



Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232
DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551
Available Online: dpc.senate.gov

June 16, 2009

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

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

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 Wisconsin** 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 Wisconsin are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$317.3 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 Wisconsin 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 2.2 million households in Wisconsin – 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 Wisconsin 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 Wisconsinites, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Wisconsin will receive another \$15 million in *Recovery Act* funds to help dislocated workers.** “The state is getting another \$15 million in federal stimulus money to help dislocated workers. The money is to provide career training and re-employment services for people who lose jobs because of outsourcing and foreign competition. The state Department of Workforce Development is to administer the services being made available through local Job Centers.” [*Associated Press*, 6/11/2009]
- **The Oneida Tribe will use *Recovery Act* funds for housing, elderly care, and training for gaming employees.** Chairman: “The benefits of the funding awards will have a significant impact on our local economy. We have more than 3,000 employees who will benefit in some manner or other. [*Green Bay Press-Gazette*, 6/11/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* federal tax credit causes interest in geothermal upgrades to burgeon.** The tax credit, which increased from 10 percent to 30 percent, “has promoted some definite interest with geothermal.’ The initial cost of the system — often more expensive than conventional heating and cooling systems — can be mitigated by the 30 percent tax credit. The result: an almost immediate savings in energy costs.” [*Greenbay Press-Gazette*, 6/8/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will pay for landowners to put land up for easement.** Project will reduce crop insurance payments and create jobs to restore floodplains. [*Fond du Lac Reporter*, 6/4/2009]
- ***Recovery Act*-funded projects have allowed Wisconsin road and bridge construction firms to hire new employees or save existing jobs.** Controller of Zignego Co: “If the stimulus package wasn’t there, we’d have a lot of guys sitting in 2009 because there’s no other big jobs on the books.” [*The Business Journal of Milwaukee*, 6/5/2009]
- **Fon Du Lac School District is the beneficiary of \$2.4 million from the *Recovery Act*, providing opportunities for low-income students that would not exist otherwise.** Acting Superintendent: “With this money, we will be able to touch all children in the district, one way or another, either through building capacity or staff development for teachers to improve their instructional techniques.” [*Fon du Lac Reporter*, 6/1/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will be used to improve six miles of Wisconsin highway 64.** Most of the work will be done this summer with project completion expected by early October 2009.” [*New Richmond News*, 5/28/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* transportation bids came in 11 percent lower than expected with a savings of over \$10 million.** [*Daily Kenoshan*, /527/2009]
- **La Crosse will use *Recovery Act* funds to build trails and restore habitats along the Kickapoo River.** [*States News Service*, 5/26/2009]
- **The Salem School District will use *Recovery Act* funding to save two teaching positions.** [*Kenosha News*, 5/20/2009]

- **Two Wisconsin airports received *Recovery Act* funds to rehabilitate a taxiway and a runway.** The Federal Aviation Administration awarded \$1.25 million to Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport to rehabilitate a taxiway, and \$1.17 million to Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay to rehabilitate a runway. [[The Business Journal of Milwaukee](#), 5/19/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will pay for museum restoration in Pittsville.** [[Wisconsin Rapids Tribune](#), 5/19/2009]
- **After the economy forced Menasha to put off hiring new police officer, the city applied for *Recovery Act*-funded cops grant.** [[The Post-Crescent](#), 5/17/2009]
- **Alderman details *Recovery Act* funds for Stevens Point to upgrade buses with green technology.** Efforts by staff “make Stevens Point a better place to live.” [[Stevens Point Journal](#), 5/15/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds have been allotted for 32 highway and bridge projects that are expected to be finished by the end of the year.** [[WQOW](#), 5/12/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will increase the amount of money available for homeless youth and education grants.** [[Wisconsin Public Radio](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Municipal water construction projects in Wisconsin will get a \$143 million boost from *Recovery Act* funds.** [[Chicago Tribune](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Baraboo, Milwaukee, and Wauwatosa will receive *Recovery Act* funds to clean sites that are contaminated with hazardous chemicals.** “Brownfields are abandoned sites that might be contaminated with hazardous chemicals or pollutants ... In addition, the state Department of Natural Resources will get \$1 million to assess hazardous substances and petroleum contamination.” [[Green Bay Press-Gazette](#), 5/10/2009]