



# Fact Sheet

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## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in West Virginia**

### **Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in West 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 West 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 West Virginia are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$135.6 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$645,000 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 West 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 700,000 households in West 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 West 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 West Virginians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **\$600,000 for victims of *Recovery Act* crime program expended to by 16 entities across West Virginia.** “Gov. Joe Manchin today announced he has awarded nearly \$600,000 in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants to 16 entities throughout West Virginia. “These funds will help provide direct services, such as counseling, personal advocacy, court advocacy, client transportation and support services to victims of crimes, including domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse and elderly abuse,” Gov. Manchin said.” [WTRF – *CBS Wheeling*, 6/13/2009]
- **W-L Construction & Paving and Jefferson Asphalt won *Recovery Act*-funded repaving contracts in Berkeley County.** “Thanks to federal stimulus money, motorists traveling on Interstate 81 in Berkeley County, W.Va., will be subjected to navigating more than eight miles of paving work in the coming months.” [*Herald-Mail*, 6/9/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will allow West Virginia to expand weatherization two-fold.** With \$37.5 million in new resources, state government’s objective is to weatherize 2,756 homes. [*Charleston Daily Mail*, 6/5/2009]
- **Wyoming County slated for infusion of \$1,389,700 in *Recovery Act* money so as to provide flood plain easements to protect against future damage, creating jobs in the process.** Rep. Rahall: “By returning floodplains to their natural contour, high water flow is better managed and flooding can more easily be prevented, safeguarding lives and property. This will require a lot of work, so we will also be creating jobs while we improve our quality of life.” [*The Register-Herald*, 6/4/2009]
- **West Virginia furnished with approximately \$500,000 from *Recovery Act* for the Lawrence Intermodal Transit Center.** [*Huntington Herald-Dispatch*, 6/2/2009]
- **Shovel-ready projects in downtown Huntington, Harveytown Park and the Hal Greer Boulevard underpass will receive federal *Recovery Act* money.** The only stipulation with the money is that the projects have to begin 120 days from a notice of approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which should come in about a month. [*The Herald-Dispatch*, 5/27/2009]
- **Marshall University will receive *Recovery Act* funds from the NIH to study brain cells.** [[huntingtonnews.com](http://huntingtonnews.com), 5/24/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* could offset looming budget cuts.** “West Virginia is looking to offset nearly \$200 million in needed budget cuts with at least \$34 million from its share of federal stimulus funds. Lawmakers and Gov. Joe Manchin's office say the temporary federal dollars should help cushion the blow, but they add that most agencies and programs will still see their spending reduced by at least 2 percent.” [*Charleston Gazette*, 5/22/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* provides increased funds for South Charleston bridge project.** South Charleston will receive \$737,500 to reimburse the city for the Central Avenue

Overpass Bridge project, replacing the \$237,500 the city announced it would receive in March. [[Charleston Gazette](#), 5/21/2009]

- **Martinsburg weatherization office set to open.** *Recovery Act* funding will allow ECAA to weatherize an additional 93 residences in Berkeley County, 48 in Jefferson County and 21 in Morgan County. The local office and warehouse are expected to create 13 to 16 new jobs. [[Martinsburg Journal](#), 5/11/2009]
- **U.S. Senator stops in Morgantown, says the state will receive about 30 to 40 million dollars in *Recovery Act* money.** Senator Rockefeller: "A lot of people sort of criticize the stimulus plan because they say it's just spending money. Well it's spending money on all the things that we need to be spending money on and most particularly children – children's healthcare and children's education." [[WBOY-TV](#), 4/15/2009]
- **Maxwelton airport receives \$1 million in *Recovery Act* funding.** Airport manager: "Air service is essential to the operation of businesses in this community." [[Register Herald](#), 4/6/2009]