



# Fact Sheet

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## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Arkansas**

### **Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Arkansas**

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 Arkansas** 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 Arkansas are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$136.4 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$3 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 Arkansas 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 1.0 million households in Arkansas – 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 Arkansas 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 Arkansans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- ***Recovery Act funds disbursed to Ozark Regional Transit, purchasing buses, vans, and shelters.*** “Springdale-based Ozark Regional Transit received \$1.5 million in federal money Friday for the purchase of buses, vans and shelters. The award was announced as part of a larger, \$16.6 million statewide package for seven transit agencies serving rural routes and their associations.” [[Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 6/13/2009]
- ***More than 200 Arkansas youths will work at summer jobs funded by Recovery Act.*** “This is an excellent opportunity because it will put our young people to work which will give them some experience in the work place, but it is also an opportunity for the older ones, the seniors headed to college and those already in college, to make a decent wage and have some money set aside when they go back or have money for clothes and in some cases allow them to put much needed food on the table for their families.” [[Forrest City Times-Herald](#), 6/9/2009]
- ***Recovery Act will fund green projects in Arkansas.*** Projects include diesel emission reduction, support for wind power projects, weatherizing homes. [[KTHV Channel 11 News](#), 6/1/2009]
- ***Arkansas is slated to receive \$28 million in Recovery Act money for job retraining programs.*** Jose Hernandez was laid off from his job at Technical Machining Services in Rogers in February – he quickly determined that he wanted to leave behind the physical labor, long hours and relatively low wages of the manufacturing field. But clerical work, education and even food service jobs require basic computer skills that he hadn't acquired. So Hernandez started computer classes at Elizabeth Schaeuffler's Rogers home. [[Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 6/1/2009]
- ***Recovery Act funds will allow the Arkansas youth jobs program to raise the age limit from 18 to 24, allowing an expansion from 100 to 300 in the school-age program.*** “It's a real big boost in helping our youth find employment.” [[Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#), 5/24/2009]
- ***Rural communities across Arkansas will receive over \$1 million Recovery Act funds to buy equipment.*** Purchases will include police cars, fire trucks, and other needed safety equipment. [[Arkansas Business](#), 5/19/2009]