



Fact Sheet

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

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

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 Mississippi** 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 Mississippi are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$281.1 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$3.6 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 Mississippi 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 1.1 million households in Mississippi – 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 Mississippi 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 Mississippians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Concordia Parish police departments will use *Recovery Act* funds to buy computer equipment, a search and rescue boat, and new vehicles.** Concordia Parish Sheriff: “This is a huge windfall for the criminal justice system in Concordia Parish. We are very, very thankful for all of this and it will certainly be put to good use.” [[Natchez Democrat](#), 5/31/2009]
- **The EPA awarded \$19.5 million in *Recovery Act* funds to Mississippi to help upgrade aging water systems.** [[Fort Mill Times](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Thanks to *Recovery Act* money, Jackson will be able to complete transit projects, renovation of grocery store property will create local jobs.** [[Jackson Free Press](#), 5/6/2009]
- **Hinds County will use *Recovery Act* funds to weatherize homes.** Mississippi will spend *Recovery Act* money to develop alternative energy; the program pays the full cost of weatherizing a house for homeowners whose income puts them under two times the national poverty line. [[Jackson Free Press](#), 5/6/2009]