



Special Report

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

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 Pennsylvania, made this progress possible.

Despite this encouraging news, Democrats know that many Pennsylvanians 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 Pennsylvania and will deliver on its promise to rebuild our economy and get Pennsylvanians 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](#)] According to Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections, that number may be as high as 1.6 million jobs. [CBO, [11/09](#)]

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

- According to CBO projections, “an additional 600,000 to 1.6 million people were employed in the United States, and real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic product (GDP) was 1.2 percent to 3.2 percent higher, than would have been the case in the absence of ARRA.” [CBO, [11/09](#)]
- The Commerce Department reported that the nation’s gross domestic product grew by 2.2 percent in the third quarter of 2009, the first expansion in more than a year. Economists are projecting 4 percent growth in the fourth quarter. [Commerce Department, [12/22/09](#); testimony of Dr. Martin Baily before the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, [12/16/09](#)]
- 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 Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, this partial reporting indicates that 7,427 jobs have been created or saved by funding 2,242 awards worth \$4,527,781,391, of which \$428,596,627 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 40,900 jobs so far for Pennsylvanians (accounting for indirect and induced jobs). [Council of Economic Advisors, [9/2009](#)] **Pennsylvania is on track to benefit from a total of 143,000 *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 Pennsylvania:

Using a *Recovery Act* grant, Esperanza Health Center in North Philadelphia, a faith-based, bilingual, primary health care center, will establish a new health and wellness facility; 58 construction jobs and 60 permanent jobs will be created.

“President Obama announced yesterday nearly \$600 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant awards to fund major construction and renovation projects at a total of 85 community health centers nationwide, including a \$6.5 million award to Esperanza Health Center in North Philadelphia. Esperanza, a faith-based, bilingual, primary health care center, will use the award to establish a new health and wellness facility in the Hunting Park

community. The new facility is expected to have a significant economic impact on the community, bringing 56 construction-related jobs during the two-year renovation time frame, and 60 new permanent health care-related jobs when the facility is fully operational. Planned for a site near the intersection of North 6th and Cayuga Streets, the new 28,000 square foot center will transform an abandoned former warehouse building into an efficient, modern health care facility serving seven thousand patients... Services to be offered at the new facility include comprehensive primary care services for adults and children; a comprehensive HIV care program; behavioral health care services; nutritional counseling, health education classes; a small on-site medication dispensary for patients; and, multi-purpose space for recreational and fitness activities. Through additional classroom space available at the new facility, Esperanza will be able to expand its range of services, increasing the amount of preventative and health education/wellness programs offered.” [PR Newswire, 12/10/09]

Six community health centers in Pennsylvania will benefit from *Recovery Act* funding to serve low income and medically under-served communities.

“Pennsylvania’s Senators Arlen Specter and Bob Casey announced that six community health centers in the Commonwealth will receive significant federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grants, totaling \$28,622,938, will assist the non-profit, community-directed health care providers who serve low income and medically under-served communities... “The stimulus funding comes at a key time when more Pennsylvanians than ever are relying on community health centers for their basic health care.’ “There are too many communities in Pennsylvania and across the country that are lacking sufficient medical facilities that serve low-income families,’ said Senator Casey... The six centers are located throughout Pennsylvania” [Examiner, 12/9/09]

Schuylkill Community Action will use *Recovery Act* funds to create 10 full-time jobs to weatherize 445 extra homes over the next two to three years.

“Schuylkill Community Action announced Monday it will use \$3.4 million in federal stimulus funding to expand its home weatherization program and create jobs. ‘(The program) really has been working to reduce the cost of heating homes and apartment buildings, and as a result... Schuylkill Community Action has been able to hire 10 people,’ U.S. Rep. Tim Holden, D-17, said in a telephone interview. ‘It really is a good return on the federal money.’ Holden attended a Monday press conference at 501 Second St., where workers started the insulation process at resident Jason Fitzpatrick's home. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly known as the stimulus package, \$225 million has been allocated to weatherization programs in Pennsylvania, Holden said. Schuylkill County has received \$3,395,768... The program offers services such as the installation of insulation, ventilation, weather stripping, and caulking, with the goal of lower energy consumption and costs. [Schuylkill Community Action Executive Ted] Dreisbach said the agency will be able to service more homes and service them more thoroughly... With the stimulus money, Dreisbach said, the agency will weatherize about 445 extra homes over the next two to three years. The funding also allows the agency to increase the amount it can spend per home from \$2,800 to \$6,500... with the stimulus money, the agency is expanding to five crews and adding a variety of positions, including technician, crew chief, auditor and a warehouse worker. Sadusky said the goal is to fill the 10 full-time jobs by the first week of January and the jobs should exist for at least 18 months.” [Republican Herald, 12/8/09]

33 additional highway and bridge projects will be financed by the *Recovery Act*.

“Gov. Edward G. Rendell announced that 33 additional highway and bridge projects will be financed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Savings from low bids on the current 293 Recovery Act funded projects will fund the additional projects. Pennsylvania will receive \$1 billion in recovery funds for such projects. Through the end of October, PennDOT

has awarded contracts for 272 recovery-funded projects totaling \$849 million... The added projects include work in Chester County and Philadelphia. About \$12.3 million is earmarked for repaving and guiderail repairs on U.S. Route 202 in Westtown and West Goshen. Safety improvements and the rehabilitation of dual bridges that carry the Roosevelt Expressway, U.S. Route 1, over the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, will be funded with \$3.5 million in stimulus money.” [[Delaware County Daily Times](#), 12/1/09]

Youth Employment Program used *Recovery Act* funds to help 9,200 disadvantaged youths get first jobs last summer in Pennsylvania. “The Summer Youth Employment Program, funded in Pennsylvania through \$43.5 million in federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act money, helped 9,200 disadvantaged youths get first jobs last summer... Doran Condon is the Youth Program Manager for the South Central Workforce Investment Board, which covers eight counties. He said more than 500 disadvantaged youth in this area got jobs with more than 100 employers last summer, with their salaries paid from the ARRA funds. Without the stimulus money, probably none of them would have jobs, he said. About 30 were offered permanent positions after their summer experiences. Sean Hurley, youth coordinator for Cumberland County, said the 50 jobs offered in Cumberland included working for the YMCA, Carlisle Borough, TJ Maxx, coffee shops and more. They worked four days a week for minimum wage, and took employment skills training on the fifth day. They all now have references for seeking their next jobs, he said. Samuel Sims, 19, of Harrisburg, has been in the year-round training program and hopes to have a job this summer.” [[The Patriot News](#), 12/1/09]

***Recovery Act* funds enable nearly 1,600 more children to be served by Pennsylvania’s Early Head Start Programs.** “Pennsylvania is getting \$18.6 million in federal economic stimulus money for Early Head Start programs, enabling nearly 1,600 more children to be served. Early Head Start is for children from birth to age 3 and pregnant women. “A critical focus of the federal recovery program was to bolster education, and making investments in early childhood education is one of the smartest strategies,” state Education Secretary Gerald Zahorchak said in a news release yesterday.” [[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), 11/25/09]

***Recovery Act* money will create jobs in Philadelphia’s arts and cultural sector.** “A half-million dollars in federal stimulus money is going toward a new grant program that will create jobs in Philadelphia’s arts and cultural sector. The block grant program announced Tuesday is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It’s providing money to creative businesses for projects that create jobs. Philadelphia officials expect to make about 10 grants in the range of \$20,000 to \$100,000. The grants will support the development of projects creating construction, installation, architectural and engineering jobs.” [[Associated Press](#), 11/24/09]

Thanks to low bids on current projects, 33 additional highway and bridge projects will be financed by the *Recovery Act*. “Gov. Edward G. Rendell announced that 33 additional highway and bridge projects will be financed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Savings from low bids on the current 293 Recovery Act funded projects will fund the additional projects. ‘Pennsylvania has made, and will continue to make, good use of Recovery funds to tackle the backlogs in bridge and pavement maintenance,’ Rendell said in his certification letter to U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood... PennDOT is modifying five existing Recovery-funded projects. Initially, Pennsylvania’s \$1.026 billion Recovery Act allocation for road and bridge repairs was expected to fund 242 projects. Low bid savings on initial projects allowed PennDOT to add 51 projects in July.” [[Gant Daily](#), 11/24/09]

A *Recovery Act*-funded green renovation project at an East Pittsburgh Public Housing Development could employ as many as 175 people in construction jobs.

“An East Pittsburgh public housing development has been awarded \$4.4 million in federal stimulus funding for ‘green’ renovations, federal and local officials said today. U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter and Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan visited the 94-unit development, Prospect Terrace, to announce the grant, which will pay for a geo-thermal water system that could cut energy costs as much as 50 percent... The total cost for the Prospect Terrace project will be \$7.6 million, with the remainder coming from county funds. The project includes roofs with better insulation, new windows and ‘Energy Star’-rated lighting and appliances. Construction is slated to begin in March and likely will take 18 to 24 months, bringing as many 175 construction jobs, according to Frank Aggazio, executive director of the housing authority.” [[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), 11/24/09]

44 Tech Inc. will receive *Recovery Act* funds to continue its work developing a high-volume battery that will store power from the electrical grid. “Pittsburgh-based project to develop a high-volume battery that will store power from the electrical grid, reducing the need for power stations and avoiding waste, will receive \$5 million of \$620 million in federal stimulus money, the Department of Energy announced today. 44 Tech Inc., a partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, will receive the money as a federal match to develop a new, low-cost, long-life, high-efficiency sodium ion battery for the proposed grid... The money is designed to develop a new power grid, said Matt Rogers, a senior advisor on recovery act allocations to energy secretary Steven Chu. The new power grid – called the Smart Grid – is designed to increase efficiency and anticipate surges and declines in demand by factories and consumers.” [[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), 11/24/09]

Lehigh University will use stimulus grants to expand research, hire a graduate student part time; Lehigh Schools have created or retained 12 jobs with *Recovery Act* grants. “Lehigh University... is in line for... stimulus grants pay for research that ranges from the lava bubbles to HIV to different construction and technology applications of glass... Take the lava bubble project... ‘The broader impact of this is to reduce volcanic hazards in regions under the potential influence of energetic eruptions, thus saving lives (and jobs),’ the official project description reads... Only about \$300,000 of the research money pegged for local schools had been spent as of Sept. 30, but the schools already report it’s helped create or support about 12 jobs. More positions are expected. Sahagian, for instance, will be able to offer a part-time job to a graduate student to help with research.” [[Morning Call](#), 11/21/09]

Lafayette College will spend *Recovery Act* funds to send students to study rural water and sanitation systems, while encouraging high schoolers to pursue engineering careers. “Most Lehigh Valley colleges just got stimulus money for work-study programs, but Lafayette College scored some extra stimulus support: \$786,156 in grants to fund research and equipment. The college in Easton will get \$149,775 to send 12 sophomore engineering students to Honduras over the next three summers to work with a group studying the rural water and sanitation systems. Engineering students are to learn about public water infrastructure and how to solve thorny water and sanitation problems. The students will share their research with Lehigh Valley high school students to promote interest in engineering as a career, said Sharon Jones, engineering division director.” [[Morning Call](#), 11/21/09]

After *Recovery Act*-funded PA construction bids came in under budget, the money saved will be reallocated to fund an additional 33 road and bridge projects. “PennDOT will fund 33 additional transportation projects with federal economic stimulus money that was saved because of low construction bids on other projects, Gov. Ed Rendell has announced... Western Pennsylvania projects that are in the latest group to be added are: Allegheny County. Rehabilitation of Jacks Run Bridge... Replacement of sidewalks and curbing, installation of ADA ramps, street lights and wiring in the vicinity of the Westinghouse Middle

School in Wilmerding... Cambria County. Preservation of 10 bridges... Crawford County. East Branch Trail, phase 1, multi-use trail north of Spartansburg... Erie County. Replacement of bridge... Fayette County. U.S. 119 pavement preservation... Indiana County. Rehabilitation of the Heshbon Bridge... Lawrence County. Patching and overlay of U.S. 422... New curbs, sidewalks, lighting and landscaping in Ellwood City... Mercer County. Replacement of the Baker Hill Road Bridge... Warren County. Slide correction work... Washington County. Preservation of the bridge... Westmoreland County. Preservation of U.S. 30... Preservation of the bridge carrying Route 136 over the Youghiogheny River in West Newton." [[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), 11/23/09]

Philadelphia's Office of Arts & Culture, and the Creative Economy announced the distribution of *Recovery Act* money to cultural organizations with 'shovel-ready' capital projects. "Some money from the Federal stimulus package will be trickling into Philadelphia arts' organizations soon. The city's Office of Arts & Culture, and the Creative Economy is distributing half-million dollars of Recovery Act money to cultural organizations with 'shovel-ready' capital projects. According to the Office of Arts & Culture, Philadelphia will receive \$14 million dollars in Community Development Block Grants – or CDBG. A half-million of that is earmarked for arts organizations who have immediate construction projects waiting. One of the organizations that will be applying for money is the Asian Arts Initiative, to renovate its new space in North Chinatown. Director Gayle Isa says the project should generate about 100 jobs." [[WHYY News](#), 11/17/09]

***Recovery Act* funds will help local governments and non-profit groups save money by reducing energy costs.** "Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced Pennsylvania's Conservation Works! grant program will save more than 570 million kilowatt hours of electricity, generate an additional 14.4 million kilowatt hours, and reduce natural gas use by 2.1 million thousand cubic feet over the lifetimes of the various projects. Conservation Works! is a \$22 million competitive grant program, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to help local government and non-profit organizations improve energy efficiency, curb energy consumption and reduce energy costs by at least 25 percent... Governor Rendell said '...The energy savings generated by these projects means more money will be available for other municipal projects, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 450,000 tons -- the equivalent of removing nearly 75,000 passenger cars from our roads.'... The program covers Pennsylvania boroughs, townships and cities with fewer than 35,000 residents and counties with fewer than 200,000 residents, municipalities not eligible for direct formula grants from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. More than \$15.3 million will be distributed to local governments, with the remainder going to non-profit organizations... 'More than 4,000 traffic signals will be replaced with more energy efficient models,' said Governor Rendell." [[PR Newswire](#), 11/17/09]

***Recovery Act* will create jobs in Philadelphia's arts and cultural sector thanks to a new grant.** "A half-million dollars in federal stimulus money is going toward a new grant program that will create jobs in Philadelphia's arts and cultural sector. The block grant program announced Tuesday is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It's providing money to creative businesses for projects that create jobs. Philadelphia officials expect to make about 10 grants in the range of \$20,000 to \$100,000. The grants will support the development of projects creating construction, installation, architectural and engineering jobs." [[KDKA 2](#), 11/17/09]

A \$188,000 *Recovery Act* grant to the nonprofit My Father's House of Erie will help them meet the transitional housing needs of women veterans in the Erie Area. "U.S. Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper, of Erie, D-3rd Dist., will hold a news conference today to present

a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the nonprofit My Father's House of Erie. The \$188,000 Recovery Act grant will help the nonprofit organization meet the transitional housing needs of women veterans in the Erie area... My Father's House, in a partnership with the County of Erie and the Erie VA Medical Center's Homeless Veterans Program, is working to serve women veterans as they make the transition from deployment to home.” [[Erie Times-News](#), 11/12/09]

Recovery Act money will be used to fund a new program that will provide temporary housing and support programs for female veterans. “Female veterans are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. But some don't have a place to call home once they get here. A new program being funded with \$188,000 from the federal stimulus program will provide temporary housing and other programs for regional veterans, some with emotional health issues, as they readjust to civilian life. U.S. Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper, of Erie, D-3rd Dist., held a news conference Thursday in Erie to announce the two-year grant for local nonprofit My Father's House, which applied for the funding... My Father's House in Erie already helps homeless and abused women and their children with transitional housing. Its new program, called Grace House, will be open to female veterans and their children, starting in mid-December, said Patricia Quinn, executive director of My Father's House... The veterans can stay six to 18 months, and they will be referred for permanent housing, Quinn said. They will be assisted in other ways, such as guiding them in applying to colleges or vocational schools and helping them with personal and social development skills, said Quinn and Connie Miller, project administrator.” [[Erie Times-News](#), 11/13/09]

Norberto Rodriguez, an unemployed US Army Veteran, father of 5, landed a job installing high-efficiency furnaces at Erie Housing Authority, thanks to the Recovery Act. “Norberto Rodriguez was unemployed for six months before he landed work helping install high-efficiency furnaces at Erie Housing Authority sites. The job with the Youngstown, Ohio-based A.A. Samuels Sheet Metal Co. came courtesy of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and not a minute too soon for the married father of five. ‘Things were real tough. It was going to be a sad holiday (season), but this boosted it right up.’ Rodriguez, a U.S. Army veteran who lives in the authority's Eastbrook apartment complex, is one of at least eight public-housing residents who have been put to work through \$4.6 million in federal stimulus funds granted to the Erie Housing Authority in February, said John Horan, the authority's executive director. The money is being used to fund a larger \$6.2 million effort to make the authority's housing units more energy-efficient, including a total of \$4.6 million to provide and install high-efficiency furnaces at several family developments. Other projects include a \$1.2 million replacement of an antiquated electrical distribution system at the Horan Garden Apartments and replacement of 200 apartment entry doors and leaky door seals at the authority's Eastbrook and Agnes Priscaro developments, at a cost of \$431,211... Rodriguez soon will be the beneficiary of a new furnace at his Eastbrook apartment. ” [[Erie Times News](#), 11/10/09]

Pennsylvania-based company is set to use Recovery Act funds to work on new drugs that target G-Protein coupled receptors, which play a key role in activating cellular responses. “Trevena Inc. was awarded a \$7.65 million grant Tuesday from the National Institutes of Health. The funds were provided to the NIH as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 and will advance the King of Prussia, Pa., company's work on new drugs that target G-protein coupled receptors or GPCRs. GPCRs are proteins on the surface of cells that play a crucial role in receiving chemical signals from other cells and, in response, activating cellular responses. ” [[Philadelphia Business Journal](#), 11/3/09]

In Pennsylvania, *Recovery Act* funding has been used to weatherize up to 29,000 homes; 1,000 workers will be trained to become installers, crew chiefs and auditors. “Pennsylvania began pushing out its initial \$123 million in federal stimulus funds for weatherization on Monday. The state will receive a total of \$253 million over three years, the fourth largest allocation nationwide. Only New York, Texas and Ohio will receive more... At least 80 percent of the funding, which is being used to weatherize more than 29,000 homes, will be allocated by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. By comparison, just more than 5,000 homes were weatherized last year under the state’s 30-year old Weatherization Assistance Program... Locally, the Philadelphia Housing and Development Corp. has been allocated \$15,921,477; Bucks County Opportunity Council Inc., \$4,473,467; Community Action Agency of Delaware County, \$5,307,158; Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission... The state is investing \$1.1 million of the funds to train more than 1,000 workers to become installers, crew chiefs and auditors.” [[Philadelphia Business Journal](#), 11/2/09]

***Recovery Act* funding for PECO, Philadelphia area's largest electric utility, will help deploy new ‘smart meter’ technology.** “Energy Secretary Steven Chu says the Philadelphia area's largest electric utility will get \$200 million in federal stimulus money to deploy new ‘smart meter’ technology. Chu visited Philadelphia Thursday to announce the funding for PECO. Utility officials say the grant will help them install 1.6 million new meters as part of a system that will save customers \$1.5 billion over the life of the project. The smart meter plan will allow two-way communication between meters and utility computers. PECO officials say they will improve service and conservation efforts. Chu says the improved systems will allow customers to monitor their electrical usage and change consumption habits while creating jobs.” [[Associated Press](#), 10/29/09]

***Recovery Act* funds will be used by Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development to pay for the replacement of decrepit sewer lines and laterals in the Porter Township.** “During a commissioners work session Tuesday, county community development planner Rachelle Ricotta said \$80,000 in federal stimulus funds are available through the state Department of Community and Economic Development to pay for the replacement of decrepit sewer lines and laterals in the township.” [[Sun Gazette](#), 10/28/09]

140 jobs will be created by *Recovery Act*-funded construction of a new control tower at Scranton International Airport. “The largely empty, 1950s-era airport terminal at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport will soon be a thing of the past. The regional airport will receive a \$13.3 million federal stimulus program grant toward construction of a new, \$18.8 million air traffic control tower and radar center. Officials estimate the new tower project will create 140 construction jobs... Construction of the tower will begin in December, and it is scheduled to be operating in 2011, said airport director Barry Centini... When the FAA was consolidating facilities several years ago, some of the FAA operations - and jobs - were nearly removed from the airport because there was not a new tower, said Phil Gallagher, president of the air traffic controllers union at the airport... ‘This is reassurance the FAA has a commitment to AVP (the airport's designation by the International Air Transport Association),’ Mr. Gallagher said. ‘It allows us to fulfill our mission of maintaining safety and efficiency in our skies.’” [[Scranton Times](#), 10/17/09]

7,000 Pennsylvanians are working on *Recovery Act*-funded projects while 876,000 people are receiving extended unemployment benefits. “Thousands of people are working in Pennsylvania because of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and millions are receiving direct benefits that help put food on their tables and keep their families afloat, Governor Edward G. Rendell said today. Just six months into the

36-month stimulus initiative, Pennsylvania has nearly 40 percent of the funds that will be available invested or in progress. A U.S. House committee ranks Pennsylvania 7th among states for putting transportation funding to work. 'All together, more than 7,000 people are directly working on transportation and water infrastructure projects now,' Governor Rendell said... 'That doesn't count all of the other people working to supply products like concrete, steel and gravel for these projects. The ripple effect of jobs supported by Recovery-funded projects is about 40,000 according to the Council of Economic Advisors,' the Governor said, standing with two contractors who said they have hundreds of staff on the payroll this year because of stimulus funding... Stimulus Impact Fact Sheet:... Nearly \$900 million in extended unemployment payments is helping more than 876,000 people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own... Approximately 4.5 million households are paying \$821 million less in federal taxes due to the Recovery Act tax code changes... To date about a billion dollars has already made it possible to continue to provide health care to approximately 2 million Pennsylvanians." [Reuters, 10/9/09]

\$90.6 million in Recovery Act funds will help the Philadelphia Housing Authority create 2,200 jobs—from carpenters to painters and plumbers. "In better times, the [Philadelphia Housing Authority] was a significant source of construction jobs in the city, as it built homes and renovated properties for low-income tenants. But for nearly a decade, PHA has suffered crippling cuts to its capital budget, which decreased from \$78 million in 2001 to \$58 million last year. What did not shrink was the wait list for public housing in Philadelphia, today bulging with 43,767 names. With the \$90.6 million federal fillip, once-shelved projects that would add 577 housing units are moving ahead. And as they do, PHA estimates, 2,200 jobs will be created... Every unit of public housing being built or renovated requires carpenters, plumbers, painters, electricians. A factory in the city's Bridesburg section is making energy-efficient windows. A Phoenixville distributor is supplying refrigerators and stoves. A Center City painting contractor is putting 12 idled painters back to work. In this case, at least, 'the stimulus money is getting down to the street level,' said Brian McGillin, project executive for Hunter Roberts Construction Group, a Mid-Atlantic contractor hired by PHA to rehab properties." [The Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/20/09]

Chester County used Recovery Act funds to pay for 139 youths' wages at summer jobs. "For five weeks this summer, Marcus Smith would leave his home in Coatesville and walk the few blocks downtown to Chertok's Furniture Store, where he had a job 'doing just about everything,' he said. The job came courtesy of a federal government program designed to teach 14- to 24-year-olds who are economically disadvantaged or face other barriers in finding employment how to get and, more importantly, keep a job. 'It was a great experience,' said Smith, 16, who begins his junior year at Coatesville Area Senior High School this week. 'Most of all I learned how to be patient when you want something. Things may be hard and you may want to give up, but if you keep your head on straight and stay focused, things will pay off.' Smith worked at Chertok's under the supervision of Larry Chertok, helping make deliveries, setting up furniture, and anything else he was asked to do. This was his first summer job, and he said he hopes it will translate into a more permanent position at the longtime furniture store... The program was funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act." [The Pottstown Mercury, 9/1/09]

157 jobs should be created directly or indirectly by Recovery Act-funded construction of low-income housing. "A much-needed shot of recovery funds from the federal government will help to move forward two low-income housing projects for senior citizens in the city of Chester. The Chester Housing Authority received \$13.6 million to build 87 units of senior housing. Separately, the Chester Economic Development Authority was allocated \$10.5 million for 70 rental units. The Chester projects were among five in Pennsylvania that received recovery funds from the U.S. Treasury Department, via the Pennsylvania Housing

Finance Agency, a state-affiliated provider of financing for low-income housing. Holly Glauser-Abel, the finance agency's director of development, said the money would help jump-start projects that had been held up by the recession.” [[Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 8/27/09]

The Derry Area School District will use *Recovery Act* funding to hire a resource officer and to upgrade another position from part-time to full-time. “Economic stimulus funding totaling \$85,400 is expected to boost various staffing, programs and planning efforts of the borough and the local Derry Area School District. Susan Bortz, mayor of the borough and chief executive officer of the Derry Area Revitalization Corporation, announced Wednesday that local officials had received word of the funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act after she and Dr. David Welling, the district's assistant superintendent, jointly applied for the financial assistance through Westmoreland Community Action. According to Bortz, the stimulus package includes \$37,470 to cover salary, benefits and materials for a one-year, full-time temporary school resource officer who would be hired by the borough to provide services at the local school district. An additional \$34,430 will allow the borough to upgrade its position of code enforcement officer/rental property maintenance inspector from part-time to full-time status for one year.” [[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#), 8/28/09]

***Recovery Act* funds move forward two low-income housing projects for senior citizens in Chester; construction will create 157 jobs.** “A much-needed shot of recovery funds from the federal government will help to move forward two low-income housing projects for senior citizens in the city of Chester. The Chester Housing Authority received \$13.6 million to build 87 units of senior housing. Separately, the Chester Economic Development Authority was allocated \$10.5 million for 70 rental units. The Chester projects were among five in Pennsylvania that received recovery funds from the U.S. Treasury Department, via the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, a state-affiliated provider of financing for low-income housing... Lisa Gaffney, housing director for the Chester development authority, said the Treasury funding was the last piece of financing needed to begin construction of Pentecostal Square. The project will provide rental housing for low-income senior citizens. She added that the construction would create 157 jobs, directly and indirectly.” [[Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 8/27/09]

***Recovery Act* funds will pay for hundreds more construction projects than originally anticipated because nearly all of the work has been less expensive than expected.** “Federal stimulus money will pay for hundreds of extra roads, bridges and buildings this year because almost all of that work has been far less expensive than expected. The stimulus law President Obama signed in February was slated to pour billions of dollars into thousands of building projects across the country, perhaps the best-known part of a \$787 billion plan to create jobs and revive the economy. As that work began this summer, the state and federal officials in charge of paying for it say a dramatic slump in the construction industry brought bargain prices. Now they're launching hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of additional projects to use the extra money. ‘That gives us the ability to create more jobs through even more projects,’ says Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez... The savings will pay for additional stimulus work. For example: Pennsylvania launched an extra 52 road and bridge projects this summer because its original list of stimulus projects cost 10% less, says Rich Kirkpatrick, a state Transportation spokesman.” [[USA TODAY](#), 8/25/09]

Long-awaited revitalization project funded By the *Recovery Act* enables Lobar Construction to retain 35-40 workers. “Elizabethtown officials have been trying for 10 years to improve the Amtrak train station, according to Borough Manager Peter Whipple. It's been the borough's No. 1 priority, he said. Sometimes officials had a design, but no money. Sometimes they could find some money, but regulations had changed and they had to redesign

the improvements. On Monday, all the elements came together as U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and local dignitaries broke ground for an improved station paid for with \$9.3 million in federal stimulus money. Specter called the Elizabethtown station ... 'an illustration of the effectiveness of the stimulus package to put Americans back to work.'... Richard Ayers, executive vice president of the general contractor, Lobar Construction of Dillsburg, said the project should help about 35 to 40 employees keep their jobs who might otherwise have been laid off. More than 50 construction workers are expected to work on the station, he said." [[Patriot News](#), 8/25/09]

Recovery Act money has put nearly 2000 people to work on transportation projects in Pennsylvania, and number of road work jobs expected to grow.

"Through June, nearly 2,000 people had been put to work on highway and bridge projects in Pennsylvania funded by economic stimulus money from the federal government... [T]he \$1.5 billion Pennsylvania is getting for road projects is just part of \$16 billion the state is to receive from Washington as its share of federal economic stimulus money, an official told the Harrisburg Rotary Club on Monday. James P. Creedon, the state's chief implementation officer for the stimulus money – known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – said that \$7 billion of Pennsylvania's share is flowing to state residents in a variety of ways. Creedon said many Pennsylvanians, in addition to those working on road projects, are benefiting from federal economic stimulus money and might not know it. Federal economic stimulus money is funding increased unemployment compensation and helping laid-off workers keep health insurance longer... About \$2.6 billion is to be spread out among the state's 501 public school districts; \$4 billion is for increased Medicaid reimbursement payments; \$455 million is for alternative energy projects such as wind, solar and geothermal; and \$353 million is for other public works and housing. The money will be spent throughout Pennsylvania over the next two years. Creedon said the number of road work jobs is expected to grow as all the highway and bridge projects being funded by federal economic stimulus dollars will be put out for bid by Labor Day." [[Patriot News](#) (PA), 8/18/09]

Recovery Act funds paid for 90 young people to work summer jobs in Beaver County.

"Jeremie Vukich has spent his summer helping the maintenance staff at the Beaver County Women's Center... Thanks to federal stimulus money, which includes \$1.2 billion for youth employment nationwide and \$41.1 million in Pennsylvania, officials at Job Training for Beaver County say they were able to create more than 90 minimum-wage jobs for Vukich and other young people this summer... And for Vukich, hard work paid off. The women's center asked that he stay an additional three weeks, so his work length was extended." [[Beaver County Times](#), 8/16/09]

Across Pennsylvania, the number of youths employed through state job training centers has tripled, thanks to Recovery Act funds.

"Deb Newton, executive director, said because of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, curbs were painted in local municipalities or grass mowed at local parks, among other projects, at no cost to those communities. "These kids are stimulus dollars at work," Newton said... In years past, she said about 100 young people typically spent the summer working under Job Training's summer program. That number almost tripled this year, Newton said... More than 250 young workers either went into camps, such as construction or computer training, or to a work site." [[Beaver County Times](#), 8/16/09]

Recovery Act-Funded clean diesel retrofitting projects in Allegheny County will create 97 jobs. "In an effort to make the once 'smoky city' even less smoky, the Environmental Protection Agency gave \$3.49 million to Allegheny County yesterday to reduce diesel fuel emissions released into the air by public buses, trains and construction vehicles. The funding is

part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will be used in four projects to replace current equipment in Port Authority buses, construction trucks and a CSX train with clean-diesel technology and emission filters. The Allegheny County Health Department estimates the projects will reduce fine particulate pollution by 2.63 tons and nearly 230 tons of hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide pollutants annually. The pollutants are thought to increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, cancer, asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses. The projects, all set to be completed by September 2010, will also create an estimated 97 jobs, some of which are temporary... ” [[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), 8/14/09]

Fort Duquesne Bridge project a “smart use” of *Recovery Act* money; apportionment will create 60 jobs. “A \$26.2 million project to preserve the Fort Duquesne Bridge is a example of smart use of federal stimulus money to put people to work and save important infrastructure, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez said Thursday. ‘When (it is) completed next year, motorists will get a smoother ride over the Fort Duquesne Bridge and continue to enjoy one of the most scenic views of Pittsburgh’s skyline,’ Mendez said during a visit to the North Shore. PennDOT Secretary Allen Biehler said the project will put 60 more people to work for West Mifflin-based Trumbull Corp., and could create jobs for subcontractors and businesses producing and transporting construction materials.” [[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#), 8/7/09]

With *Recovery Act* Funds, Pennsylvania’s Summer Youth Employment Program will employ four times as many young people as it did last summer. “Pennsylvania’s Summer Youth Employment Program will provide jobs for 9,200 with federal stimulus funds this summer, beating a goal of 8,600, Gov. Ed Rendell said Thursday. The statewide program is funded by \$34.5 million, which has gone out to local work force investment boards to provide job training and education services to unemployed workers and young adults between the ages of 14 and 24. More than four times the 2,205 young adults that participated last year will be able to participate this summer because of the federal stimulus boost in funding, Rendell said.” [[Philadelphia Business Journal](#), 7/23/09]

The Southern Alleghenies Workforce Investment Board plans to provide 400 young people with jobs and professional training using *Recovery Act* funds, four times the number the group normally serves. “The Southern Alleghenies Workforce Investment Board has received more than \$3.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to enhance and expand its existing support of workforce development services throughout Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset counties. The money is being directed toward paid summer work for youth ages 14 to 24, financial support in the form of tuition assistance and supportive services for eligible adults and displaced workers.” [[Altoona Mirror](#), 7/22/09]

A *Recovery Act*-funded grant will help the Erie Philharmonic to retain the jobs of six full-time and two part-time staff members and contracts with 65 professional musicians. “For Erie Philharmonic officials, news about funding from the federal stimulus package is sweet music to their ears. The Philharmonic is getting \$25,000 that will help it sustain the jobs of six full-time and two part-time staff members, as well as the contracts with 65 professional musicians, said U.S. Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper, of Erie, D-3rd Dist... The stimulus funding will not only protect high-quality concerts in Erie, Dahlkemper said, but will strengthen the regional economy by preserving good-paying jobs. The Philharmonic’s total annual budget is \$1.2 million, said Eric Borenstein, its executive director.” [[The Times-News](#), 7/12/09]

21 Philadelphia arts organizations received *Recovery Act*-funded grants. “The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded \$1.47 million in federal stimulus grants to 32 arts and cultural groups in Pennsylvania. An additional \$600,000 will go to 14 organizations in New

Jersey... In Philadelphia, 21 organizations will receive a total of about \$1 million, according to a spokesman for the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. That includes \$250,000 for the alliance, which will pass it along in grants to arts organizations... The funds distributed to the Cultural Alliance, which teamed up with the city's Office of Arts and Culture to secure the money, will go to support jobs 'threatened or already eliminated' or to maintain artistic contracts, the alliance said." [[The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 7/11/09]

Allegany County granted \$200,000 to generate 100 employment opportunities for young people. Local officials gratified to have funding to improve job prospects for teenagers. [[Cumberland Times-News](#), 6/8/09]

Local company won contract to administer *Recovery Act*-funded summer jobs for Lancaster County youths. The program will provide career camps, skills training and jobs this summer for 300 to 400 local low-income young people ages 14 to 24." [[Lancaster New Era](#), 5/29/09]

Pennsylvania hopes to hire 216 corrections officers through *Recovery Act*-funded grant. "Initiatives to improve law enforcement and public safety, strengthen counterdrug training and ease prison overcrowding would get a significant boost if grant applications for more than \$95 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding are approved. Gov. Edward G. Rendell announced that the State Police, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Department of Corrections and the Commission on Crime and Delinquency recently submitted applications to aggressively pursue additional federal stimulus funding to enhance public safety initiatives. 'These initiatives are good for the economy and public safety,' Rendell said. 'Not only will there be jobs created, but relief that will be provided to law enforcement and corrections will make a lasting impact on our communities.'" [[Gant Daily](#), 5/7/09]