



Fact Sheet

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

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 Louisiana** 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 Louisiana are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$213.4 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$3.1 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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana – 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 Louisiana 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 Louisianians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **City of Bastrop used Recovery Act funds to hire Denmon Engineering to improve sewer system.** The \$1.5 million in stimulus funds will be used to replace ditch crossings and other sewer lines. [[Bastrop Daily Enterprise](#), 6/12/2009]
- **Tensas and Richland will purchase floodplain easements with Recovery Act money.** “Floodplain easement projects in Tensas and Richland parishes are the only such projects in the state to be funded by federal stimulus dollars. The easement projects – which will cover 710 acres in Tensas and 341 in Richland – will cost \$1.8 million and plant about 300,000 hardwood trees on flood-prone cropland, removing the land from crop production and helping restore a slice of the habitat of the threatened Louisiana black bear. The easements are the first of their kind to be undertaken in the state in nearly a decade.” [[The News Star](#), 6/8/2009]
- **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will use Recovery Act funds to create jobs, prevent water pollution.** “A total of \$39 million will be awarded nationally to states for Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) grants, which will keep and create jobs to help prevent water pollution and protect human health and the environment... This infusion of *Recovery Act* funding will provide Louisiana with more resources for high priority projects, promote green practices, and create and save jobs.” [States News Service, 6/8/2009]
- **Louisiana will use Recovery Act grant to improve water quality, set standards, restore polluted water.** “The funds will go to the Louisiana Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) grant program, which support a range of activities including setting standards, monitoring water quality, developing plans to restore polluted waters, and identifying ways to protect healthy waters from becoming polluted.” [[Bayou Buzz Louisiana Daily News](#), 6/8/2009]
- **Opelousas Region becomes direct beneficiary of more than \$1 million from the Recovery Act, making water and lift station rehabilitation possible.** “Cravins called the money a blessing, saying the repairs to the water system are urgently need. ‘These are dollars that we would have had to put up ourselves. This is a real saving for our taxpayers,’ Cravins said. Cravins said the city has already filed the required paperwork and hopes to get official word on the grant in the next week to 10 days.” [[Opelousas Daily World](#), 6/5/2009]
- **Concordia Parish law enforcement and judicial agencies will use Recovery Act funds for search and rescue boat, technology to track cases.** [[Concordia Sentinel](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Financially-strapped Vidalia and Ferriday police department chiefs called Recovery Act funds “a blessing.** Departments will spend stimulus money on surveillance, traffic, and office equipment, bulletproof vests. [[Concordia Sentinel](#), 5/28/2009]
- **District attorney will use Recovery Act funds to organize electronic filing system for case data.** Project will make it easier to share data across departments. [[Concordia Sentinel](#), 5/28/2009]

- **Town of Hornbeck receives half million in stimulus funds to rehabilitate the town's sewer system.** [[Leesville Daily Leader](#), 5/26/2009]
- **Louisiana will receive more than \$21 million in recovery funds to increase public safety and create or retain jobs within the law enforcement community.** [[Lab Business Week](#), 5/17/2009]
- **East Baton Rouge will use *Recovery Act* funds for emergency food and shelter.** “East Baton Rouge Parish has been awarded \$100,750 from President Barack Obama’s federal stimulus package to supplement emergency food and shelter programs.” [[The Advocate](#), 5/7/2009]