



Fact Sheet

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The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Alaska Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Alaska

On February 13, 2009, the Senate approved the final version of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and sent the legislation to President Obama to be signed into law (P.L. 111-5). The *Recovery Act* is an extraordinary response by Democrats to an inherited economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. The legislation represents an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can not only recover but prosper once again.

Nationwide, we have already seen companies rehiring laid-off workers, construction and renovation of facilities, and the re-starting of environmental remediation activities. And, just a few months into the two-year *Recovery Act* programs:

- **We have minimized and avoided reductions in essential services in Alaska** by providing aid to help stabilize state and local budgets, protected critical safety-net programs, and saved teaching and law enforcement jobs.
- **Plans for job-creating infrastructure projects in Alaska are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$59.2 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$4.8 million in airport grants for development projects that enhance safety, capacity and security and airport facilities and equipment upgrades (through the Federal Aviation Administration) (as of June 2, 2009). These *Recovery Act* projects deliver jobs and make important investments in the safety of our transportation systems. [DOT Allocation Report, 6/2/2009].
- **Families and communities in Alaska that have been hard-hit by the recession** can access increased unemployment benefits, assistance with health insurance premiums for those who have become unemployed, and food aid. And 300,000 households in Alaska – approximately 95 percent of all families and individuals – have already begun seeing an increase in their take-home pay through the landmark Making Work Pay tax credit. The typical family will have about \$800 extra cash delivered to them in their paychecks over the next year. [The White House, 4/2/2009]

Here is a sampling of projects in Alaska that have been covered by local media and press releases in the past several weeks, demonstrating the real-life impacts that the *Recovery Act* has already made for Alaskans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Merrill Field received \$1.86 million in *Recovery Act* funding from the Federal Aviation Administration for airport improvement projects.** Projects include reconstruction of aprons to accommodate 100 aircraft. The construction contract is expected to employ approximately twenty engineering and construction professionals. [[KTVA CBS 11](#), 6/10/2009]
- **Preventive measures against forest fires in Alaska to be enacted with \$1.4 million in *Recovery Act* funds given to Alaska Division of Forestry.** Two crews will be hired to manually and mechanically cut and burn about 250 acres of mostly black spruce near Washington Creek along the Elliott Highway, about 30 miles north of Fairbanks, in the next two weeks. [[Fairbanks News Miner](#), 6/8/2009]
- **Housing Secretary says the government will offer more than \$250 million in housing grants to American Indians and Alaska Natives as part of the *Recovery Act* package.** The competitive grants can be used to purchase land, build new homes and retrofit existing homes to make them more energy efficient... Donovan said the money could reduce crowding on reservations and improve living conditions.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/2/2009]
- **Alaska will receive an estimated \$1.3-\$1.5 billion in *Recovery Act* funding.** The majority of funding is from the Interior Department for reclaiming mines, monitoring volcanoes, and rehabilitating trails within national parks. [[Anchorage Daily News](#), 5/26/2009]
- **Rural Alaska Community Action program is helping communities use *Recovery Act* funds to make buildings energy-efficient.** Initial projects focus on eight different rural communities for small scale efficiency work for about 150 houses and possible work to make community buildings more efficient. [[KTVSA News Channel 11](#), 5/19/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* health facility construction funds will be used to complete the construction of the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome, Alaska.** The new facility will replace a 61-year-old hospital that is stretched to serve an estimated 10,000 users, create a substantial number of new jobs in construction, transportation and other professions, and help fight unemployment in Nome. [[Indian Country Today](#), 5/18/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will enable the Chena Flood Control Project to replace faulty drainage pipes.** [[Associated Press](#), 5/10/2009]