



Fact Sheet

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

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 Virginia** 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 Virginia are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$162.9 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$2.2 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 Virginia 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 2.9 million households in Virginia – 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 Virginia 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 Virginians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **SBA loan *Recovery Act* component aiding small businesses in weathering recession in Virginia.** “Of the billions of dollars in federal stimulus money out there, Chris Yoo is banking on the hope that a fraction will boost his dry-cleaning business. Amid the recession and credit crunch, Yoo, who owns three Joy Cleaners dry-cleaning stores in Chesterfield and Henrico counties, recently took out two loans to buy equipment that he believes will help him retain and attract customers. Both loans were through SunTrust Banks Inc. and guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration.” [*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 6/14/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* affords much to individual taxpayers, such as tax-free unemployment benefits and alternative energy tax credits.** “You don't have to be a big contractor or government agency to get some benefit from the \$787 billion stimulus plan. Individuals can get a piece of the action, too. The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* contains a number of new or increased tax credits and deductions that the Internal Revenue Service allows taxpayers to take. And it's not just for homebuyers or people looking for cars. The hitch is that many involve spending money. A look at some of the benefits: Retiree payments: People who are retired, disabled or receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration or the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a one-time payment of \$250. Railroad Retirement beneficiaries also are eligible for the payment, which is automatic and requires no tax filing.” [*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 6/14/2009]
- **CORT reported that rentals are up due to *Recovery Act* projects.** “Berkshire Hathaway's CORT, Fairfax, Va., has seen rapid growth in demand for its rental services from federal agencies and contractors marshalling support for economic stimulus projects. Through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, billions of dollars in 'shovel-ready' projects are planned in every state for infrastructure, energy, education, healthcare and technology.” [*Home Furnishings Business*, 6/12/2009]
- **Goochland School System will use *Recovery Act* funds to pay for three new positions.** Will aid the county's low-income and special education student populations. [*The Goochland Courier*, 6/3/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will help more than 70 Henry County teachers earn advanced degrees.** [*Martinsville Bulletin*, 6/3/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* money will help fund a long-planned railroad crossing project in Manassas.** [*InsideNoVA.com*, 5/31/2009]
- **Department of Education will release *Recovery Act* funds to help address the budget shortfalls being faced by Virginia's education system.** Could help save hundreds of teaching jobs in Virginia that are at risk of being lost as a result of state and local budget cuts. [*Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, 5/29/2009]
- **Senator Webb: Virginia has received more than \$2 billion in *Recovery Act* funds to help maintain government services, invest in infrastructure,**

improve public facilities, and create or save more than 93,000 jobs in a range of industries. [*Martinsville Daily*, Editorial, 5/26/2009]

- **Hampton Roads area allotted *Recovery Act* funding for numerous projects.** Projects include live-scan fingerprinting equipment that Hampton police can use at crime scenes, a summer program employing 90 young people, and city road projects including resurfacing part of Mercury Boulevard. [*Hampton Roads Daily News*, /526/2009]
- **Charlottesville schools will use *Recovery Act* to improve art center.** *Recovery Act* will offset expenses on paying staffers. [*Daily Progress*, 5/22/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* measure to reduce Small Business Administration fees.** Cork Wine Bar expedited loan application to expand building. [*Washington Business Journal*, 5/22/2009]
- **Virginia will receive \$1.2 million in *Recovery Act* funds for rural community facility and first responder project.** [*Bristol Herald Courier*, 5/20/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will revive several Virginia Beach road projects that had been delayed due to budget shortfalls.** “Absent the stimulus money, there's no way these could get done.” [*The Virginian-Pilot*, 5/20/2009]
- **Augusta County will use *Recovery Act* grant to buy solar panels to power wastewater treatment plants, reducing costs, shrinking utilities bills.** The ACSA projects are among 13 “green infrastructure” projects across the state that will make environmental improvements such as water re-use and alternative energy projects. [*The News Leader*, 5/19/2009]
- **Virginia will use *Recovery Act* money to repave Interstate 95.** Project “wouldn’t have happened without this funding.” [*The Free Lance-Star*, 5/17/2009]
- **Virginia roadwork projects are expected to help local asphalt companies like Superior Paving avoid layoffs.** Travelers will certainly benefit from the road work, but dozens of local men and women, who mix the asphalt at plants, inspect it for strength and durability, drive trucks to the work sites, and even set up traffic cones, would benefit as well. [*The Free Lance-Star*, 5/17/2009]
- **Arlington County will receive nearly \$20 million in *Recovery Act* funding for projects including infrastructure and law enforcement.** [*Washington Business Journal*, 5/18/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funding will help central Virginia youth summer job program expand from a dozen to 110 jobs.** [*Amherst New Era Progress*, 5/13/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funding will bring clean water and upgraded water systems to Boones Mill.** [*Roanoke Times*, 5/13/2009]
- **Henry County and Martinsville will receive *Recovery Act* funds to supplement emergency food and shelter programs.** [*Martinsville Bulletin*, 5/12/2009]

- **About 950 teenagers and young adults in South Hampton Roads will go work this June, July and August, thanks to \$2.2 million from the *Recovery Act*.** [[The Virginian-Pilot](#), 5/11/2009]
- **Roanoke Airport will use *Recovery Act* funds to buy more efficient explosives detectors.** [[The Roanoke Times](#), 5/9/2009]
- **The John H. Kerr Reservoir will receive \$11 million in contracts through the *Recovery Act* for 15 water resource projects.** Selection criteria required that projects be executed quickly and result in high, immediate employment. [[The Gazette-Virginian](#), 5/6/2009]