



# Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN  
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232  
 DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551  
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## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Maine** **Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Maine**

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 Maine** 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 Maine are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$7.4 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$96.2 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 Maine 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 500,000 households in Maine – 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 Maine 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 Mainers, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Maine will receive \$3 million in Recovery Act-funded trade adjustment assistance.** “Maine will be getting more than \$3 million in Trade Adjustment Assistance to help displaced workers whose jobs were lost because of outsourcing and foreign competition... Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said the money will enable workers to upgrade existing skills or retrain for new careers in industries that have potential for growth.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Maine Department of Transportation will use Recovery Act funds to replace aging trolleys in southern coastal communities.** “The U.S. Transportation Department announced Wednesday that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money will be used to purchase six trolleys for the York County Community Action Corp. The trolleys provide transportation service to shoreside locations in York, Ogunquit, Wells, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, as well as to Sanford.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/10/2009]
- **Rockingham and Strafford Counties apportioned Recovery Act funding for emergency food and shelter program.** “Additional funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program were awarded to Rockingham and Strafford counties through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Rockingham County will receive \$49,600; Strafford County will receive \$34,511. Programs funded include food pantries, homeless shelters, meals-on-wheels programs, emergency rent/mortgage/utility payment programs and other emergency programs for people in need.” [[Portsmouth Herald](#), 6/8/2009]
- **\$135 million from the Recovery Act will be directed to affordable housing projects in Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Washington State.** These states have elected to exchange a portion of their unused allocation of low-income housing tax credit for direct cash assistance, which will be then transferred to affordable housing developers. [[Thomson Reuters](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Maine gains multiple Recovery Act allotments through NIH to fuel medical research.** “The Jackson Laboratory is getting nearly \$900,000 as part of more than a million dollars coming to Maine to fund biomedical research, according to federal officials. Jackson Lab is set to receive \$883,050 to be divided up among multiple research projects, and Maine Medical Center in Portland is expected to receive \$407,000 for cardiovascular research.” [[Bangor Daily News](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds will help the town of Randolph upgrade its system for processing waste water.** “The grant total is \$333,000. Funds are being distributed through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and were awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last week to rural water and sewer projects in Maine... the new pump station would improve safety for workers who maintain the pump.” [[Kennebec Journal](#), 6/3/2009]
- **Two airports in Maine are in line to get stimulus funds for runway and taxiway projects.** Projects will create jobs and improve infrastructure, which has a long-term economic development benefit for the surrounding communities. [[Maine Public Broadcasting Network](#), 5/19/2009]

- **Maine has hired eight companies so far with *Recovery Act* funds for roadwork, preserving or creating 188 local jobs.** [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/17/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* projects have begun in Portland, including a \$2 million sewer system upgrade and a \$400,000 water main replacement allowing firms to re-hire workers.** At City Hall, the public health division plans to hire 10 to 14 people over the next two years for a new community health center under a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/17/2009]
- **Maine will receive more than \$1 million in *Recovery Act* funds to help communities improve their responses to domestic violence and sexual assault.** [*Kennebec Journal* (Augusta, Maine), 5/17/2009]
- **From construction workers to homeless advocates, *Recovery Act* is behind dozens of recent hires in the Portland area.** “The economic stimulus has trickled down to Clifton Street, where Storey Brothers Trucking of Cumberland is upgrading the city's sewer system under a \$2 million contract that employs 18 workers – many of whom had been laid off last winter. Across town on Ray Street, R.J. Grondin and Sons of Gorham has brought back a handful of laid-off workers for a \$401,032 job replacing a water main for the Portland Water District. And at City Hall, the public health division plans to hire 10 to 14 people over the next two years for a new community health center under a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.” [*Portland Press Herald*, 5/17/2009]