



Special Report

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The Recovery Act: Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in South Carolina

Earlier this year, the Democratic Congress worked with President Obama to enact the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (the *Recovery Act*) in an effort to rescue, rebuild, and strengthen our struggling national economy. Eight years of failed fiscal policies and misguided economic priorities had left our national economy on the brink of disaster, and now – only nine months later – our economy is on the brink of recovery. The *Recovery Act* and the efforts of American businesses and workers, like those in South Carolina, made this progress possible.

Despite this encouraging news, Democrats know that many South Carolinians are still struggling, and unemployment – a lagging economic indicator – remains far too high. In response, Democrats are working to create and save millions of jobs with *Recovery Act* dollars and tax relief. Already, with more than half of the dollars yet to be spent, the recovery package has provided for more than one million jobs and the rate of job loss has slowed significantly. As we look toward the future, Democrats believe that the *Recovery Act*, combined with the American work ethic and ingenuity, will continue to make a difference for families in South Carolina and will deliver on its promise to rebuild our economy and get South Carolinians back to work.

The Recovery Act is Creating Jobs and Making a Difference

Last week, the White House announced that certain recipients of *Recovery Act* funds have reported the creation of 640,329 direct jobs. About 325,000 of these jobs are in education and over 80,000 are in construction. These numbers, however, represent only about 16 percent of expenditures through September 30 and do not reflect the majority of *Recovery Act* funding to date, which has gone directly to individuals and states, including:

- Tax relief for businesses and working families;
- Small business loans, which are exempt from reporting;
- The first-time homebuyer tax credit;
- Direct federal aid, including \$250 direct stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits, increased food stamp benefits for vulnerable families; and
- State fiscal relief, which prevented job cuts at the state and local government level.

Moreover, the reported data does not capture indirect or induced jobs created when prime contractors hire suppliers or other companies to complete projects or when newly employed workers spend their pay checks. It is estimated that, if included, indirect jobs would add

another 50 percent or more to the direct jobs numbers and induced jobs would add an additional 36 percent. [Office of the Vice President, [10/30/09](#); CBPP, [10/28/09](#)]

Taken as a whole, the reported data confirms earlier estimates that the *Recovery Act* would create or save over one million jobs by now, even though less than half of the *Recovery Act* funds have been put to work. [Office of the Vice President, [10/30/09](#)]

Moreover, without the *Recovery Act*, economists believe that the economy and the unemployment rate would be much worse.

- According to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections, “The effect of the stimulus legislation on the level of economic activity will probably build during the second half of 2009 [and] have its maximum impact in the first half of 2010... CBO estimates that real GDP will be 1.4 percent to 3.8 percent higher in the fourth quarter of 2009 than it would have been without the stimulus, 1.1 percent to 3.4 percent higher in the fourth quarter of 2010, 0.4 percent to 1.2 percent higher in the fourth quarter of 2011, and zero to 0.3 percent higher by the fourth quarter of 2013.” [CBO, [8/09](#)]
- These estimates were bolstered by third quarter growth when, for the first time in more than a year, the economy expanded, and, at 3.5 percent, it expanded faster than expected. [*Wall Street Journal*, [10/29/09](#)]
- According to economist Mark Zandi, “The research of Moody’s Economy.com suggests that a million fewer jobs would exist today, while the unemployment rate would already have risen well into double digits.” [Testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, [10/29/09](#)]

The Recovery Act is Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in South Carolina

In South Carolina, this partial reporting indicates that 8,147 jobs have been created or saved by funding 846 awards worth \$3,810,181,377, of which \$702,204,491 has already been received. [Recovery, Accountability, and Transparency Board, accessed [11/2/09](#)]

Similar to the national number, this validates the White House’s earlier estimates that the *Recovery Act* is responsible for saving or creating 13,700 jobs so far for South Carolinians (accounting for indirect and induced jobs). [Council of Economic Advisors, [9/2009](#)] **South Carolina is on track to benefit from a total of 50,000 *Recovery Act* jobs.** [The White House, [2/2009](#)]

These numbers alone cannot adequately convey the human impact of the jobs that are supported by the *Recovery Act* – the real-life stories of local companies that can hire new employees, workers who are no longer faced with uncertainty, and families that no longer need to struggle to pay their bills. The following is a sampling of some of the local *Recovery Act* success stories in South Carolina:

85 schools in South Carolina will use *Recovery Act* allocation to install energy-efficient heating and air conditioning control systems. “The Georgetown County School District will receive almost \$350,000 in federal energy stimulus funds from the S.C. Budget and Control Board’s S.C. Energy Office. The district plans to install energy efficient heating and air conditioning control systems in Waccamaw Elementary School and Waccamaw High School and a newer system will be installed at Pleasant Hill Elementary School. The state’s 85 school districts are sharing in \$20.3 million in energy efficiency grants and loans from stimulus funds.

The state's colleges will share \$12.2 million and state agencies will share \$7.4 million for energy improvements.” [[The Sun News](#), 10/27/09]

South Carolina’s Employment Securities Commission has used *Recovery Act* funding to help residents find jobs in several counties; more than 500 people have been placed in jobs since July at the workforce center. “Stimulus funds not only have helped some job seekers in Aiken County, but also have proved to be a plus for the agency that helps those people find employment. More than \$79 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding has been granted to the state’s Employment Securities Commission. More than \$3.8 million of it has gone to work force centers in Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Calhoun, Orangeburg and Bamberg counties, said Sam Jordan, the work force development area administrator for the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, which manages the funds. The money has meant more staff to work with those coming into the centers looking for jobs. Tina Barfield, the area director for the Aiken Workforce Center, said she has hired three staff members who recruit jobs from local businesses. The funds have also allowed the center to add a business services department and specialized programs to better serve the needs of job seekers, she said... In September, 204 people were placed in jobs compared with 114 the same time last year -- a 78 percent increase, Ms. Barfield said. More than 500 people have been placed in jobs since July at the center. Tramayne Martin hopes he will be one of the lucky ones. Mr. Martin said he was laid off seven months ago from a truck-loading job and has been unable to find employment... ‘I was thinking I was going to lose my house, but my dad said, ‘Keep praying and keep searching.’ I’m hoping it’s working.’ Aiken County’s unemployment rate dropped from 6.9 in August to 6.3 in September.” [[Augusta Chronicle](#), 10/28/09]

A Greenville County facility will use *Recovery Act* funding to manufacture capacitors for electric-drive vehicles and alternative energy markets, creating up to 113 new full-time jobs. “Kemet Corp., which is battling its way back from the depths of the worldwide recession, said Monday a federal stimulus grant will help it expand its Greenville County facility to manufacture capacitors for electric-drive vehicles and alternative energy markets. The expansion, made possible by a \$15.1 million Department of Energy grant that will be matched by the company, will add 113 jobs that average \$50,000 a year in salary and benefits, Kemet officials said... Kemet officials said the expansion at its facility here will enable the company annually to produce capacitors for up to 100,000 electric-drive vehicles. The company also will be able to supply similar components for wind, tidal, geothermal and solar energy generation from the South Carolina facility, the officials said.” [[The Greenville News](#), 10/27/09]

In nineteen areas, small businesses will be assisted by *Recovery Act* funding in form of government-guaranteed loans. . “ [A] handful of businesses in Horry and Georgetown counties have been able to use stimulus funding to keep their doors open, purchase new equipment and prevent layoffs amid the worst economy since the Great Depression. Nineteen area businesses have qualified for \$18.3 million worth of government-guaranteed loans, ranging from \$22,500 for a handyman service in Surfside Beach to \$3 million for a gate company in Georgetown, according to the government’s recovery.gov Web site... ‘Without the money, I’d be one of those small businesses that’s no longer in business,’ said Jerome Williamson, president and owner of Canopy Investigations in Aynor. Williamson used a \$25,000 SBA loan to buy a vehicle, computer equipment and cameras for his one-man private-eye business. ‘I tried to get a loan through other sources, but no bank would help me.’ Sallie Walbourne, owner of Pet Pizazz Salon and Spa in Conway, said her business ‘wasn’t going under by any means,’ but the stimulus money ‘gave me some cushioning during the rough economy.’ Walbourne said the \$45,000 SBA loan she received helped her consolidate debts, buy equipment and keep all five of her employees on the payroll. ” [[The Sun News](#), 10/26/09]

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Greenville County Redevelopment Authority has used Recovery Act money to set up a revolving loan fund to spur economic development and promote job growth.

“Low-interest loans for start-up and existing small businesses are coming to Greer, Mauldin, Fountain Inn, Simpsonville, Travelers Rest and commercial corridors in Greenville County through a revolving loan fund. ‘We think it will be a good economic development tool for the community,’ said Mike Sell, Greer assistant city administrator. The Greenville County Redevelopment Authority has set up an Economic Development and Revolving Loan Fund with \$363,950 in federal stimulus money designed to spur economic development and promote job growth. About 15 companies with fewer than 50 employees could receive loans of up to \$25,000, said Imma Nwobodu, program manager with the authority.” [*Greenville News*, 10/20/09]

Clemson area transit will use Recovery Act funding to construct an environmentally friendly transit facility on state 93 to be a green “national model.”

“Clemson Area Transit received federal stimulus funding approval Wednesday for a \$2.5 million, environmentally friendly transit facility on State 93 that officials tout as a national model... ‘The green CAT bus facility will be a showcase for transit in South Carolina and a model for the transit industry,’ Babinicz said. Features include solar energy use, heat retaining and reflecting windows, energy-efficient heating, cooling and lighting, recycling and reclamation of storm water, pervious surface parking, use of native plants and more. The project furthers the city’s ‘environmental goal to become the greenest college community in America,’ said Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy... CAT routes currently serve parts of Pickens, Anderson and Oconee counties and connect Clemson, Southern Wesleyan and Anderson universities and Tri-County Technical College... If all goes well, construction could begin in the first quarter of 2010, Babinicz said. Work will take eight months to a year. The administrative and operations bus facility will provide Upstate residents ‘with the 21st century transit system they need and deserve, as well as a cleaner environment and immediate and long-term creation of jobs,’ Babinicz said.” [*Greenville News*, 10/15/09]

Bamber School District will use \$366,106 in Recovery Act funding for professional development, renovations, technology upgrades, and parent involvement support.

“Bamberg School District 2 has been notified that it will be receiving \$366,106 in Title 1 stimulus funds, the district’s superintendent announced at a board meeting on Sept. 14. . The sum of \$89,000 is designated for professional development. Other allocations include \$73,222 for school improvement; \$36,611 for district improvement; \$20,000 for K-2 reading academic assistance and \$27,967 for teacher resource lab. The rest of the funds are designated to go to professional involvement, parent involvement, student supplies, technology upgrades and assistance to homeless students.” [*The Times-Democrat*, 9/21/09]

Recovery Act grant to create jobs in the biotechnology sector, boost development in Dorchester County.

“U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke today announced a \$2.5 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to Dorchester County, S.C., to help build infrastructure to support business development needs in the biotechnology sector. The project, made possible because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is expected to create additional jobs and private investment in the region.” Secretary Locke: “The Obama Administration is committed to creating jobs, encouraging innovation and improving our nation’s economic competitiveness, This grant will help Dorchester County expand its biotechnology cluster by providing the critical infrastructure needed to establish new firms and other businesses that will bring higher-skill, higher-wage jobs and increased private investment to the region.” Rep. Clyburn: “This tremendous Recovery Act investment will help to build a sustainable alternative fuel economy for part of South Carolina that is in need of job creation. The EDA’s support will improve economic opportunities and continue our efforts to grow more green jobs.” [*WBCD News*, 9/14/09]

The South Carolina Forestry Commission received A *Recovery Act* grant for its longleaf pine restoration initiative; the project will create or retain jobs. “The SC Forestry Commission has received a \$1.74 million grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program to restore longleaf pine in the state. The Forestry Commission says the money translates funds for private landowners and job creation in the state's number-one manufacturing industry. The Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative will create or retain jobs that will include equipment operators, tree planters, herbicide applicators, GIS specialists, foresters, and forest technicians. The initiative will also increase the amount of money for controlled burns which in turn should reduce the risk of wildfires.” [[WLTX.com](#), 9/2/09]

Horry County School District uses *Recovery Act* funds on new computers, computer software, and training for teachers. “Students heading back to Horry County schools can expect some changes thanks to a wave of federal stimulus funding. The Horry County School District is getting \$16 million in federal funding over the next two years, with the bulk of the money being spent on computers, computer software and training for teachers. ‘What it means for us,’ Leon Hayes, South Conway Elementary School Principal, said, ‘Is students will be able to use technology in the classroom on a more regular basis.’ Horry County Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Elsberry said the district spent \$1.6 million buying 450 new netbooks. The money also purchased Compass Learning - computer software that can be tailored to each student, and training for teachers to use the new technology. ‘We see capability for all students. That's the beauty of having this software,’ Elsberry said.” [[WMBF News](#) (SC), 8/17/09]

***Recovery Act* funds will let Midlands Technical College operate without having to drain reserves, lay off workers.** “When students return to Midlands Technical College on Aug. 24, they'll have a lot of company. Enrollment steadily has been rising at Midlands Tech and other public, two-year colleges in South Carolina for several years... With South Carolina's unemployment rate at record levels, many laid-off workers have decided to return to school for re-training. Some younger students also are choosing technical colleges as a lower-cost ‘bridge’ to a four-year university... ‘We're a great bargain,’ said Midlands Tech president Marshall White... But while enrollment is up at technical colleges, state funding is down... Midlands Tech did not lay off faculty or staff last year, White said, but the school did have to dip into its reserve fund. Now, only about \$200,000 remains from a reserve fund that had reached \$1 million. Some help is on the way. The federal stimulus plan will bring \$5 million to Midlands Tech over the next two years, White said.” [[Myrtle Beach Sun-News](#), 8/17/09]

Coastal Carolina University utilized first *Recovery Act* dollars to hire a new police officer. “Coastal Carolina University has been awarded its first grant from economic stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, according to CCU officials. The university will receive a Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Recovery Program grant award of \$138,807 to fund one sworn officer position in the Department of Public Safety for three years, said Mona Prufer, CCU's media relations coordinator... There were 124 applicants from across the state considered in the competitive grant program. South Carolina law enforcement agencies will receive more than \$20 million to fund 139 positions.” [[Myrtle Beach Sun News](#), 8/10/09]

Toda America South Carolina facility will increase battery development and production after receiving *Recovery Act* allocation. “A battery materials manufacturer that says it plans to build a facility in Goose Creek has been awarded \$35 million in federal stimulus grant money for the project. The funding to Illinois-based Toda America is a portion of at least \$50.1 million that will be flowing into South Carolina as part of the federal government's

plan to accelerate the manufacture and development of battery- and electric-powered vehicles. According to a statement Wednesday from the White House, Toda America, another out-of-state company and one S.C. company were awarded grants they plan to use for investment in the state. A total of \$2.4 billion in grants funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be distributed to fund 48 projects by 30 companies in 20 states, the White House reported. It is the single largest investment in advanced battery technology for hybrid and electric-drive vehicles ever made. Industry officials expect that this \$2.4 billion investment, coupled with another \$2.4 billion cost share from the award winners, will result directly in the creation of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. battery and auto industries.” [[Charleston Regional Business Journal](#), 8/6/09]

Recovery Act funds allowed the North Strand Helping Hand Organization to distribute food to 200 people. “North Strand Helping Hand hosted a mass food distribution in Atlantic Beach for people in need of food. More than 200 people came out and received free food at the Atlantic Beach Community Center. North Strand Helping Hand President Sam Jones says the free food distribution helps some people who are struggling financially. ‘We’re trying to get food to them. It’s not going to last them a long time. It’s not going to last them the whole month. But it will last them a while and it adds to whatever sources they have for food and so on,’ Jones said. In addition to food items, household linens and other services were available. Some of the food was provided by North Strand Helping Hand, BiLo of North Myrtle Beach and the Lowcountry Food Bank. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has given a grant under the stimulus package to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program in Horry County which was formed by FEMA to help residents with food, utilities and rent assistance.” [[WBTW—CBS](#), 8/1/09]

Recovery Act funds dedicated to “much-needed” road work across Columbia Area. “Metropolitan Columbia roads, bridges and mass transit will get much-needed improvements in the next three years, officials say, thanks to about \$219 million in federal highway money — a quarter of which is federal stimulus money. Richland, Lexington and Kershaw counties are slated to get \$56.1 million in stimulus money, 11 percent of the state’s \$504 million total, said Ron Patton, the state transportation agency’s director of planning. ‘We never before received such a large sum of additional federal money that could be spent on such a wide variety of projects,’ he said. Another plus: Stimulus money has bought more improvements than anticipated. The first few rounds of construction bids came in almost \$21 million below projected costs, said Danny Shealy, the S.C. Transportation Department’s construction director.” [[The State](#), 7/19/09]

Recovery Act funds provide job skills training and employment to young people in North Augusta. “North Augusta businesses are getting free help thanks to the federal stimulus package. Money from the stimulus package is being used to help young adults gain some work experience. The American Recovery Reinvestment Act Summer Youth Program hasn't been around for 10 years, but thanks to the stimulus package, the program is back and it’s benefiting the youth and businesses. Shanequil Robinson's dream is to run her own restaurant, but at 17, she knows she needs experience under her belt before that can happen... Carla Hynson, the hair salon owner, likes the program, and it's not just because of the free help. ‘I want to give someone a chance, another person a chance,’ said Hynson. The program will not only give Robinson work experience, but she'll also learn how to build a resume and budget.” [[WAGT – NBC](#), 7/13/09]

Construction of the Arthur W. Christopher Community Center underway in Charleston is expected to create 98 jobs. “The city of Charleston celebrated a groundbreaking Wednesday for the \$5.5 million, 24,000-square-foot Arthur W. Christopher

Community Center. City officials said the center will be one of the first buildings in the state constructed with federal stimulus dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The center in Charleston's West Side neighborhood, designed to meet some of the highest environment-friendly standards, will be twice the size of the old Arthur Christopher City Gymnasium. It will be on Fishburne Street across from Burke High School, adjacent to the Herbert Hasell Aquatic Center. Construction is expected to create 98 jobs and should be completed by the fall of 2010." [[The Post and Courier](#), 7/9/09]

Dillon County YouthWorks, funded by the Recovery Act, assisted over 60 young people in finding summer employment and learning valuable job skills. "Two Dillon County residents are learning what life is like for Dillon County Sheriff's deputies through a once in a life time summer job experience funded by federal stimulus money. Twenty-four-year-old Daniel le Roman and 21-year-old Anthony Murray are employed as support staff at the Dillon County Sheriff's Office as part of YouthWorks 2009, a federal work program designed to create jobs in the Pee Dee for residents between the ages of 16 and 24. YouthWorks is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was signed into law in February by President Barack Obama." [[SCNow](#), 7/9/09]

\$553,918 Recovery Act grant for school bus pollution elimination called a "significant step" by superintendent of education. "South Carolina is getting a \$553,918 grant to help further reduce the amount of pollution created by diesel school buses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today. The federal funds will be used to replace old buses with new low emission hybrids and to retrofit existing buses with cleaner technology... The state project will create jobs while protecting South Carolina's air quality, EPA said. The South Carolina Department of Education will replace four existing 65-passenger school buses with four hybrid electric buses. The SDE will also retrofit crankcase ventilation filtration systems on 500 of its 1995 model buses. That upgrade will result in an estimated 4.7 ton reduction in diesel emissions." [[WLTX – CBS](#), 7/6/09]

USC was selected by the Department of Energy to house one of its energy frontier research centers, an award that will be paid for primarily by Recovery Act funds. "The team of professors and students will focus their research on materials necessary for the production of devices such as fuel cells, combustion devices, electrodes, etc." [[The Daily Gamecock \(USC\)](#), 6/3/09]

Fortune's "Meet the stimulus hires" – Bobby Jones of Aiken. "I was working construction on the site, and it looked like someone would be getting laid off. But with stimulus money going to the Department of Energy, they were able to swap us over to the disassembly part of the site. The stimulus is helping – people are feeling better about getting to stay longer on the job. They actually have something to look forward to. I hope once the stimulus is over that feeling will continue." [[Fortune](#); 6/1/09]

Governor Sanford should use the Recovery Act money rather than refuse it for purpose of political posturing. "The stimulus money is supposed to do what its name implies, stimulate the economy and supplement budget cuts to education and public safety to keep people in their jobs. And that's what should be the guiding principle here: Not who's in control but what's best for the people they're all responsible for serving. In our view, that would be accepting – and using – the stimulus money to aid our state and its people in getting through what has so far been a devastating recession." [[Anderson Independent Mail](#), Editorial, 5/17/09]

School districts and police departments desperately need the money to avoid layoffs that surely will reduce the effectiveness of public education and public safety. "S.C. residents should tell the governor to accept all the stimulus money and stop

attempting to force his reforms on folks who do not agree and at a time when South Carolina's focus must be on economic recovery.” [[Sun-News](#), Editorial, 5/13/2009]