



Fact Sheet

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

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

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 Oregon** 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 Oregon are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$158.2 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$1.1 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$1.3 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 Oregon 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 1.4 million households in Oregon – 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 Oregon 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 Oregonians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Mount Hood National Forest received *Recovery Act* funds to maintain and decommission roads.** “The Mount Hood National Forest has received about \$2.4 million in economic stimulus money to maintain and decommission roads. It is part of \$228 million authorized for 106 projects in 31 states. The money will be used in Clackamas, Marion and Hood River counties. Engineers say private contractors will begin work within 60 days, and the projects will provide jobs for the next two construction seasons. The work is meant to ease access to popular sites such as the West Cascades National Scenic Byway, Bagby Hot Springs and Gibson Prairie Horse Camp. Decommissioning projects will improve habitat and reduce road maintenance costs.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/11/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will allow Oregon community groups to weatherize 4,635 homes.** Oregon has received 50 percent of its stimulus money for a weatherization program aimed at helping the low-income, elderly and families with young children... After the state shows successful implementation of its program, Oregon should receive another \$19 million, for a total \$38 million from the *Recovery Act*. The state is granting the money to 17 community groups and five Native American tribes with experience in getting energy efficiency measures to low income households.” [[The Oregonian](#), 6/8/2009]
- **Unexpected *Recovery Act* money will allow Oregon lawmakers to restore a host of programs for poor families that were set to be cut.** Programs include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and JOBS programs; employment-related daycare for all families, Family Support and Connections program, and grants for families who are seeking federal disability payments. [[Statesman Journal](#), 6/5/2009]
- **The last piece of federal funding for the extension of a Lane County rapid-transit system is in place thanks to the *Recovery Act*.** [[Daily Journal of Commerce](#), 6/3/2009]
- **\$35 Million from *Recovery Act* committed to Oregon for job creation by means of improving transportation and environmental quality.** Projects will put people to work in Oregon maintaining forest roads, and restoring vital watersheds and floodplains. [[Press Release – Sen. Jeff Merkley](#), 6/3/2009]
- **Albina Bank receives \$10 million in new *Recovery Act* tax credits in exchange for making private sector investments in low-income communities over the next seven years.** [[Portland Business Journal](#), 5/27/2009]
- **Tigard and Timber Counties allotted nearly \$5 million for water safety projects.** [[Oregonian](#), 5/28/2009]
- **A *Recovery Act*-funded repaving project in Southern Oregon is putting 28 people to work.** [[KDRV.com \(with video\)](#), 5/18/2009]

- **Astoria applied for *Recovery Act* grants to build more small wind turbines to generate power.** [*Associated Press*, 5/17/2009]
- **Oregon will use \$900 million in recovery funds to balance its budget.** [*Portland Business Journal*, 5/15/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funding will reopen Willamette Falls lock that shut down due to lack of funding.** [*West Linn Tidings*, 5/7/2009]