



Fact Sheet

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

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

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 North Dakota** 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 North Dakota are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$91 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 North Dakota 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 300,000 households in North Dakota – 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 North Dakota 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 North Dakotans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Fargo public schools will receive \$9.5 million in *Recovery Act* funds.** “The 9.5 million dollars that will be going into Fargo schools is meant to improve education through technology and curriculum enhancement and hope that those improvements will then in turn stimulate the economy...Truly it's going to stimulate something, if it's the concrete, if it's the score boards, new facilities outside; it's going to stimulate something.” [[WDAY TV](#), 6/9/2009]
- **More contractors bidding on *Recovery Act* road projects.** Industrial Builders have landed two jobs due to the *Recovery Act*. ND DOT spokesman: “This is the largest construction season we’ve ever had.” [[Inforum](#), 6/2/2009]
- **The Jamestown Public School Board made initial allocations of about \$3.2 million in *Recovery Act* funds.** The money can be used for technology, building repairs, professional development, and other sustainable costs over the next two school years. [[Jamestown Sun](#), 5/27/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* money will free up funds to finish construction of the second floor of the new Bismark public school building.** Funding frees up general fund money to complete a technical career center at Bismark State College. [[Bismark Tribune](#), 5/27/2009]
- **Williston Public School District 1 is expecting to receive \$1.9 million in *Recovery Act* funds by September.** Superintendent Viola LaFontaine informed the school board Thursday about the money and briefly discussed where it is to be used. Most of the \$1,925,700 is for building repairs such as fixing roofs throughout the district. The rest is for science and reading books for all grades, busses, supplies and equipment in kindergarten and alternative rooms, library books, a copy machine, freshman orientation, a library security system, strategic planning, curriculum development and music program support. [[Williston Herald](#), 5/22/2009]
- **Bismark will complete four road projects with *Recovery Act* funds this construction season, to be completed by late October.** [[Bismark Tribune](#), 5/19/2009]
- **The Interior Department announced that it will spend nearly \$88 million of *Recovery Act* funds in North Dakota.** Projects include construction at federal wildlife areas to tribal housing improvements. [[Bismark Tribune](#), 5/18/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will be used to move Valley City’s sewer line away from the river.** Project to prevent a repeat of the April 17th collapse that caused sewage and Sheyenne River water to flood basements downtown. [[Valley City Times Record](#), 5/18/2009]
- **The Three Affiliated Tribes says it has received \$9 million from the *Recovery Act*.** Chairman Marcus D. Levings says the money will be used to improve housing, roads and water systems on the Fort Berthold Reservation. [[Bismark Tribune](#), 5/18/2009]

- **Recovery Act funds for North Central Rural Water Consortium projects comes as relief to residents in western McLean and southern Ward counties.** Funding includes: \$3.1 million to construct a new water transmission pipeline, concrete storage facility and pump station to deliver treated water to Ryder and Makoti and rural Ward County; \$2.3 million to expand water service to rural residents of western McLean and southern Ward counties whose wells are often high in iron, manganese, sodium and arsenic; \$480,000 to construct water transmission pipelines to enable Central Plains Rural Water to serve rural Wells, Stutsman and Kidder counties' and more than \$4.8 million to expand the water supply system in McKenzie County, which experiences declining flow rates and pressures, degraded quality and unreliable water service. Senator Dorgan: "I know this money is going to be put to good use. This is a good investment for our country." [[Minot Daily News](#), 5/16/2009]
- **North Dakota will receive \$18.3 million in Recovery Act funds for water improvement projects.** Senator Dorgan: "The ability to get this funding is going to move up anywhere from three to four years the delivery of good, quality water to a lot of families in this region." [[Minot Daily News](#), 5/16/2009]
- **North Dakota retirees can watch for a \$250 economic stimulus payment.** The money is to be sent out throughout the month. The Social Security Administration estimates \$29 million will be distributed in North Dakota. Howard Kossover of the Grand Forks Social Security office says Social Security recipients don't have to do anything special to get the payment. [[Jamestown Sun](#), 5/8/2009]
- **Interior Secretary, visiting United Tribes technical College in Bismark, announced that \$500 million in Recovery Act fund will go to American Indian tribes.** Funding will be used for schools, housing, infrastructure improvements, loans, and job programs on reservations. [[Jamestown Sun](#), 4/27/2009]
- **Minot Air Force Base, New Town, Dunselth, Warwick, St. John, Minnewaukan, Parshall, Fort Totten School Districts will receive Recovery Act funding for modernization and repairs.** [[Minot Daily News](#), 4/16/2009]
- **Experience Works in North Dakota is receiving \$700,000 from Recovery Act.** Funding is enough to help 130 seniors find work for one year. [[Jamestown Sun](#), 4/7/2009]
- **Local senior nutrition programs will share in \$485,000 in Recovery Act money.** The state is receiving \$325,000 for congregate meals and \$160,000 for home-delivered meals that will be distributed to local service providers. [[Minot Daily News](#), 3/20/2009]