



# Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN  
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232  
DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551  
Available Online: [dpc.senate.gov](http://dpc.senate.gov)

June 16, 2009

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

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 Minnesota** 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 Minnesota are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$326.6 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$8.1 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 Minnesota 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 2 million households in Minnesota – 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 Minnesota 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 Minnesotans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Mankato Region is beginning to see generation of new jobs, such as those created by \$1.3 million allocation to The Open Door Clinic.** “Carpenters to weatherize homes and a dental hygienist for a Mankato clinic are among the first jobs to be created in south-central Minnesota by the federal stimulus. The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, signed by President Barack Obama in February, is supposed to create or save 3.5 million jobs nationwide, including 66,000 in Minnesota. There’s no local tally of jobs created, but early recipients of stimulus money have begun hiring. They include the Open Door Clinic, which received a \$1.3 million grant. The paperwork was first submitted in September 2007, and federal officials only had to take it off the shelf, said Sarah Kruse, head of the clinic. It essentially doubles the clinic’s size, and they’re looking to hire a medical director, dental hygienist, two family nurse practitioners and support staff.” [[Mankato Free Press](#), 6/13/2009]
- **Approximately 200 Young People Will Be Employed This Summer Through Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc., A Firm Supported By Stimulus Money.** “Area youth are lending a helping hand this summer – and getting paid – thanks to federal stimulus money. Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. offers a summer program for kids. It has been available for years but this year received additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, said Virginia Deeds, team leader for Rural Minnesota CEP. In Park Rapids, Brenda Johnson is the summer crew youth leader. During the school year she is the work-based learning coordinator and transition coordinator. Toward the end of the school year, Johnson began recruiting students to participate in the program and asking employers to participate. ‘The goal is not to replace jobs but to supplement by having them work on special or additional projects,’ Johnson said. This summer, the age range for young workers was expanded. The jobs are for youth between ages 14 and 24 years old. Previously, the age range was 14 to 21 years old. Their wages are paid for through CEP, Deeds said. Deeds works out of an office that covers four counties in the region: Hubbard, Clearwater, northern Cass and Lake of the Woods. She estimates up to 200 youth will participate in this summer’s program. Last year was probably close to 75, she said. ‘They’ll learn work readiness skills, values, basic skills at their jobs,’ Deeds said.” [[Park Rapids Enterprise](#), 6/13/09]
- **Recovery Act funds will be used for Dakota Rail trail extensions and maintenance.** “Nearly \$3.5 million in federal stimulus funds will go to the scenic Dakota Rail Trail project to build bridges over two busy roads and continue trail construction westward into Carver County. Carver's goal is to build the next 6.7 miles of trail to Mayer by the end of next year. With that extension the trail will connect the two biggest lakes in the metro area – Lake Minnetonka and Lake Waconia.” [[Star Tribune](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Minnesota will use Recovery Act to rebuild dangerous bridge which will be demolished.** “The Lowry Avenue bridge over the Mississippi River will come down on June 21, and construction on a new bridge will begin this fall. Bridge engineers discovered one of the bridge's piers had rotated enough that it posed too much of a risk to the public. It was closed in April 2008. The new bridge will take about two years to complete. Federal funds including \$10 million in stimulus money will pay for part of the project, along with state and local bonds.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/11/2009]

- **American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center is a model for *Recovery Act* employment creation programs.** “More than 40 young people from a Minneapolis school focused on American Indian empowerment will get summer jobs courtesy of the federal stimulus package... For Dea Garza, 20, summer employment is more than résumé-building – it’s a way to help support her 3-month-old daughter and 18-month-old son. ‘This will help me with my career goals to work up the health care ladder,’ said Garza, a nursing assistant who plans to start studying for a nursing degree this fall. ‘It has placed me on a solid path to provide for me and my family.’” [*Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 6/8/2009]
- **Clean diesel projects spanning Minnesota allocated \$1.57 million, aiding diesel sector and creating jobs.** “Grant funds will be available for a wide range of clean-diesel projects like idle reduction technology, including the installation of auxiliary power units to efficiently heat and cool a truck cab while idling – instead of having the big truck engine running. Idle reduction grants are a win-win situation by reducing emissions and saving the operators money.” [*Farm Progress*, 6/5/2009]
- **The Minneapolis City Council voted to spend community development *Recovery Act* funds on the long-delayed Shubert Theater.** “Backers said the \$2 million is the last piece of the \$38 million they need to start construction as soon as this fall... ‘I’m thrilled to be the last money in,’ said downtown-area Council Member Lisa Goodman. She noted that performers at the theater are often low-to-moderate-income and that dance tickets are cheaper than live theater on Hennepin. Mayor R.T. Rybak also lauded the council decision.” [*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, 6/3/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will help upgrade the lock and dam near Red Wing, creating about 500 jobs.** [*Minnesota Public Radio*, 5/26/2009]
- **Bemidji insulation installer anticipates hiring more workers.** *Recovery Act* will pay for weatherization projects across Minnesota. [*Associated Press*, 5/24/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will help fund Nobles County construct pipeline, supply water to more residents.** [*The Daily Globe*, 5/20/2009]
- **Dan Marvin of Marvin Windows said *Recovery Act* tax credit has brought consumers back to the market and has been “really great for our company.”** [*Minnesota Public Radio*, 5/15/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* tax credit increased business, allowing Anderson Windows and doors to rehire workers earlier than expected.** [*Minnesota Public Radio*, 5/15/2009]
- **Jerry McClelland plans to use *Recovery Act* tax credit to hire local contractor to upgrade her windows, weatherize home.** [*Minnesota Public Radio*, 5/15/2009]
- **Minnesota governor praises \$130 million in federal unemployment aid.** [*Minnesota Public Radio*, 5/6/2009]