



Fact Sheet

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 Available Online: dpc.senate.gov

June 16, 2009

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

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 New Jersey** 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 New Jersey are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$349.9 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 New Jersey 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 3.2 million households in New Jersey – 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 New Jersey 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 New Jerseyans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Recovery Act Funded NJ-NY tunnel project broke ground Monday.** The Mass Transit Tunnel project, which is also known as Access to the Region's Core, is the largest mass transit project in the nation. The tunnel will double commuter rail traffic; increase train frequency; create a one-seat ride from Rockland, Orange and northern New Jersey; take 22,000 cars off the road each day; reduce greenhouse gases by 66,000 tons each year; create 6,000 construction-related jobs; and create 44,000 new jobs in the region. [*The Westchester Journal News*, 6/9/2009]
- **Energy Department is offering \$615 in grants for smart grid demonstration projects.** The Department of Energy is offering *Recovery Act* grants totaling \$615 million for smart grid demonstration projects, including synchrophasors. “The wonderful aspect of synchrophasor monitoring is that you can see things happening much sooner,” says Bob Cummings, director of events analysis and information exchange at NERC, the Princeton, N.J.-based organization that oversees reliability of North America’s transmission systems. [*New York Times*, 6/8/2009]
- **Provision of \$134,287 through Recovery Act expands congregant lunch program for seniors in Middlesex County.** “Stimulus funds from the federal government have found their way to the borough's senior center — helping to expand its lunch program. A low-cost, nutrition-based meal was being served at the Highland Park Senior Center on Tuesdays through the Kosher Congregate Senior Adult meal program, funded by a county grant. That program has been extended to Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. from June 1.” [*East Brunswick Home News Tribune*, 6/3/2009]
- **Picatinny Arsenal becomes recipient of \$3 million in Recovery Act money for base upkeep.** [*New Jersey Star-Ledger*, 5/27/2009]
- **Over 800 municipal officials attend stimulus application briefing in Trenton.** “Funds will go to health care centers, education, police, transit and public works. “The key is to keep the money rolling... onto Main Street.” [*NJBIZ*, 5/25/2009]
- **Recovery Act is funding 3,000 transportation projects in New Jersey.** “Seed money” is making people more optimistic, unemployment did not spike last month. [*Trenton Times*, 5/22/2009]
- **LEADS Community Action Agency expects to weatherize 200 homes using Recovery Act funds.** In anticipation of the work, LEADS hired eight more workers. “Mike Hayes, a local resident and a recent hire, said he has worked in the heating and cooling industry for more than a decade but was unemployed when he got the job at LEADS.” [*Newark Advocate*, 5/14/2009]
- **Rutgers University among four universities across the country will fund global health studies using Recovery Act funds.** “The money, made possible by the Recovery Act, will preserve and create U.S. jobs in the timely and competitive arena of global health research.” [*NIH News*, 5/12/2009]

- **Menallen will spend *Recovery Act* funds on providing 16 homes with public water.** [[Herald Standard](#), 5/9/2009]
- **New Jersey's Trinitas Hospital plans to spend *Recovery Act* funding to cover a third of the cost of upgrading to electronic health records system.** [[Associated Press](#), 5/6/2009]