Summary
Board Bill Number 61
Introduced by Alderwoman Annie Rice
June 24, 2022

An Ordinance recommended by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment appropriating a portion of funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, § 9901 (March 4, 2021) (ARPA) to the St. Louis Department of Health for a new Reproductive Equity Fund and COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination, authorizing contracts to expend the funds, to the extent received; containing a severability clause; and containing an emergency clause.
BOARD BILL NUMBER 61 INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN ANNIE RICE/ALDERWOMAN TINA PIHL

An Ordinance recommended by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment appropriating a portion of funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, §9901 (March 4, 2021) (ARPA) to the St. Louis Department of Health, authorizing contracts to expend the funds, to the extent received; containing a severability clause; and containing an emergency clause.

WHEREAS, the City received Two Hundred Forty-Nine Million Thirty-Eight Thousand Twenty-Seventy Dollars ($249,038,027.00) in 2021 from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund under ARPA and Two Hundred Forty-Nine Million Thirty-Eight Thousand Twenty-Seventy Dollars $249,038,027.00 from such fund in the calendar year 2022 (collectively, the “ARPA Funds”);

WHEREAS, the City previously has appropriated $249,038,027.00 of the ARPA Funds;

WHEREAS, ARPA Funds may be used “to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) or its negative economic impacts;”

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has strained access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare;

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen passed a resolution affirming that every individual living in St. Louis’ rights to maintain personal bodily autonomy, make personal decisions about if, when, and how to establish a family, including decisions about abortion, to access medically accurate information about all of our health care options, without judgement,
harassment, or coercion, and to have safe and healthy pregnancy on our own terms so that we can raise our families in healthy, safe communities with the support we need to thrive;

WHEREAS, more than one in four people living in St. Louis City are surviving economic insecurity below the federal poverty line and that approximately one in five people living in St. Louis City are not covered by health insurance.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 public health crisis exacerbated existing social and economic inequities and Women, Black women, and mothers are at the lowest workforce participation rate in 30 years;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 precautions have disrupted how individuals access reproductive healthcare including birth control, annual exams, and family planning services;

WHEREAS, the Missouri Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review 2018 Report, published in 2021, found that for Missourians who choose to continue their pregnancies, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio (PRMR) is one of the highest in the country and four times greater for Black women than white women at 87.6 per 100,000 live births;

WHEREAS, St. Louisans have identified the need for culturally-competent and trauma-informed care, specifically naming the need for doulas and health advocates to support navigating the medical system; and

WHEREAS, doula and lactation support are proven measures to improve outcomes for pregnant people;
WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and has significant negative impacts for individuals;

WHEREAS, the Health Resources and Services Administration has recently ended its program for the testing, vaccination, and treatment of individuals without insurance,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. There is hereby appropriated the sum of One Million Dollars ($1,000,000) of the ARPA Funds appropriated to the City to the St. Louis Department of Health. The Department of Health will establish a process to allocate the funds to community partners through grants as part of a new Reproductive Equity Fund dedicated to logistical support. In compliance with federal law, these grants will not be used to fund abortion procedures. Grant funds will be used to provide access to abortion through logistical support including but not limited to the funding of childcare, transportation, and other logistical support needs. The Director of the Department of Health is authorized to make, negotiate, and execute any and all contracts or other documents on behalf of the City to expend such funds and to expend such funds on behalf of the City for the purposes described on Exhibit A. The Comptroller is authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasury for payment of all expenditures authorized in this Section provided that such warrants do not exceed the total amount of funds appropriated by this Section.

SECTION TWO. There is hereby appropriated the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000) of the ARPA Funds appropriated to the City to the St. Louis Department of Health. The Department of Health will establish a process to allocate the funds to community partners through grants as part of a Reproductive Equity Fund dedicated to community needs. Allocations...
through this fund will support infrastructure and operations for organizations already providing
direct services to support reproductive healthcare access in the region including access to doulas
and lactation support. The Director of the Department of Health is authorized to make, negotiate,
and execute any and all contracts or other documents on behalf of the City to expend such funds
and to expend such funds on behalf of the City for the purposes described on Exhibit A. The
Comptroller is authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasury for payment of
all expenditures authorized in this Section provided that such warrants do not exceed the total
amount of funds appropriated by this Section.

SECTION THREE. There is hereby appropriated the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand
Dollars ($250,000) of the ARPA Funds appropriated to the City to the St. Louis Department of
Health. These funds will be used to provide program support and evaluation for the Reproductive
Equity Program and Fund. The Director of the Department of Health is authorized to make,
negotiate, and execute any and all contracts or other documents on behalf of the City to expend
such funds and to expend such funds on behalf of the City for the purposes described on Exhibit
A. The Comptroller is authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasury for
payment of all expenditures authorized in this Section provided that such warrants do not exceed
the total amount of funds appropriated by this Section.

SECTION FOUR. There is hereby appropriated the sum of One Million Three Hundred
Thousand Dollars ($1,300,000) of the ARPA Funds appropriated to the City to the St. Louis
Department of Health. These funds will be used to provide testing, treatment, and vaccination for
COVID-19. The Director of the Department of Health is authorized to make, negotiate, and
execute any and all contracts or other documents on behalf of the City to expend such funds and
to expend such funds on behalf of the City for the purposes described on Exhibit A. The
Comptroller is authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasury for payment of
all expenditures authorized in this Section provided that such warrants do not exceed the total
amount of funds appropriated by this Section.

SECTION FIVE. Severability Clause. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of
Aldermen that each and every part, section and subsection of this Ordinance shall be separate
and severable from each and every other part, section and subsection hereof and that the Board
of Aldermen intends to adopt each said part, section and subsection separately and independently
of any other part, section and subsection. In the event that any part, section or subsection of this
Ordinance shall be determined to be or to have been unlawful or unconstitutional, the remaining
parts, sections and subsections shall be and remain in full force and effect, unless the court
making such finding shall determine that the valid portions standing alone are incomplete and are
incapable of being executed in accord with the legislative intent.

SECTION SIX. Emergency Clause. Delay in receipt and appropriation of these monies will
increase threats to the public health and welfare by causing delay in responding to the fiscal and
other impacts caused by the COVID-19 crisis. This being an ordinance appropriated for
emergency funding for current expenses of the City government, it is hereby declared to be an
emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the
City of St. Louis and shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the
Mayor.
### Board Bill Number 61

#### Exhibit A

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<tr>
<th>Department of Health</th>
<th>Reproductive Equity Fund, logistical support</th>
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<td>Reproductive Equity Fund, community needs</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$3,050,000</strong></td>
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