

# St. Louis Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program



## Program Overview

### **The Offices of Mayor Tishaura O. Jones and Treasurer Adam L. Layne launched the City of St. Louis Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Pilot Program to strengthen financial stability and promote economic mobility among vulnerable families in the city.**

A total of \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was allocated by the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor through the Working Families Bill (BB116) to support the GBI program.

The program began in late 2023 and provided \$500 per month for 18 months—a total of \$9,000 per household—to 440 families funded by ARPA dollars, with an additional 100 families supported through a private contribution from the Jack Dorsey #Startsmall Philanthropic Initiative, serving 540 families in total. The program did not require participation in any additional services or programs. Participants were selected by lottery from a pool of more than 5,000 applicants, ensuring an equitable distribution of participants across all City wards.

To be eligible for the program, participants had to be a resident of the City of St. Louis, have a household income less than 170% of the federal poverty level, have a child or dependent under the age of 18 enrolled in one of the city's public schools, including charters, and have experienced a negative financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June 2024, a lawsuit was filed alleging that the GBI program violated the Missouri Constitution and the City of St. Louis Charter. As a result, a temporary restraining order was issued, restricting the use of ARPA funds for participant payments. This caused a one-month delay in the September 2024 payments. Local private foundations stepped in to cover the remaining payments.

The pilot program was evaluated to understand the individual and family experience and impact of participating in a guaranteed basic income pilot program using a mixed-methods approach. Findings from the evaluation are presented in three briefs, which focus on the impacts of the program on economic security, credit health, and quality of life.

## Program Partners

**Treasurer's Office**  
Program Manager

**FORWARD**  
Program Administrator

**MoCaFi**  
Payment Administrator

**Center for Social Development & Brown School Evaluation Center**  
Program Evaluator

## Program Timeline

