assistance are included in the project inventory section of this document. St. Louis County is proud to report that we have assisted 604 households with rental assistance, and 359 with utility assistance:

Rental Assistance	
Number of Households Funded	604
Total Paid to Households	\$3,395,093.03
Mean Award Amount	\$5,824.33
Median Award Amount	\$4,735.78
Department Indirect Cost	\$291,827.21

• The utility assistance table below is current and there is no additional data to report. In February 2024, \$1,000,000 was reallocated to Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) to provide utility assistance as a form of household assistance to impacted households. It is anticipated that the expenditure of these funds will begin in July 2024 and the reimbursement request for services provided for July is due to DHS by August 15, 2024.

Utility Assistance	
Number of Households with Utilities Funded	359
Total Utilities Paid to Households	\$313,079.76
Mean Award Amount	\$557.11
Median Award Amount	\$360.22

Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs:

Partnering with St. Louis County Library, the County recently passed into ordinance the GrandPads program, which provides no-cost, easy-to-use tablets to eligible seniors within St. Louis County. These tablets are an important tool in bringing internet access to seniors, allowing them to stay connected with their loved ones, and accessing all that being connected to the internet allows them.

Public Sector Employees: Premium Pay

Throughout the course of the pandemic, certain public sector employees have faced an increased risk due to the nature of their work. Whether that be a corrections officer, mechanic, or public-facing customer service employee, these essential employees have worked throughout the pandemic despite the risk. Through the Premium Pay program, an hourly pay increase over their existing wage was provided to compensate for this increased risk. St. Louis County put a priority on this program, allocating \$5,746,108.00 toward this program. Through this program, a total of 342 employees were supported. In St. Louis County, four Departments were allocated funds to be used for Premium Pay services, including Administration, Justice Services, Public Works, and Revenue.

Public Health: Vaccination

St. Louis County's Department of Public Health has consistently been a leader in the region when it comes to the public health response to COVID-19. This spirit of excellence has been continued through its vaccination program. Through community outreach, events, public awareness campaigns, incentive programs, and other dedicated efforts, St. Louis County leads the state as the County with the highest percentage of total population fully vaccinated, per the [CDC data dashboard](#).

Through the vaccination gift card program, the County was able to incentivize residents to receive the vaccine at one of DPH's vaccination clinics. This program helped to increase the number of residents receiving vaccination in targeted zip codes.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Aid to Nonprofit Industries

Project Number Under Development: Aid to Nonprofit Industries

Funding amount: Appropriated: \$11,443,065.00

Amount Expended: \$0.00

Project Expenditure Category: Varies, see below.

Project Overview

In the fall of 2022, the County Council allocated over \$12 million in ARPA funds in multiple pieces to benefit nonprofit organizations throughout St. Louis County in the category of Negative Economic Impacts specific to Expenditure Categories such as EC111 Community Violence Interventions; EC215 Housing Support: Affordable Housing; EC210 Job Training Assistance; EC201 Household Assistance: Food Programs. These programs include support for food insecurity, childcare, domestic violence prevention, and other important issues. **These projects are currently under program development.**

Use of Evidence

- St. Louis County is working through the program development stage and will ensure that Use of Evidence is considered in all programs.

Performance Report

- St. Louis County is working through the program development stage and is working to design programs with appropriate key performance indicators (KPI) and other performance standards for all programs.

Property Maintenance, Infrastructure, Small Business Support

Project Number Under Development: Property Maintenance, Infrastructure, Small Business Support

Funding amount: Appropriated: \$29,500,000

Amount Expended: \$519,432.71

Project Expenditure Category: Under Development

Project Overview

In the fall of 2022, the County Council allocated over \$29 million in ARPA funds in multiple pieces to improve public infrastructure and small business support throughout St. Louis County in the category of Negative Economic Impacts. These programs include support for property maintenance, infrastructure needs, and small business support in Council District 6, as well as addressing the demolition and revitalization of abandoned and derelict properties throughout St. Louis County. **Each of these projects are currently in the early program development stage.**

Use of Evidence

- St. Louis County is working through the program development stage and will ensure that Use of Evidence is considered in all programs.

Performance Report

- St. Louis County is working through the program development stage and is working to design programs with appropriate key performance indicators (KPI) and other performance standards for all programs.

Demolition and Revitalization Project

- **\$11M** in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) was allocated through Ordinance [28,605](#) to the initiative to demolish and revitalize vacant housing stock.
- The ARPA funds allocated for demolition and revitalization would be used to support the removal of homes within qualifying census tracts and that have successfully met St. Louis County ordinance requirements for demolition.
- The demolition of the vacant structure is considered a revitalization of the neighborhood since it removes a public health hazard and makes the area safer.
- Project Activity
 - Project has been broken into four solicitation bundles to allow for equitable bidding of all potential vendors. Solicitation bundles remain in various states of execution.
- Demolition and revitalization activity would begin as soon as contracts are fully executed and ARPA funding is allocated to each contract

South County Strong Project

- **\$15M** in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) was allocated through Ordinance [28,605](#) to be used for property maintenance and infrastructure needs in South County under “South County Strong”.

- There is a long history of sewer issues in the south county area of Lemay because the area lacks a comprehensive sewer system. The ARPA funds allocated for the design, right-of-way and/or easement acquisition and construction (with sufficient contingency) of multiple sewer projects in Lemay will help to alleviate some of the pressing, unfunded needs that MSD has identified in their capital improvement plan.
- Potential work has been limited to the following sites. Our property acquisition Consultant O. R. Colan has been tasked to acquire the necessary property rights. St. Louis County will not pursue condemnation for any property rights. Sites on which we cannot acquire the needed property rights will be dropped from the project.
 - SITE 1 - HAWKSTONE LANE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along Hawkstone Lane to mitigate stormwater issues.
 - SITE 2 - JEFFERSONIAN LANE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along Jeffersonian Lane from Waltham Drive to approximately 370' west of Wessex Drive to mitigate stormwater issues.
 - SITE 3 - PEACE HAVEN DRIVE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along the Peace Haven Drive from 3441 Laura Lane to Sappington Barracks Road to address stormwater issues for properties along Peace Haven Drive.
 - SITE 4 - WILL AVE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers crossing Will Avenue from 3726 Calef Drive to 3712 Will Avenue to address stormwater issues.
 - SITE 5 - VIEHL AVE & LUNA AVE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along Viehl Avenue and Luna Avenue to mitigate stormwater issues.
 - SITE 6 - GREEN PARK ROAD STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along Green Park Road from 4105 Green Park Road to 4147 Green Park Road and Melon Drive from 2121 Melon Drive to 4105 Green Park Road to mitigate stormwater issues.
 - SITE 7 - LIN TEL ROAD STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along Lin Tel Road from 3151 Lin Tel Road to 3118 Milissa Lane to mitigate stormwater issues.
 - SITE 8 - VICTORY DRIVE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers in the back yards of properties along Victory Drive from approximately 1018 Victory Drive to 1100 Victory Drive to mitigate stormwater issues.
 - SITE 9 - LAGRO AVE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 - Construct new storm sewers along Lagro Avenue from approximately 364 Lagro Avenue to 320 Lagro Avenue to mitigate stormwater issues.
- Schedule
 - Obtain authority to acquire property rights from the St Louis County Council
 - Completed July 16, 2024

- Property Acquisition
 - July 16, 2024 – August 31, 2024
- Bid Project
 - Late September 2024
- Execute Construction Contract
 - December 2024
- Obligate ARPA Funding
 - December 2024
- Construct Improvements
 - March 15, 2025 – December 15, 2026
- With a bid that is lowest, responsive and responsible, the department will negotiate a construction contract for execution by all parties. When the contract is executed, ARPA funding would be obligated accordingly.

GrandPad Project

Project GH124: GrandPad Project

Funding amount: \$2,000,000.00

Amount Expended: \$2,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.4 – Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

Project Overview:

- The GrandPad Project is an expansion and continuation of a very popular program through St. Louis County Library (SLCL) that began in 2021 to provide isolated, lower income, and technology-inexperienced older adults with access to a user-friendly tablet designed by and for seniors. The GrandPad tablet provides seniors with a connection to loved ones, friends, and health care providers just to name a few. During the pandemic, the isolation already felt by many seniors was intensified, leaving many cut off from outside contact. The cost for internet access and an internet-ready device, along with the steep learning curve for most technology were all barriers to keeping seniors connected. The GrandPad tablet addressed all of those by providing a built-in internet connection and an easy-to-use tablet with expert support. The \$2,000,000 allocation from ARPA funds will allow the 1,500 current GrandPad users to retain the tablet and the service for another full year. The ARPA funds will also provide GrandPad tablets for 1,500 additional users for a full year. In total, 3,000 seniors in St. Louis County, who were previously isolated and lacking internet access, will now be connected and able to access information, entertainment, and stay connected to friends and family.
- St. Louis County Library is collaborating with GrandPad, the company that designed and supports GrandPads, to procure the tablets. SLCL and GrandPad have closely coordinated the effort to make this project a reality. This is the first project of its kind in the country between a library and GrandPad, so many new procedures and workflows were discussed and considered to optimize the process and make it as efficient as possible. GrandPad prepares the tablets, which includes

adding user accounts and email accounts for the specific user. GrandPad ships the tablets and all of the accessories directly to the SLCL location where the GrandPad applicant will pick it up. GrandPads are expected to ship to SLCL in the second week of August. Once they are received at the library branches, applicants will be notified and invited to pick them up.

- For more information visit www.slcl.org/using-the-library/grandpads

Use of Evidence:

- GrandPads offer very detailed usage data that can be accessed as an aggregate report by SLCL. These reports include information such as time spent on video calls and Zoom sessions and the time spent with GrandPad support on the phone. Internet usage data is also available to see how many searches and clicks users made while using the GrandPads. Another statistical report that is available is the number of contacts that GrandPad users add to their devices. This would be an indication of the social connections being made by the users.
- No funds will be required for evidence-based interventions because the data is readily available on demand.

Performance Report:

- The following metrics were collected to highlight the use of the GrandPad users:

Patron User Stats	
Total Patrons	2865
Average Hours per User	276
Average Clicks per User	86,976
Zoom Calls	9,033
Total Hours of Use	791,244
Outgoing Connected Video Chats	9,325
Total Companions	9,754

Public Health Payroll Cost

Project HE662: COVID-19 Public Health Payroll Costs

Funding amount: \$773,817.75

Amount Expended: \$15,974.27

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1 – Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview:

- These are staff conducting case investigation and contact tracing (CI/CT), data entry and data management in our Division of Communicable Disease Response

(CDR); vaccine cold chain management, including managing existing supply, managing state required quality processes, gathering supplies in our Division of Health Services (DHS); managing and implementing COVID-19 infection control protocols in our Corrections Medicine (CM) program; and community engagement around vaccine hesitancy in our Division of Health Promotions and Public Health Research (HPPHR). All staff may conduct other duties as assigned and as related to the COVID-19 pandemic; this is largely dependent on the needs of the department and the status of the pandemic.

Use of Evidence:

- As the status of the pandemic shifts, CDR staff manage a COVID-19 information and response hotline and conduct data entry as DPH receives information from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and from area clinics. CDR staff periodically conduct CI/CT for high-risk residents or high-density settings, such as long-term care facilities. The CM staff person will continue to protect the patients DPH is responsible for in the Justice Center, including reviewing, developing, and implementing infection control protocols for staff and people in custody. The DHS staff will ensure that our vaccination supply is able to be administered or deployed throughout the County. The HPPHR staff we have hired to address vaccine hesitancy are doing so through authentic and strategic partner engagement, community engagement, and presence at community events where there is opportunity to educate individuals on the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations and mitigation strategies.

Performance Report:

- This project supports 12 full-time employees within the Department of Public Health, including salary and fringe benefits.

PPE Inventory Management System

Project HE553: PPE Inventory Management System

Funding amount: \$258,993.15

Amount Expended: **\$231,286.80**

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 – Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview:

- Funds for this project were used toward an inventory management system and warehouse for the PPE purchased for DPH staff and County Employees.
- DPH staff and County departments received instructions on how to obtain access to this essential PPE or distribute it to community partners, as inventory allowed. As of April 2024, DPH has fully distributed the PPE purchased.

Use of Evidence:

- DPH's services are driven by a health equity lens. By protecting our staff, we continue to protect the provision of those services.

Performance Report:

- DPH is committed to protecting staff conducting essential health services or serving in-person roles by providing them with reliable access to quality PPE. In 2023, it became clear that DPH had more PPE than was necessary to protect our staff at this stage of the pandemic, and the DPH Emergency Preparedness team worked with community partners to distribute the rest of the PPE inventory.
- Between September 2022 and January 2023, staff on DPH's Emergency Preparedness team worked to notify DPH's partners, including ambulance groups and community organizations that collaborate with DPH's Health Promotions & Public Health Research team, that PPE supplies were available to them from DPH.
- In April 2024, DPH distributed the rest of the available PPE to community partners in St. Louis County.

COVID-19 Testing

Project HE661: COVID-19 Testing

Funding amount: \$573,044.60

Amount Expended: \$329,785.79

Project Expenditure Category: 1.2 – COVID-19 Testing

Project Overview:

- This request included testing supplies, contracted staff, and a testing trailer for DPH to continue to provide free testing at our three permanent, primary care clinics and in our Corrections Medicine Program for the people in custody at the Justice Center and Juvenile Detention Center. At this time, testing remains available at the three primary care clinics and Corrections Medicine facility. Community events for testing and the use of the testing trailer have largely concluded at this time, dependent on community case acuity.

Use of Evidence:

- DPH is also a major testing provider in the St. Louis region; our intended outcome for testing is to continue to provide free, reliable access to testing for COVID-19 for individuals who may not otherwise have access to testing.

Performance Report:

- For our community testing sites, these are located at DPH's three primary care clinics. Previously, DPH also opened an additional one in North County. DPH relies on our own lab to process samples, which is a significant cost savings for St. Louis County. As a high-density, congregate living setting, our Corrections Medicine

Program is a priority for DPH, especially when it comes to providing access to COVID-19 testing, which is provided when a person in custody is symptomatic.

COVID-19 Vaccination

Project HO660: COVID-19 Vaccination

Funding amount: \$1,354,103.00

Amount Expended: **\$1,190,685.13**

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 – COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview:

- This project covers staff conducting COVID-19 vaccinations at DPH-operated or DPH- sponsored vaccination clinics. DPH is providing COVID-19 vaccinations at our three primary care clinics and in our Corrections Medicine program for the people in custody at the Justice Center. Previously, DPH also partnered with the St. Louis County Library system to conduct DPH-sponsored vaccination clinics at a number of library locations.

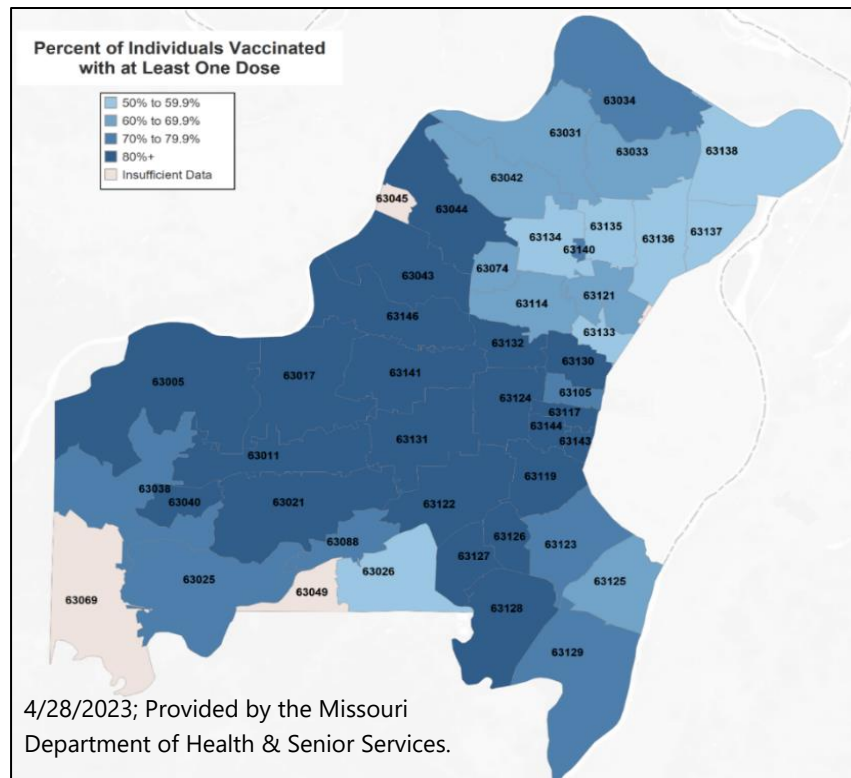
Use of Evidence:

- DPH is committed to increasing vaccination rates in areas of the County with low rates and addressing vaccine disparities, which cross race, age, and area of the County.

Performance Report:

- Many of these services are on-going and have been previously supported by other types of grant funding. DPH has continued providing COVID-19 vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccinations are currently available at all three community health centers operated by the Department of Health, Monday through Friday. DPH intends to continue to provide these services at some level of availability until demand for them has abated or until the pandemic is no longer threatening St. Louis County.

- While vaccinations are available at all County health centers, DPH identified six zip codes with the lowest vaccination rates and concentrated access points and educational efforts in those zip codes. Additionally, DPH has used other funding sources to support efforts to educate and transport individuals to these clinics. The map below shows vaccination rates by zip code; the zip codes in the lightest blue color are where DPH directed the bulk of our resources.



*Data last provided by the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services on 4/28/2024

DPH hosted dozens of mobile vaccination clinics in collaboration with churches, non-profit agencies, community groups, and other community partners mainly focused in the six priority zip codes. As the vaccine became widely available, DPH has scaled down its mobile vaccine clinics. Vaccinations remain available at all three community clinics.

Rental and Utility Assistance

Project GH123: Emergency Rental Assistance

Funding amount: \$5,000,000.00

- Rental and Utility Assistance Funding: \$4,000,000.00
- Utility Assistance Funding: \$1,000,000.00

Amount Expended: \$4,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview:

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a state of emergency was declared in March of 2020 and Americans were ordered to stay at home. The ability to practice social distancing and remain at home saved countless lives. Social distancing and/or adhering to stay at home orders depended solely on having adequate stable housing. For many households, this was a constant worry.
- To address this need, two separate programs were created to provide rental assistance and utility assistance.
- Under the Utility Assistance Program, in February 2024, \$1,000,000 was reallocated to Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) to provide utility assistance as a form of household assistance to impacted households. It is anticipated that the expenditure of these funds will begin in July 2024.
- The need for eviction prevention has been well documented. St. Louis County received over 16,000 rental assistance applications and successfully dispersed \$27.4 million in assistance in less than 6 months. The money was used to provide rental arrears, past due utility payments, relocation assistance and forward rent. All were deemed as allowable costs under rental assistance. The service delivery rate of the St. Louis County surrogate, Nan McKay, exceeded the state rate of disbursement and resulted in St. Louis County being encouraged to apply for additional ERA funds. Ordinarily, this response would be cause for celebration but unfortunately the community need was simply too great. According to the St. Louis County Courts, there were thousands of households facing eviction in St. Louis County, MO. Those facing eviction continued to primarily be those adversely impacted by COVID for a myriad of reasons including but not limited to lack of employment, limited access to affordable housing, or membership in historically marginalized and under-resourced communities. The inability to acquire household necessities while remaining current with rental and utility payments was nearly impossible prior to the pandemic and has only increased. Consequently, there were many households still trying to recover physically and/or economically from the ravages of the disease.
- St. Louis County Department of Human Services (DHS) extended its partnership with Nan McKay to provide eviction prevention, utility arrears and housing stability services using the \$5 million in ARPA funding that was awarded to the DHS. The continuation of this service to the community was vital. In addition to minimizing the COVID hardship for those in need of assistance, it was also necessary to assist those for whom income from rental property is their livelihood. The eviction moratorium was certainly helpful however, the consequence for landlords unable to absorb the loss of income would have been equally devastating. Not only would the lack of rental income affect landlords, but it ultimately would also have impacted the local economy as those dollars are no longer circulated through spending.
- Nan McKay worked with DHS to refine and finalize the Program Guidelines. We used the lessons learned during our implementation of both CARES and rental assistance to know how to quickly collect the required documentation and allow

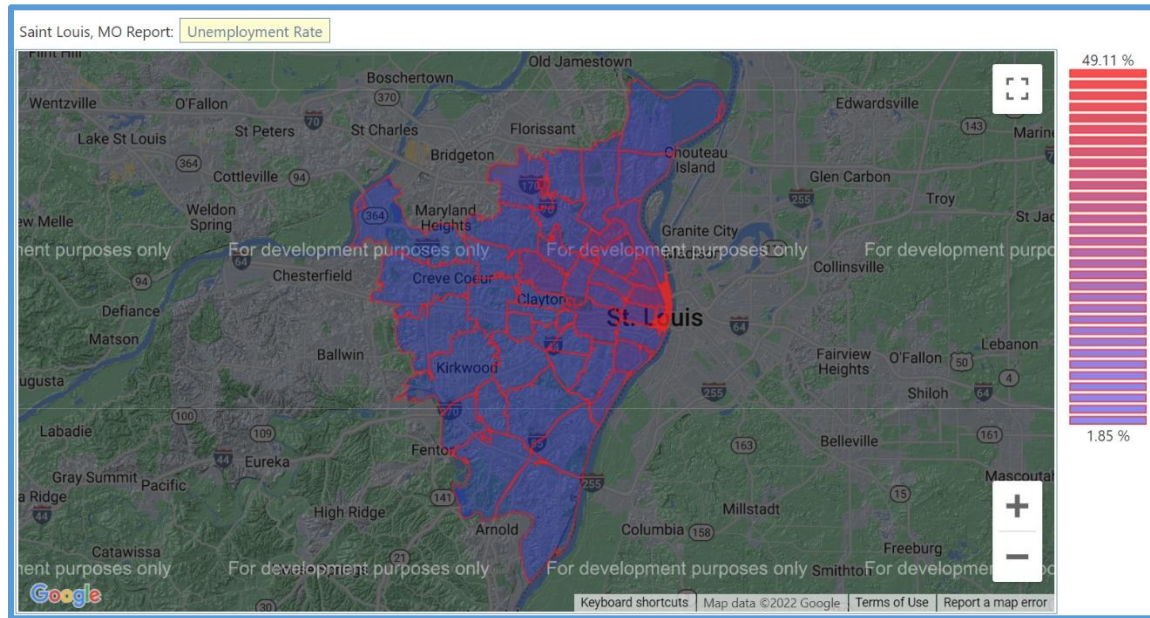
self-attestation whenever possible. Both tenants and landlords were encouraged to apply which helped bridge the digital divide. For those that lacked technology or the ability to navigate the application process, we continued our partnership with local non-profits. Households for whom English is not their native language, interpretation services were available. Consequently, implementation time was minimal. We added the necessary reporting mechanisms to meet ARPA requirements and made payments immediately. The continuity of using the same portal aided in advertisement and community familiarity and prevented duplication of services. Staff were already familiar with the state clearing house portal for assistance confirmation.

- Nan McKay updated the existing Program application (or pre-application), in form and content that was acceptable to the County and collected all relevant data as outlined by ARPA requirements, in both online and hardcopy formats that were emailed, mailed or faxed, and made amendments to accommodate the needs of non-native English speakers, the elderly, persons with limited access to technology, and persons with disabilities.
- Nan McKay developed documentation with County oversight, including agreements and contracts, applicable to the provision of financial assistance that incorporate any requirements deemed necessary and appropriate by the County to effectively administer the Program in compliance with ARPA requirements.

Use of Evidence:

- One of the primary goals of our project was to provide emergency rental assistance to reduce family hardship, housing instability, and homelessness for low-income families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under CARES and rental assistance, we began exercises that encouraged strategic community engagement. Volunteers were deployed to provide outreach in communities with the highest demonstrated need based on eviction filings, assistance applications, and public data centered on disparities and income levels.
- The local community service network was contacted throughout the process and provided monthly feedback. Many of the community partners that were convened in response to the pandemic focused on resource provision and met weekly. The legal advocacy community also met weekly to discuss trends, evictions, illegal lockouts, and challenges that were being encountered by frontline staff.
- St. Louis County DHS attended both weekly meetings, provided updates, and made adjustments based on the information shared during the meetings. DHS dedicated a staff member to prioritize applicants facing eviction and/or disconnection of utility services. The feedback received from the community, community-based organization, and community leaders ensured that the assistance was provided to those most at risk of eviction/disconnection as soon as possible and guided our strategy and priorities.
- Priority was given to communities with the highest number of eviction rates, unemployment, COVID infection rates, and underserved communities of color. The charts below display these population locations within St. Louis County.

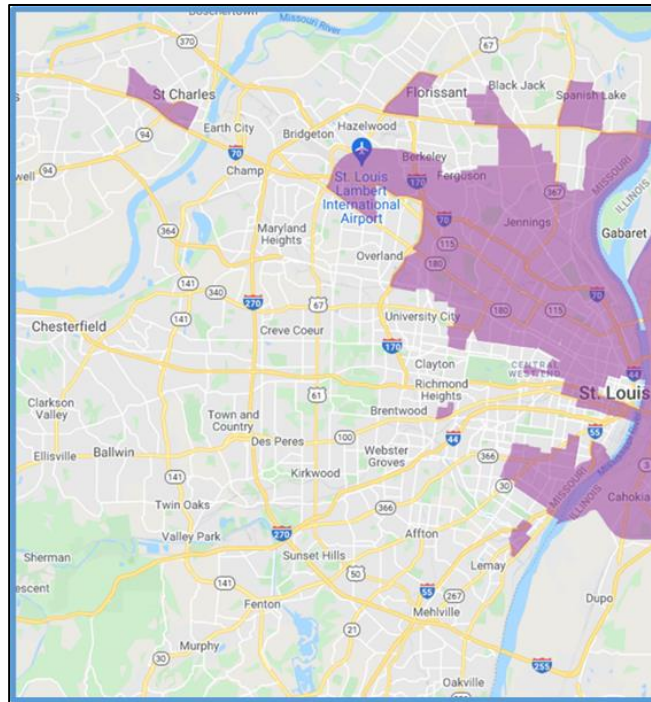
Unemployment Rates by Zip Code During Rental Assistance Period



Performance Report:

- The chart below displays the location of the population in need:
 - HUD's Qualified Census Tract, effective January 1, 2022, for St. Louis County:
 - 2102.00 2103.00 2104.00 2105.02 2107.02 2107.04 2111.02 2112.01
 - 2118.01 2118.02 2119.00 2120.01 2120.02 2121.01 2121.02 2122.00
 - 2123.00 2124.00 2125.00 2127.00 2133.00 2136.00 2137.00 2138.00
 - 2139.00 2141.00 2142.00 2143.00 2160.00 2161.00 2169.00 2218.00

- Shown Graphically Below:



- The table below provides an overview of the total assistance provided through the rental assistance program:

Rental Assistance	
Number of Households Funded	604
Total Paid to Households	\$3,395,093.03
Mean Award Amount	\$5,824.33
Median Award Amount	\$4,735.78
Department Indirect Cost	\$291,827.21

- The utility assistance table below is current and there is no additional data to report. In February 2024, \$1,000,000 was reallocated to Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) to provide utility assistance as a form of household assistance to impacted households. It is anticipated that the expenditure of these funds will begin in July 2024 and the reimbursement request for services provided for July is due to DHS by August 15, 2024.

Utility Assistance	
Number of Households with Utilities Funded	359
Total Utilities Paid to Households	\$313,079.76
Mean Award Amount	\$557.11
Median Award Amount	\$360.22

Premium Pay

Project JSPAY: Premium Pay

Funding amount: \$5,746,108.00

Amount Expended: \$5,746,108.00

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 – Public Sector Employees

No funds were spent for this program between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Project Overview:

- This project will provide premium pay to hourly staff who specifically work in jobs that involve regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others.
- The premium pay compensates them for the elevated health risks they have faced and continue to face during the public health emergency.
- The timeline for this project is from February 15, 2022, through December 31, 2024, or such earlier date as the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak declared pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.) is terminated.
- This program includes employees across multiple County departments, including:
 - Justice Services
 - Transportation and Public Works
 - Revenue
 - Administration
- In our Justice Services department (DJS), these funds:
 - Provide premium pay to hourly staff of DJS, who specifically work in jobs that involve regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others.
 - This premium pay compensates them for the elevated health risks they have faced, and continue to face, during the public health emergency in their positions.
 - A well-trained and high-morale staff will benefit the jail residents and their families, many of which are County residents. A safe, secure, and humane jail is in the best interests of the County, state, and nation. Hiring and retaining a highly motivated and high-morale staff is an essential component of creating and maintaining a safe and disease-free facility.
 - In total, \$3,325,973.56 was spent for Justice Services.

- In our Transportation and Public Works department, these funds:
 - Compensate the Facilities Staff working at the Justice Center an additional \$3 per hour for the elevated health risks they have faced, and continue to face, during the public health emergency in their positions.
 - In total, \$85,937.67 was spent in the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
- In our Administration department, these funds:
 - Provide premium pay to hourly staff of the Department of Administration, who specifically work in jobs that involve regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others.
 - In total, \$191,510.86 was spent in the Department of Administration.
- In the Department of Revenue, \$201,275.44 was spent on hourly staff of the who worked in in jobs that involve regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others

Use of Evidence:

- In Transportation and Public Works, the goal of this project is to help retain Facilities Staff working at the Justice Center who are faced with working under these elevated health risks.

Performance Report:

- This project supports **432** County employees.
- In Justice Services:
 - Justice Services has **344** full-time positions eligible under the ARPA guidelines.
- In Transportation and Public Works:
 - **13** Transportation and Public Works employees have received premium pay.
- In Revenue:
 - **45** Revenue employees have received premium pay.
- In Administration:
 - **30** Administration employees have received premium pay.

Revenue Loss

Project REVLS: Revenue Loss; Provision of Government Services

Funding amount: \$122,909,842.00

Amount Expended: \$122,909,842.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 – Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

- St. Louis County Department of Performance, Management, and Budget (PMB) calculated its 2020 Revenue loss over the 2019 base as \$114,909,842.00. The

calculation was made under Treasury provided guidance. Through June 30, 2024, the County Council approved the use of \$114,909,842.00 to address the loss of revenue experienced because of the pandemic.

Use of Evidence:

- ARPA SLFRF Performance Reporting does not identify costs under 7.1 as a project, and therefore no use of evidence is required.

Performance Report:

- ARPA SLFRF Performance Reporting does not identify costs under 7.1 as a project, and therefore no performance reporting is required.

Administrative Expenses, Including Compliance and Legal Consultation

Project 00000: Administrative Expenses

Funding amount: \$11,500,000.00

Amount Expended: **\$3,147,693.22**

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 – Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:

- Under Ordinances 28,214; 28,290; and 28,458, the County Council appropriated \$3,000,000.00 from SLFRF for support of compliance and legal services authorized under SLFRF. The County engaged outside consulting and legal counsel pursuant to authority to ensure compliance with legal, regulatory, and other requirements relating to the County's use of SLFRF dollars and address response to COVID-19 pursuant to the requirements outlined under SLFRF. These administrative services are critical to addressing COVID-19 and to the County's ongoing compliance with the applicable law for use of SLFRF dollars. Compliance and legal evaluation are critical components of the internal controls necessary for proper management and administration of federal funding.
- Expenditure amount as of June 30, 2024: \$3,147,693.22
- ARPA SLFRF Performance Reporting does not identify costs under 7.1 as a project, and therefore no performance reporting is required.

Vaccine Gift Card Incentive Program

Project H0550: Vaccine Gift Card Incentive Program

Funding amount: \$875,000.00

Amount Expended: **\$435,934.36**

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 – COVID-19 Vaccination

Unused cards totaled \$16,600.00 were reallocated to another grant program in 2024 and the amount expended on the program was reduced accordingly.

Project Overview:

- Includes purchasing gift cards and distributing them to individuals who complete a COVID-19 vaccination series (one or two shots, depending on the type of vaccine) at a Department of Public Health vaccination clinic.
- DPH delivered the gift cards via certified mail service upon completing an entire vaccine series. DPH also distributed gift cards in-person at select events at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Public Health. DPH did not rely on the support of any contracted staff to conduct this activity.
- To contribute to increased vaccination rates in zip codes with low vaccination rates. Additionally, part of DPH's strategy is to use incentives that address socioeconomic barriers of transportation and food insecurity (two basic needs of all households) to accomplish this outcome.
- The ordinance that authorized the program limited the categories of gift cards DPH can purchase, but the main types listed were related to basic needs, such as groceries and gas. A third category, focused on small businesses, was not implemented due to difficulty of procuring the gift cards. Finally, the dollar amount of the gift cards ranged from \$50-\$100, which DPH believes will significantly impact an individual and their household.
- DPH directed this resource and the bulk of our vaccination clinics toward areas with the lowest vaccination rates. There is a current correlation between zip codes with low vaccination rates and a history of systemic racism and disinvestment. Therefore, one part of DPH's strategy is increasing access and educating individuals in these zip codes while also relying on trusted community organizations to help support that. Another aspect of this strategy is to provide individuals an incentive that will also have an economic benefit to them.
- Supporting community, populations, and individuals in St. Louis County
 - These gift cards were distributed to individuals who received the direct benefit of the gift card's value. DPH intentionally selected vendors who are in the same areas where our patients reside, and vendors that provide necessities, such as groceries and gas, while maintaining compliance with Food Code standards. Food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened, and according to Feeding America, more than 42 million people may experience food insecurity because of the pandemic. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported recently in their Household Food Insecurity in the United States report that more than 38 million people in the United States experienced hunger in 2020. In 2019, there were over 100,000 people in St. Louis County who were food insecure; in 2021, that number has likely increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In addition, since individuals received these gift cards after receiving the complete series of the COVID-19 vaccine, they contributed to a safer St. Louis County with less community transmission of the virus.
- Community Engagement

- DPH is implementing this program in response to a direct request from the County Council, which authorized this legislation. Additionally, DPH established two new stakeholder groups, one of North County leaders and another of South County leaders, who provided specific feedback and ideas on how DPH can increase vaccination rates. In addition to the other stakeholder groups DPH formed in March 2020 (restaurant advisory group, school superintendents' group, school nurses' group, youth sports advisory group, and others), these groups suggested a similar, if not this exact, program.

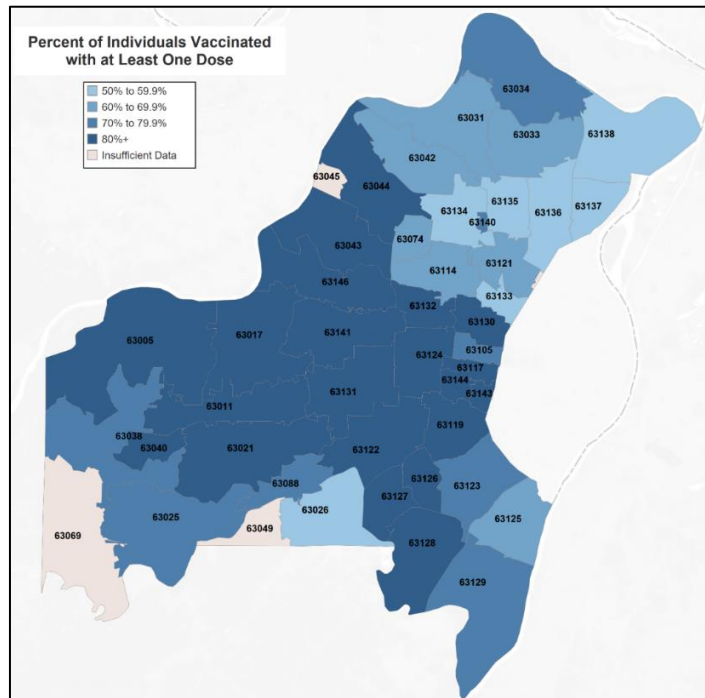
Use of Evidence:

- Other communities, including governmental agencies and private companies, have implemented similar programs throughout the country and have seen some successes. Monetary incentives, such as cash and gift cards, are a growing tool for inducing health behaviors in the public interest. The value of these tools serves as both a positive influence and mediating for significant challenges experienced by many low-moderate income communities.
- DPH key staff involved in this program will meet on an every-other-week basis to discuss the program's progression, successes, and failures. These staff will be responsible for determining, to the best of their ability, the impact of the program, when additional gift cards should be purchased, and when other operational adjustments are needed. Some questions that may be considered by this group are below:
 - Is this program contributing to increased vaccination rates in the areas we are targeting?
 - Is the delivery model for gift cards working?
 - Has this program been properly communicated to the audience we are trying to reach?
 - What are the current operational impacts of this program?
 - What problems have arisen from this program that have not yet been addressed?
 - What feedback are we receiving from individuals who receive the gift card and/or staff who are working at the clinics?
- DPH purchased these gift cards on a rolling basis so that as staff distributed them, DPH could evaluate our distribution methods and the vendors we purchased gift cards from.
- DPH tracked vaccination rates per week per zip code in order to follow any correlation between increased vaccination rates and the distribution of vaccine incentives.

Performance Report:

- DPH identified six zip codes with the lowest vaccination rates and concentrated

our access points and educational efforts in those zip codes. Therefore, incentives will broadly align with those access points. Additionally, DPH has used other funding sources to support efforts to educate and transport individuals to these clinics. Our goal was to align existing strategies to distribute as many gift cards as possible. The map below shows vaccination rates by zip code; zip codes in the lightest blue color are where DPH currently is directing the bulk of our resources.



DPH hosted dozens of mobile vaccination clinics in collaboration with churches, non-profit agencies, community groups, and other community partners mainly focused in the six priority zip codes. As the vaccine became widely available, DPH has scaled down its mobile vaccine clinics. Vaccinations remain available at all three community clinics.