



Fact Sheet

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

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 Georgia** 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 Georgia are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$240.1 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$1.6 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 Georgia 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 3.4 million households in Georgia – 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 Georgia 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 Georgians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Manteca Community will increase energy efficiency by retrofitting streetlights with \$586,200 in *Recovery Act* money awarded via Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.** “The federal economic stimulus plan is sending some green to Manteca to save even more green. Manteca has been allocated \$586,200 as part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. It is part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program designed to assist public agencies in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use, and improve energy efficiency.” [*Manteca Bulletin*, 6/15/2009]
- **Coweta County’s mass transit plans on security, IT equipment for new bus Park-and-Ride Lot.** “Coweta County's proposed new park-and-ride lot for the Xpress Bus system will be getting \$158,600 from the federal stimulus... The money will go toward the information technology equipment for the lot. [*The Newnan Times-Herald*, 6/12/2009]
- **The Muscogee County School District plans to use stabilization money from the *Recovery Act* to fund several hundred jobs.** Among the jobs slated to be funded by the stabilization money are 57 school secretary positions, 159 elementary paraprofessional positions and about 30 teaching positions in art, music and physical education in elementary schools. [*Ledger-Enquirer*, 6/9/2009]
- **Contractors competing for *Recovery Act*-funded projects are driving bids lower than usual, freeing money for more projects.** DOT spokeswoman said DOT would decide what leftover money was usable and slate it for other projects sometime between July 1 and Feb. 29. [*Atlanta Journal Constitution*, 6/6/2009]
- **Small business owner Richard Simile said *Recovery Act* loan program would “keep the company going” and “get us through this.”** [*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 6/6/2009]
- **Carrollton shop owner Lora Neese plans to apply for loan through stimulus program to stay in business.** ARC loans are made by commercial lenders, not the SBA, but they are 100 percent guaranteed by the SBA and carry no SBA fees.” [*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 6/6/2009]
- **The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded *Recovery Act* funds to six resurfacing projects in Southeast Georgia.** The projects in Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Coffee and Ware counties are among hundreds to be awarded in coming months throughout the state. DOT board member from Baxley: “This work will create much-needed new jobs and, at the same time, put fresh money into the region's economy and help us repair and maintain our transportation infrastructure.” [*Jacksonville.com*, 5/30/2009]
- **Georgia plans to use *Recovery Act* on road improvements, safer crosswalks, and to backfill MARTA budget.** [*Atlanta Business Chronicle*, 5/22/2009]
- **Georgia’s transportation board has selected 41 projects to be completed with *Recovery Act* funds.** [*Associated Press*, 5/22/2009]

- **Georgia law enforcement will receive *Recovery Act* funds for public safety programs, including victim and witness assistance programs that have been hit hard by budget cuts.** “The money is designed to shore up public safety programs while spurring job creation and retention.” [*Associated Press*, 5/21/2009]
- **The Colquitt County school system will use *Recovery Act* money to fund 12 teaching positions.** [*Moultrie Observer*, 5/20/2009]
- **Georgia is proactively lining up projects that could be backed by *Recovery Act* money for bringing broadband internet to more of the state.** “Broadband brings with it jobs, it saves jobs, and it brings the ability to attract and retain industry.” [*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 5/20/2009]
- **Clarke County plans to use stimulus funds to create 55 positions next year.** New employment opportunities include special education teachers and reading and math specialists. [*Athens Banner-Herald*, 5/10/2009]
- **In Georgia, *Recovery Act* funds will increase water and energy work budgets tenfold.** “But Greg Mason, the agency’s chief operating officer , said at the briefing that GEFA knows a number of federal and state auditors are watching how those dollars are spent... The money must lead to the creation of jobs, economic development and promotion of innovation, among other things.” [*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 5/7/2009]