



Fact Sheet

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

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 South Dakota** 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 South Dakota are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$86 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 South Dakota 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 300,000 households in South Dakota – 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 South Dakota 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 South Dakotans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Wagner Indian Health Services facility, in conjunction with 37 other IHS locations in South Dakota, will receive *Recovery Act* funds.** “In recent years, the Yankton Sioux have fought to maintain the Indian Health Service (IHS) facility in Wagner. ‘Health care remains one of our priorities,’ said tribal chairman Robert ‘Bobby’ Cournoyer. Recent battles have focused on reinstating 24-hour service at the Wagner facility. But maintaining the building’s condition also remains a priority. That effort has received a boost with the announcement that the Wagner IHS clinic has qualified for federal stimulus funds. ‘If we get some stimulus dollars, we could use the money for health care at IHS,’ Cournoyer said. ‘We could certainly use a big shot in the arm. We could use improvements to the facility.’” [*Yankton Press & Dakotan*, 6/14/2009]
- **Fall River will use *Recovery Act* funds to finish water pipeline work to the Buffalo Gap area.** “The district hopes to complete the line to its northern section by about Oct. 1. The Fall River County project is among those statewide receiving *Recovery Act* money for water or wastewater projects. A total of \$5.7 million in stimulus money went to principal forgiveness for drinking water project loans, and \$3.6 million went to clean water project loans across South Dakota. One other West River project to receive a principal forgiveness loan, for \$321,480, was a new 140,000-gallon water tower for the city of Oacoma.” [*Rapid City Journal*, 6/10/2009]
- **South Dakota will spend *Recovery Act* funds to build bus storage facility.** “Mitchell’s Palace Transit expects to receive about \$550,000 in federal stimulus funding for a bus-barn addition and upgrade and some new buses. Senator Johnson: ‘Improving our transportation infrastructure contributes significantly to the success and quality of our rural communities. This funding will allow people to travel more easily to receive medical services, visit family, and commute to jobs.’” [*The Mitchell Daily Republic*, 6/11/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will pay for contractors to rebuild roof, install handicap ramp at Heritage Museum.** [*Yankton Press & Dakotan*, 6/11/2009]
- **South Dakota received *Recovery Act* funding for water and sewer projects.** The funds will help create jobs and boost local economies as the funds are forwarded to local government entities and rural water systems. [*KSFY News*, 5/22/2009]
- **The Eagle Butte Health Center will receive *Recovery Act* funding to improve health care facilities and services.** The facility will replace the existing Eagle Butte IHS Hospital which, at approximately one-third the size of the new facility, is stressed to meet the needs of the entire service population. The new center will serve approximately 9,300 American Indians residing on the Cheyenne River Reservation. [*Indian Country Today*, 5/18/2009]
- **South Dakota will receive \$200 million in Interior Department *Recovery Act* money.** Funding will improve recreation facilities, restore wildlife habitats, and build energy-efficient homes on Indian reservations. [*Rapid City Journal*, 5/14/2009]

- **South Dakota is receiving \$5.4 million for temporary child care assistance for recently unemployed South Dakotans while they search for work.**
[[Associated Press](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Without the Fiscal Stabilization Funds provided by the *Recovery Act*, South Dakota might have had to cut aid to schools.** South Dakota was one of the first three states to get approval for those funds, with \$104.3 million going to school districts and higher education... Without the stabilization money, the state might have had to cut some general aid or special categories of aid to school districts. [[Associated Press](#), 5/10/2009]