



Fact Sheet

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June 16, 2009

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

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

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 Tennessee** 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 Tennessee are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$416.7 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$4.8 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 Tennessee 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 2.3 million households in Tennessee – 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 Tennessee 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 Tennesseans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Tennessee Department of Transportation receives \$489 million allocation from *Recovery Act*, so far allowing for 193 contracts.** “Tennessee’s highway infrastructure got a \$489 million shot in the arm from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* and many say that may be the most direct shot stimulus funding will have for Tennessee businesses.” Tennessee Road Builders Association Vice President: “I can assure you this stimulus money has been very, very good for the industry and we’re hiring and re-hiring people right now. We know it’s happening, but we don’t have a clear number yet because the data (are) still coming in.” [[Memphis Business Journal](#), 6/12/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* allows for completion of Memphis outer beltline, having “tremendous effect” on the town of Piperton.** “The \$14 million project is the latest segment of what will be an outer loop highway around metropolitan Memphis. Tenn. 385, which will connect Millington and Collierville, will become part of the Interstate 269 route extending into Mississippi . . . Until the passage of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, or the stimulus bill, TDOT officials had been uncertain whether funding would be available for the segment to Tenn. 57. By freeing up money that had been earmarked for other projects, the stimulus bill made money available for Tenn. 385.” [[Memphis Commercial Appeal](#), 6/14/2009]
- **University of Tennessee Health Science Center and University of Memphis Math Department apportioned \$1.1 million in *Recovery Act* funds.** Grants to help combat tuberculosis and tularemia and develop graph theory. [[Memphis Daily News](#), 6/5/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* Funds will create 650 jobs for Tennessee teens this summer.** As of Wednesday, there are already 100 teens across the area working at various job sites. Because of the economic stimulus program, about 650 teens will be able to earn a living this summer. [[WATE.com](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Trade Adjustment Assistance program augmented by *Recovery Act*, blunting impact of overseas job loss in Tennessee.** Covered workers are able to qualify for unemployment checks for up to three years — or nearly twice as long as the typical worker who isn't affected by ‘off-shoring’ or the shift of jobs to foreign countries. Others get help paying health insurance costs. Also, starting in May, laid-off white-collar workers in service industries such as accounting, software development, auto-parts design and call center operations became eligible for the more generous benefits, a move that could add more workers to the rolls as unemployment in Tennessee flirts with the 10 percent level, a full percentage point above the U.S. rate.” [[Tennessean](#), 6/2/2009]
- **More than 3,000 teenagers benefit from summer youth employment program created and sustained by \$4.9 million *Recovery Act* dollars.** Funds will enable an additional 2,300 applicants to join the 750 youths the city provides for each year. [[Memphis Commercial Appeal](#), 6/2/2009]
- **Energy efficiency tax credit element of *Recovery Act* causing inquiries regarding home improvement to skyrocket in Knoxville.** Fosters economic activity and environmental quality. [[Knoxville News Sentinel](#), 6/1/2009]

- **Recovery Act will fund Arlington Road repaving.** City will open bidding for contracts in July. [*Memphis Business Journal*, 5/29/2009]
- **City of Bartlett will use Recovery Act funding for six different road improvement projects.** [*Memphis Business Journal*, 5/29/2009]
- **“Stimulus for Smokies Makes Sense.”** [*Knoxville News Sentinel*, 5/29/2009]
- **Tennessee will use Recovery Act to stabilize school districts’ budgets, will save jobs.** At one point the University of Tennessee system was considering cutting 700 temporary faculty members. [*Tennessean*, 5/27/2009]
- **Chattanooga National Military Park has already started spending Recovery Act funds to hire laborers and contractors.** Workers focused on improvements and trail repairs previously deferred due to budget shortage. [*Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 5/26/2009]
- **New small business loan parameters under Recovery Act significantly increase small business utilization in Chattanooga.** [*Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 5/26/2009]
- **Chickamauga and Chattanooga Military Park receives \$380,000 in Recovery Act funds for maintenance.** “There’s no question that the end result of the work benefits the end users, our visitors.” [*Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 5/26/2009]
- **Governor Bredesen: fiscal stabilization Recovery Act funds “will help Tennessee tremendously in a time of very difficult and challenging budgets.”** [*The Chattanooga*, 5/20/2009]
- **Recovery Act funding allowed the Department of Energy to hire 87 new employees to work at the Oak Ridge Transuranic Waste Processing Center.** Many of the new employees came from non-nuclear businesses that experienced recent layoffs. [*The Oak Ridger*, 5/19/2009]
- **Perry County, which has 25 percent unemployment, will see 300 new jobs and a summer youth employment program thanks to the Recovery Act.** “We’ve had situations (in families) where both mother and father are out of work.’ Along with the 300 new jobs, up to 200 Perry County residents between the ages of 14 and 24 will be eligible for the Summer Youth Employment Program.” [*Associated Press*, 5/15/2009]
- **Recovery Act funding will create 1,500 jobs in and around Great Smoky National Park.** [*WVLT*, 5/14/2009]
- **Great Smokey Mountains National Park will receive Recovery Act funds for road work and building improvements.** Projects that are expected to create up to 1,500 private-sector jobs. [*Knoxville News Sentinel*, 5/14/2009]
- **Governor announces plans to build Recovery Act-Funded Solar Power Generation Facility, Solar Research Institute.** “Gov. Phil Bredesen is announcing plans for Tennessee to spend \$62 million in federal stimulus money on a solar power

generation facility near Brownsville and his proposed solar research institute at Oak Ridge. The Democratic governor says the five megawatt solar plant in Haywood County would be among the largest in the eastern United States. [[WKRG News](#), 5/13/2009]

- **Recovery Act funds providing \$25 million to help provide 12,000 jobs to disadvantaged youths in Tennessee.** [[Leaf Chronicle](#), 5/7/2009]