



# Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN  
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232  
DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551  
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## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Connecticut**

### **Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Connecticut**

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 Connecticut** by providing aid to help stabilize state and local budgets, protected critical safety-net programs, and saved teaching and law enforcement jobs.
- **Families and communities in Connecticut 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 1.3 million households in Connecticut – 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 Connecticut 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 Connecticut residents, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Recovery Act will pay for trail to connect new housing in Northampton to Easthampton area.** “Rail trail advocates will celebrate the completion of another link in the region's system at a ribbon-cutting event Saturday. Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways is inviting the public to gather at the National Felt parking lot at 136 West St. for the official opening of a one-mile stretch of trail from Earle Street to New

South Street (Route 10). The segment runs past Veterans Field and a nearby wetlands and includes a new bridge over the Mill River. [[The Republican](#), 6/12/2009]

- **New Milford will use *Recovery Act* funds to make improvements to the town's streets.** “The Town Council has approved using New Milford's \$850,896 share of the money from the largest national infrastructure program in more than 50 years to make improvements to Grove Street, the western section of Main Street, Boardman Road and the Elm Street Roadway and Streetscape.” [[The Housatonic Times](#), 6/12/2009]
- **Connecticut will see in excess of \$58 million from the *Recovery Act* in order to finance unemployment benefits for thousands of residents who have lost their jobs during the current recession.** [[Watertown Town Times](#), 6/4/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* sends \$132 million to Connecticut for special education services for students ages 3 to 21.** The money will go out starting in mid-July. [[Bristol Press](#), 6/4/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds paid for Connecticut food banks to restock with “really wonderful products...high-protein and difficult to get donated.** [[Connecticut Post](#), 6/2/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will fund 4,500 youths' summer jobs in Connecticut.** The odds just improved that kids dealing with poverty and other issues will land meaningful jobs this summer. [[Hartford Courant](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Putnam will receive \$16 million in *Recovery Act* funds to help pay for two critical water and sewer projects.** [[Norwich Bulletin](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Connecticut granted \$1.8 million to hire and retain criminal justice and victim services personnel to respond to violent crimes against women.** “This funding will ensure that in these tough economic times, our efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and provide victim services are not hindered. And we will do this while creating or retaining jobs within the law enforcement community.” [[New Haven Register](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Yale University among the four universities across the country will fund global health studies using recovery funds.** “The money, made possible by the Recovery Act, will preserve and create U.S. jobs in the timely and competitive arena of global health research.” [[NIH News](#), 5/12/2009]