



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 Maryland

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

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 Maryland** 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 Maryland are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$227.6 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway 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 Maryland 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 2.1 million households in Maryland – 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 Maryland 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 Marylanders, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Department of Energy grants VSE Corp. \$11.4 million portion of *Recovery Act* to finance energy R&D.** “VSE (NASDAQ: VSEC) subsidiary Energetics Inc, based in Columbia, Md., will be providing services under a three-year subcontract for research and development programs and activities in electricity policy, siting, and analysis as a subcontractor to Systematic Management Services Inc., which holds a ‘blanket purchase’ agreement with the Department of Energy. The project is under the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability which has received about \$4.5 billion in funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act for grants and demonstration projects in ‘smart grid’ and other grid modernization activities.” [[Washington Business Journal](#), 6/15/2009]
- **The Allegany County Board of Commissioners approved three *Recovery Act*-funded road and bridge projects.** “The most costly of the three eligible projects is the milling and repaving of the 3.2-mile long Cash Valley Road from National Highway to state Route 36 in Corriganville at \$755,886... the city of Cumberland will continue its work on Maryland Avenue with \$498,000 in federal stimulus money. Another \$130,000 is to be spent on repairing the New Hope Road bridge in Frostburg that supports a portion of the Great Allegheny Passage biking and hiking trail.” [[Cumberland Times-News](#), 6/12/2009]
- **Montgomery County has millions in *Recovery Act* funding, enabling projects from housing to sewer improvement.** “As of Tuesday, Montgomery County has received \$8.2 million in federal stimulus funding, with more money either on the way or up for grabs, as county officials work with state and federal authorities to secure money for projects ranging from road construction to health care. The majority of the money in hand — \$6.9 million — has been awarded to the county's transportation department, with the remainder allocated to the economic development department.” [[Gaithersburg Gazette](#), 6/4/2009]
- **EPA awarded over \$121.6 million in *Recovery Act* funds to the Maryland Department of the Environment to help finance many overdue water projects.** “In a move that stands to create jobs, boost local economies, improve aging water infrastructure and protect human health and the environment for the people in the State of Maryland, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded over \$121.6 million to the Maryland Department of the Environment.” [[EPA Press Release](#), 6/2/2009]
- ***Fortune*'s “Meet the stimulus hires” - Bryan White of Baltimore.** “I'd been at American Infrastructure for 10 years when I was laid off at the beginning of the year. Then I got a phone call and they called me back in March to work on New Hampshire Avenue, which was the state's first shovel-ready project. It was the first stimulus project that got started in the country, and I was one of the first hired back.” [[Fortune](#), 6/1/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds enable Montgomery County to pay young adults \$7.25 per hour wages this summer.** Project will offer teenagers and young adults, ages 14-24, meaningful paid work experiences. [[Washington Post](#), 5/28/2009]

- **Maryland BRAC progresses due to funding from *Recovery Act*.** More than \$100 million in federal funding has poured into Maryland in recent months to prepare for BRAC, the Pentagon’s Base Realignment and Closure process that will shutter some military bases while shifting jobs to others. [*Baltimore Business Journal*, 5/22/2009]
- ***Recovery Act*-funded repaving project in Silver Spring gave stimulus critic Donavin Petre a job.** [*Washington Post*, 5/24/2009]
- **In Silver Spring, *Recovery Act*-funded repaving project “jump-started” roadwork company, which hired sixty laid-off workers.** [*Washington Post*, 5/24/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* money set aside for the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation will ‘be a big shot in the arm for science in general.’** “In the end, the money for projects from drug research to lab expansions could mean hundreds of jobs and many millions of dollars to Baltimore, because of the scientific research powerhouses that are Hopkins and Maryland.” [*The Baltimore Sun*, 5/20/2009]
- **Maryland using *Recovery Act* funds for electronic health records.** Several companies have entered bids to work on the system. [*Washington Business Journal*, 5/18/2009]