



Fact Sheet

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The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Florida

Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Florida

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 Florida** 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 Florida are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$882.8 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$23 million 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 Florida 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 7.1 million households in Florida – 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 Florida 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 Floridians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Marion County Senior Services given \$132,000 for meals for the elderly, creating three jobs and assisting over 90 seniors.** “With the money, MCSS will add a new congregate meal site to the existing 11 and a 28th meal delivery route, helping at least 90 additional seniors. The funds will help create three part-time jobs at the center. There are currently 34 seniors on the meal delivery waiting list, and the new grant will help bring that number down to zero.” [[Ocala Star-Banner](#), 6/15/2009]
- **Six Florida bridges will be repaired or rebuilt with *Recovery Act* funds.** “At least a half dozen bridges from Golden Beach to Miami Beach, from Brickell Key to Geiger Key... will now be repaired or even rebuilt using \$3,201,663.62 in federal stimulus dollars.” [[CBS News Channel 4](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Thanks to an influx of *Recovery Act* dollars, Lake County School Board might reinstate dozens of reading coaches and allow at least several veteran administrators to keep their jobs too.** [[Orlando Sentinel](#), 6/7/2009]
- **Tampa Bay will receive a \$23 million low interest loan and a \$2.55 million grant for a 9 mile water pipeline replacement.** The pipelines are between 80 and 100 years old and beyond their useful life. [[Tampa Bay Business Journal](#), 6/5/2009]
- **City of Sopchoppy will undergo large scale wastewater treatment initiative funded by \$5.1 million from *Recovery Act* via Florida Department of Environmental Protection.** DEP Secretary: “The stimulus funds advance our ongoing efforts to provide needed funding for infrastructure to local communities. We have had a tremendous demand for the ARRA funding, which will help build valuable public projects.” [[Panama City News Herald](#), 6/4/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will make it possible to complete the last segment of a decades-long Palmetto Expressway reconstruction project.** [[Miami Herald](#), 5/24/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds salvage state budget.** Federal money allows for extensive local projects. [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 5/25/2009]
- **The Lynx Central Florida bus system used *Recovery Act* funds to buy a new disinfectant system.** [[WDBO.com](#), 5/21/2009]
- **The Alachua County school district will use *Recovery Act* money to pay approximately 250 teachers on annual contracts for the next two school years.** “For the next school year, the school district also will receive approximately \$4.7 million in stimulus money for Title I schools - which are determined by the percentage of students on free and reduced lunch - and \$6.3 million for special education programs. The first half of the Title I stimulus money was pledged before May 1 so that 56 employees would not receive letters that their annual contracts would not be renewed. Half of them were teachers, and the other half were paraprofessionals, tutors who work alongside teachers. Charles Hall, the district’s Title I director, told board members that

his plan is to use part of the next allotment of the district's Title I stimulus money to preserve jobs in the 2010-11 school year.” [[The Gainesville Sun](#), 5/20/2009]

- **Recovery Act will enable Gadsden Schools to retain 70 jobs.** [[WCTV \(Tallahassee, FL\)](#), 5/19/2009]
- **Thanks to Recovery Act provisions, Kevin and Linda potter were able to secure an SBA loan to complete work on their martial arts studio.** “Under the temporary change in the 7a loan guarantee program, a company's net worth can't be greater than \$8.5 million and its average net income for the last two years must be less than \$3 million. It applies to 7a loans approved on or after May 5, and loans approved through September, 2010. The SBA estimates 70,000 small businesses that didn't meet the permanent 7a standards are now eligible for the program. Industries most likely to benefit include construction, retail, and services.” [[The News-Press](#), 5/17/2009]
- **Jackson County school district will save 18 teaching positions because of Recovery Act funds.** [[WJHG](#), 5/14/2009]
- **Gadsden County school district will retain 50 jobs and Jefferson County school district will create 10 to 12 jobs because of the Recovery Act.** [[Tallahassee Democrat](#), 4/15/2009]
- **Recovery Act money will reduce school budget cuts and save jobs.** “At this point it looks like we will be able to recall at least 70 to 80 people.” [[Northwest Florida Daily](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Recovery Act funding will help Polk County school district hire 200 to 300 new teachers next year.** [[Lakeland Ledger](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds will save 139 teaching jobs in Seminole County.** [[Orlando Sentinel](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Department of Education released \$1.8 billion in Recovery Act money for Florida.** “Florida can now utilize these funds to save jobs and lay the groundwork for a generation for education reform.” [[Miami Herald](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds expected to offset university of West Florida's budget cuts.** “University employees were spared from the salary reductions that many other state employees will absorb.” [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 5/8/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds should allow Pensacola Junior College to avoid layoffs.** [[Pensacola News Journal](#), 5/8/2009]
- **Florida legislature balanced budget will the help of \$5 billion in Recovery Act money.** [[Miami Herald](#), 5/9/2009]
- **Leon County Commission Chairman said broadband initiatives “open up a ton of economic development opportunities in these small, rural communities.”** [[Tallahassee.com](#), 5/9/2009]

- **California and Florida are on the fast-track for high-speed rail funding.** [*UPI*, 5/9/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds saved 50 teaching jobs in Santa Rosa County.** [*Pensacola News Journal*, 5/6/2009]
- **St. Lucie County Commission approved county's first Recovery Act project, which is expected to create 86 direct jobs.** "According to the county, the \$6.6 million project is expected to create at least 86 jobs directly, not including such related jobs as suppliers, and will be paid for using money from a road bond earlier than expected. The road bond money already is available. The project of about a half mile will reconstruct a four-lane section of Walton Road from U.S. 1 to Village Green and include median work, lighting work and landscaping among other improvements." [*Treasure Coast Palm*, 5/5/2009]