



Fact Sheet

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

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 Wyoming** 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 Wyoming are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$150 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$1.2 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$5.3 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 Wyoming 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 200,000 households in Wyoming – 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 Wyoming 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 Wyomingites, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Recovery Act-funded food assistance provided for 5,267 people in Laramie County.** [*Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*, 5/27/2009]
- **Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board approved use of \$3.6 million in Recovery Act funds to fund two Cheyenne water projects.** [*Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*, 5/13/2009]
- **Cody commissioners seek Recovery Act funds to pay for liner to keep landfill from polluting groundwater.** “The DEQ says leachate — contaminated runoff from the garbage — is reaching groundwater at the site... Without installing a liner, the Cody site would have to be shut down...To help pay for the initial \$4.5 million lined cell cost, the county has applied for \$1.74 million of state clean water funding. The funds are available under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. Half of the sum would be a grant and half a low-interest loan. The catch is that the lining must be under contract by the end of the year.” [*Powell Tribune*, 5/7/2009]