

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/ALDERWOMAN SHAMEEM CLARK-HUBBARD/ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA/ALDERMAN JOHN COATAR/ALDERWOMAN MEGAN GREEN/ALDERWOMAN ANNE SCHWEITZER

1 An Ordinance recommended by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment appropriating
2 a portion of funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, §
3 9901 (March 4, 2021) (ARPA) to the St. Louis Department of Health, authorizing contracts to
4 expend the funds, to the extent received; containing a severability clause; and containing an
5 emergency clause.

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

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

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

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

16 **WHEREAS**, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen passed a resolution affirming that every
17 individual living in St. Louis’ rights to maintain personal bodily autonomy, make personal
18 decisions about if, when, and how to establish a family, including decisions about abortion, to

1 access medically accurate information about all of our health care options, without judgement,
2 harassment, or coercion, and to have safe and healthy pregnancy on our own terms so that we
3 can raise our families in healthy, safe communities with the support we need to thrive;

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

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

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

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

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

19 **WHEREAS**, doula and lactation support are proven measures to improve outcomes for
20 pregnant people;

1 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and has significant negative impacts
2 for individuals;

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

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

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

18 **SECTION TWO.** There is hereby appropriated the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
19 (\$500,000) of the ARPA Funds appropriated to the City to the St. Louis Department of Health.
20 The Department of Health will establish a process to allocate the funds to community partners
21 through grants as part of a Reproductive Equity Fund dedicated to community needs. Allocations

1 through this fund will support infrastructure and operations for organizations already providing
2 direct services to support reproductive healthcare access in the region including access to doula
3 and lactation support. The Director of the Department of Health is authorized to make, negotiate,
4 and execute any and all contracts or other documents on behalf of the City to expend such funds
5 and to expend such funds on behalf of the City for the purposes described on **Exhibit A**. The
6 Comptroller is authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasury for payment of
7 all expenditures authorized in this Section provided that such warrants do not exceed the total
8 amount of funds appropriated by this Section.

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

18 **SECTION FOUR.** There is hereby appropriated the sum of One Million Three Hundred
19 Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) of the ARPA Funds appropriated to the City to the St. Louis
20 Department of Health. These funds will be used to provide testing, treatment, and vaccination for
21 COVID-19. The Director of the Department of Health is authorized to make, negotiate, and

1 execute any and all contracts or other documents on behalf of the City to expend such funds and
2 to expend such funds on behalf of the City for the purposes described on **Exhibit A**. The
3 Comptroller is authorized and directed to issue warrants upon the City Treasury for payment of
4 all expenditures authorized in this Section provided that such warrants do not exceed the total
5 amount of funds appropriated by this Section.

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

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

Board Bill Number 61

Exhibit A

Department of Health	Reproductive Equity Fund, logistical support	\$1,000,000
Department of Health	Reproductive Equity Fund, community needs	\$500,000
Department of Health	Program support and evaluation	\$250,000
Department of Health	Testing, treatment, and vaccination for COVID-19	\$1,300,000
	Total	\$3,050,000