



Fact Sheet

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

Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in the District of Columbia

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 the District** 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 DC are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocations of *Recovery Act* funding, including \$1.29 billion in Federal Railroad Administration Funding for Amtrak improvements. 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 the District 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 200,000 households in the District of Columbia – 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 DC 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 Washingtonians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Washington D.C. jobs receive most benefit from *Recovery Act*.** “The recently-passed federal economic stimulus plan will create more jobs in Washington, D.C. than anywhere else in the country. Cassidy & Pinkard Colliers recently released a report stating that the greater Washington area will benefit the most from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. According to an article by [GlobeSt.com](#), this is not a surprise, as generally when the economy reaches a recession, population growth in the D.C. area exceeds other cities by 15 to 20 percent. That means the stimulus, which amounts to \$787 billion overall, will garner more jobs and needed office space for Washington, D.C.” [[jobfetch.com](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **Smithsonian Institution *Recovery Act* plans create District jobs and get millions of dollars of projects underway.** Projects include \$4.6 million of work on the Arts and Industries Building, involving both masonry repointing of failed joints to stop the ingress of water and hazardous material removal and selective demolition. The \$11.4 million in *Recovery Act* funding for the National Zoological Park will go towards fire protection projects, replacement of roofs, and repair of bridges at Rock Creek campus. Another \$9 million is devoted to other projects, including the installation of high-voltage electrical safety improvements at multiple locations on the National Mall and the refurbishment of elevators and escalators at the National Air and Space Museum and National Museum of American History. [[Smithsonian Institution](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **National Park Service announces major National Capital Region *Recovery Act* projects.** “We are excited that Recovery Act projects will help us improve the standard of care in the National Capital Region’s parks. We will be able to improve the condition of our park resources and provide a better quality experience for visitors... We are committed to managing the funds with the highest level of accountability while creating much needed jobs.”

Projects in the District include: Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool repairs and improved handicapped access and irrigation (\$30.5 million); District of Columbia War Memorial restoration, including restoring lighting systems, correcting water drainage systems, and restoring the landscape to allow the memorial to be used as a bandstand (\$7.3 million); rehabilitation of historic bridle trails at Rock Creek Park (\$585,000); and at rehabilitation of trails and plant removals George Washington Memorial Parkway (\$415,000). [[Department of Interior](#), 4/22/2009]
- **The District Department of the Environment will receive over \$8 million in *Recovery Act* funds for its Weatherization Assistance Program.** At their request, DDOE Weatherization Program staff will perform energy audits on the homes of low-income residents and contract with community-based organizations to undertake audit-recommended measures (i.e., window or door repair or replacement, installation of insulation, replacement of old appliances) to reduce energy costs in those homes. Over the next three years, DDOE plans to use the Recovery Act funds to make energy improvements to approximately 785 homes. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District Department of the Environment proposes to use *Recovery Act* funds for "clean diesel" projects.** The plan to utilize \$1.7 million in formula-based funds to reduce diesel emissions in the District focuses on two discrete initiatives: 1) alternative fuel vehicle purchases; and 2) a public education campaign geared towards ensuring that

truck and bus companies operating in the District, District government employees, and residents are aware of the District's no idling regulation. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]

- **District receives increase in Medicaid funds under *Recovery Act*.** The District will receive additional federal matching funds to support the Medicaid program. Medicaid is a joint District-federal program that provides health care for low-income District of Columbia residents who meet certain program requirements. Medicaid provides comprehensive health care services to more than 150,000 District children and adults. With increased federal matching funds, the District's Department of Health Care Finance is protecting residents' access to health care services despite a challenging economic climate. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District recommends Anacostia River pollution prevention projects to EPA for *Recovery Act* funding.** [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District submits application for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.** The SFSF funds represent the largest direct grant the District will automatically receive through the *Recovery Act*—\$89.3M—and will be used over the next three years to support public education, housing assistance, and other essential government services. Mayor Fenty: “Reforming education in the District has been, and continues to be, the number one priority of my Administration. We are actively taking advantage of all available funding sources to further our goal of ensuring the best education for all District students, and we are especially pleased about this new source of funds.” [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District receives \$194,300 in *Recovery Act* funds for water quality management planning.** The first project is to revise and update the District of Columbia Water Pollution Control Contingency Plan, and the second is to develop required Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for pollutants that are detected in local impaired waterways. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District files plan for use of *Recovery Act* funds for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.** These funds will be used to provide direct housing subsidies, where appropriate, as well as an array of supportive services. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **DC Rehabilitation Services Administration to receive \$1.9 million in *Recovery Act* funds to assist disabled residents in securing employment.** In addition, under the Act's Independent Living State Grant program, the District will receive \$242,913 to support the expansion and enhancement of independent living services for eligible District residents. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District agencies apply for over \$5 million in *Recovery Act* grants for crime control, youth violence prevention, and victim assistance.** The Metropolitan Police Department and Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services have submitted six applications to the US Department of Justice funding under the *Recovery Act* for a number of high-priority law enforcement and juvenile justice related projects. The applications requested funding in excess of \$5 million. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **District to submit application for grant from \$4.7 billion Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.** [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]

- **District Receives Recovery Act Funds for Assistance to Victims of Crime.** The District has awarded Recovery Act funding to victim assistance programs to offset personnel costs associated with individuals who provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and survivors of homicide. Recipients include WEAVE, Children’s National Medical Center, DC Rape Crisis Center, DC SANE Program, and the Wendt Center. [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **U.S. Labor Department to release \$9.2m in unemployment insurance modernization incentive funds to District.** The District of Columbia qualified for the Recovery Act funds by allowing workers to use their more recent earnings to qualify for benefits. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis: “The District of Columbia’s long-standing decision to use recent wages when determining eligibility for benefits helps to ensure that the needs of the 21st century labor force are met. It is the right thing to do for workers and is good for economic recovery.” [[DC Recovery Site](#), accessed 6/15/2009]
- **Start of first transportation stimulus project for the District announced.** “The Fenty Administration along with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and the USDOT Federal Highway Administration today announced work has started on the first transportation related American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) project for the District. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) began work this weekend on the repaving of the Southeast/Southwest Freeway (I-395).” [[DC DOT](#), 4/27/2009]
- **DC Department of Health receives *Recovery Act* funding to purchase vaccines.** “The funding will allow DC to address the fact that it is still behind the rest of the country for adult immunizations. In the District, the 2007 adult vaccination rate for the flu was 60.2 percent compared to 72 percent nationally. The funds will be used to purchase commonly needed vaccines to protect residents from diseases such as influenza (the "flu"), pneumococci (common cause of pneumonia), tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis A and B, and zoster (shingles). DOH will also create an Adult Immunization Coordinator to ensure that the vaccines are being distributed and reaching the populations that would not otherwise have access to them.” [[DC DOH](#), 4/23/2009]
- **The General Services Administration plans to spend more than \$1 billion of its stimulus funding for government buildings in the District of Columbia.** “D.C. would be the nation's top beneficiary of GSA spending, with \$1.2 billion — more than one-fifth of the total \$5.5 billion — coming to the nation's capital. It is unclear when GSA will officially release the list; agency officials could not be reached for comment Tuesday night. The region's building industry has been anxiously awaiting the list of projects, hoping to get a piece of the federal pie designed to bring the country out of recession.” [[Washington Business Journal](#), 3/31/2009]