



# Fact Sheet

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

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 Massachusetts** 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 Massachusetts are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$97.9 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$23.5 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$800,000 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 Massachusetts 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 2.4 million households in Massachusetts – 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusettsans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- ***Recovery Act* monies play crucial role in creation of research lab dedicated to environmentally friendly lithium-ion batteries, creating 600 new jobs.** “Today Boston-Power will announce its plans to establish a 455,000-square-foot battery manufacturing facility in the former Filene’s Basement warehouse and distribution facility at 26 Millbury St. The manufacturing plant, contingent on \$100 million in federal stimulus funds, would create 600 new jobs. ‘We’ve said for a long time that we want to bring manufacturing back to the U.S. This is an opportunity to do this with the help of the federal government and the state.’” [*Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, 6/1/2009]
- **Rockland Trust acquires \$50 million portion of \$1.5 billion allocated to 32 entities to disperse low-interest, flexible loans.** [*Metro International*, 5/28/2009]
- **The Merrimack Valle Planning Commission received stimulus funds to help clean up industrial waste.** Properties are contaminated by gas, oil, PCBS, asbestos, or other pollutants. [*The Eagle-Tribune*, 5/24/2009]
- **Massachusetts will receive \$25 million in recovery funds to jumpstart construction of a wind blasting testing center in Charlestown; project is expected to create hundreds of new jobs.** U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said the project will help create hundreds of new jobs while speeding the next generation of turbine blades to the marketplace. [*Boston Herald*, 5/12/2009]
- **Brockton mayor hopes to rehire seven cops with *Recovery Act* funds.** [*The Boston Globe*, 5/7/2009]
- **Wind turbine producer Aeronautica hopes to use *Recovery Act* funds to finance plant in Plymouth area.** Project is expected to create roughly 80 new manufacturing jobs. [*The Boston Globe*, 5/7/2009]