



Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232
DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551
Available Online: dpc.senate.gov

June 16, 2009

The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Arizona

Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Arizona

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 Arizona** 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 Arizona are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$256.2 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$6.3 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 Arizona 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 2.2 million households in Arizona – 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 Arizona 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 Arizonans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Maricopa County Community College System – one of the largest in the U.S. – will be bolstered by at least \$29 million in *Recovery Act* monies.** “Maricopa County's community colleges will be getting a boost from two sources of federal funds. They stand to get more than half the estimated \$58 million the U.S. Department of Education is funneling through the Governor's Office to Arizona's 14 community-college districts to replace money cut by the Legislature. In addition, they will receive an undetermined amount from \$15.9 million in funds for job training and will seek some of the \$750 million in U.S. Labor Department grants. [[Associated Press](#), 6/15/2009]
- **Arizona will use \$1 billion in *Recovery Act* education funding to offset education cuts and rehire recently laid-off teachers.** The stimulus money will help schools bring back more teachers who were laid off in the spring. [[Arizona Republic](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Arizona will receive \$22.8 million in *Recovery Act* funds for its weatherization program.** Governor: “The timing is tremendous for both the workers and the citizens that will benefit. Being among the first means we get a jump start on putting Arizonans back to work, and it comes at a time when consumers really need the help with summer cooling bills.” [[The Arizona Guardian](#), 6/8/2009]
- **Unexpectedly low construction bids increase productivity of *Recovery Act* allotments to Arizona Department of Transportation.** Saving are in excess of \$7.3 million that will be pooled back into Arizona's 13 rural counties to fund other shovel-ready projects further down ADOT's priority list. [[Kingman Daily Miner](#), 6/8/2009]
- ***Recovery-Act*-funded road project in New Mexico enabled Tempe-based FNF Construction to keep staff on board and may spur new hires as it reconditions a stretch of U.S. 491 in New Mexico.** [[Phoenix Business Journal](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Pima County dedicating \$10 million for sewer improvement.** County officials estimate the project will create between 170 and 200 construction-related jobs, including contractors, suppliers and engineers and another 85 -100 indirect jobs. [[Arizona Daily Star](#), 5/26/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funded forest restoration and removal of hazardous fuels projects will create jobs in Arizona.** [[White Mountain Independent](#), 5/15/2009]
- **Solar companies growing thanks to *Recovery Act*.** Tempe-based evolution Solar Corp CEO: “three months ago there was no stimulus bill and markets were coasting downward. Now the landscape has changed.” [[CyberMedia India Online](#), 5/17/2009]
- **Arizona will receive \$961,000 in *Recovery Act* funds for retraining and providing assistance to workers displaced by jobs that have left the country.** States are allowed to use it for workforce development, career guidance and job search training. [[AZBiz](#), 5/15/2009]

- **Marie Torres' company MRM Construction Services won contract, funded by Recovery Act.** Project will improve Luke Air Force Base. [[Phoenix Business Journal](#), 5/15/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds will be used to help close the Arizona budget gap.** [[Phoenix Business Journal](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Recovery Act funding will help Graham County provide job training and education to low-income youth.** Workforce Development pays each participant \$7.25 per hour for a 30-hour work week. The summer job lasts eight weeks. The types of jobs include clerical work, teaching assistant and outdoor positions with the U.S. Forest Service. [[Eastern Arizona Courier](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds will help Arizona State University's financial stability.** University will retain teachers and keep costs low. [[Arizona Capitol Times](#), 5/11/2009]
- **Recovery Act money reaches Yavapai County health clinics.** Funding enabling them to increase clinic hours and hire additional staff. [[Prescott Daily Courier](#), 5/6/2009]