



# Fact Sheet

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

On February 13, 2009, the Senate approved the final version of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and sent the legislation to President Obama to be signed into law (P.L. 111-5). The *Recovery Act* is an extraordinary response by Democrats to an inherited economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. The legislation represents an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can not only recover but prosper once again.

Nationwide, we have already seen companies rehiring laid-off workers, construction and renovation of facilities, and the re-starting of environmental remediation activities. And, just a few months into the two-year *Recovery Act* programs:

- **We have minimized and avoided reductions in essential services in Alabama** by providing aid to help stabilize state and local budgets, protected critical safety-net programs, and saved teaching and law enforcement jobs.
- **Plans for job-creating infrastructure projects in Alabama are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$175.5 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$375,000 in airport grants for development projects that enhance safety, capacity and security and airport facilities and equipment upgrades (through the Federal Aviation Administration) (as of June 2, 2009). These *Recovery Act* projects deliver jobs and make important investments in the safety of our transportation systems. [DOT Allocation Report, 6/2/2009].
- **Families and communities in Alabama that have been hard-hit by the recession** can access increased unemployment benefits, assistance with health insurance premiums for those who have become unemployed, and food aid. And 1.7 million households in Alabama – approximately 95 percent of all families and individuals – have already begun seeing an increase in their take-home pay through the landmark Making Work Pay tax credit. The typical family will have about \$800 extra cash delivered to them in their paychecks over the next year. [The White House, 4/2/2009]

Here is a sampling of projects in Alabama that have been covered by local media and press releases in the past several weeks, demonstrating the real-life impacts that the *Recovery Act* has already made for Alabamians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Cedar Bluff Town Council voted to apply for *Recovery Act*-funded grant to hire contractors for much-needed street paving.** “During this week’s meeting of the Cedar Bluff Town Council, a lengthy discussion took place, on the passing of a resolution making an application to the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs for Community Block Grant Funding – with the funding being used to help pave Sewell Ferry Road, Hidden Cove Road, Cornwell Drive, Forrest Street, Cathy Street, Summer Place, Lake Place Road, Lake Place Street, and Lake Place Lane. The monies for the project would come from stimulus funds, made available through the Community Block Grant.” [[WEIS News Radio](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Pike County governments jointly applied for *Recovery Act*-funded energy loan for local companies.** “As part of the federal stimulus package, municipalities within the state of Alabama will have a shot at competing for portions of \$6 million through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs... Troy, Banks and Goshen City Councils, along with the Pike County Commission will join forces in hopes of receiving \$1 million to support a revolving energy loan. [[Troy Messenger](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Tuscaloosa, Marion, and Aliceville Airports will hire contractors to improve runways with \$12.2 million in federal economic *Recovery Act* money.** Using the *Recovery Act* money for airport projects will keep smaller construction contractors in business and their workers employed. Some might go out of business without the work, leaving less competition in the future. [[Tuscaloosa News](#), 6/9/2009]
- **Bus industry forecasts stabilizing thanks to *Recovery Act*-related orders; bus industry retaining jobs.** VP of North American Bus Industries of Anniston: “It helps preserve the jobs that we have. We don’t have plans for any massive hiring. Right now we’re just trying to maintain stability.” [[Fox Channel 5 News](#), 6/7/2009]
- **Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority will spend *Recovery Act* dollars to upgrade buses.** [[WBRC-TV](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Hartselle, Alabama will use *Recovery Act* funds to repave Sparkman Street.** [[The Decatur Daily](#), 5/27/2009]
- **Morgan County will use *Recovery Act* funds for buses, equipment for bus maintenance shop, building sidewalks.** [[The Decatur Daily](#), 5/27/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will provide jobs for 341 young people in four Alabama counties.** “The jobs pay \$7.25 an hour for a maximum of 35 hours a week. Workers can get in 210 hours during the six-week program. If Macon County fills its 89 slots, \$21,738.25 will be paid to those who qualify and work the maximum hours. Designed to provide a meaningful work experience, the program calls for jobs to be distributed among the four municipalities in Macon County--Tuskegee, Shorter, Notasulga and Franklin.” [[The Tuskegee News](#), 5/21/2009]

- **Talladega received \$400,000 in grants to inventory up to 46 abandoned industrial properties and conduct environmental site assessments.** [[Daily Home \(Talladega, Pell City, Sylacauga\)](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Recovery Act will supplement budget, Alabama will avoid laying off teachers, keep reading program.** “Without federal stimulus money, the \$6.2 billion budget would have been markedly smaller than this year's budget. But it should prevent teacher layoffs, which is one of two critical reasons this flawed-but-necessary budget should be cheered rather than jeered.” [[Anniston Star](#), 5/9/2009]