



# ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS

## ARPA ANNUAL INTERIM RECOVERY PLAN July 29, 2022

### Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a continued impact on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals and business. In March of 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by the federal government. The purpose of this act is to help state, local, territorial, and tribal governments respond to economic issues and build a strong and equitable recovery. Funds that St. Clair County will receive are State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). Under the SLFRF St. Clair County has been awarded \$50,440,961. Metropolitan cities Belleville and East St. Louis have been awarded \$15,792,501 and \$36,379,844 respectively. The State of Illinois has been awarded \$742,179,391 with a portion of those funds being disbursed to non-metropolitan cities (populations less than 50,000) and other units of governments.

This Interim Recovery Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Interim Final Rule and the Compliance and Reporting Guidance published by the US Department of Treasury. The purpose of this report is to be transparent and provide an outline the intended uses of the ARPA funds. This will also report the actual expenditures during each reporting period. This is the second annual report which is covering the reporting period of March 3, 2021 through June 30, 2022. St. Clair County will publish and submit this Plan to the U.S. Department of Treasury no later than August 31, 2021.

Our Interim Recovery Plan will only cover the \$50,440,961 awarded to St. Clair County.

St. Clair County is still in the planning phases as to the most effective uses of the ARPA funds.

### Use of Funds

As stated above, the use of ARPA funds are restricted. ARPA expenditure categories are generally limited to Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts, Services to Impacted Communities, Premium Pay, Infrastructure (sewer, water and broadband), Revenue Replacement and Plan Administration.

### Public Health:

**COVID-19 Vaccination:** The county has implemented the first drive through vaccine facility in the State of Illinois. With the assistance of the State of Illinois and National Guard we were able to structure a very effective facility at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds. This location was able to handle in excess of 2,000 citizens on a daily basis for all three COVID-19 vaccines. A second location was created at 330 West Main in Belleville to also administer the vaccinations. This location administered the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. As the demand for vaccinations had decreased the Belle-Clair Fairground location was closed and 330 West Main location is able to handle the volume with all three vaccines. As of to date the 330 West Main location has been closed and operations have moved to the St. Clair County Public Health Department.



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We are still looking into the cost that will not be reimbursed by FEMA at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds location and 330 West Main locations. FEMA reimbursements are still being processed and we are waiting for final numbers.

**Other Public Health Services:** Other COVID-19 expenditures include technology to continue County public health operations and provide services to the public. These technology projects would allow for teleworking so that the county may continue to provide socially distanced services to the public, residents and communities online.

The County has invested in software program that will allow citizens to make appointments for services in the County Buildings. We plan to continue using this software.

We have purchased upgraded hardware and software to provide a more efficient and safe service regardless of the location of the St. Clair County employee or citizen. A new server environment and cyber security measures have been purchased and put into place for county buildings. We will continue to improve and protect the county and the public with up to date cyber security actions.

Future public health service being addressed is the relocation of our Animal Control and Adoption facility. A large retail complex has been built and has changed the stormwater flow that empties into a creek just behind our facility. This has caused the facility to consistently flood and put the animal lives in danger. With the record amount of rain recently, the facility was flooded with several feet of water. Thanks to the dedicated employees, volunteers and local fire departments we were able to save all of the animals and get them to higher ground and temporary housing. Many of the animals that are brought to our facility are being relocated from surrounding communities that do not have the fiscal ability to care for stray animals. Many of these animals are dangerous or sick and can pose a threat to public health and safety. St. Clair County Animal Control provides a vital service and it is imperative that they have the ability to carry that out in a safe and clean environment. The location that we are considering would involve the demolition of a dangerous derelict vacant building. This building has environmental issues and has also posed a problem with illegal drug usage. This would have a positive effect in the public health area.

### **Negative Economic Impacts**

As stated in the Executive Summary, St. Clair County is still in the planning phase as to the most effective uses for our county.

Many people have been affected in different ways when it comes to employment. The unemployment rate as of May 2022 for St. Clair County was 5.4%, (ycharts.com) which is down from the 6.8%% of June 2021. Just prior to the pandemic the unemployment rate averaged 4.2%. This is an area that is being addressed with the possibility of additional job training programs.



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### Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

We believe there may be an increasing number in homelessness and unemployment since the pandemic began. Programs are being researched to potentially assist citizens in this area. One of the main areas could be job training. Additionally, sewer infrastructure in certain low-income areas is of concern.

The St. Clair County Intergovernmental Granting Agency has provided services through additional ARPA funds for Low Income Home Energy Assistance and rental assistance.

Future proposed projects:

Improved water infrastructure for a potable water tower in Cahokia Heights.

Countywide update and replacement of warning sirens. This will assist many communities that cannot maintain current due to lack of funding. This will also solve many inconsistencies in getting warnings out timely and accurately.

Homelessness is still present and has increased due to the effects of Covid-19 and now inflation. St. Clair County is working with local partners to address possible programs for individuals that have been affected.

### Premium Pay

Premium pay is not to be used to increase pay of employees. Premium pay may be used for performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These employees have been and continue to be relied on to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, including those who are critical to protecting the health and well-being of their communities.

Payments went to employees of the Emergency Management Agency and Public Building Commission. These individuals have dedicated their lives 24/7 to the implementation and testing, vaccinating and public notices for St. Clair County residents in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 without any additional compensation. We could not have such a successful efficient operation without these individuals. They put their lives on hold to help the citizens of St. Clair County and we thank them for that. Upper management was not compensated with these funds. Two Public Building Commission employees were compensated for their 24/7 time that they put forth in unloading necessary supplies and converting the county building to a safe environment due to Covid-19 to protect the public and county employees. Any public safety and public health employees were compensated from other sources for time spent on COVID-19 activities.



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### Revenue Replacement

ARPA funds can be used for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction of revenue experienced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A recipient's reduction in revenue is measured relative to the revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency. St. Clair County has elected to use the full standard allowance.

These funds are to be used for government services.

St. Clair County has used these funds to improve Election equipment and software, Zoning software upgrade, St. Clair County Jail software upgrades, vehicle equipment/repair costs.

Future proposed purchases being reviewed cover new vehicle purchases, fuel/repair costs, mandatory sheriff department equipment/software, road improvements and possible improvement/relocation of current animal control facility due to severe flood issues.

### Administrative and Other

The County will fund direct and indirect administrative costs for implementation of projects and programs. Administering and developing the County's Recovery Plan will require the oversight of the County Board Chairman, Mark Kern and St. Clair County Auditor, Patty Sprague. Administrative funds may also be used to hire a consultant to take over administration, monitoring and reporting associated with the County's Recovery Plan. ARPA funds have been used security, auditing and legal costs associated with 330 security, compliance with federal auditing guidelines and ongoing lawsuits. ARPA funds have also been used for security costs at the 330 West Main location.

### Equitable Outcomes

Our Plan will focus on projects and programs that may facilitate economic prosperity in all St. Clair County communities and hasten a full recovery from the pandemic.

### Community Engagement

The SLFRF interim final rules provide substantial flexibility to decide how to best meet the needs of their local communities and allow for flexible spending up to the level of their revenue loss. As part of our plan St. Clair County will disseminate information through various methods so that citizens are aware of the services that can and will be funded through SLFRF.



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### Labor Practices

County labor practices will follow and comply with all local, state and federal laws, regulations and directives. This includes compliance with all laws and regulations pertaining to wages and hours, state and federal income tax, unemployment insurance, Social Security, disability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and discrimination in employment. The County, its contractors, and subcontractors shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and in accordance with said Act, no person on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any service or activity in connection with any public work project. Contractors shall also comply with the Davis-Bacon Act and the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.

### Use of Evidence

As stated in the Executive Summary, St. Clair County is still in the planning phase as to the most effective uses for our county.

### Expenses by Expenditure Category

CATEGORY		CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES AS OF 6/30/2022
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$1,572,802.62
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$42,000.00
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$1,520,664.09
7	Administrative and Other	\$81,254.59