



# Fact Sheet

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

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 Illinois** 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 Illinois are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$642.5 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$12.3 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 Illinois 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 4.8 million households in Illinois – 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 Illinois 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 Illinoisans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Lake County receives roughly \$40 million from *Recovery Act* for transportation projects.** “One of the indirect effects of the stimulus is the jobs that will be saved... All told, nearly \$40 million has been programmed to date for transportation improvements in Lake County, covering more than 19 miles of roads and one bridge-deck resurfacing -- on Buckley Road in Libertyville over the Des Plaines River.” [[Lake County News-Sun](#), 6/13/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* dollars allotted to Illinois create employment opportunities and training programs for hundreds of underprivileged teenagers.** “The State of Illinois says hundreds of teenagers will be matched with summer jobs thanks to federal stimulus money. Experts say jobs can be a good way to keep young people off the streets, out of trouble and away from violence. The summer job outlook for teens had looked bleak with companies cutting back this year. But the state reported Thursday 2,500 young people will be matched with summer jobs thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. That's on top of 15,000 jobs that were already available.” [[WLS—ABC Chicago](#), 6/4/2009]
- **\$4.1 million zero interest loan goes to city of Dixon to finance water treatment; mayor touts potential \$1 million taxpayer savings.** “Dixon Mayor Jim Burke says the loan could save taxpayers more than \$1 million over 20 years and taxpayers would likely see that savings with adjusted water rates. Rep. Bill Foster says the new facility means that the community will have safe and healthy drinking water.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/5/2009]
- **Vermilion County receives \$449,719 to support employment programs for young people, providing otherwise nonexistent jobs through several agencies.** “This summer, Renae Adams hopes to find a job typing and filing, or landscaping. Jeffrey Harris hopes to land work building or remodeling a house. You might think that could be pretty tough in this tight job market, especially since Harris and Adams are teens. But two new summer youth work programs funded with federal stimulus money could give them and other Vermilion County residents, ages 14 to 24, a chance to do that.” [[Urbana-Champaign News-Gazette](#), 6/4/2009]
- ***Fortune's* “Meet the stimulus hires” – Esmeralda Pineda, Chicago.** “One Tuesday afternoon last year, everyone was told their hard work had been appreciated, but there was no choice but to close the company down...Now I'm working for a bigger company and learning new roles, like helping out in HR. I'm traveling, meeting different kinds of people in different time zones. There's no more promotion ceiling on my job. I even got to meet Vice President Biden when he toured our factory. It feels great to be part of something big.” [[Fortune](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Illinois SBA official: since the *Recovery Act* was passed, the decline in loan volume has stopped and the trend is definitely upward.** “‘The recovery act dollars are available, they're being used and they're already having an impact,’ said Valerie Ross, Springfield branch manager for the U.S. Small Business Administration. Under the act, the SBA has offered loan programs that can eliminate loan fees and provide guarantees for small businesses.” [[The News-Gazette](#), 5/28/2009]

- **Southern Illinois University, Carbondale received funding for student and teacher training from the National Institute of Health.** By supporting jobs in the fields of education and science, the funding also provides additional benefits that will result from the training. [[The Southern](#), 5/26/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds will pay for Illinois hospitals to train scientists, conduct research on influenza.** Five Illinois universities and a hospital will divide \$2.5 million in *Recovery Act* funding for biomedical research and training. [[Associated Press](#), 5/15/2009]
- **Elgin Community College will use Recovery Act funds to create a summer jobs program for 16 to 24 year olds.** “The program offers participants a chance to serve their community by working on green projects, earn a salary, and receive educational resources.” [[Northwest Herald](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Argonne National Laboratory will receive stimulus funds to establish two energy frontier research centers.** [[Southtown Star](#), 5/10/2009]