

Investing in Youth Workforce Development in St. Louis, MO

American Rescue Plan Community Profile

May 2022 | Youth



American Rescue Plan Funding

Total State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in St. Louis: \$498 million

Amount of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Featured in This Profile: Approximately \$3 million¹

- \$2.5 million for a year-round youth jobs program
- \$247,362 for youth summer jobs
- \$252,629 for case management and wrap-around services to those participating in summer work programs

Project Summary

St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) is receiving nearly \$3 million from the City of St. Louis' American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds to coordinate job training assistance programs for the city's youth.² SLATE will use the funds to support a year-round youth jobs program in collaboration with St. Louis Public Schools and other partners. The program is expected to reach roughly 300 students from low-income families and ultimately to increase family income. Additionally, the funds will allow SLATE to expand its capacity to support the city's summer jobs programs. To date, the summer jobs program has a waitlist of hundreds of youth. Expanded capacity will allow SLATE staff to identify, vet, and supervise new worksites.³ Finally, a portion of the funds will go toward case management and wrap-around services for youth participating in the summer jobs program.

The [City of St. Louis, MO, 2021 Recovery Plan](#) highlights several million dollars worth of American Rescue Plan funding for workforce development. These investments will fill employment gaps and provide skill-building opportunities for youth and adults alike. Community members view these investments

favorably because they act as an effective tool for community violence prevention, according to Mary Goodman, the legislative director for Board of Aldermen President Lewis Reed.⁴

Age Group Served

Youth ages 14–19 years

Funding Stream Used

Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Key Partners

- St. Louis Board of Aldermen
- St. Louis Mayor's Office
- St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment
- St. Louis Public Schools

Local Perspective

Unique Challenges

The most prominent challenge faced by the City of St. Louis has been its slow rollout of American Rescue Plan funds. To date, the city has spent less than 2% of the funds it received.⁵ Local residents have expressed frustration with the current flow of funds because they want various programs funded as soon as possible. This will remain an issue within the city until a more efficient means of dispersing funds is determined.

Ensuring Accountability

City of St. Louis officials are confident in their ability to hold American Rescue Plan subgrantees responsible for fair and proper spending. The comptroller's office funded a new full-time position responsible for reviewing records for all American Rescue Plan

subgrantees. In addition, any entity seeking to apply for funds from the city must undergo a strict contracting and vetting process and will be subject to a series of reporting requirements. The city also is prioritizing transparency with the public. Local residents have access to an [online portal](#) where they can review all contracts the city has signed using COVID-relief funds.⁶

Lessons Learned

The City of St. Louis owes much of its success to strong coordination between government stakeholders. The city's Board of Aldermen allocates city funds, and the mayor oversees the dissemination and implementation of those dollars. These bodies have worked closely to determine a spending plan for the \$249 million in Local Fiscal Recovery dollars the city already has received and will continue to do so upon receiving its second disbursement of funds. A critical step moving forward is for the mayor's office to determine a more efficient means of getting money disbursed.

The city also is committed to the sustainability of its programs and services. American Rescue Plan money is mainly allocated to existing programs and services with a long-standing history of success rather than dedicated to creating new programs.⁷ This ensures that residents can continue to access consistent, high-quality resources. City officials also echoed the importance of community input in fund allocation decisions. Goodman notes that the city received thousands of responses from residents advocating for specific investments.⁸

Geographic Region

Midwestern United States

Community Size

Total population (2020): 301,578⁹

Racial Demographics¹⁰

- White 46.5%
- Black or African American 46.4%
- American Indian and Alaska Native 0.3%
- Asian 3.4%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.1%
- Two or More Races 2.4%
- Hispanic or Latino 4.0%
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino 43.6%

Socioeconomic Status

- Median annual household income (2020): \$45,782¹¹
- Children living in poverty (2020): 28.9%¹²

Acknowledgment

Thank you to Mary Goodman, legislative director to St. Louis Board of Aldermen President Lewis Reed, for contributions to this community profile.

To view additional resources and find American Rescue Plan allocations for other communities, visit childrensfundingproject.org/american-rescue-plan.



Endnotes

¹ Mary Goodman, legislative director to Board of Aldermen President Lewis Reed, personal communication, March 15, 2022.

² City of St. Louis, *City of St. Louis, MO 2021 Recovery Plan* (St. Louis, MO: Author, 2021) https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/St.Louis_2021-Recovery-Plan_SLT-2835.pdf.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Goodman, personal communication, March 15, 2022.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts," St. Louis City, Missouri, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/stlouiscity-missouri/POP060210>.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² U.S. Census Bureau, "Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates," St. Louis City, Missouri, https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saie/#/?map_geoSelector=u18_c&s_measures=u18_snc&s_year=2020&s_state=29&s_county=29510.

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