



Fact Sheet

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

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 New Mexico** 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 New Mexico are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$127.8 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 New Mexico 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 700,000 households in New Mexico – 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 New Mexico 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 New Mexicans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Recovery Act will fully fund Mesilla roadwork, allowing for drainage, saving town \$40,000.** “Little time or discussion was needed from Mesilla officials Monday as the town's board of trustees accepted \$500,000 in *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* funding for improvements planned for Calle del Norte.” [*Las Cruces Sun-News*, 6/9/2009]
- **Recovery-Act-funded road project in New Mexico enabled Tempe-based FNF Construction to keep staff on board.** Plans “may spur new hires as it reconditions a stretch of U.S. 491 in New Mexico.” [*Phoenix Business Journal*, 6/4/2009]
- **Northwestern New Mexico’s Ramah Navajo Chapter slated to be first Native American tribe to be a recipient of Recovery Act funding.** Chapter will receive more than \$644,000 for road repair. [*Associated Press*, 5/26/2009]
- **First Albuquerque Recovery Act projects set to begin.** “People should start to feel the money, start to see the money being spent in construction here in the next eight weeks.” Projects include solar panels being added to parking structures and bus shelters. Outlets will also be added in the garages to charge up hybrids. [*KOB-NBC*, 5/26/2009]
- **New Mexico will use Recovery Act funds to pay for construction of 22 water projects.** [*New Mexico Business Weekly*, 5/20/2009]
- **Recovery Act will help with economic development at the pueblos.** Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments head: “The stimulus package will help with economic development at the pueblos and we've set up a new environmental planning committee to address uranium mining issues. There are legacy cleanup situations at the mines, mills and tailings sites.” [*Cibola Beacon*, 5/19/2009]
- **Ramah Navajo will spend Recovery Act money on road repairs.** Federally-recognized tribes are eligible for *Recovery Act* funding, based on highway projects’ estimated construction costs, tribal population and the volume of traffic along the route. [*New Mexico Business Weekly*, 5/19/2009]
- **New Mexico’s energy program is getting stimulus funds to retrofit traffic and pedestrian lights to use energy-efficient LED bulbs.** “Gov. Bill Richardson's office says older, incandescent bulbs will be replaced with LED bulbs, which use significantly less electricity. Richardson says the documented savings from switching to LED bulbs at a traffic intersection is at least 80% compared to incandescent bulbs. He says communities will see an immediate reduction in their electric bills.” [*Associated Press*, 5/14/2009]
- **University of New Mexico among four universities across the country will fund global health studies using Recovery Act funds.** “The money, made possible by the *Recovery Act*, will preserve and create U.S. jobs in the timely and competitive arena of global health research.” [*NIH News*, 5/12/2009]

- **Recovery Act funds will be used to repair a road that is currently littered with potholes and severe cracks.** “The city of Bloomfield will begin a pair of road construction projects during the summer months with funding it received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Improvements to West Maple and Third Street will benefit city residents and especially the school district.” [[The Daily Times](#), 5/10/2009]