



Fact Sheet

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

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 Montana** 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 Montana are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$82 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$2.7 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 Montana 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 400,000 households in Montana – 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 Montana 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 Montanans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Montana gains \$31.4 million through *Recovery Act* for the purpose of improving national forest roads.** “Road crews soon will be busy along with foresters in western Montana’s national forests, thanks to some recent federal stimulus allocations. Statewide, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will deliver \$31.4 million in roadwork on national forests. Most of that takes place in 12 western counties, including Missoula and Ravalli. In addition, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has up to \$5 million in “Jump Start” dollars for forest restoration and fuels reduction work. [[Missoulian](#), 6/15/2009]
- **Montana Department of Transportation will use *Recovery Act* funds to build nine new facilities and purchase 58 buses.** Of the total amount, \$11.3-million dollars will go toward rural transit providers in areas such as Helena, Laurel, and Miles City. The remainder of the funds will go to Missoula, Billings, and Great Falls. The money will help build nine new facilities, upgrade two and purchase 58 new vehicles. [[MontanasNewsStation.com](#), 6/11/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will pay for tribal governments to improve energy efficiency, infrastructure.** \$5 million was set aside for grants to tribal governments. The State Tribal Economic Development Commission decided to allocate equal amounts for each of eight tribal governments to use on either public infrastructure or energy efficiency projects. [[Billings Gazette](#), 6/11/2009]
- **University of Montana will use *Recovery Act* funds to upgrade school building to be more energy-efficient.** Montana Western Chancellor: “We’ll refurbish floors and walls. We’ll do all kinds of things with the infrastructure in terms of heating and ventilation, air flow, energy projects to make it a much more energy efficient building. We’ll modernize it with technology so we can do a better job with our students and faculty in teaching. If you think about it, this is a model of small town America taking advantage of the stimulus package. We’re doing exactly what the federal government intended.” [[Montana’s News Station](#), 6/10/2009]
- **Montana will spend *Recovery Act* funds improving bridges, roads, “put people to work.”** “Cities and counties throughout Montana will reap a federal stimulus bonanza. The tens of millions of federal dollars the Legislature appropriated for local government stimulus projects will pay for projects the local governments already had plans to do. Now they will have the money to actually do the work.” Executive Director of Montana League of Cities and Towns: “This is probably the largest investment in local government infrastructure in the history of Montana in one legislative session. We’re trying to follow the spirit of the Act. We can put people to work, bring people back who might have been laid off.” [[Billings Gazette](#), 6/11/2009]
- **Billings Police Department received *Recovery Act* funds to fight internet crimes against children.** The department was given more than \$424,000 that will be distributed over a four year period. The money will allow local and state authorities to join forces in the fight against the exploitation of children on the Internet.” [[MontanasNewsStation.com](#), 6/10/2009]

- **Recovery Act money will be used to replace a culvert and resurface roads in Helena National Forest.** The Haun Creek culvert on the Helena Ranger District will be replaced with a bridge that can withstand weather changes without causing resource damage. For the past few years, the creek freezes at the culvert, and during spring thaw uncontrolled flooding takes place.” [[Helena Independent Record](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Montana will use Recovery Act funding to complete construction projects sooner than expected.** “Construction workers will take on more than \$25 million in Montana Department of Transportation roadway projects in the Helena Valley before the year’s out, with the majority of the work getting under way this summer.” [[Helena Independent Record](#), 5/17/2009]
- **Recovery Act funding is driving construction projects in Montana, expected to create 1,300 jobs across the state.** “A federal stimulus windfall — coupled with a drop in material and fuel costs — has ramped up plans for improvements on northcentral Montana roadways this year. What a difference a year makes... Not only are fuel prices down by about half this year, but Montana has millions of dollars for roadwork from the stimulus bill. More than \$47 million in regional projects were identified in March as candidates for federal transportation stimulus dollars, creating an estimated 1,300 more jobs in the state. [[Great Falls Tribune](#), 5/18/2009]
- **Great Falls International Airport will receive more than \$386,000 in Recovery Act funds to buy new security equipment.** The Great Falls Airport will use the \$386,067 from the Transportation Security Administration to buy a high-tech Revel CT80 bomb detector, which will speed up the check-in process by allowing security agents to screen for explosives without opening luggage. [[Great Falls Tribune](#), 5/9/2009]
- **New Helena transit center to be built with Recovery Act funds.** The city plans to build a new transit center that will serve as the major hub for ongoing expansions of the Helena Area Transit Service. It will be located off North Montana Avenue in the sixth ward. [[Montana’s News Station](#), 5/7/2009]