



Special Report

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The *Recovery Act*: Creating Jobs and Making a Difference in Texas

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 Texas, made this progress possible.

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

In Texas, this partial reporting indicates that 19,572 jobs have been created or saved by funding 2,938 awards worth \$10,680,465,910, of which \$1,826,235,380 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 71,900 jobs so far for Texans (accounting for indirect and induced jobs). [Council of Economic Advisors, [9/2009](#)] **Texas is on track to benefit from a total of 269,000 *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 Texas:

University of Texas at Austin researchers have received 123 *Recovery Act* grants for projects relating to energy sources and storage devices, environmental questions, biomedical applications. “The National Science Foundation has awarded the most stimulus bill funds to University of Texas at Austin researchers with almost \$30 million in grants... ‘University-based research has been a powerful driver of economic development for decades,’ said Juan Sanchez, the university’s vice president for research. ‘Through projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, our scientists, scholars and engineers

are developing new knowledge on which new industries can be built and jobs created.’ The projects are spread among 14 schools and units, with many of the projects crossing disciplinary boundaries, the university said. The projects relate to energy sources and storage devices, environmental questions, biomedical applications, new materials and technologies, and other areas.” [[Austin Business Journal](#), 11/18/09]

The Houston-Galveston area will use *Recovery Act* funds for “livable centers” and provide streetscape and lighting improvements to enhance pedestrian safety. “The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) announced that the region’s Transportation Policy Council (TPC) recently approved three Livable Centers projects for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Designed to complement existing and planned transit services, the East End, Uptown Houston and Upper Kirby Management Districts livable centers projects were each provided \$5 million in ARRA stimulus funding for pedestrian infrastructure improvements. Supplementing financial support from each of the management districts, the stimulus dollars will be used to provide streetscape and lighting improvements enhancing pedestrian safety, improve the accessibility of transit to the mobility impaired and promote walking as an alternative to short auto trips. Planned improvements include: Transit stops: shelters, benches, signage, lighting, waste receptacles and pavement; Pedestrian-scaled lighting and wayfinding signage; Streetscape furnishings: benches, waste receptacles and bike racks; Streetscape improvements including sidewalk repair, widening or new sidewalk construction; curbs and ADA accessible ramps installed/repared at intersections; street corner enhancements; and reconstruction of driveway and alley entrances; H-GAC’s Livable Centers program allows for greater accessibility by a variety of transportation modes, including walking, bicycling, rail and bus transit. As a component of neighborhood revitalization, livable centers projects can also produce economic, environmental, and “quality of place” benefits in economically distressed areas.” [[The Tribune](#), 11/16/09]

***Recovery Act* funding will fund development of a wireless open-access research platform that allows frequent remote monitoring of patients with heart failure and diabetes in Houston’s Pecan Park neighborhood.** “A \$2 million grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been bestowed upon a team of wireless researchers and physicians from Rice University and The Methodist Hospital Research Institute to test remote patient monitoring devices in Houston’s Pecan Park neighborhood. The grant will fund development of a wireless open-access research platform that allows frequent remote monitoring of patients with heart failure and diabetes. Every morning, patients can step on a Blue Scale, a sensing device that looks like a regular bathroom scale, and the scale automatically and securely will transmit all necessary cardiac output data to the patient’s healthcare provider, alerting the provider to any small changes that can be easily managed, according to researchers.” [[Nurse.com News](#), 11/16/09]

University of Texas was awarded *Recovery Act* funds for patient-oriented research centered studies focusing on cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, autism, neurodegenerative diseases and diabetes; summer research jobs for students will also be created. “UT Southwestern Medical Center has been awarded more than \$42 million to date for basic and patient-oriented research from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the \$787 billion stimulus package President Barack Obama signed into law in February... The research grants support a wide range of laboratory and patient-centered studies aimed at improving the nation’s health, including projects focusing on cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, autism, neurodegenerative diseases and diabetes... Ten of UT Southwestern’s *Recovery Act* grants are NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research, a new initiative that focuses on specific knowledge gaps, scientific opportunities, new technologies, data

generation or research methods that can benefit from an influx of funds to quickly advance disease-specific areas in significant ways... Summer research experience for teachers and students: Twelve faculty members received grants to support summer research experiences for students and science educators in UT Southwestern laboratories. Dr. Ralph Mason, professor of radiology, hosted a middle school teacher from Coppell as part of the small-animal imaging research program that he leads. The funding also will support a teacher and a high school student in summer 2010.” [[Presswire](#), 11/12/09]

UT Southwestern Medical Center received *Recovery Act* money to finance new and ongoing research. “UT Southwestern Medical Center has received more than \$42 million in federal stimulus money to finance new and ongoing research. All of the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act were received during fiscal 2009, which ended Sept. 30... ‘It’s an absolutely terrific thing for the university,’ said Dr. Perrie Adams, associate dean for research administration at UT Southwestern. Some of the projects receiving money include research into autism, brain tumors and cardiovascular disease. Adams said the additional funds represented a nearly 25 percent increase in federal money flowing to the school for research. A majority of the money is funding new projects at the school, which Adams says allows young researchers to get established.” [[The Dallas Morning News](#), 11/13/09]

A Texas family received *Recovery Act* funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, allowing them to purchase a foreclosed home; in Arlington, 50 families become first-time home buyers. “Four years after moving to Texas from Vietnam, Dan and Thu Nguyen are living in their dream home in southeast Arlington. The husband and wife, who have one income and two school-age children, said they could never have afforded the \$90,000 three-bedroom brick home on Bracken Place without help from the city. They are the first of 50 low-income families the city plans to help become first-time home buyers through a \$2 million federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program aimed at reducing foreclosed properties... Thu Nguyen, who is studying to be a nurse at Tarrant County College, said she immediately fell in love with the house near Cravens Park. Using federal stimulus money, the city provided the couple with more than \$20,000 for a down payment and costs to reduce the loan principal as well as more than \$6,600 to help close the loan. On top of that, the city paid \$21,521 for repairs at the foreclosed house, including exterior paint, flooring, windows and fencing. The home had been vacant about six months... About \$3.9 billion in federal funding was awarded to states and local governments last year as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, created by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. Fort Worth received about \$6 million. In Arlington, six other families have closed on homes through the program and 14 families are going through the process, said David Zappasodi, assistant director of community services.” [[Star-Telegram](#), 11/5/09]

Robins Air Force Base in Texas will use *Recovery Act* funding to replace concrete on the south end of the base’s airfield. “About \$33 million in contracts have now been awarded for work at Robins Air Force Base under President Obama’s economic stimulus plan, according to base officials... ‘All of (the contracts) have been awarded,’ he added. The construction projects are expected to run through mid- to late 2010... The Obama administration’s \$787 billion economic stimulus plan designates \$7.4 billion toward the military, according to the Department of Defense. Of that total, \$4.3 billion is to sustain and restore Department of Defense facilities and \$2.2 billion is directed toward military construction. All of the money designated for Robins is directed through the Department of Defense. Robins was allocated 76 stimulus projects under the plan, Landreth said. They include chores as small as replacing air conditioning units to a massive \$3.3 million project to replace concrete on the south end of the base airfield. On the latter project, the Alabama-based MA-

Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe Enterprises Company is nearly complete with its work... Other projects funded by the stimulus plan include repairing and replacing windows at a headquarters building, repaving a parking lot and repairing a fence along Ga. 247, which Shedd said is now ‘in full swing.’ [[The Sun News](#), 10/14/09]

University of Texas will use *Recovery Act* grants to help the medical branch hire and retain laboratory staff, research assistants, research associates, postdoctoral researchers. “The University of Texas Medical Branch will receive more than \$11 million in federal stimulus grants to shore up employment and to ramp up research in areas from cancer to emerging infectious diseases... The medical branch funds total \$11,014,894 and include \$10,686,653 in National Institutes of Health grants to support research projects: Development of a vaccine for the mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus; Care of the elderly hospitalized patient; Development of a center of researchers working to discover new therapeutic approaches to addiction... The grants will help the medical branch hire and retain laboratory staff, research assistants, research associates, postdoctoral researchers and even faculty in some cases, she said.” [[The Daily News](#), 10/3/09]

The Austin-based OneStar Foundation will use *Recovery Act* money to promote better business practices in order to help nonprofits provide more effective job training and other assistance to low-income residents. “Today, Austin-based OneStar Foundation Inc. was awarded \$250,000 in stimulus funds by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. The money is supposed to let OneStar ‘build capacity’ at nonprofits so they can more effectively provide job training and other assistance to low-income people. ‘Building capacity’ means improving a nonprofit’s internal financial controls and ability to evaluate programs – in essence, better business practices, according to OneStar Foundation vice president Chris Bugbee... The stimulus bill created a Strengthening Communities Fund. The \$46 million in grants awarded today were in two categories. OneStar was among 49 government entities or organizations designated by governments that shared \$12 million. Seale said OneStar was tapped by the state of Texas to apply. Among nine U.S. cities awarded grants was El Paso, which also will receive the maximum of \$250,000. And two Texas nonprofits, in Jacksonville and Edinburg, each received larger amounts under the second category of grants, for nonprofits themselves.” [[Dallas Morning News](#), 9/30/09]

San Antonio fire stations will receive *Recovery Act* funding to build two new stations; Housing Authority will use their funding to improve the units of 5,000 senior and disabled public-housing residents. “Some 5,000 senior and disabled public-housing residents will benefit from improvements paid for with a \$5.3 million federal stimulus grant awarded to the San Antonio Housing Authority on Monday. ‘Fourteen separate facilities will see infrastructure improvements,’ SAHA president and CEO Lourdes Castro Ramirez said at an afternoon press conference. Earlier Monday, U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, and city officials announced the award of \$7.3 million in stimulus funds for two new San Antonio fire stations... As for SAHA’s grant, the work will include making some common areas wheelchair-accessible and installing air-conditioning units in some dwellings that hadn’t had them... About 55 percent of the housing agency’s local clients are elderly or disabled and live in public housing or other government-assisted residential programs.” [[San Antonio Express News](#), 9/29/09]

Texas used \$12.1 billion in *Recovery Act* funds to balance state budget and avoid significant cuts. “Talmadge Heflin, director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Center for Fiscal Policy in Austin, wrote, “In recent months, Gov. Rick Perry has savaged the stimulus package, lambasted federal attempts at healthcare reform and hinted at secession because of federal tax-and-spend policies... Then, on June 19, Perry applauded the state’s ‘balanced’

budget, which he'd just signed, noting that lawmakers had left the state's Rainy Day Fund untouched and had cut taxes for 40,000 small businesses. Some people credit conservative fiscal leadership by Perry, who vetoed \$288.9 million in spending, and by lawmakers for balancing the budget. But records show that it was the much reviled federal stimulus money that saved the day. The \$182.3 billion budget did include the first spending decrease since World War II, a trumpeted \$1.6 billion reduction. But the budget would have had to be slashed — and perhaps as much as half the money in the Rainy Day account could have been sucked away — were it not for an infusion of about \$12.1 billion in stimulus funds... Notably, stimulus dollars helped balance the federal/state Medicaid program so that Texas could shift money elsewhere in the budget. Medicaid is the No. 1 source of federal funding in every state's budget, according to the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin, which describes itself a nonpartisan think tank." [[Star-Telegram](#), 9/18/09]

Texas schools has benefited from \$945 million in *Recovery Act* funding, which has improved services for disadvantaged student and students with special needs. "In total, Texas is receiving \$945 million in funding for school-age children served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act. [Sally] LaRue, director of Humble ISD's educational support department, said that the district is attempting to create a universal design for learning, which will provide access to learning for all students. One of the specific goals that the district plans for is to improve the transition from special education to general education, and to secondary education. LaRue said that the district also targeted some specific areas for improvement, such as autism training. We want to make things better for kids with disabilities,' said LaRue. 'We've seen some great collaborative efforts.' She added, 'we are very appreciative of the money.' 'The majority of funding is going right into the classroom,' said [Ken] Schrader, director of Humble ISD special programs funding and accountability... Without the stimulus money, Schrader said that the Title I program would have 'limped along.'" [[The Tribune](#), 9/22/09]

Georgetown-based green fuel company will use *Recovery Act* funds to build alternative fuel stations across the country. "The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded \$12.9 million in two stimulus grants to CleanFUEL USA, a provider of propane engine technology and alternative fuel infrastructure solutions. The funds will be used to establish more than 100 liquid propane (Autogas) refueling stations in major U.S. cities in coordination with CleanFUEL USA partners, including ConocoPhillips. Most of the refueling sites will be strategically located along major interstate highways and interchanges at existing ConocoPhillips-branded retail stations... Other supporting partners include the Texas State Technical College, the Central Texas Clean Cities Coalition, Rush Truck Centers, 16 additional area Clean Cities Coalitions and the PERC. The propane network will provide retail consumers as well as municipal, state and private fleets greater access to a cost-effective and clean-burning alternative transportation fuel... CleanFUEL USA is headquartered in Georgetown, Texas. It is a leading manufacturer of certified and approved alternative fuel dispensing equipment for both propane and E85." [[CSP Daily News](#), 9/11/09]

University of Texas at Austin to use *Recovery Act* money to create a carbon capture workforce. "The University of Texas at Austin got nearly \$1 million in stimulus money to train students and professionals to work in the carbon capture and storage industry. Of course, the jobs are only safe if Congress regulates greenhouse gases... According to the press release "The University of Texas at Austin will use a \$994,702 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to help create a skilled workforce for the emerging carbon capture and storage industry and to build public awareness of the technology's benefits to society" The grant will allow the university to create the Alliance for Sequestration Training, Outreach, Research and Education... The university's Bureau of Economic Geology runs the Gulf Coast Carbon Center, which continues to operate multi-year studies of carbon storage." [[The Dallas Morning News](#) 09/10/09]

Recovery Act-funded water and road projects in rural Texas are expected to create 400 jobs. “Federal stimulus funds are expected to create about 400 new jobs in rural Texas as 75 local governments unroll a slew of public works projects to be completed over the next two years. Grants totaling more than \$20 million will help rural cities and counties tackle road and drainage projects, upgrade water facilities and improve wastewater services, courtesy of the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA), the state agency distributing the portion of stimulus allocation aimed at rural community development. ‘These projects will significantly improve local infrastructure, boosting both short and long term job creation,’ said Charles S. (Charlie) Stone, TDRA executive director. ‘The grants will have a truly lasting impact on rural Texas.’ In May, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$19.47 million to stimulate job growth in rural communities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).” [[The Liberty Vindicator](#), 09/09/09]

Texas school districts are using special education Recovery Act funds to create and save jobs, purchase new technology, and train teachers. “Federal stimulus money is helping to give a voice to students like 7-year-old Peter Bernay. The Clear Creek school district is spending part of its \$6.7 million in special education stimulus money to buy voice-output devices, which allow Bernay and other students to better participate in class. The device speaks messages typed by the first-grader, whose speech has been delayed by Down syndrome... Some cash-strapped districts admit they are using part of the money to avoid cutting existing special education services. North Forest ISD, for example, will spend part of its \$1.8 million to maintain positions. ‘Stimulus money will be used to save and add jobs to the special education staff,’ said spokeswoman Anitra Brown, adding that money will also be spent to train teachers, purchase materials and buy technology. Humble ISD officials spent the summer planning how to spend the district’s \$6.2 million. ‘The major push is to improve academics,’ spokeswoman Karen Collier said. In addition to buying technology, Clear Creek is creating 32 new positions, including eight elementary school teachers and two autism specialists. They’re hopeful the school district will be able to absorb the costs when the federal money dries up in two years.” [[Houston Chronicle](#), 9/7/09]

Construction of the new federal courthouse in Austin, which is being built using Recovery Act money, broke ground today. “The new downtown federal courthouse is one of the largest construction projects to break ground in Austin – made possible under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act... More than two years after the implosion of the Intel shell, The US General Services Administration broke ground on the \$116 million federal courthouse Wednesday. During Wednesday morning’s groundbreaking, several judges and congressmen talked about the 252,000 square foot modern courthouse. Congressman Lloyd Doggett said the courthouse was long overdue. ‘This courthouse will replace one that I worked at as a young lawyer in the early 70’s. It is overflowing, moldy, worn out – it’s time to replace it with a place that can be a center of justice,’ said Doggett. Congressman Michael McCaul said the construction project is going to be good for the City of Austin...” [[KVUE News](#), 9/2/09]

Reno received a Recovery Act grant to modernize part of its water system. “After eight months of surveying and information gathering, the City of Reno can celebrate its award of a \$350,000 grant. The funds, part of an ORCA grant package related to federal stimulus monies, will be used to modernize part of Reno’s sub-par water system. ‘We’re going to redrill a well, which will add another well to the system,’ said Scott Passmore, Reno’s director of public works. ‘We’ll also replace a line down Harris Road, and put hydrants in on that side of the city.’ Passmore explained the improvements to the water system will directly affect the pocketbooks of Reno residents. In fact, they already have. ‘This will upgrade the system to the point that it’ll cost us less to produce water,’ he said.” [[Weatherford Democrat](#), 9/3/09]

The University of Texas at San Antonio was awarded a *Recovery Act* grant to develop a new center for interdisciplinary, computer-based research, education, and training. “A team of researchers from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) has won a \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a new center on campus. UTSA will use the money to create the Simulation, Visualization and Real-Time Prediction (SiViRT) Center for interdisciplinary, computer-based research, education and training. The five-year grant is funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, also known as the stimulus act, and is the largest stimulus award UTSA has received to date. ‘The SiViRT Center will offer a platform for engineering, science, statistics, biology and medicine experts from across the university and South Texas to conduct fundamental and collaborative research with real-world applications.” [[San Antonio Business Journal](#), 8/31/09]

North Central Texas alternative fuel project will use *Recovery Act* funds to reduce need for petroleum. “Texas took home \$38 million of the \$300 million in stimulus money that the Department of Energy is shelling out for alternative vehicle projects. For North Texas, this will mean more alternative fuel stations and more alternative vehicles on the road. Here's hoping it will also cut air pollution. Most of the money going to Texas is for propane vehicles and refueling stations. Propane burns more cleanly than gasoline or diesel, and is produced domestically. However, it is still a fossil fuel.” [[Dallas Morning News](#), 8/28/09]

Texas Railroad Commission will use *Recovery Act* funds to build refueling stations, expand fleet of vehicles fueled by alternative energy. “Railroad Commission of Texas' Texas Propane Fleet Pilot Program... will deploy 882 propane vehicles, including 245 propane school buses, 24 medium-duty propane trucks and vans, and 613 propane-fueled light-duty vehicles for 40 school districts and public agencies. To support the vehicles, 35 propane refueling stations will be constructed. The stations will allow the fleets to lower their costs by buying fuel in bulk, access federal motor fuel excise tax credits, refuel at the times most convenient to their schedules, and model successful use of propane to nearby peers. DOE estimates that these projects will help displace more than three million gallons of petroleum annually.” [[Dallas Morning News](#), 8/28/09]

Texas State Technical College will spend *Recovery Act* funds to develop 184 alternative fuel stations, provide unemployed veterans with green jobs training. “Texas State Technical College's Development of a National Liquid Propane (Autogas) Refueling Network, Clean School Bus/Vehicle Incentive & Green Jobs Outreach Program. The project will result in the development of approximately 184 liquid propane Autogas refueling stations in the following major metropolitan areas: Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Denver, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Dallas, Phoenix, Indianapolis, Seattle, Orlando, San Diego, St. Louis, San Antonio/Austin, and Oklahoma City as well as a refueling corridor along I-10 in Louisiana (New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles). The initiative will also support the purchase of dedicated propane school buses and vehicles and, provide an innovative outreach program designed specifically to retrain and certify U.S. veterans and out of work or at risk service technicians for work in the alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technology industries. DOE estimates that the initiative will help displace more than 3 million gallons of petroleum annually.” [[Dallas Morning News](#), 8/28/09]

***Recovery Act* funds enabled lone star to double one clinic's capacity, open new clinic.** “Besides delivering health care to thousands of additional uninsured and underinsured people, the grant money that began flowing in after President Barack Obama signed the stimulus bill in February will add several dozen medical staffers to the payrolls of CommUnityCare and its counterpart, Georgetown-based Lone Star Circle of Care, officials said.

It has helped Lone Star open its first clinic in Austin and renovate another. Many conservatives and other critics have lambasted the \$787 billion economic stimulus package as a waste of taxpayer money that has pushed the country deeper into debt. But for officials at the local clinics, the stimulus money is a windfall at a time of rising demand for health care services as more people have lost their health coverage because of unemployment and financial stresses... Lone Star also has used stimulus money to extend hours at its A.W. Grimes Medical clinic in Round Rock, improve its electronic medical records system, double the size of its obstetrical/gynecological clinic in Round Rock and buy new equipment at its clinics.” [[Austin American-Statesman](#), 8/31/09]

Recovery Act grants will fund several construction projects in Austin; are expected to create or save 250 jobs. “Austin city officials and U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett on Wednesday announced the city's intention to receive \$2 million in Community Development Block Grant Recovery funds that will help fund four development projects in East Austin. The funding, coming through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is expected to help create more than 100 construction jobs and create or keep another 150 permanent jobs in the next 18 months.” [[Austin Business Journal](#), 8/27/09]

Recovery Act projects include resource center to expand development, education, and mental health services to low-income populations. “The projects being funded include: \$500,000 to LifeWorks for the purchase of land to construct a 32,000-square-foot Resource Center to expand critical workforce, youth development, adult and youth education, and mental health services to low-income populations... \$500,000 to PeopleFund for the construction of the Center for Economic Opportunity. This two-story facility will provide comprehensive services to local small businesses and low to moderate income homebuyers. In addition, the facility will provide affordable office space to small businesses... \$552,703 towards the historic renovation and new construction of the African-American Cultural and Heritage Facility, located at 912 E. 11th St., the site of the historic Detrick-Hamilton House... \$250,000 to support the construction of sidewalks in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods of Central East Austin. Sidewalks are an essential component of public transit, which is used primarily by low- to moderate-income Austin residents, and also will enhance the lifestyles of residents and businesses in the area. This project will create 17 full-time construction jobs.” [[Austin Business Journal](#), 8/27/09]

Texas universities are set to receive Recovery Act funding for computer systems, new buildings, and research projects. “Texas institutions of higher learning collectively stand to receive hundreds of millions of dollars for research projects, laboratory equipment and construction projects, with the ultimate sum unknown because the agencies are approving grants practically on a daily basis. In addition to this windfall, the Texas Legislature has allocated \$327 million in federal stimulus money to the state's public colleges and universities, nearly half earmarked to make up for a shortfall in state funding... The infusion in Texas so far includes \$7 million for a high-performance computer system at the University of Texas at Austin, \$1 million for aquifer monitoring at Texas State University-San Marcos and \$8 million for expanding Texas A&M's College of Medicine, including its fledgling campus in Round Rock... Texas researchers are thrilled by the flow of federal money.” [[American-Statesman](#), 8/23/09]

Howard College will purchase hydraulic and electrical training stations with Recovery Act funds. “The growing presence of renewable energy in West Texas is fueling new educational opportunities in San Angelo through Howard College. The Concho Valley Workforce Development Board presented a grant of up to \$80,000 to Howard College at its monthly economic development meeting Wednesday. The grant, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 stimulus package, will go toward the purchase of

hydraulic and electrical training stations for the college's San Angelo campus... The funding will allow residents interested in programs such as wind energy and turbine technology to start at Howard College instead of going the full term at Sweetwater or elsewhere, where the equipment includes wind towers." [[Go San Angelo](#), 8/19/09]

Recovery Act will support Alamo-based daycare, which will care for children whose parents are job hunting, developing job skills. "San Antonio-area parents in need of child care as they look for a job, go to school or seek job training will have help from the federal government. Workforce Solutions Alamo received \$17 million from the federal government as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund up to 22 months of child care for qualified parents. The goal of the investment is to provide available child care to single or low-income parents as they either look for jobs or upgrade their skills to get better jobs. Parents will pay a portion of the cost of child care based on their income level and number of children at home. Part of the money will be used to provide day-care teacher training for qualified day care centers as well as schedule visits from a registered nurse to teach day care workers about proper child development, safety and nutrition." [[San Antonio Business Journal](#), 8/19/09]

South Texas will use Recovery Act funds to develop rural wastewater treatment systems, expand affordable housing. "[T]he U.S. Department of Agriculture has distributed \$4.8 million in funding to the 27th Congressional District of Texas from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help stimulate job growth in South Texas. Ortiz's district will receive \$625,000 in farm loans from the Farm Service Agency; \$1.6 million will go for rural development of water and waste treatment projects and \$2.5 million will go for single-family housing loans... The USDA Recovery Act funds are helping provide immediate assistance to those in need. The increased benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which affects 1 in 10 Americans, are providing most recipient families of four an extra \$80 per month. In addition to preventing hunger, this spending acts as broad economic stimulus - as each \$1 in benefits is estimated to generate \$1.84 in economic activity." [[The Nueces County Record](#), 8/14/09]

Recovery Act dollars will fund an entirely new light rail segment for Dallas Area Rapid Transit. "Dallas Area Rapid Transit received \$78.4 million in federal stimulus funds to speed up construction of the Green Line, a light-rail corridor from Carrollton-Farmer's Branch to Pleasant Grove in south Dallas, officials said. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the award Thursday. It is part of an effort to infuse \$48.1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding into roads, rails, buses, bridges and airports nationwide. A portion of the DART Green Line is scheduled to open Sept. 14. As a result, Tarrant County residents may find it much easier to ride the Trinity Railway Express and DART light rail to the State Fair of Texas. The \$78.4 million awarded to DART is essentially an advance of federal grant reimbursements the agency was scheduled to get in 2013, DART spokesman Morgan Lyons said." [[Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), 8/13/09]

After Recovery Act provision, Lone Star Circle of care slated to increase patient capacity in clinics by 2,700, creating construction contracts in the process. "Community health center Lone Star Circle of Care has received more than \$2 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act... 'As the need for our services continues to grow each day, Lone Star Circle of Care must constantly strive to expand our services so that we can help more people in Central Texas,' said Pete Perialas Jr., CEO of LSCC. 'The federal stimulus dollars we have received have allowed us to increase access to care within our existing network of clinics.' The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the economic stimulus bill, contained several major grant opportunities for community health centers. LSCC

received nearly \$578,000 in the phase of funding designated for ‘increased demand for services.’ The funding allowed LSCC to increase its capacity by an additional 2,700 patients.” [[Austin Business Journal](#), 8/13/09]

Recovery Act will fund farm-to-market road rehabilitation and widening in Castro County. “The Texas Department of Transportation next week will begin an about \$8 million improvement project to Farm-to-Market roads 1055 and 2943 in Castro County, officials said. TxDOT said the projects, which will rehabilitate and widen the existing roadways, are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. J. Lee Milligan of Amarillo has been contracted to refurbish 15.6 miles of roadway, TxDOT said. Motorists will be detoured through the work zone on a temporary nonpaved roadway. The project is expected to take 15 months to complete, officials said. Roadway projects in Castro, Floyd, Hale and Lubbock counties were awarded economic stimulus funds and will see repairs and maintenance in the coming months.” [[Amarillo Globe-News](#), 8/12/09]

University Of Texas at Brownsville gained a Recovery Act grant for research on epilepsy and Alzheimer’s. “The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College will receive nearly \$400,000 in funding for science research, U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, announced Monday. The funding, which comes from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, will be split between research on epilepsy and Alzheimer’s disease. ‘Funding from the stimulus package continues to make its way to South Texas,’ Ortiz said. ‘Money spent on science-related research and education, is money well spent. We must prepare and train our future generations to be the leading experts in all areas of science, including biomedical studies and neuroscience.’” [[Brownsville Herald](#), 8/11/09]

Two University of Texas at San Antonio biologists received Recovery Act funding to advance their research on issues of food safety and disease prevention. “Two University of Texas at San Antonio biologists have received a total of \$940,000 worth of stimulus funding to advance their research for the next two years. The researchers’ work centers around food safety and disease prevention. Both grants are being furnished through the National Institutes of Health with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.” [[San Antonio Business Journal](#), 8/10/09]

A regional non-profit received Recovery Act funds for homelessness prevention projects. “TDHCA awarded \$1 million to Catholic Charities of Dallas Inc. to provide services to rapidly re-house homeless residents or prevent individuals from falling into homelessness. The nonprofit organization serves clients living in Dallas, Collin, Grayson, Fannin, Rockwall, Hunt, Kaufman, Ellis and Navarro counties. The award was made through the Department’s Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, an innovative program created by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009. ‘This award represents an unprecedented opportunity for the state to help transition its most vulnerable residents out of emergency shelters or temporary housing and on toward self-sufficiency,’ said Michael Gerber, TDHCA executive director. ‘By stabilizing at-risk individuals, we’re strengthening families and stabilizing entire neighborhoods. We pledge to do this in a manner that is both efficient and effective, ensuring these funds are directed to individuals who will benefit the most.’” [[Waxahachie Daily Light](#), 8/6/09]

Recovery Act money was directed to Angelo State University to fund AIDS research. “An Angelo State University scientist has received a major grant to conduct research into a cure for AIDS, the university announced. Dr. John Osterhout, head of the ASU chemistry and biochemistry department, was awarded \$312,151 from the National Institutes of Health to fund ‘Development of Therapeutics to Eliminate HIV,’ a project to develop specialized protein molecules that detect protease from Human Immunodeficiency Virus and destroy cells in which

the virus is attempting to reproduce. If the project is successful, it could eliminate HIV and cure AIDS. The grant, made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is under the R21 designation, which is for exploratory and development research on high risk/high reward projects. It is the first such grant awarded to ASU.” [[San Angelo Standard-Times](#), 8/6/09]

Maryville will use *Recovery Act* money to pay local firm sterling engineering for design, fund construction work providing more residents with sewer lines. “The City of Maryville plans to use stimulus funds to extend sewer lines to a section of the city which has never had sewers. Design work has been authorized on installing sanitary sewer in the Howard Jones Road and Cherokee Heights areas south of Foothills Mall... The project will consist of a trunk gravity sewer line paralleling Howard Jones Road from Laurel Bank Branch west of Morganton Road to U.S. 411 South and four collector sewer lines serving portions of the subdivision. The sewer line is expected to run 13,070 linear feet. The contract is for \$19,250 for design work and \$14,000 for easement drawings.” [[Maryville Daily Times](#), 8/6/09]

***Recovery Act* funds targeted to weatherization by Hill Country community action association, serving 13 counties.** “As part of a federal stimulus fund package, Hill Country Community Action Association will receive \$2.5 million to weatherize homes of low-income residents in its service area. The service area includes Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Erath, Hamilton, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, Milam, Mills, San Saba, Somervell and Williamson counties. The funds should be released in about a month, said Gordon Anderson, spokesman for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.” ... Residents also may apply at Hill Country centers within each county. Under the *Recovery Act*, the income limit for eligibility increases from 150 percent to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.” [[Temple Daily Telegram](#), 8/5/09]

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County utilized *Recovery Act* allowance to hire ten metro police officers in expressed move to better equip system against terrorism. “The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County is one of 15 transit agencies across the country that will share \$78 million of federal stimulus funds. Harris County will receive \$3 million as its share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s Transit Security Grant Program. The fund is aimed at helping transit agencies better equip themselves to prevent acts of terrorism by hiring new police officers or anti-terrorism personnel, purchasing anti-terrorism equipment, and obtaining and training canines for explosives detection. Metro said its police department will use the money to hire 10 police officers, with two of the spots being filled by explosives detection canines.” [[Houston Business Journal](#), 8/4/09]

***Recovery Act* will finance weatherization in Waco as state government apportioned grants; 40,000 Texans will benefit from *Recovery Act*-supported weatherization.** “TDHCA awarded \$1.8 million in federal stimulus funding to the Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation of Planning Region XI to weatherize the homes of low income residents living in Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan counties. In addition, the Department awarded \$884,542 to the City of Waco for weatherization activities at the local level, which the Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation will administer on behalf of the city. These awards were part of a \$288 million award made by the Department to 66 cities, counties, and eligible nonprofit organizations across the state to weatherize the homes of an estimated 40,000 low income Texans.” [[Waco Tribune Herald](#), 8/4/09]

More than 2,800 young people in El Paso gained summer employment through *Recovery Act* awards to local employment and educational institutions. “Part of the stimulus package passed by Congress in February is providing summer jobs for more than 2,800 El Paso youths and valuable training that could lead the participants to worthwhile careers, organizers say. The programs, being conducted at El Paso Community College, the University of

Texas at El Paso and La Fe, are part of Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande's summer youth program, an annual effort. But more than \$1.1 million in stimulus money has allowed the agency to expand the scope of the summer jobs program. The areas of study include computers, engineering and health sciences. Participants in the summer jobs program ranged in age from 14 to 24." [[El Paso Times](#), 8/2/09]

Texas public school teachers will receive \$800 salary increase because of Recovery Act money. "Texas public school teachers can expect an \$800 pay raise this year now that \$2 billion in economic stimulus money has been approved and is available to the state, Democratic Texas lawmakers in Washington announced Friday. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa, a senior member of the Education and Labor committee, read a statement from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan calling the money 'part of the single largest boost in education funding in recent history.' The program involves a one-time appropriation of \$53.6 billion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Texas has already received \$1.7 billion in education stimulus funds, and the state is eligible to apply for \$1 billion more this fall, according to information from Hinojosa's office." [[Beaumont Enterprise](#), 7/25/09]

Carroll School District accrued \$6.5 million in savings after selling Recovery Act bonds. "The Carroll school district has sold \$58 million in bonds through a program created by the federal stimulus package that is expected to save the district \$6.5 million, officials said. Carroll appears to be the first school district in Texas to sell Build America Bonds, known as BABs, although other entities have used the program as well. The bonds allow state and local governments to sell taxable debt and get back 35 percent of the interest payment from the U.S. Treasury Department. The bonds also provide government entities with funding at lower borrowing costs, said Lewis Wilks, Carroll's financial adviser." [[Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), 7/27/09]

McAllen Miller International Airport will receive Recovery Act funds for rehabilitation of runway. "Congressman Henry Cuellar announced Tuesday the McAllen Miller International Airport will receive \$5.4 million for a rehabilitation project. The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the grant for the rehab of Runway 13/31. The funds are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that Congress passed earlier this year. Runway 13/31 is Miller International Airport's primary runway. The area that will be reconstructed with this grant funding is about 7,120 feet long and 150 feet wide. In addition, two shoulders on the runway will also be constructed." [[KGBT – CBS](#), 7/21/09]

Recovery Act monies directed to large-scale rehabilitation of Jefferson Water Treatment Plant. "A stimulus grant of over 48-million dollars has been awarded to the City of Laredo. The announcement was made earlier this evening. The money was awarded by the Texas Water Development Board as part of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009. City officials say the money will be used to improve the Jefferson Water Treatment Plant. One of the improvements planned is upgrading the filtration and pumping capacity to 65 million gallons per day and for reconstruction of the electrical system." [[KGNS – NBC](#), 7/16/09]

Recovery Act-supplied rebates enabled Texas Residents to purchase energy-efficient refrigerators. "First it was cash for clunkers, and now it's rebates for refrigerators. The program is being nicknamed Rebates for Refrigerators, but in reality, it will work for everything from washers and dryers, to dishwashers to heating and cooling. David Reinhold has been selling appliances in Amarillo for more than 25 years... 'We found one refrigerator with a rating of 45, meaning it will cost you just \$45 a year to run. If you buy a refrigerator like that one, and trade in your old one that's not energy efficient, you'll receive a rebate'... Paid for by the \$23 million the federal government is giving to Texas. Not only will you get a rebate, you'll also be saving money by making the switch to Energy Star." [[KFDA – CBS](#), 7/16/09]

El Paso Homelessness Prevention And Family Assistance receives *Recovery Act* allocation. “The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will award a \$3,492,976 million federal grant to the City of El Paso to combat homelessness... The funding, provided through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009, will help individuals and families facing a sudden financial crisis that could lead to homelessness.” Congressman Reyes: “This is another important grant from the Recovery Act that is coming to the El Paso at a critical time. This grant will help many struggling families right here in our own community who might be on the verge of homelessness by providing rental assistance to help get them back on their feet. [[Press Release – Representative Silvestre Reyes](#), 7/14/09]

***Recovery Act* funds financed EPA cleaning of pesticide-marred site that had long been a nuisance and danger to residents.** “Lawrence Statham has lived near the Woolfolk chemical site for nearly 25 years. Living on Preston Street, the contaminated former pesticide site is virtually in his backyard. Statham is a member of the Woolfolk Citizens Response Group, which has worked as part of a group to remediate and revitalize the site. He and dozens of other community members were acknowledged during a Thursday ceremony when the city received the Region 4 Excellence in Site Reuse Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA also announced the site received \$1.8 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funding will be used to speed up cleanup of the site while also creating jobs.” [[Macon Telegraph](#), 7/10/09]

\$5.2 million *Recovery Act* assignment eliminated funding gap faced by Workforce Solutions of Deep East Texas, allowing job training to continue. “Stimulus money given to Workforce Solutions of Deep East Texas has so far made up for the cut in federal funding the organization took again this year. Workforce Solutions received an 8 percent cut in federal funding but Charlene Meadows, executive director, said the cut is minor and shouldn't immediately affect any programs they currently have going. . . . The unemployment rate for the 12-county region that Workforce Solutions of Deep East Texas helps has risen from 5.2 percent in May 2008 to 7.9 percent in May of this year. Angelina County has risen from just 4.7 percent last year to 8.1 percent this year. But the organization is receiving \$5.2 million in stimulus money under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. [[Lufkin Daily News](#), 7/9/09]

Students value youth employment program made possible by \$200,000 *Recovery Act* grant. “Sometimes life deals out bad hands, but some Texas students are putting down the cards and picking up a new deck. The Workforce Solutions, Heart of Texas/Texas State Technical College Summer Youth Employment Program is giving a group of students a chance at a better life. For Jesus Coronado, the program isn't just a summer gig. ‘I want to have my own company in the future and hopefully in the Fall,’ he said. ‘I will register again and keep going on with the program.’ For many of the students, it's a way to get back on track. ‘Getting a second chance at being at school again,’ student Stefan Jarmon said. ‘I'm not learning in books, I'm learning by doing stuff hands on.’ ... The Program Director says \$200-thousand from the Reinvestment and Recovery Act paid for the program.” [[TWEAN – TV](#), 7/8/09]

Nearly \$6 million in *Recovery Act* money distributed to water projects in El Paso County. “[T]wo water projects in the 23rd Congressional District are going to receive funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Both projects are located in Tornillo, in eastern El Paso County. The first is a conventional filtration system, funded at \$3.925 million. The second is a system to remove arsenic from drinking water, funded at \$1.985 million.” Rep. Rodriguez: “These stimulus projects are key to improving the lives of our residents who live in the poorer areas along the Texas-Mexico border. Everyone has the right to clean, safe drinking

water and these shovel-ready projects will significantly improve the quality of life in Tornillo.”
[[Press Release – U.S. Representative Ciro Rodriguez](#), 7/7/09]

\$489 million Recovery Act grant elicits wave of construction in Texas, permitting projects “languishing unfunded for years” to be undertaken. “Love it or hate it, the federal economic stimulus is coming to a road near you. Crosby’s Main Street will soon be raised over a busy railroad track. Fort Bend’s suburban drivers will get more lanes. In Pasadena, curbs that have been pulverized by wide-turning freight trucks will be rebuilt. More than \$489 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is pouring into the Houston region for transportation work. The one-time infusion will pay for road projects that have been languishing unfunded for years... Texas received \$2.25 billion from the stimulus for transportation. That’s on top of the \$3 billion it got in federal highway funds this year.” [[Houston Chronicle](#), 7/5/09]

\$270,497 Recovery Act award to buttress head start in San Marcos area arrived at “perfect” time, according to local director of program. “It may be only rarely, but good news can arrive at precisely the right time. That seems to be the case with the local Head Start program and just-announced funding to the tune of \$270,497. ‘The timing is perfect,’ said Audrey Abed, director of Head Start for Hays and Caldwell counties. For one, knowing now that the money is coming will allow the program to greatly expand the scope of maintenance to be completed before classes start in the fall. For another, two of the program’s 120 staff members who would likely have lost their jobs will now keep them.” [[San Marcos Daily Record](#), 7/3/09]

\$2.4 million from Recovery Act targeted to 3 El Paso community health centers for infrastructure improvements. “[T]he U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will allocate a total of \$2,433,710 in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) grants to El Paso’s three community health centers to help finance infrastructure improvements. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that was signed into law in February, the grants are meant to help community health centers purchase new equipment, make capital improvements, as well as adopt and expand the use of health information technology (HIT) systems. [[Press Release – U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes](#), 6/29/09]

Texas Farm Bureau formulating rural broadband access plans as per Recovery Act mandate. “Giving all communities equal access to broadband Internet services will be key to the future success of rural areas in Fannin County, Fannin County Farm Bureau President Jerry Magness said... Lawmakers approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which will require the establishment of a broadband plan for rural America by Feb.17 2010. Farm Bureau is actively working to assist in the development of such a plan. The Farm Bureau is working with lawmakers to stress the importance of affordable broadband access in order to keep American agriculture competitive worldwide. ‘Fifty years ago, many rural areas of our state still didn’t even have electricity,’ Magness said. ‘We face the same problem today with a different utility. But by working together, we can make broadband Internet access and the opportunities it can afford a reality for all parts of our state.’” [[North Texas e-News](#), 6/29/09]

University of Texas targeted for a \$412,500 Parkinson’s Disease Recovery Act research grant. “The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston has received a \$412,500 federal stimulus grant for Parkinson’s disease research, the university announced today. It is the university’s first federal stimulus grant... Rowen Chang, Ph.D, an IMM professor of protein chemistry, is the principal investigator on the grant that comes from The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009... Chang plans to add one or two researchers to the team of scientists in his lab with the funds. The grant extends through April 30, 2011. ‘We are excited about

receiving this grant, which will support our research and help the economy by employing more scientists,' Chang said." [[Press Release – University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston](#), 6/25/09]

The Austin School Board created 18 new jobs using *Recovery Act* funds. "The Austin school board on Monday created about 18 new positions using federal stimulus money meant for low income schools. The move is the first step of a \$20.7 million plan for using new Title 1 federal stimulus dollars that district officials said could save an estimated 166 jobs and create another 63 over the next two years. Another \$17.3 million in federal money is expected for special education programs. The new employees would staff new and enhanced English language instruction, dropout prevention, social service, a twilight school and pre-school literacy programs. Another \$655,000 would be spent on service contracts with outside groups to help implement parts of the plan. The plan was approved despite the current districtwide hiring freeze — implemented to reduce what is expected to be as much as a \$45 million budget deficit this year." [[Education Blog, The Austin American-Statesman](#), 6/8/09]

The Texas Workforce Commission announced that the agency has distributed more than \$100 million in *Recovery Act*-funded unemployment benefits. The *Recovery Act* furnished an additional \$25 per week to qualified job seekers as they work to find permanent employment. Eligible Texans began receiving the benefit increase in mid-March. The increase is effective for all initial claims filed through Dec. 26, 2009." [[Dallas Business Journal](#), 6/8/09]

Tarrant County will use *Recovery Act* funds for toll road project. Project is expected to be advertised in July, with an anticipated construction start date in September. [[The Bond Buyer](#), 6/9/09]

Texas housing industry is seeing some improvement, partially attributed to *Recovery Act* home-buyer tax credit. Fort Worth-based History Maker Homes rep: "Our April and May sales were up pretty dramatically from the first quarter. I think that's attributable to a lot of things, the tax credit being one of them. We are pushing it very hard." [[Dallas Morning News](#), 6/7/09]

***Recovery Act*-funded contract allowed Austin Bridge and Road to avoid 50-60 layoffs.** Company president: "These jobs were saved because of the stimulus." [[Reuters](#), 6/2/09]

***Recovery Act* money will fund two highway asphalt overlay projects in the Texas panhandle.** Project covers a three-mile stretch of Interstate 27 in Amarillo and a 13.6-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 87 at Dalhart. [[Amarillo.com](#), 5/30/09]

***Fortune's* "Meet the stimulus hires" – Ron Walker of Cedar Park.** "I was brought on board to work on a product for IBM called Cognos TM1. They wanted to scale it to be able to handle more data and users for projects happening with the stimulus... It's an entirely new way of looking at data for me. I was holding my own at a previous job, but I wanted something with better growth, where I saw the future of technology going. So when I heard about this opening from a friend, I went for it." [[Fortune](#), 6/1/09]

The *Recovery Act* has created 700 transportation jobs in Texas. "So far the new positions are related to transit projects, but when major highway construction begins, the number of needed workers will skyrocket. Officials predict the cash flow's ripple effect could create up to 90,000 jobs." [[Texarkana Gazette](#), 5/10/09]

***Recovery Act*-funded projects at Dyess Air Force Base will keep at least 20 local workers employed and provide new jobs for 17 or 18 more.** "Wayne Hawkins has seen

plenty of ups and downs since his late father founded Hawkins Builders in 1955, but the Abilene businessman is seeing an up high enough to double his work force, thanks to a stimulus-funded project at Dyess Air Force Base. Hawkins' company won a \$6.5 million contract to improve the base's airfield, so he'll be hiring about 15 more workers instead of laying off people. 'That's one good thing about construction. It hires people quickly,' he said. He probably would have had to let go of about a dozen workers within two months if the contract hadn't come along, Hawkins said." [[Abilene Reporter-News](#), 5/9/09]

Recovery Act funding will help build recovery and transition complex for injured soldiers. Totaling more than 185,000 square feet, the WT complex will house three separate buildings consisting of a barracks, a headquarters and administrative building and a Soldier and Family Assistance Center." [[US Army Corps of Engineers Press Release](#), 5/6/09]