

For Immediate Release  
April 21, 2021

**Close the Workhouse Statement Following News that the Inhumane Jail Will Be Defunded**  
*After three years of organizing and mobilizing numerous people across St. Louis City, the Close the Workhouse campaign calls today's news "a win"*

At today's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Presentation, Mayor Tishaura O. Jones eliminated funding for the Workhouse in the proposed FY22 Budget. This means that the Workhouse will close, and no one else will have to endure the nightmarish conditions that thousands of people survived over many decades. Instead of being used to incarcerate poor Black folks, the \$7.8M saved from closing the Workhouse will now allow for a Division of Supportive Re-entry for social workers, case management, mental health services, childcare, and much more.

The Workhouse is on the way to closing and this win is a culmination of grassroots organizing, community bail outs, lawsuits, and the people demanding an end to the failed arrest and incarcerate model. This problematic approach continues to divert resources away from our communities while harming our families, instead of funding real public safety. The closure of the Workhouse is only the first step towards achieving the St. Louis we all deserve. We will continue to push for a participatory budgeting process that allows our communities to re-envision public safety as support and well-being instead of policing and cages.

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