

# St. Louis County Strategic ARPA Allocations

As families and small businesses continue to navigate the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a real opportunity to boost recovery efforts in St. Louis County through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. County Executive Dr. Sam Page knows that feedback from residents was critical in shaping an equitable approach towards investing these funds. After releasing the ARPA Community Survey and hosting a series of virtual and in-person ARPA town halls across the County, we are excited to present our [official recommendations](#) to the County Council for distributing this funding.

This comprehensive package of recommendations reflects the feedback, concerns, and priorities of countless residents, and we urge the County Council to work together in good faith to support these recommendations. We will continue to work with Deloitte and County Counselor’s Office to ensure that recommended projects and programs are compliant with the strict guidelines from the Department of Treasury.

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## Community Based Programs

### *Negative Economic Impacts*

**Small Business Relief (\$7.5M)** – Several small business owners and entrepreneurs attended our town halls and voiced support for additional funding to help navigate beyond the pandemic. We believe that small businesses are the backbone of a healthy regional economy and the road to recovery in the County must run through them. We recommend reserving \$7.5M to design and implement programs for small business relief in unincorporated areas of St. Louis County.

### *Education/Mental Health*

**Nonprofit Assistance (\$9.5M)** – Despite facing longstanding barriers to capital, small community-based nonprofits across St. Louis County play a vital role in building healthy communities. These organizations are entrenched in our communities, often comprehending local needs and the best ways to meet them far better than most institutions. We

recommend investing \$9.5M for an ARPA-compliant program to aid nonprofit organizations tackling disparities in education and health.

**Regional Arts Programming (\$1.6M)** – Equitable access to arts education and enrichment opportunities – after school or in neighborhoods – is fundamental to the development of our youth. Fortunately, the region is ripe with nonprofits providing a wide range of arts education experiences for our youth, but many of these organizations took a blow during the pandemic. We recommend investing \$1.6M in regional arts programming to boost arts education in the County.

### *Infrastructure*

**Subdivision Streets (\$15M)** – Repair and maintenance of County roads was a priority for most of our survey respondents. The County’s most dilapidated subdivision streets however are unfortunately excluded from federal funding. We recommend a \$15M infrastructure investment targeted to the repair of these subdivision streets in unincorporated areas in St. Louis County.

### *State Matching Funds*

There are several transformative community-based projects being considered in Jefferson City that could be leveraged with the support of County funds. As budget deliberation continues in the Missouri Capitol, we recommend reserving \$24.2M to maximize the impact for such funding opportunities that arise like the [MET Center](#), UMSL, R&R Mission, FamilyForward Campus, Room at the Inn, and the demolition of Jamestown Mall.

### **Reserve Funds (\$10M)**

The County is cautiously optimistic that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, but we must also be prepared if the worst becomes a reality. \$10M of unallocated ARPA funds will be reserved for emerging needs that arise, which is sensible, responsible, and quintessential good governance. Moreover, the County will continue to update our [tracker](#) to ensure that such funds are obligated for eligible expenditures prior to the December 31, 2024 deadline, then fully expended by December 31, 2026.

### **Admin Costs (\$5M)**

There are administrative expenses associated with overseeing effective implementation of ARPA related programs and projects. This \$5M allocation accounts for critical oversight to administer programs, distribute funding, legal considerations, and other compliance efforts.

### **County Council (\$10.5M)**

The County Council should reserve \$10.5M (\$1.5M per District) for projects or programs specifically tailored to each District. Such programs should be detailed, fully designed, and evaluated for legal and compliance considerations prior to the legislative process.