



# Special Report

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## **The Recovery Act: Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in North Carolina**

Earlier this year, the Democratic Congress worked with President Obama to enact the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (the *Recovery Act*) in an effort to rescue, rebuild, and strengthen our struggling national economy. Eight years of failed fiscal policies and misguided economic priorities had left our national economy on the brink of disaster, and now – only nine months later – our economy is on the brink of recovery. The *Recovery Act* and the efforts of American businesses and workers, like those in North Carolina, made this progress possible.

Despite this encouraging news, Democrats know that many North Carolinians are still struggling, and unemployment – a lagging economic indicator – remains far too high. In response, Democrats are working to create and save millions of jobs with *Recovery Act* dollars and tax relief. Already, with more than half of the dollars yet to be spent, the recovery package has provided for more than one million jobs and the rate of job loss has slowed significantly. As we look toward the future, Democrats believe that the *Recovery Act*, combined with the American work ethic and ingenuity, will continue to make a difference for families in North Carolina and will deliver on its promise to rebuild our economy and get North Carolinians back to work.

### ***The Recovery Act is Creating Jobs and Making a Difference***

Last week, the White House announced that certain recipients of *Recovery Act* funds have reported the creation of 640,329 direct jobs. About 325,000 of these jobs are in education and over 80,000 are in construction. These numbers, however, represent only about 16 percent of expenditures through September 30 and do not reflect the majority of *Recovery Act* funding to date, which has gone directly to individuals and states, including:

- Tax relief for businesses and working families;
- Small business loans, which are exempt from reporting;
- The first-time homebuyer tax credit;
- Direct federal aid, including \$250 direct stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits, increased food stamp benefits for vulnerable families; and
- State fiscal relief, which prevented job cuts at the state and local government level.

Moreover, the reported data does not capture indirect or induced jobs created when prime contractors hire suppliers or other companies to complete projects or when newly employed workers spend their pay checks. It is estimated that, if included, indirect jobs would add

another 50 percent or more to the direct jobs numbers and induced jobs would add an additional 36 percent. [Office of the Vice President, [10/30/09](#); CBPP, [10/28/09](#)]

Taken as a whole, the reported data confirms earlier estimates that the *Recovery Act* would create or save over one million jobs by now, even though less than half of the *Recovery Act* funds have been put to work. [Office of the Vice President, [10/30/09](#)] According to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections, that number may be as high as 1.6 million jobs. [CBO, [11/09](#)]

Moreover, without the *Recovery Act*, economists believe that the economy and the unemployment rate would be much worse.

- According to CBO projections, “an additional 600,000 to 1.6 million people were employed in the United States, and real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic product (GDP) was 1.2 percent to 3.2 percent higher, than would have been the case in the absence of ARRA.” [CBO, [11/09](#)]
- The Commerce Department reported that the nation’s gross domestic product grew by 2.2 percent in the third quarter of 2009, the first expansion in more than a year. Economists are projecting 4 percent growth in the fourth quarter. [Commerce Department, [12/22/09](#); testimony of Dr. Martin Baily before the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, [12/16/09](#)]
- According to economist Mark Zandi, “The research of Moody’s Economy.com suggests that a million fewer jobs would exist today, while the unemployment rate would already have risen well into double digits.” [Testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, [10/29/09](#)]

## ***The Recovery Act is Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in North Carolina***

In North Carolina, this partial reporting indicates that 28,073 jobs have been created or saved by funding 1,753 awards worth \$4,278,468,699, of which \$1,137,627,039 has already been received. [Recovery, Accountability, and Transparency Board, accessed [11/2/09](#)]

Similar to the national number, this validates the White House’s earlier estimates that the *Recovery Act* is responsible for saving or creating 31,500 jobs so far for North Carolinians (accounting for indirect and induced jobs). [Council of Economic Advisors, [9/2009](#)] **North Carolina is on track to benefit from a total of 105,000 *Recovery Act* jobs.** [The White House, [2/2009](#)]

These numbers alone cannot adequately convey the human impact of the jobs that are supported by the *Recovery Act* – the real-life stories of local companies that can hire new employees, workers who are no longer faced with uncertainty, and families that no longer need to struggle to pay their bills. The following is a sampling of some of the local *Recovery Act* success stories in North Carolina:

***Recovery Act* funds have been used to expand rural dental care in underserved areas of North Carolina and improve facilities, hire dentists.** “More than \$1 million in federal stimulus funds is being spent locally to expand health care in underserved areas and improve facilities. The Oak Orchard Community Health Center, which has four offices in rural areas west of Rochester, hired two dentists and support staff, using a grant of \$248,655. The center will use another grant of \$827,325 to buy standby generators, fix two parking lots, paint the exterior of a clinic, purchase dental and computer equipment, and replace signs and

carpeting. The center's offices are in Clarkson and in Albion and Lyndonville, Orleans County. The dental workers hired, which also include a hygienist and dental assistants, are the equivalent of four full-time positions. The center is not planning to terminate the positions once the stimulus funds run out, as they are expected to generate enough patients to support their continued employment, said Oak Orchard President and CEO David Fisher... As for the capital projects, the generators and parking lot improvements will be the most expensive upgrades. The generators, which will be installed at the center's three major sites, are necessary since the centers converted to electronic medical records in the spring. 'The only records you have now are in electronic form, so if the computer goes down, you don't have the record,' Fisher said. 'We don't have frequent power outages but we have them frequently enough that we wanted to take advantage of this to give us some protection'... The center's four sites provided 54,774 office visits to 16,495 patients in 2008. The center serves people in Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming and western Monroe counties." [*Rocnow news*, 12/7/09]

**According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the *Recovery Act* put 5,510 people to work on road projects.** "Transportation stimulus payroll dolled out in North Carolina in October rose by 23 percent compared to the previous month, according to data compiled by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Contractors paid \$5.3 million to 5,510 employees who worked 301,757 hours in October. That compares to the September payroll of \$4.3 million, which went to 4,961 employees who worked 249,361 hours... Stimulus payroll spending has grown steadily since April, when just \$22,751 was paid out to 74 workers. NCDOT has received a total of \$838 million in federal stimulus funds, including \$735 million for road and bridge projects." [*Triangle Business Journal*, 12/3/09]

**North Carolina's Duke Energy uses *Recovery Act* funds toward designing, building and installing wind power batteries.** "North Carolina's Duke Energy said it plans to match a \$22 million federal grant to examine the use of batteries to store wind energy from a Texas wind farm. Duke Energy said it plans to match funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to design, build and install batteries for the storage of wind energy from its Nortress Windpower Project in western Texas... Duke said it plans to develop a large-scale battery to store excess wind energy for the distribution of electricity when wind turbines are not in cycle. "The Nortress wind farm consists of 95 wind turbines. The facility has a peak energy production of 151 megawatts of clean electricity. Duke received its funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." [*United Press International*, 11/25/09]

***Recovery Act* funds make streets in Chapel Hill safer for pedestrians.** "Half of the \$700,000 in federal money for roadway projects will go towards pedestrian islands along MLK Blvd., says Chapel Hill's Engineering Services Manager Kumar Neppalli... The project also includes sidewalk construction from Manning Drive to Old Mason Farm Road. Thus far, the town has been awarded close to four million dollars in stimulus money, and is planning to ask for an additional seven million." [*WCHL*, 11/25/09]

**A Salisbury-area manufacturer has added 165 jobs since the beginning of the year thanks to the *Recovery Act*.** "A Salisbury-area manufacturer has quietly added 165 jobs since the beginning of the year thanks to federal stimulus program. Florida-based PGT Industries Inc.'s plant here now has 475 employees making energy-efficient windows and doors that qualify for a tax credit under the American Recovery and Investment Act. The company has also added production lines and a new type of windows to the Rowan County facility, says Kari Norder, PGT product manager. 'We've seen a significant spike in that product line's sales,' she says. PGT is one of several 'green' initiatives that are creating jobs and investment in the

Salisbury area, says Robert Van Geons, executive director of the Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission.” [*Charlotte Business Journal*, 11/24/09]

**The City of Greensboro will use *Recovery Act* allocation to fund an energy-efficient bus maintenance and operation facility.** “The City of Greensboro is using federal stimulus money to help pay for a new bus maintenance and operation facility. The environmentally friendly building will house city buses and allow more space for maintenance crews to make repairs in house. Dianne Bellamy-Small, a Greensboro City Council member, says that using federal stimulus money on the \$20 million project will help get the project finished sooner.” [*WGHP-TV*, Video, 11/19/09]

**Land of Sky Regional Council will use *Recovery Act* funds to create a cooperative marketing network in Western North Carolina to help stimulate the local forest products industry.** “Southern Research Station Director Jim Reaves announced today that Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) was awarded the grant to manage the \$1.9 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds announced by Secretary Vilsack on Sept. 9. The funding will create a cooperative marketing network in Western North Carolina to help stimulate the local forest products industry. ‘The project will create employment opportunities for individuals working with timber and non-timber forest products as well as marketing specialists, community organizers and forest products advisors,’ Reaves said. LOSRC has proposed several projects based on their experience and work with producer groups. (1) A small diameter wood market development with a focus on forest health, (2) local production of woodland herbs for local processors, (3) certified and other green label timber production, (4) forest-based foods such as mushrooms, ramps, fruits, nuts and forest vegetables, (5) forest-based bio-fuel production for small and medium scale users and (6) high-value wood for the crafts industry and custom builders.” [*Mountain Express*, 11/18/09]

**The N.C. Employment Security Commission will use a *Recovery Act* grant to analyze and publicize available green jobs in the state, such as those to be created to weatherize public buildings.** “The N.C. Employment Security Commission will receive \$950,000 in federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to analyze and publicize available green jobs in the state, Sen. Kay Hagan said Wednesday.. Hagan said examples of available green jobs will include those created by the stimulus, such as \$131 million for weatherizing public buildings. Others might include manufacturing lithium-ion batteries or working on buildings that seek LEED environmental certification.” [*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area*, 11/18/09]

**Multi-year *Recovery Act*-Justice Assistance Grant fund will be used to upgrade to the Hickory Police Department's firing range and target system.** “Seventeen million dollars — that's how much the Hickory City Council voted to borrow to build the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant Sewer Project... In other business, the council voted to... appropriate \$53,397 from the General Fund Balance and transfer the money to the Multi-Year Recovery Act-Justice Assistance Grant Fund. The transfer will provide the additional money required for the upgrade to the police department's firing range and target system. The Justice Assistance Grant awarded to the department provides \$23,256 toward the total upgrade cost of \$76,652.96.” [*Hickory Daily Record*, 11/17/09]

***Recovery Act* funds will expand production at Robinsville hydroelectric plant.** “Under the umbrella of the Department of Energy’s renewable energy funding, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced last week that up to \$30.6 million in stimulus funds would go into modernizing seven hydropower projects. While \$30.6 million doesn’t sound like much in the context of the \$2.2 billion in renewable energy grants in all that were announced, the DOE

estimates that the dam upgrades could increase generation by 187,000 megawatt-hours per year at an average cost of less than 4 cents per kWh — all without building new dams. In addition to benefiting a handful of cities and utilities, the funding is a boon to companies with technologies, such as high-efficiency fish-friendly turbines and advanced control systems... The funded projects are divided into two groups: those with more than 50 MW of capacity and those with less. The former group includes ... up to \$13 million for Alcoa, Inc. to replace four 90-year-old turbines at the Tapoco Cheoah plant in Robbinsville, N.C., work that would increase generation by 23 percent and reduce the likelihood of an oil spill into the river.” [[Solve Climate](#), 11/12/09]

**Local scientists at the University Of Chapel Hill and Duke benefit from Recovery Act research grants; at UNC, 137 jobs were created or retained and 166 were saved or created at Duke.** “Researchers at Duke and UNC Chapel Hill together have raked in nearly a quarter of a billion dollars of the overall \$15 billion offered by the government with the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last February. The influx has given an extraordinary boost to local scientists and fundamentally changed the morale at both schools... With cuts in state funding, said Tony Waldrop, UNC's vice chancellor for research and economic development, morale had been low. ‘Everyone had been asked to work harder, for less, and it was really good there was this very positive sign of federal support.’ The funding has had a more tangible effect as well. It has helped save jobs and in some cases allowed new hiring. At Carolina, through September, officials say 137 jobs were created or retained because of stimulus funding. They are expecting more than 400 such jobs retained or added through the two-year funding period. Kyle Cavanaugh, vice president for human resources at Duke, said the stimulus money has allowed the university to keep or add 166 positions, ‘and that includes a variety of different positions, post-doc positions, graduate assistants, technical positions and some faculty positions, too.’ [[Herald Sun](#), 11/3/09]

**Recovery Act grants help Charlotte clean-energy companies expand; one will use the grant to build a second reprocessing plant that will add 60 employees, more than doubling its current head count.** “Charlotte’s SCR-Tech won a \$12.4 million stimulus grant this year to expand its operations in a field that essentially did not exist in the United States 10 years ago. The subsidiary of Charlotte-based CoaLogix Inc. reprocesses the catalysts used to scrub nitrogen oxide and other emissions from coal-fired power plants. After the pollutants are removed, power companies reuse them. Lloyd Swaringer, marketing manager at CoaLogix, says the process costs utilities about 60% less than replacement. The company will use the grant to build a second reprocessing plant that will add 60 employees, more than doubling its current head count.” [[Charlotte Business Journal](#), 10/30/09]

**The Recovery Act will fund six research projects at Appalachian State University.** “Six research projects at Appalachian State University have been granted stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Four of the six projects were funded through the National Science Foundation, which can use stimulus money to fund projects... ‘As part of the [ARRA] of 2009, funding became available to various federal agencies to support scientific research,” geography and planning professor Peter T. Soule’ said... Soule’ submitted a research proposal in August 2008, before the stimulus funds were available. After the ARRA passed, additional funding was granted through stimulus funds. ‘In our country, education is one of the best investments we can make,’ Susan D. McCracken, director of graduate school and research said.” [[The Appalachian](#), 10/27/09]

**\$1.3 million allocation in Recovery Act funding has helped underwrite 214 short-term jobs for teens and laid-off workers.** “A \$1.3 million grant that came Durham’s way from the federal economic stimulus bill so far has helped underwrite 214 short-term jobs for

teens, laid-off workers and others affected by the recession, city officials say. By far the largest number of those jobs, 156, came in a summer youth-employment effort that's designed to help teens and people in their early 20s gain experience, a track record and references they can later capitalize on when seeking other employment... Local governments, nonprofits and private business all served up temporary opportunities... The 156 jobs were in addition to 54 others through the mayor's summer youth program that the city normally funds each year, McCoy said... Officials estimate that a \$4.3 million grant to the Durham Area Transit Authority has helped save nearly 29 jobs at the bus system by helping plug its ongoing operating deficit." [*The Herald Sun*, 10/26/09]

**Asheville Green Opportunities has trained workers to weatherize homes with Recovery Act funding.** "The 10 young men in training with Asheville Green Opportunities were doing more than just looking to save energy as they combed through the American Red Cross chapter headquarters recently. Their work also could help the chapter spend more on blood collection than on utility bills, GO organizers said. Weatherization is expected to pump new energy into the economy as these trainees and other workers find additional work in weatherizing about 900 homes in four counties, spending \$4.2 million in federal stimulus money over the next three years, according to Ben Watts, director of economic development for Community Action Opportunities... 'In performing an energy audit for the Red Cross, they can also learn critical skills for a career in a growing local industry that's being promoted by federal stimulus money and tax credits. With utility costs running about \$3,000 a month, Patrick Fitzsimmons, executive director of the Red Cross Asheville-Mountain Area Chapter, would like to see the nonprofit save energy and reduce its carbon footprint of greenhouse gases... Weatherization workers like the Asheville GO Team will check for safety issues for air quality and mold, do air sealing, add insulation, or even replace the furnace and windows, depending on the needs of the particular house." [*Asheville Citizen-Times*, 10/26/09]

**Recovery Act funding will create 100 jobs and fund research projects at Duke University.** "... Duke has received approximately \$146.8 million in federal stimulus research funding... Most of Duke's ARRA research money is through increased budgets for existing projects... Of the \$147 million,... roughly 75 percent is to cover direct costs—for expenses such as labor, material and equipment – borne by research teams. On the employment side, the additional funding has allowed the University to keep or add more than 100 positions, said Vice President for Human Resources Kyle Cavanaugh. The positions range from post-doctoral jobs to work-study spots for undergraduates." [*Duke Chronicle*, 10/20/09]

**Recovery Act funding will create jobs and help weatherize up to 600 homes in four North Carolina counties, up from 239 last year.** "The attic is one area of Patricia Harris's Lockwood home of 18 years where she knows she's losing energy, and, money on her heating bills. 'Those windows up there are not insulated at all. If I can qualify for this weatherization program, that'll be good.' said Harris. In the past the State of North Carolina's had about 9 million dollars to work with for weatherizing homes. With the new Federal Stimulus it will get much more, \$42 million a year for the next three years. Under the program, homes can get insulation updated in the attic, walls, and crawl space; get heating and air conditioning fine tuned, get weather stripping along windows and door jams, and get new energy efficient lighting. Gaston Community Action, Inc. ... one of 28 agencies statewide tapped to facilitate the federal stimulus program... serves Mecklenburg, Gaston, Stanly and Union Counties. Joseph Dixon, the Executive Director of GCA, says they've received over 300 applications already. 'We plan to start in December, that's probably the soonest we'll be able to start,' said Dixon. Right now Dixon says he's busy hiring staff and sending out bids to contractors who will do the work. The best part is it's all Free. Last year 239 homes were weatherized in the 4 county area, 133 in

Mecklenburg County. This year's goal, with the new stimulus money added, is to weatherize almost 600 homes." [*Fox Charlotte*, 10/20/09]

**In North Carolina, the *Recovery Act* has created 24,442 jobs and funded 110 road and bridge projects.** "Kelvin Whitehurst bought a third dump truck and hired a third driver this summer, after he landed his biggest job yet in 10 years as a highway subcontractor. He took in \$155,000 for three months of work lining up trucks to haul asphalt for a nighttime paving operation on the Interstate 440 Beltline. Whitehurst had a small piece of a \$3.6 million project financed entirely with federal economic stimulus dollars... 'Dump-trucking was kind of hard this year,' said Whitehurst, 41, of Raleigh. 'So I was really thinking about downsizing until this contract came along'... North Carolina highway contractors are recalling workers idled last fall after a nationwide economic contraction forced a dramatic cut in highway spending. The state Department of Transportation has 110 stimulus-funded road and bridge projects worth \$348 million under way, with more contracts to be awarded in the coming year... A broader review, looking primarily at state agency spending, counted 24,442 stimulus jobs in North Carolina so far. Schools and Medicaid programs accounted for more than 19,000 of the total, and the tally included 248 jobs created or preserved by DOT projects." [*Chapel Hill News Observer*, 10/18/09]

***Recovery Act* funding has saved or created 24,000 jobs in North Carolina.** "North Carolina government says federal stimulus money sent directly to state agencies has saved or created at least more than 24,000 jobs so far... Sizeable amounts of money have been used so far to fill revenue gaps in the state budget, contract for 110 highway projects and provide supplemental funds to local school districts. The state recovery office said more than 19,000 of the jobs were saved or created, thanks to more than \$1 billion set aside in the budget for the public schools and Medicaid." [*Associated Press*, 10/14/09]

**Cleveland County school officials report that *Recovery Act* funding will save nearly 30 local jobs.** "Over the course of the past year, class sizes have grown, teachers have faced layoffs and school programs have disappeared along with state and federal funding. Now, some of these gaps are being filled with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The federal stimulus bill has brought \$12.1 million to Cleveland County Schools, including \$4.4 million in budget stabilization funds, \$3.9 million in Title I funds and nearly \$3.6 million in IDEA funds. Dr. Bruce Boyles, superintendent of Cleveland County Schools, said school officials are using the money in place of funds that have been lost. In many cases, it is keeping staff employed. 'The losses we've experienced from the state, the federal stimulus money will help offset some of that,' Boyles said. Those funds, close to \$8 million total, help to keep at least 27 people in the school system employed... [David Lee, finance director for Cleveland County Schools] said Title 1 funding alone accounts for 21 jobs. Another six employees, Exceptional Children teachers, are being paid with those funds... 'Department of Public Instruction, in essence, eliminated one entire funding category that came to local schools and substituted this money for the funding source,' said Lee. He said that the money primarily went towards paying custodians, maintenance and teacher assistants." [*The Cleveland County Star*, 10/11/08]

**\$1.3 billion in *Recovery Act* allocation will help fund teachers and instructional support positions in North Carolina over the next two years.** "The ARRA, better known as the federal stimulus bill, has allocated approximately \$753 million to stabilize the public schools budget and save jobs for teachers, assistants and custodians. In addition, \$247 million will go to what are known as Title I schools, or schools that have a significant number of children from low-income families. And another \$314 million in stimulus funds will end up in public schools to help children with handicaps as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Act program... 'It's going to be thousands of jobs that are going to be saved,' said Paul LeSieur,

director of school business services for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.” [*The Times News*, 10/4/09]

**Hickory Public Schools will retain teaching positions despite budget cuts, thanks to Recovery Act funds.** “Hickory Public Schools’ operating budget decreased by 5 percent this year. Despite this, the system is employing nearly all of the teachers and teacher assistants that were with the system last year... The stimulus money and funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) helped bolster this year’s budget... ‘Locally, we’ve budgeted more from reserves, but with stabilization funds, we’ve been able to maintain as much as possible in the classroom,’ said Kathy Isenhour, assistant superintendent and finance officer for Hickory Public Schools... ‘Isenhour said despite the cutbacks by the state, the school system has approximately the same number of teaching positions... ‘The school system also received \$255,480 in stimulus money for Title 1, to help keep class sizes lower, and an additional \$313,679 in stimulus money for IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act). ‘The IDEA funding helped implement an early intervention program, with a new staff person at each school,” Isenhour said.” [*Hickory Record*, 10/2/09]

**Eight new Recovery Act-funded road projects will put North Carolinians to work.** “The North Carolina Department of Transportation has awarded 17 new transportation contracts totaling \$65.2 million, including five Triangle projects worth \$10.8 million, Gov. Bev Perdue’s office announced Thursday. The contracts, which include eight funded with federal stimulus money, are for highway, bridge and ferry projects across the state. The following local projects were among those awarded: A \$1.1 million contract to resurface and reconstruct the shoulders along 6.3 miles of N.C. 57 from N.C. 86 to just north of Pearson Road southeast of Hillsborough in Orange County... A \$4.9 million contract to upgrade the computerized traffic signal system for Chapel Hill and Carrboro... A \$1.7 million contract to replace the bridges over Story’s Creek and Ghent Creek on Edwin Robertson Road in Person County... A \$1.4 million contract to replace the bridge on N.C. 42 over the *Norfolk & Southern Railroad* tracks in Harnett County... A \$1.7 million contract to widen, resurface and reconstruct the shoulders along 13 miles of roadway that includes eight sections of secondary roads in Cumberland County and four sections of secondary roads in Harnett County.” [*Triangle Business Journal*, 10/1/09]

**North Carolina Department of Transportation reports that 2,170 jobs have been created thanks to the Recovery Act.** “Lifelong Kinston resident Ann Hardison works just down the highway from where a major highway construction project is getting under way, courtesy of \$42.9 million in federal stimulus funds. She’s hopeful that the construction of the Harvey Parkway extension, a four-mile multi-lane highway from where the parkway currently ends at U.S. 258 to U.S. 70, will end up helping the nearby Global TransPark grow and be a boost to the area’s economy... Spirit AeroSystems announced last year that it plans to locate an airline component manufacturing plant at the Global TransPark. Spirit plans to hire about 1,000 workers at the site... While one segment of the parkway, from U.S. 258 to the GTP has been built, Stevens said he had no idea when the N.C. Department of Transportation would have had the money for the project if the federal stimulus money hadn’t come along... Nicole Meister, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Transportation, said that federal transportation stimulus funds have created 2,170 jobs statewide through July.” [*Jacksonville Daily News*, 9/27/09]

**Recovery Act funding creates 1,300 N.C. jobs in the month of August alone, adding to the now 3,449 employees working on Recovery Act-funded projects in the state.** “The nearly \$1 billion in federal funds the N.C. Department of Transportation received this year created nearly 1,300 jobs last month. A total of 3,449 employees worked on stimulus-funded construction projects for the department in August — a 59 percent leap from the 2,170 employees involved in such work in July. The gains were even more dramatic in terms of the

hours worked and the payroll. Companies working on stimulus-funded projects paid employees nearly \$3.3 million for 196,920 hours worked in August. Both figures are almost double the July totals of \$1.7 million in payroll and 99,561 hours worked... N.C. Department of Transportation has received a total of \$838 million in federal stimulus funds, including \$735 million for road and bridge projects. The Federal Highway Administration estimates every \$1 million spent on transportation creates 30 jobs.” [Charlotte Business Journal, 9/24/09]

**Recovery Act funding allows Wake County Public Schools to add new pre-k classes and hire math coaches.** “The Wake County Public School System has \$46 million in federal stimulus funds to spend, and Gail Pengelly’s pre-kindergarten class is part of that funding. Her class at Barwell Road Elementary School is one of 19 new pre-K classes in Wake County schools. The goal is to add a total of 26. Previously, the school system had 12 pre-K classes, which were funded with Title I money... Stimulus money also bought each Title I school a math coach. ... Wake County school officials said 75 percent of their stimulus money went to saving or creating jobs for 558 positions including classroom teachers, teacher assistants and instructional support staff. The money will be used over the next two years.” [WRAL.com, 9/17/09]

**Wake County schools will use Recovery Act grants to hire math and literacy coaches, expand pre-kindergarten classes, and save or create 58 jobs.** [Gov. Beverly] “Perdue has urged school districts to use stimulus dollars, which are only guaranteed for two years, to save jobs now. Wake school officials said that they will use the \$47.3 million in stimulus money the system will receive over the next two years to save or create 58 jobs... Wake Superintendent Del Burns said using the money for hiring math and literacy coaches to train teachers and expanding pre-kindergarten classes will promote benefits even if the positions are eliminated later.” [News and Observer, 9/16/09]

**Recovery Act grant will fund program to help veterans and military spouses train for high demand jobs.** “A \$900,000 grant from federal stimulus money will pay for a program to help veterans and military spouses train for high demand jobs in the area. Officials for N.C.’s Eastern Region Military Growth Task Force and Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board announced the grant in Jacksonville on Wednesday to be used for a two-year program expanding employment and training in the region. It was awarded by the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Division of Workforce Development. “The Veteran’s Initiative Project is a result of strategic planning efforts through the Military Growth Task Force to attract and retain veterans and military spouses in Eastern North Carolina to fill many of the needed jobs requiring their unique attributes,” said Jay Bender, task force interim executive director... The project will provide training and skill certification opportunities in the high demand, high growth sectors now identified as health care, education, child care, construction and skilled trades, emerging green jobs, aviation and aerospace, and advanced manufacturing.” [Sun Journal, 9/13/09]

**Asheville-based propane company will work on Recovery Act-funded project to retrofit vehicles to run on alternative fuel; the project should create 350 jobs in the southeast.** “A city propane company is heading up an \$8.6 million federal stimulus project to convert vehicles to propane fuel and build a network of propane gas stations across the Southeast. Alliance AutoGas, a partnership between city-based Blossman Gas and New York company American Alternative Fuel, will lead a public/private coalition to add hybrid propane fuel systems to about 1,500 vehicles and install 17 propane gas stations stretching from Washington, D.C., to Mississippi, Blossman president Stuart Weidie said. He is also the CEO of Alliance AutoGas. Though the gas has not yet gained the prominence of other alternative fuels, Weidie expects propane to catch on when motorists see how cheap and clean it is. The project is

expected to create 350 jobs across the Southeast, including several at a city auto shop.” [Asheville Citizen-Times, 9/2/09]

**Recovery Act money will jumpstart the construction of 36 affordable housing projects; projects could create more than 2,000 construction jobs across the state.**

“Dozens of affordable housing projects stalled when the economy slipped into recession. But federal stimulus money may help some of those projects get back on track... But federal stimulus money means that construction equipment may no longer have to sit idle. The Treasury Department recently announced that North Carolina will get \$95 million in funding. That money will jump start 36 affordable housing communities that were stalled in the Triangle, the Triad, along the coast and in the Charlotte region. Officials say it will fill a growing need for that type of rental properties.,,, Developers also believe the projects will create more than 2,000 construction jobs across the state... The federal money will finance more than 2,000 apartments. Close to 70 percent of those units will be for families, and the rest are for seniors.” [News 14 Carolina, 8/27/09]

**Recovery Act funds saved 34 teaching positions in Moore County schools.**

“Federal economic stimulus money has allowed Moore County schools to save 34 teaching positions. Superintendent Susan Purser said the school system will receive \$3.2 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. School officials initially thought they would have to cut \$7 million and 90 positions from the budget. Last school year, the school system received \$64.8million of its approximate \$110 million budget from the state. This year, it will receive \$57.8million from the state. The overall budget decreased from about \$110 million to \$104million... Thirteen positions were spared earlier this year when the school system received \$650,000 in stimulus money. Purser said those positions are included in the 34.” [The Fayetteville Observer, 8/20/09]

**N.C. Forest Department will hire or retain three workers using Recovery Act funds, will also prevent wildfires, provide scholarships for foresters to attend school.**

“More than \$6 million in federal stimulus money will help North Carolina restore forests and prevent wildfires. The N.C. Division of Forest Resources said it would use the money to reduce dried vegetation in forests that provides kindling for fires, to set up community wildfire protection plans and to hire contractors for fire mitigation and prevention education. The state sees about 5,000 wildfires each year, the division said. The funds will also pay for: Longleaf pine restoration efforts in Bladen Lakes State Forest. An irrigation system to produce more containerized longleaf pine seedlings at the division's nursery in Goldsboro. A new administrative assistant for the division. Keeping an existing forester job to serve as coordinator of longleaf restoration efforts, and hiring an outreach and education coordinator to develop educational workshops on the longleaf pine. Scholarships to help 25 foresters and natural-resource professionals attend Longleaf Academies in Alabama. Promotional and educational materials.” [Asheville Citizen-Times, 8/20/09]

**Garner Police Department using Recovery Act funds to hire four new officers.**

“Since March, the [Garner Police Department] has been pegged to receive more than \$401,000 in grants from the Governor’s Highway Safety Program and U.S. Department of Justice. Most of the funds and their availability are tied to the \$787 billion federal economic stimulus funds signed into effect this past spring... Most recently, the Justice Department announced a grant award of \$172,356 to the Garner Police via the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services’ Hiring Recovery Program. This money will be used to hire and outfit a new patrol officer for the next three years... In all, GPD is looking to fill four positions, including one funded through a \$46,626 Justice Assistance Grant from the Office of Justice Programs, which was announced in

March... ‘We’ve been fortunate that the new administration has put an emphasis on creating jobs, particularly in law enforcement,’ Copeland said.” [*Garner Citizen* (NC), 8/17/09]

**Recovery Act money will finance road and bridge work for the next 5 years, create construction jobs.** “More than \$800 million is coming to North Carolina to not only fix roads and bridges, but to put people back to work. Money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will go toward fixing the state’s roadways over the next five years. Transportation officials say they hope the money will help the department make good on promises for road work they made in the past. ‘What we are trying to do now is put together a work program that is realistic, that we will guarantee delivery of 90 percent or better within the five year time frame,’ explained Gene Conti, C.C. DOT transportation secretary. ‘So, we think that will restore confidence in DOT and delivery better value to the North Carolina taxpayer.’” [*News 14*, 8/12/09]

**Recovery Act allotment to national forests in North Carolina underwrote numerous projects and 9 new jobs.** “More than \$15 million in federal stimulus money will help the National Forests in North Carolina repair historic structures, improve recreation, restore native habitats and improve foresters’ abilities to fight fires in Western North Carolina. The projects will help to create at least nine temporary jobs with the U.S. Forest Service, while providing work to contractors, conservation groups and other partner agencies and organizations. ‘These are all projects that we wouldn’t otherwise be able to do,’ said Alice Cohen, a spokeswoman for the National Forests in North Carolina. ‘It is wonderful to have this infusion of funding while also creating jobs.’ The money is part of the \$1.15 billion the Forest Service received as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes \$500 million for wildland fire management and \$650 million for capital improvement and maintenance. The agency has announced \$936 million in projects so far.” [*Citizen Times*, 7/27/09]

**Recovery Act -funded transit system project in the Charlotte area will employ 500 people.** “With a \$20.7 million boost from federal stimulus funding, the Charlotte Area Transit System will begin construction this fall on the city’s largest project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act... ‘It is the most important thing as far as a capital project to move forward. It’s the one that’s ready to go now,’ said David McDonald, the CATS manager who will oversee the renovations. About five hundred contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers will be employed through the construction of the project, which is scheduled to begin in September, McDonald said.” [*WCNC*, 7/23/09]

**140 young people employed through Recovery Act-funded UNC Pembroke summer youth employment program.** “In a tight job market, summer jobs for teens are scarce. An eight-week Summer Youth Employment Program at UNC Pembroke is helping to fill the gap by providing employment for 140 local youth. The University received a grant through the Lumber River Council of Governments for \$411,796 funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act... Most of the internships are with local governments, schools and non-profits including the Agricultural Extension Service, county parks and recreation and the Center for Community Action in Lumberton. Some will work outdoors but many have ‘white collar’ jobs in offices.” [*Richmond County Daily Journal*, 7/21/09]

**Over 40 teenagers in rural community near Charlotte have been employed thanks to Recovery Act.** “The heat was a bit of a surprise Monday afternoon. The sun isn’t blaring, but the humidity was enough to make anyone working outside wince. Cody Shoe maneuvered a riding lawnmower in the muggy air. He was grooming the campus of Stanly Community College. Shoe’s been on the job for about four weeks. ‘It seems like an easy job until you really

get in there and do it and then you realize how difficult these people have it,' Shoe said. Shoe is one of 40 Stanly County teenagers working this summer because of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as the stimulus package. More than \$1 billion was set aside from the package to be invested in youth employment. North Carolina is getting about \$25 million of the money and Stanly County received \$40,000. Those funds will pay for 40 teenagers to work 20 hours a week for six weeks at \$7.25 an hour." [News 14, 7/20/09]

**Recovery Act funds to help Mecklenburg County replace and repower diesel engines; the project will create jobs and protect public health.** "In a move that stands to create jobs, boost local economies, reduce diesel emissions and protect human health and the environment for people of Mecklenburg County, NC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$1,116,600 to Mecklenburg County to replace and repower diesel engines in the metropolitan area. This clean diesel project will create jobs while protecting the City of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County's air quality. 'This grant is a great investment in environmental protection and will provide long-term economic benefits for North Carolina,' said Stan Meiburg, EPA Acting Regional Administrator in Atlanta. 'This funding will go a long way in helping to bolster the economy and protect public health and the environment by creating green jobs that improve air quality.' The funds are provided under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009 National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. [Press Release – Environmental Protection Agency, 6/29/09]

**North Carolina obligated Recovery Act resources to 11 highway projects; anticipated that each dollar directed to transportation nets \$6 in economic impact.** "Gov. Bev Perdue announced today that 31 contracts totaling \$73 million have been awarded for highway and bridge projects across North Carolina, including 11 projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. 'All of these projects will help generate new jobs and economic development for North Carolina, as well as improve travel throughout our state,' Perdue said. According to the Federal Highway Administration, every \$1 million spent on transportation creates 30 jobs, and according to the construction industry, every dollar invested in transportation generates \$6 in economic impact. The 11 recovery projects awarded are located in Bertie, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Stokes, Transylvania and Watauga counties. The 20 other projects awarded are located in Anson, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Catawba Cumberland, Granville, Henderson, Iredell, Lincoln, Madison, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, New Hanover, Polk, Sampson, Stanly, Transylvania, Warren and Yancey counties. Work on all contracts will start in July." [Press Release – Governor Beverly Perdue, 6/29/09]

**Recovery Act allocation for transit projects will create or retain an estimated 3,200 jobs.** "Transit operations in the Triangle will receive a total of about \$23 million in federal stimulus funding, including \$11.6 million for the city of Raleigh to build a new maintenance and operations facility for its Capital Area Transit buses... Projects in rural areas across the state totaled more than \$33 million." [Triangle Business Journal, 6/10/09]