



# Fact Sheet

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

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 Kentucky** 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 Kentucky are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$240.2 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$22.5 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$659,000 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 Kentucky 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 1.6 million households in Kentucky – 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 Kentucky 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 Kentuckians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Local government agencies and nonprofit organizations will receive stimulus funds to help crime victims.** “About \$800,000 from the federal economic stimulus package will be paying for crime victim grants throughout Kentucky. [[Associated Press](#), 6/9/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* money “was exactly what we needed.”** “The stimulus dollars have restarted a basically stalled process. “The stimulus money has allowed us to take projects that would had to sit and wait for funding and actually go ahead and put those in motion...Get construction underway, get people to work, put those projects on the ground this summer.” [[WTVQ.com](#), 6/2/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds are allowing construction companies to rehire furloughed workers and avoid layoffs.** “A band of earth-moving machines began rolling onto a rugged Marion County farm field earlier this month. A day later, a ribbon of dirt outlined the path of a new two-mile road. The federal stimulus bill is paying for the \$3.7 million bypass from U.S. 68 to Industrial Drive – one of the first three ‘shovel ready’ projects Kentucky has awarded with the federal money approved in February... ‘Being able to get this job has kept a lot of people working.’” [[The Courier-Journal](#), 5/31/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will be used to train displaced workers in KY.** “The funds will present Kentucky's unemployed and under-skilled adult population with a chance to receive training scholarships and acquire new skills to get them back to work now or prepare them for new jobs yet to come. The training and employment services are made available through Kentucky's One-Stop Career Centers. These centers target services to meet the changing needs of workers and employers.” [[Manufacturing & Technology ejournal](#), 5/11/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will pay for Catlettsburg housing authority to hire architect, finish years-old project, making facilities handicapped accessible.** [[The Daily Independent](#), 5/14/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funding will enable out-of-work Kentuckians file for extended federal benefits.** “Jobless workers who exhausted 26 weeks of state benefits and 33 weeks of federal benefits and are still out of work may be eligible for up to 20 additional weeks of aid from the federal government. The money for the extra weeks was part of the federal stimulus package.” [[Louisville Courier-Journal](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Oldham County water district will receive a \$13.2 million loan from *Recovery Act* funds to help pay for major improvements and upgrades.** [[Louisville Courier-Journal](#), 5/13/2009]