



Fact Sheet

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

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

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 Kansas** 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 Kansas are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$127,000 in airport grants for development projects that enhance safety, capacity and security and airport facilities and equipment upgrades (through the Federal Aviation Administration); and \$193.1 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway 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 Kansas 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 million households in Kansas – 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 Kansas 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 Kansans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Water districts in two Kansas counties will receive *Recovery Act* funds to replace water lines and build storage tanks.** “The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development division announced Wednesday that it had awarded the funds to projects in Pottawatomie and Osage counties... Osage County, Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 12 ...plans to replace eight miles of water lines and build a new 1 million-gallon storage tank. Pottawatomie County, Rural Water District No. 4 ...plans to install six miles of lines and build a 50,000-gallon storage tank.” [*Associated Press*, 6/11/2009]
- **Kansas will get additional *Recovery Act* funds for its weatherization program. Total weatherization funds for Kansas will create 35 new jobs.** [*Kansas City Business Journal*, 6/9/2009]
- **Pittsburg will use *Recovery Act* funds to resurface Main Road.** “Tonight, Pittsburg City Commissioners will vote on an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation that would allow the Pittsburg to resurface more of the city’s main street... at no major cost to the city.” [*The Morning Sun*, 6/9/2009]
- **Wichita will use *Recovery Act* funds to repair sidewalks in low-income areas.** “City Manager Robert Layton said the city is opening the sidewalk repairs to all income-qualified people, but it intends to do a lot of repairs in targeted areas to make a difference for entire neighborhoods – not just in front of one or two houses. The city's move also frees up \$200,000 in federal funds to improve the facades of businesses in qualified low-income areas of the city.” [*Wichita News*, 6/3/2009]
- **The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas has been given \$825,981 in *Recovery Act* financing for local health care reform, service enlargement, and hiring new personnel.** “‘It could not have come at a better time,’ CHC/SEK chief executive officer Krista Postai said. ‘We were very financially stressed when we heard of this (grant)... Postai said grant funds will be used to help staff at the center see more uninsured patients, expand the center's services, hire more staff, and make some modifications to the facility to accommodate these changes.’” [*Fort Scott Tribune*, 6/3/2009]
- **SBA loan demand increases 50 percent in Wichita in wake of *Recovery Act* .** [*Wichita Eagle*, 5/26/2009]
- **De Soto will use *Recovery Act* funds for road and sidewalk projects.** [*The De Soto Explorer*, 5/21/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will fund Overland Park plant that will turn waste into electric power.** The project will save the county \$600,000 a year on energy, reduce greenhouse gases by 9700 metric tons a year. [*The Kansas City Star*, 5/19/2009]
- **Kansas legislature’s GOP leaders “owe a ‘thank you’ note to the Democratic-led Congress because of the federal economic stimulus dollars” that helped them balance the state’s budget.** [*Wichita Eagle*, Editorial, 5/12/2009]