



Special Report

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The Recovery Act: Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in Florida

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 Florida, made this progress possible.

Despite this encouraging news, Democrats know that many Floridians 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 Florida and will deliver on its promise to rebuild our economy and get Floridians 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 Florida

In Florida, this partial reporting indicates that 29,321 jobs have been created or saved by funding 2,067 awards worth \$6,779,162,052, of which \$402,301,304 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 55,400 jobs so far for Floridians (accounting for indirect and induced jobs). [Council of Economic Advisors, [9/2009](#)] **Florida is on track to benefit from a total of 206,000 *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 Florida:

Moffitt Cancer Center awarded *Recovery Act* grants for patient-centered outcomes research. “Moffitt Cancer Center has been awarded nearly \$19 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, including a prestigious Grand Opportunities grant to study patient-centered outcomes research. Moffitt was also selected by the National Cancer Institute as one of 12 institutions nationwide to serve as Physical Science-Oncology Centers to advance the use of physics, mathematics and

related disciplines to study the development of cancer. ‘Funding from the Recovery Act allows us to move forward more quickly on a variety of fronts, accelerating the process of translating scientific discoveries into more effective patient care... Moffitt's \$4 million Grand Opportunities grant is one of only seven in the nation awarded for patient-centered outcomes research in personalized medicine. Moffitt's work in this area is focused on providing physicians and researchers access to health-related information for large populations of cancer patients, thereby improving outcomes, developing best practices and raising the overall standard of cancer care throughout the United States. ‘As part of our Total Cancer Care research protocol, with over 44,000 patients consented to participate to-date, and an innovative framework that includes a Consortium of 17 health care providers in 9 states we have established a unique working model for patient-centered outcomes research,’ Dalton said.” [[PR Newswire](#), 11/19/09]

Recovery Act-funded project in Florida will help replace two aging water tanks at a main water plant which delivers water to more than 11,000 homes and businesses.

“The City Commission on Thursday approved two water projects totaling \$2.3 million that will be financed almost entirely by federal stimulus money... The larger \$1.4 million project will replace two 500,000-gallon water tanks at the city's main water plant, said Public Works Director Mike Stripling... The current tanks, built in 1965, are near the end of their useful lives, he said. They store water after it is pumped up from the aquifer but before delivery to more than 11,000 homes and businesses served by the municipal water system... The Crom Corp. of Gainesville won the contract and could begin the four-month project as early as January, Stripling said... The second \$913,237 project will build a new water line to about 50 residences in the northeast part of the water utility's service area, he said. Those residences have private wells that have water-quality issues, Stripling said. That contract was awarded to Gulf Coast Boring and Pipeline in Lakeland after problems surfaced with the bid documents submitted by the low bidder, Prince Land Services of Haines City. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly known as the federal stimulus bill, passed earlier this year will finance more than 90 percent of both projects, Stripling said.” [[The Ledger](#), 11/19/09]

In Florida, Recovery Act will boost energy projects and provide rebates for those who buy hybrid conversion kits for cars. “Florida was awarded \$30.4 million of economic-stimulus money on Tuesday to boost energy projects and to hand out rebates for those who buy hybrid conversion kits for cars. Some South Florida cities already have received clean-energy awards: \$595,200 for Lauderhill; \$500,300 for North Miami; \$4,742,300 for Miami... The block grants announced on Tuesday are designed to help programs that lower energy use, reduce carbon pollution and create local ‘green’ jobs. Florida will dole out competitive grants to cities and counties while creating energy-efficient state buildings. The U.S. Department of Energy said the grants will help the state meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent by 2012. The state also plans to establish a program to provide rebates for buying hybrid plug-in electric conversion kits for cars. Converted vehicles are expected to be six times more fuel efficient than standard gasoline cars, achieving roughly 100 mpg and reducing oil consumption by up to 70 percent.” [[Sun Sentinel](#), 11/17/09]

Recovery Act will create jobs by funding a “turtle tunnel” construction project that will help save the regional turtle population that is being killed on the road. “Matt Aresco has three and a half million reasons to smile. He's on a one man crusade to save turtles in North Florida and now has federal stimulus money to make it happen. ‘Turtles like to nest along the grassy shoulders of the road. They wander up to lay their eggs and they get hammered on the road,’ said Aresco. And thanks to federal stimulus money, Matt will get his wish in the form of a 3.4 million dollar stipend to build his dream tunnel. ‘I was driving on this, I found 90 dead turtles in one day along about a third of a mile stretch of highway,’ said Aresco. ... Work is

already underway on Highway 27. The hope is to build the tunnel as soon as possible. That means, jobs have been created and with unemployment at an all time high, on the surface, new jobs would be a good thing... ‘Call it a shell game or just a bump in the road, but there's no lack of opinion on the turtle tunnel. Despite the naysayers, Aresco still stands by his project and that's to save Florida's turtles, one shell at a time.” [[ZooToo Pet News](#), Video, 11/2/09]

Recovery Act has funded technological upgrades to serve uninsured residents and Medicaid recipients in Florida and created 30,000 jobs. “Florida has gained or held onto 30,000 jobs as a result of federal stimulus spending. That's the latest from the federal Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, which tracks on-the-ground spending as the nation awaits results from the \$787 billion economic stimulus effort. Locally, that's everything from \$42,500 to help the Boys & Girls Club of Hernando County with mentoring to \$24 million to make Tampa public housing more environmentally efficient... In Pasco, that includes 12 jobs so far made possible by \$1.6 million given to Pasco-Hernando Community College. The grants also include more than \$14 million for Hernando public schools, which can fund teacher positions and better serve disabled children. More than \$1.1 million has been granted to the Suncoast Community Health Centers in Riverview for technological upgrades to serve uninsured residents and Medicaid recipients. An additional \$15 million is going to the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit organization, to buy buses, paratransit vans and other equipment. In Brooksville, Vice Mayor Lara Bradburn was happy to hear the city is getting \$2 million for projects. ‘That is for water and sewer lines, many in south Brooksville,’ she said, referring to an area that needs infrastructure improvements.” [[St. Petersburg Times](#), 10/31/09]

Florida Power and Light Co. will install more than 2.6 million smart meters, 9,000 intelligent distribution devices, 45 phasors and advanced monitoring equipment using Recovery Act funding. “Florida Power & Light Co. will receive \$200 million in federal stimulus funding as part of a \$3.4 billion package announced by President Obama Tuesday that is being called the largest single energy grid modernization investment in American history. The funding will pay for about 40 percent of FP&L's \$578 million Energy Smart Florida project that will advance implementation of the Smart Grid, including installing more than 2.6 million smart meters, 9,000 intelligent distribution devices, 45 phasors and advanced monitoring equipment in more than 270 substations... The national program, called the Smart Grid Investment Grant, will create a public-private investment of \$8 billion, and could create tens of thousands of jobs and benefit consumers of electric utilities in 49 states. The Electric Power Research Institute says that the implementation of the technologies funded by this grant programs could reduce electricity use nationwide by 4 percent before 2030, creating a savings of \$20.4 billion for businesses and consumers around the country, and \$1.6 billion for Florida alone.” [[Tampa Bay Business Journal](#), 10/29/09]

Pinellas County will use Recovery Act funding to allow its mobile medical unit to provide more preventative health care for low-income residents and create 32 jobs for a Homeless Emergency Project's Community Service Center. “As of Oct. 19, Pinellas received six grants: Health and Human Services: Replace Mobile Medical Unit with a more capable vehicle. The Mobile Medical Unit provides preventative health care to indigent residents. This grant allows the department of Health and Human Services the opportunity to purchase a larger vehicle equipped with more advanced medical equipment... This grant allowed for the creation of one paid position. Airport – Terminal improvements and renovations. This grant allows the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport to conduct renovations and upgrades at the terminal. This grant estimates the creation of 44 paid positions. Community Development – Short-term rental assistance for at-risk residents...This grant will be used for the creation of the Homeless Emergency Project's Community Service

Center. It is anticipated a total of 32 jobs will be created: 22 construction jobs and 10 others once the service center is completed.” [[The Weekly Challenger](#), 10/22/09]

The Recovery Act has created nearly 650 jobs and helped retain more than 3,000 jobs in Broward and Palm Beach counties alone. “In South Florida, the stimulus has undoubtedly saved jobs, especially in education... While no one knows the exact number of jobs, defenders say the impact is significant. ‘We would be roughly at a million fewer jobs today if not for the stimulus,’ said economist Mark Zandi, of Moody’s Economy.com...For some in South Florida, the stimulus money has paid off. Michael Noye lost his teacher aide job this year, but was rehired as a hall monitor at Coral Reef Elementary School in Lake Worth. While he misses the classroom, ‘I feel what I’m doing is really important,’ he said. In South Florida, more jobs have been retained than created so far, according to a Sun Sentinel review of job creation at 14 state agencies. The informal review found nearly 650 jobs created, and more than 3,000 retained in Broward and Palm Beach counties. But that only accounts for stimulus money funneled through the state. Other funds are channeled through federal agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, which contributed \$1.3 million in stimulus funds to open a new community health center in West Park, near Hallandale Beach.” [[Miami Herald](#), 10/13/09]

44 jobs have been created for workers at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport. “If you drive through the parking lot at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, you’ll spot a lot of orange. That’s because construction is happening all around the airport. ‘Roofs, doors, elevators, baggage conveyors, mill work and some new tile,’ said Noah Lagos, airport director, describing what all of the construction work will ultimately mean for passengers. The work is being paid for as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Federal Aviation Administration gave the airport \$5.3 million from stimulus money to fund the project’... According to an airport spokesman, the work has created 44 jobs that will last a total of nine months.” [[ABC Action News](#), 10/13/09]

The Manatee County School District will use a \$31.5 million Recovery Act allocation to save as many as 250 teachers’ jobs. “The Manatee County School District received about \$31.5 million in federal stimulus money this fall, to be spent by Sept. 30, 2011. The funds have allowed the district to more than double the number of Title I schools and add more employees in the Exceptional Student Education program. But the biggest chunk — more than \$14.1 million — is going toward personnel to keep peoples’ jobs afloat, says Jim Drake, district assistant superintendent of finances. Without the stimulus, as many as 250 teachers could have lost their jobs in the district.” [[Bradenton Herald](#), 10/4/09]

Thanks to Recovery Act funding, Grand Lagoon Bridge project is set to bring up to 500 jobs to the local economy and boost waterfront investment. “Construction of the new Grand Lagoon Bridge should bring needed jobs to the community and boost investment along the beach, officials said at Thursday’s groundbreaking. Stephanie Kopelousos, Florida’s Department of Transportation secretary, said the new \$15 million bridge, funded through 2009 stimulus funds and federal grants, will bring 500 jobs to a local economy in need of a shot in the arm. ‘We believe in our infrastructure,’ Kopelousos said during a ceremony at Captain Anderson’s Restaurant attended by about 100 people. ‘Part of this money was meant to create jobs and stimulate the economy.’” [[Panama City News Herald](#), 10/1/09]

With Recovery Act funding, Hialeah expects to create hundreds of jobs, mostly in construction. “Realistically, Robaina only expected \$6 million, though the city was awarded double that to spend on new roads, storm-water drains, city buses and police cars. Below are details on some of the projects for which Hialeah received dollars: \$5,165,124 to resurface the

roads, add new drains, improve street lighting and landscaping, build sidewalks and carve additional turn lanes.... Robaina expects these projects to create approximately 500 new jobs... \$1,734,021 to use on the Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing Program, through which individuals and families receive a one-time rental assistance, payment of security deposits or utility payments as they work toward becoming self-sufficient... Plans are to use a portion of the money to build a 33-unit affordable rental housing facility at 525 West First Avenue. The project should create 50 new jobs. The rest, or about \$1.3 million, would go toward redeveloping abandoned or foreclosed homes. Hialeah received an additional \$6.5 million from the federal government that was not included in Obama's 2009 American Recovery Reinvestment Act.” [[The Miami Herald](#), 10/1/09]

\$50 million in Recovery Act funding goes to saving the jobs of 900 Brevard County teachers. “The jobs of 900 teachers were saved in Brevard County public schools including 37 teachers who instruct students with disabilities or special needs, others who work with the poorest kids in the district and still other teachers in schools from Titusville to Palm Bay, allowing administrators to keep class sizes small to enhance learning. Some \$50 million of the \$787 billion from the Recovery Act went to Brevard Public Schools, where children are continuing to learn because teachers are in the classroom and not in the unemployment line, where 10.8 percent of Brevard workers are now standing. There’s no doubt the figure would be higher without the stimulus, which in turn would have further worsened Brevard’s economy with its contagion of more foreclosed homes, more lost health insurance and more trouble putting food on the table...” [[Florida Today](#), Editorial, 9/23/09]

Staffing and training in the health sector continues to expand, thanks in part to a boost from the Recovery Act. “While most other industries have been losing jobs, health care continues to add them. In Florida, staffing at hospitals have [*sic*] increased by 8,000 jobs and health-care services by 4,200 in July from a year ago. Linda Quick, director of the South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association, surveys hospitals and other health-care providers to find their greatest employee needs. Training is then geared toward jobs that are available now and in the near future... We're not so much using the (stimulus) money to employ more people but to train people for employment that already exists,’ Quick says. This strategy eventually will create more jobs because ‘if you're training people for existing positions, you're leaving space for new people,’ adds Joyita Garg, who is working with Quick on coordinating stimulus funding for health care training in South Florida.” [[San Luis Obispo Tribune](#), 9/22/09]

Recovery Act funds will be used to save and create a total of 53 teaching position, while training hundreds more to work with children with special needs. “The funds for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – also known as IDEA – saved 37 positions and created 16. Altogether, the money should reach about 13,000 students. The district will receive another \$8 million next year. As part of the funding, hundreds of teachers will receive training in dealing with students with limited abilities, said Eva Lewis, director of exceptional education. The money paid for additional exceptional education teachers, psychologists, behavior analysts, guidance counselors, reading teachers and a parent specialist. ” [[Florida Today](#), 9/21/09]

\$390,000 in Recovery Act money will go to save jobs in the Tampa Bay area art scene. “Out of billions that went to bolster things you'd expect, almost \$50 million was budgeted for the National Endowment for the Arts. From there, \$390,000 came to Florida, distributed through the state's Division of Cultural Affairs... St. Petersburg's Studio@620, a space for performing and visual arts, received \$20,000. Creative Clay, an arts education center for the disabled, and Florida Craftsmen, a statewide fine art association based in St. Petersburg,

each received \$25,000. VSA arts of Florida, based in Hillsborough County, received \$23,000. The money was for salaries. To save jobs.” [[St. Petersburg Times](#), 9/20/09]

Recovery Act will create 200 jobs to staff Florida’s New Department Of Children And Families Call Center and maintenance projects. “The Florida Legislative Budget Commission on Tuesday voted to approve two area projects to receive nearly \$6 million in federal stimulus money and put at least 200 people to work. One of the two projects is a new Florida Department of Children and Families telephone call center to be located in Marion County. The call center will be a one-year temporary project and employ about 75 people, said DCF Deputy Secretary Don Winstead... The second project will involve hiring people to work on Marion County and City of Ocala maintenance projects. Workforce Connection, a not-for-profit organization that works with DCF and the county in helping people retrain and look for work, will help select employees for the two new works projects. Skinner said the two programs are looking to hire workers from families that are at least 200 percent of the national poverty level and must have at least one child under the age of 18 living at home.” [[Star-Banner](#), 9/16/05]

Using Recovery Act funds, Tampa Bay Housing Authority will create and sustain 180 local jobs as it improves energy efficiency in units. “The Tampa Housing Authority ... announced that the \$10.5 million it received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is at work on energy efficient modernization and large-scale capital improvements that are creating and sustaining more than 180 local jobs. Over 20 projects in total will be impacted by the \$10.5 million in stimulus funds.” Rep. Castor: “It’s also critical that this money is going to improve the lives of so many of our neighbors by improving their homes. The Recovery Act is helping the housing authority alleviate the existing backlog of needed repairs and upgrades.” [[Tampa Tribune](#), 9/15/09]

\$4.4 billion in Recovery Act funds will provide a critical boost to Florida’s Medicaid Program and save tens of thousands of education jobs. “For all the debate about the federal stimulus program, of this Don Winstead is certain: Without the stimulus, Florida’s budget problems would’ve been catastrophic. Winstead, who’s overseeing implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Florida, spoke Saturday at the University of South Florida. The stimulus money provided an additional \$4.4 billion for Medicaid in Florida, allowing the state to divert some of the money it would have used for Medicaid to plug other holes in the budget. Meanwhile, the stimulus money may save tens of thousands of teacher and other education jobs, he estimates. Education initiatives in Florida are receiving some \$4 billion. Among the recipients are USF, which is receiving about \$15 million, and the USF medical school, which is getting just less than \$5 million.” [[Tampa Bay Online](#), 9/13/09]

Recovery Act money brings green job training for 40 people in Jacksonville. “Solar Energy Initiatives is hoping to bring a little sunshine to Jacksonville’s Northside. The company announced today its partnership with three Jacksonville job training and placement agencies to help train unemployed workers to get ‘green’ jobs. The program is funded with \$387,000 in federal stimulus money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009... Reggie Gaffney, executive director of the Community Rehabilitation Center, said the trainees will learn how to install and maintain solar energy panels, which is a growing field. He said there’s plenty of demand for skilled workers in this trade, but not enough people have the proper training. Initially, he said the hope is that 40 workers will be trained for jobs that will pay on average \$10 to \$15 an hour.... City Councilman Johnny Gaffney, of District 7, said it’s important to create jobs that are in demand for the foreseeable future, such as green jobs. State Sen. Tony Hill, D-Jacksonville, said he believes this stimulus money should have a big impact on an area that really needs it.” [[The Florida Times-Union](#), 09/09/09]

Recovery Act money creates nine jobs for Fort Myers police. “It’s your money and millions of tax dollars are being pumped into the Fort Myers Police Department. This is really good news for the City of Fort Myers. Tuesday afternoon the city council agreed to take more than \$2 million dollars in federal grant and stimulus money, which will be used to hire 9 more police officers. “We’ll be able to a great number of things with those officers. More community policing,” said Fort Myers Police Chief Doug Baker. The officers will be paid by a federal stimulus money totaling \$2,307,312.00. The funding is enough to employ them for the next 3 years. The timing couldn’t be better. “These are tough times. People are doing more jobs,” Chief Doug Baker said. Budget cuts and buyouts has left the Fort Myers Police Department with 34 vacant positions. Those vacancies include 29 police officers and 5 supervisors. “The show still goes on. You have people that have to pick up additional responsibilities,” Baker said.” [[Wink News](#), 09/08/09]

The Opa-locka Police Department Will Be Able To Hire Three New Officers Thanks To Stimulus Funding. “The Opa-locka Police Department will be adding three new officers to its roster, thanks to a \$335,774 federal grant. North Magnolia and Nile Gardens neighborhoods will benefit immediately, Interim City Manager Bryan Finnie said in an e-mail. That statement pleases Jannie Russell, a local community activist. ‘I have 25 kids who come from Niles Gardens,’ said Russell, director of Teen Upward Bound. ‘Their parents will greatly appreciate the additional officers on the streets. It’s a positive thing anytime the department adds police officers to patrol the streets.’ Opa-locka is one of eight Miami-Dade municipalities that received more than \$15 million federal funds, as part of President Barack Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009... As Opa-locka hires new officers, it also is looking to the past as well as the future to guard its streets. Some officers may soon patrol on bicycles or go back to old-school police methods: walking the beat.” [[The Miami Herald](#), 9/5/09]

Recovery Act funds enabled Brevard County School Board to save jobs, backfill operating fund, and pay for special ed programs. “The Brevard County School Board approved an operating budget Thursday night that’s down about 6 percent compared to last year because of slipping enrollment and dropping state revenue... Judy Preston, associate superintendent of financial services, said the board will have to remain fiscally conservative this year. ‘We’ve been directed by the commissioner of education to exercise caution and plan for unforeseen circumstances,’ Preston told the board. ‘But recent state financial conferences have been more optimistic.’ More than \$50 million in special revenue from the stimulus plan helped save hundreds of jobs and some programs this year. That includes \$25.6 million for low-income schools and students with disabilities, \$24.8 million to fill the void in the operating fund, and \$156,056 in competitive grant.” [[Florida Today](#), 9/4/09]

Recovery Act money will fund the restoration St. Lucie Estuary’s oyster population, a project that will improve the area’s water quality. “Thirty million pounds of oyster shells are all bound for the bottom of the St. Lucie Estuary. It’s a project to help restore one of the world’s most diverse habitats. Oysters once thrived in the St. Lucie River, but most of the population disappeared in the last 50 years... The project is being funded entirely by federal stimulus dollars. A healthy oyster population makes for a healthy estuary. A single oyster can filter 20 to 50 gallons of water a day, and oyster reefs provide homes for more 300 species of invertebrates and fish. ‘When we think of grouper, snapper as just reef fish, they actually spend part of their life cycle in part of an estuary,’ says Mark Perry of the Florida Oceanographic Society. More fish means more tourism, more jobs and more money for the area.” [[WPTV5](#), 9/3/09]

Recovery Act bond will pay for new plant in Palm Beach County, plant will employ up to 800 workers. “Palm Beach County commissioners today unanimously approved a \$24 million bond issue for a Broward County cosmetics company that wants to build a plant in Palm Springs. Oxygen Development LLC plans to move from Deerfield Beach and employ up to 800 workers. The money for the bond issue comes from the county's share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a federal stimulus package approved in February. Oxygen Development owns 16.5 acres of vacant land at 1525 S. Congress Ave. in Palm Springs, Village Manager Karl Umberger said. It will use the money to build a 300,000-square-foot plant to develop and make skin and hair products... The company would employ 350 to 400 employees when it first moves and plans to expand to 750 to 800 workers.” [[Palm Beach Post](#), 9/1/09]

Gulf Marine Repair Corp. plans to hire back 100 of its employees and create 50 new jobs to handle a Recovery Act-funded dock expansion project. “The ship repairer intends to rehire more than 100 employees who had been laid off in recent months. In addition, 50 new jobs will be created to handle a dry dock expansion being financed by a \$4,159,857 grant under the recent round of Marad small shipyard grants made under the Recovery Act. The shipyard had to reduce employment from 308 jobs in July 2008 to 140 last month, but prospects are looking up with new contracts over the next two fiscal quarters, company vice president Rick Watts told the Tampa Tribune... Three other Tampa shipyards are also getting Recovery Act funding... The other Tampa shipyards receiving grants are: International Ship and Marine Services, Inc. – \$2,228,307 for dry dock life extension. International Ship is committed to adding to its current employee base of 231. Tampa Ship LLC – \$2,270,172 for a panel line. Tampa Ship, with its 500 employees, is creating new jobs and is modernizing its shipyard. Riverhawk Marine, LLC – \$1,290,246 for travelift and syncrolift control upgrades.” [[MarineLog](#), 8/31/09]

The University of Florida will use Recovery Act funds to hire as many as 100 new professors. “The University of Florida will use \$10 million in federal stimulus dollars to hire as many as 100 new professors and replenish its faculty ranks, which have shrunk during the past year after tens of millions in budget cuts. UF President Bernie Machen on Thursday told the faculty Senate during a meeting in Gainesville that new professors will be hired in the coming year and will help to offset the recent loss of 81 professors. The stimulus money will serve as a ‘bridge’ until higher undergraduate tuition rates that went into effect this week for Florida residents generate enough revenue to cover the new professors' salaries. Some colleges, like the University of South Florida, have used stimulus money to stave off layoffs. Some – including USF, Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida International University – are using it to hire new faculty, but none on as large a scale as UF...” [[Miami Herald](#), 8/28/09]

Recovery Act funds saved the jobs of more than 2,800 teachers in the Tampa Bay region. “[V]isit Jen Stewart's classroom in Hernando County, and watch your federal dollars at work. The 39-year-old teacher has years of experience and valuable certification in special-needs education. Students, parents and her bosses love her. But they nearly lost her. Stewart is one of more than 2,800 teachers across the Tampa Bay region whose job has been saved by the \$789 billion federal stimulus — for now. Without the cash infusion, local school officials say, the 2009-10 school year would have begun with massive layoffs and program cuts. And those budget problems could easily return in two years when the federal aid runs out. ‘I don't know how we would have been able to open schools without the stimulus money,’ said Pinellas County superintendent Julie Janssen... In Hillsborough County, 1,511 jobs were saved or created using nearly \$150 million in stimulus money. Pinellas kept 792 teachers working, while Pasco protected 411 jobs and Hernando protected 175.” [[St. Petersburg](#), 8/24/09]

The Escambia County Sheriff's office will use *Recovery Act* funds to hire 20 new officers. "Escambia County commissioners Thursday approved use of federal stimulus money, adopted a new digital communication policy and decided to regulate gaming facilities. Commissioners voted to: Sign off on a \$3.34 million federal stimulus grant for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. The COPS Hiring Grant will be used to put 20 new officers on the streets, covering salary and benefits, for the next three years, said Derek Whidden, a grants coordinator for the sheriff's office. Commissioners approval of the grant means the county commits to funding the officers in the fourth year... The grant money is part of the \$1 billion the Community Oriented Policing Services office is providing to agencies to hire and retain officers. The money is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 8/21/09]

A *Recovery Act*-funded shipyard expansion project in Jacksonville is expected to create up to 300 new jobs. "A Downtown Jacksonville shipyard will use federal stimulus package funds to bankroll an expansion that will create up to 300 new jobs, nearly doubling its work force. North Florida Shipyards Inc.'s \$7.5 million project involves buying a travel lift to bring ships out of the water for repair without using a dry dock, allowing the company to work on more than one ship at a time. The shipyard has weathered the recession well because ship repairs are required under various maritime rules and for insurance coverage, said Robert Wilson, the company's vice president and chief financial officer... North Florida Shipyards received about \$3.3 million for the purchase of the travel lift through the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's assistance to small shipyards program, which received a sizable stimulus injection. The company also plans to pay for the expansion by using \$4 million worth of tax-exempt bonds available through the stimulus package. The bonds for projects within economically distressed zones will help pay for expanding the basin so that the travel lift will be able to scoop ships out of the water and bring them to land." [[Jacksonville Business Journal](#), 8/21/09]

Manatee County Area Transit will use *Recovery Act* funds to build a new park-and-ride lot, purchase new buses, and undertake security enhancements. "Manatee County Area Transit finally is getting \$4.61 million in federal stimulus money it had been promised, and the agency doesn't plan to waste time spending it. MCAT officials hope to ask county commissioners within weeks to begin spending it for a park-and-ride lot, new buses, security enhancements and other improvements, transit Director Ralf Heseler said... With it, MCAT hopes to buy land near the new Palmetto transit center where commuters can park their cars and ride buses or carpool to their jobs. Construction of the transit center is complete at Eighth Avenue West and 19th Street West... MCAT also plans to soon place orders for five replacement buses, but it will take up to 18 months for them to be delivered. The buses cost about \$200,000 each. The county-operated bus system also plans to purchase and install security cameras and fencing at the Palmetto transit center and another one on 301 Boulevard. It also plans to improve disabled access at various bus stops and shelters countywide with the stimulus money." [[Bradenton Herald](#), 8/21/09]

***Recovery Act* funding enabled Escambia community clinics, satellite in Santa Rosa to treat 43% more patients, hire 10 more nurses, hire 20 construction workers to remodel clinic.** "There's no question in Don Turner's mind that federal stimulus dollars are being put to good use. Turner is executive director of Escambia Community Clinics Inc., a nonprofit that serves more than 46,000 medically needy and uninsured patients a year in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The clinic received \$2.3 million of stimulus money in the spring, and Turner said the money could not have come at a better time. 'With the economy taking the downturn that it did, and with the loss of jobs in the local area, we've seen a significant increase in the need for our services,' Turner said. He said patient count is up from

32,000 in 2007 to 47,000 in 2008, a 43 percent increase. The stimulus money will be used to hire additional physicians, nurses, social workers and other staffers... 'It's intended to put people back to work. And in our case, we've created 10 new positions at our clinic in Pensacola and satellite clinic in Santa Rosa County.' What's more, Turner noted the clinic's stimulus money includes a \$701,000 grant to remodel its Palafox Street headquarters to provide more space for waiting patients and additional examination rooms. That remodeling job is expected to create up to 20 temporary jobs during the seven-month construction phase." [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 8/16/09]

Pensacola dentist was able to expand his office, hire four full-time staffers thanks to Recovery Act SBA Loan Program. "Small Business Administration loans made available through stimulus money have benefitted several local business people. Dr. Bryan Gerstenberg, a Pensacola dentist, received a \$465,000 mortgage loan through the SBA and Hancock Bank this spring. He used the money to buy a larger office building, which gave him the room to add four full-time staff members. Gerstenberg said he had wanted to expand his practice for several years but could not get a loan with an interest rate and monthly payment he could afford. 'We had run out of room, and my options were either move to a new building or make our existing office bigger,' he said. 'Adding on would have been a lot to go through and taken six to eight months. I just didn't want to go through that headache.' In the spring, Gerstenberg's bank informed him that stimulus money could help underwrite a mortgage and bring down the interest rate on his SBA loan to an affordable level. 'Essentially, it was good timing and a real blessing for me,' Gerstenberg said. 'I couldn't have done this without the stimulus money.'" [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 8/16/09]

Largo Company won Recovery Act-funded contract for roadwork, project will start in september. "A general contractor has won a \$12.7 million, stimulus-funded contract to add lanes to and reconstruct a Pasco County road. R.E. Purcell Construction Co. Inc. is set to begin the project at U.S. 41/S.R. 45 in September and wrap up in 2011, if all goes to plan. Purcell's contract is one of just 16 stimulus-funded construction contracts awarded by the Florida Department of Transportation to date, and the only contract awarded to a Tampa Bay-owned company. A \$13 million job is a nice size for Purcell, said Controller Larry Bane, who wishes FDOT would produce more projects companies of Purcell's size could pursue." [[Tampa Bay Business Journal](#), 8/14/09]

Recovery Act SBA loan enabled Perdido Key couple to start a learning center, hire three or four teachers. "Mercedes and John Branigan were unable to get a conventional SBA loan to start their Big Lagoon Learning Center until the stimulus money was made available. They began researching SBA loans and discovered they could become eligible for special government-backed financing to start their school near Perdido Key. After receiving a \$187,290 7A loan from the SBA, they're remodeling an existing building on Bauer Road to accommodate up to 80 preschool children. 'We've very excited about getting the loan, and we're just hoping that it all works,' she said. 'We're going to have three or four teachers and we're hiring now.'" [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 8/16/09]

Pinellas Park Police Department will hire five new officers using Recovery Act funding. "The police department will get just over \$1 million to pay for the hiring of five new officers. The cash will come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. More than 1,040 police agencies in all 50 states will share \$1 billion in grants under the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Recovery Program. Pinellas Park is only one of four cities in Pinellas County to receive the funding. The others are St. Pete Beach, St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs. The money comes at a time when government agencies are scraping by to meet budget demands in these hard economic times.

Pinellas Park police, like other agencies, have instituted hiring freezes and cut back certain services. The grants go directly to the agencies that can use the money to hire new officers or rehire those that have been laid off or are scheduled to be furloughed due to economic challenges. Money has also been granted to tribal agencies with only the Seminole Tribe of Florida receiving funds in the Sunshine State. That agency will get \$1.4 million to hire seven new officers." [[Tampa Bay Newspapers](#), 8/6/09]

Recovery Act funded the creation of a job exploration program at South Fort Myers High; 100 young people gain jobs in Lee County. "The sounds of band saws, key strokes and practiced chest compressions have filled the halls of South Fort Myers High School this summer. But this isn't your average summer school. Students at this school, as well as two others in Lee County and two schools in Collier County, are in the middle of a four-week career exploration program paid for through the federal economic stimulus plan passed in February. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law with the goal of saving and creating more than 3.5 million jobs over two years and reviving the renewable energy industry, among other goals. The Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, which received \$2.3 million to distribute among the five counties it oversees, partnered with the school district to offer the program in Lee County. Also in Lee County, the workforce board has helped place 100 people ages 16 to 24 in jobs, from doctors' offices to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Florida. 'The program is meant to give these youth a meaningful work experience, not just a summer job,' said Carmen Woywod, youth program coordinator for the workforce board." [[Naples Daily News](#), 7/26/09]

220 young people in Treasure Coast found employment through Recovery Act-backed summer youth employment program. "Elizabeth Hill is spending her summer working with the dogs at Pawprints of Vero Beach to prepare for the looming financial responsibilities of adulthood... Workforce Solutions, a Port St. Lucie-based workforce development agency, is using federal stimulus money to put money in the wallets and experience on the resumes of Hill and about 220 Treasure Coast youths currently enrolled in the summer employment program. Early this year, the agency received \$4.8 million from the federal \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A little less than \$1.35 million of the money is being used for the Workforce Solutions youth programs, including the Summer Youth Employment Program and the expansion of an eight-week career program for younger children." [[TCPalm](#), 7/25/09]

Polk Museum will receive Recovery Act money for job creation. "Polk Museum of Art announced that it will receive an NEA Recovery Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The National Endowment for the Arts announced direct grants to 631 nonprofit arts groups, totaling \$29.775 million as part of the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Polk Museum of Art will receive \$50,000 to be used toward retention and employment of outreach teachers and guest artists during the economic downturn. [[Winter Haven News Chief](#), 7/21/09]

Taylor County school superintendent credited the creation of 12 teaching jobs to the Recovery Act. "Forty annual contract teachers have been appointed to Taylor County Schools for the upcoming year. Some of those vacant positions could've been scraped due to financial limitations... Twelve of the teaching positions will be funded through the county's portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is part of the federal stimulus package. Superintendent Paul Dyal says if it weren't for that money, some of those vacant positions would've been cut altogether because of a strained budget. Dyal said, 'For every salary that you cut, you're really cutting a face. In a small district, all those faces have a name. So, it's not been very pleasant.'" [[WCTV - CBS](#), 7/13/09]

Recovery Act funds saved 94 teaching jobs in the Highlands County school district.

"Physical education teachers will make the cut, media specialists won't be laid off and reading teachers will have more chapters in the classroom, thanks to federal stimulus money that is saving 94 teaching positions in the Highlands County School District. 'It would have been difficult to open the schools' without it, Superintendent Wally Cox said recently at a school board workshop. The district cut about 67 positions last year, he said. In the general fund this year, about 82 positions are being cut. Next school year, the district is receiving millions of dollars in stimulus money from various sources. In total, stimulus funding is saving 69 regular teaching and 25 exceptional student education teaching positions." [[Tampa Tribune](#), 7/10/09]

Recovery Act funds will allow the Holmes County school system to save the jobs of approximately 30 teachers.

"Superintendent of Holmes County Schools, Gary Galloway, along with unanimous votes from School Board members, approved of using the over \$1 million State Fiscal Stabilization Fund gained through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to save the jobs of approximately 30 teachers in the Holmes County school system." [[Holmes County Times Advertiser](#), 7/7/09]

NOAA application of Recovery Act funds for coast clean-up is creating 57 jobs.

"Federal stimulus money is paying for more than roads and bridges during this economic downturn. Ecological projects are part of the mix – and that bodes well for Florida. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration received \$167 million in February from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and Florida will get a fair share of that money. The scope of the projects is reminiscent of work the Conservation Corps completed to stimulate the economy by creating jobs during the Great Depression. Those "make-work" projects had lasting value. Go to our national parks to witness the results of the Conservation Corps' work. They are a reminder of how integral our natural resources are to our economy and our social fabric. They're also an example of how something good can come out of hard times. So it should be with today's stimulus dollars." [[Miami Herald](#), 7/7/09]

Rapid recovery component of Recovery Act has produced many job retraining success stories in Charlotte County.

"Anxiety is a word 37-year-old Amy Skerlec has come to know all too well, especially during the past two years... But in May, a light at the end of the tunnel appeared. A financial assistance employee told Skerlec about a new program called Rapid Recovery, which is being offered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Through the program, displaced and underemployed workers can go back to school for training in areas of great need, including health care, business, technology, public service and education. If accepted, a person could have their tuition, books, lab fees and required uniforms paid for during the duration of a program. With a 4.0 and her recent struggles, Skerlec was a perfect candidate." [[Charlotte Sun](#), 7/7/09]

Florida has amassed over \$15 billion in Recovery Act funds, expected to save or create 206,000 jobs.

"Florida's share of federal stimulus money — more than \$15 billion — that is intended to brighten the Sunshine State's gloomy economy is already starting to go to work. The first projects out of the gate are mostly for road and airport construction work already approved by local governments and classified as 'shovel ready.' For instance: a \$5.6 million contract for ramp improvements at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The rest of Florida's federal money will flow over the next two years... Florida is expected to save or create 206,000 jobs, ranking fourth after New York, Texas and California." [[South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#), 7/5/09]

DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands Counties will employ 18 students using Recovery Act money.

"Desiree Haehle said she would probably be at home watching TV and sleeping if

she weren't involved in the summer work skills program. Thanks to the stimulus package, Haehle, who will be a senior at Sebring High School this year, is making money working in a shop. The region, which includes Highlands, Hardee and DeSoto counties, has received a little more than \$1.2 million from The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." [[Tampa Tribune](#), 6/28/09]

Marion County Senior Services given \$132,000 in *Recovery Act* funding for meal provision to the elderly, creating three jobs and assisting over 90 seniors. "With the money, MCSS will add a new congregate meal site to the existing 11 and a 28th meal delivery route, helping at least 90 additional seniors. The funds will help create three part-time jobs at the center. There are currently 34 seniors on the meal delivery waiting list, and the new grant will help bring that number down to zero." [[Ocala Star-Banner](#), 6/15/09]

The Alachua County school district will use *Recovery Act* money to pay approximately 250 teachers on annual contracts for the next two school years. "For the next school year, the school district also will receive approximately \$4.7 million in stimulus money for Title I schools – which are determined by the percentage of students on free and reduced lunch – and \$6.3 million for special education programs. The first half of the Title I stimulus money was pledged before May 1 so that 56 employees would not receive letters that their annual contracts would not be renewed. Half of them were teachers, and the other half were paraprofessionals, tutors who work alongside teachers. Charles Hall, the district's Title I director, told board members that his plan is to use part of the next allotment of the district's Title I stimulus money to preserve jobs in the 2010-11 school year." [[The Gainesville Sun](#), 5/20/09]

***Recovery Act* will enable Gadsden Schools to retain 70 jobs.** [[WCTV \(Tallahassee, FL\)](#), 5/19/09]

Jackson County school district will save 18 teaching positions because of *Recovery Act* funds. [[WJHG](#), 5/14/09]

Gadsden County school district will retain 50 jobs and Jefferson County school district will create 10 to 12 jobs because of the *Recovery Act*. [[Tallahassee Democrat](#), 4/15/09]

***Recovery Act* money will reduce school budget cuts and save jobs.** "At this point it looks like we will be able to recall at least 70 to 80 people." [[Northwest Florida Daily](#), 5/13/09]

***Recovery Act* funding will help Polk County school district hire 200 to 300 new teachers next year.** [[Lakeland Ledger](#), 5/12/09]

***Recovery Act* funds will save 139 teaching jobs in Seminole County.** [[Orlando Sentinel](#), 5/13/09]

***Recovery Act* funds should allow Pensacola Junior College to avoid layoffs.** [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 5/8/09]

***Recovery Act* funds saved 50 teaching jobs in Santa Rosa County.** [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 5/6/09]

St. Lucie County Commission approved county's first *Recovery Act* project, which is expected to create 86 direct jobs. "According to the county, the \$6.6 million project is expected to create at least 86 jobs directly, not including such related jobs as suppliers, and will be paid for using money from a road bond earlier than expected. The road bond money already is available. The project of about a half mile will reconstruct a four-lane section of Walton Road

from U.S. 1 to Village Green and include median work, lighting work and landscaping among other improvements." [*Treasure Coast Palm*, 5/5/09]