



Fact Sheet

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

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 York** 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 York are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$502.6 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$3.9 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 New York 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 7.0 million households in New York – 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 York 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 Yorkers, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **Additional *Recovery Act* funds will allow 43 new projects to move forward and create about 2,277 jobs.** “An additional \$95 million in federal stimulus money is coming to New York to allow 43 new projects to move forward. The *Recovery Act* funding announced on Thursday brings the number of projects funded by the program to 217.” [*Associated Press*, 6/12/2009]
- ***Recovery Act*-funded road and bridge projects will employ an estimated 556 workers.** The road and bridge improvements planned for Albany, Essex, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington and Warren counties are expected to create an estimated 556 jobs, according to the Governor’s office. [*Albany Business Journal*, 6/12/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will be used to replace the bridge over Rondout Creek in Kerhonkson.** County Legislator: “The bridge replacement is crucial for emergency services, including the Kerhonkson Fire Department and the Kerhonkson-Accord First Aid Squad. The existing situation has been a major inconvenience for residents of the county...[the project will be] ‘the first step in jump starting economic development on Main Street in Kerhonkson.” [*MidHudsonNews.com*, 6/11/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds estimated to create 350 jobs by water project funding for Long Island.** Projects will bring sewer service to 63 Locust Valley homes with failing septic systems and will build a sewer plant in Brookhaven. [*Newsday*, 6/10/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* Funded NJ-NY tunnel project broke ground Monday.** The Mass Transit Tunnel project, which is also known as Access to the Region’s Core, is the largest mass transit project in the nation. The tunnel will double commuter rail traffic; increase train frequency; create a one-seat ride from Rockland, Orange and northern New Jersey; take 22,000 cars off the road each day; reduce greenhouse gases by 66,000 tons each year; create 6,000 construction-related jobs; and create 44,000 new jobs in the region. [*The Westchester Journal News*, 6/9/2009]
- **Daimler Buses sold 200 bus orders bought with *Recovery Act* funds.** Daimler Buses Chief commercial officer: “I would guarantee you, without this stimulus bill, we would have to curtail our operations.” [*Fox Channel 5 News*, 6/7/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funding will give New York State the capacity to sustain unemployment benefits for 56,000 residents.** “The New York State Senate last week passed legislation (s.4110-a) that will provide an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits to nearly 120,000 currently unemployed New Yorkers.” [*Anton Community Newspapers*, 6/5/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* monies underwrite water projects for three counties through environmental facilities corporation, bringing plaudits from local officials.** New York State cumulatively receiving \$130 million, benefitting 22 communities throughout the state in this stage of *Recovery Act* allocations. [*Watertown Daily Times*, 6/5/2009]

- **Recovery Act's \$5.4 million disbursement to Village of Richfield Springs to overhaul wastewater treatment facility is "vital."** The refurbished Richfield wastewater plant, originally built in 1972 will allow the village to more consistently and efficiently achieve discharge requirements, thereby improving water quality. [[Oneonta Daily Star](#), 6/5/2009]
- **The effects of the Recovery Act are being seen in the Hudson Valley.** Funds are paying for road projects, a youth jobs program, and an elevator to the walkway over the Hudson. [[Poughkeepsie Journal](#), 6/3/2009]
- **First Recovery Act project to begin in the Syracuse region: \$7.7 million bridge construction.** Crews will replace the existing bridge with a new structure and improve pedestrian and cyclist paths throughout the project area in Cicero. Governor Paterson: "Just as President Obama and the State Congressional Delegation acted diligently to secure these federal stimulus funds, so too must we act diligently to certify the shovel-ready projects that will help get New Yorkers back to work. The revitalization of our local economies and needed improvements to our transportation systems will benefit communities across the State will benefit, just as they will our neighbors in Cicero and throughout Central New York." [[Press Release – Gov. David Patterson](#), 6/2/2009]
- **Local community action agency received Recovery Act funds for weatherization projects, small business development, and transitional independent living for youth.** "Two area agencies are dealing with increasing poverty in the region – and will use federal stimulus package money to help poorer area residents. Chautauqua Opportunities and Cattaraugus Community Action officials say there is greater demand than ever for their services... Some of the economic stimulus money the agency will get will go to help people fix older houses, which will increase neighborhood home values and also reduce heating bills, leading eventually to less money paid out each year in government subsidies." [[The Post-Journal](#), 5/31/2009]
- **"Meet the stimulus hires" – Patricia Dunn of Mount Kisco.** "After Katrina I went down to coastal Mississippi as a volunteer Red Cross nurse. It was hands-on patient care. I hadn't had that working in management – that was just a job. I didn't have the passion. So I applied to Open Door in November. They didn't have a full-time position, but then I got a call that they had gotten extra funding through the stimulus... Before, the chief medical officer was working alone and could only see scheduled patients. Other patients would have to go to the ER. Changing that is huge." [[Fortune](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Albany plans to use stimulus money to stabilize two historic buildings.** City will renovate two others, and tear down others that are unsafe. [[The Times Union](#), 5/29/2009]
- **A Recovery Act-funded construction project on Oriskany Boulevard will put 60 people to work.** "This Whitestown project is a little more than \$2.3 million and will be performed by a Syracuse area construction company which won the bid for this project. In all 60 employees will be put to work." [[WKTV.com](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Crawford County economic director: Crawford's unemployment rate decreased slightly from March.** Expects stimulus-funded job programs will put more people to work, help employers find workers. [[Telegraph-Forum](#), 5/28/2009]

- **Iconic “Betty’s Restaurant” in Buffalo expands via small business administration loan under *Recovery Act*.** [[Buffalo News](#), 5/26/2009]
- **Central New York will receive \$11.3 million in recovery funds for transportation projects that will create 269 jobs.** [[WTVB](#), 5/21/2009]
- **The owner of a New York construction company was able to rehire laid-off seasonal employees after it won contracts for *Recovery Act*-funded projects.** [[The Post-Standard](#), 5/20/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will fund waterfront development in Buffalo.** Project will draw more business and consumers to the area. [[WGRZ News Channel 2](#), 5/19/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funding has dramatically lowered the cost of building a new sewage treatment plant in Middletown.** Project will prevent residents from facing a jump in sewer bills. [[Times Herald-Record](#), 5/18/2009]
- **New York State will use *Recovery Act* funds to upgrade its unemployment insurance program.** Plans could lead to higher weekly benefits. [[Buffalo News](#), 5/15/2009]
- **New York lawmakers approved changes to the state unemployment insurance system to make state eligible for \$645 million in *Recovery Act* money.** Plan will prevent more than 100,000 New Yorkers from running out of jobless benefits. [[New York Times](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Binghamton will receive nearly a million dollars in stimulus money over three years to fight homelessness.** [[WIVT/WBGH](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Cornell University will receive \$11.54 million in *Recovery Act* funds to establish a new Energy Frontier Research Center.** [[Ithaca Journal](#), 5/12/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds made it possible for New York City to increase the number of summer jobs available to young people.** City can offer 51,000 jobs, an increase of 8,000 from last year. [[New York Times](#), 5/9/2009]
- **Four *Recovery Act*-funded construction projects in New York City have begun.** “Campanella, 33, an electrician recently out of work for six months, was cutting conduit pipe last week at Staten Island’s Ferry Terminal – home to the first stimulus-backed project to get started in the city. ‘Hopefully, this is the beginning of a lot of work,’ said Campanella, the father of a 10-month-old son with another child on the way. ‘Personally, I’m just excited to be in a field that might actually benefit from the new ideas Obama is putting on the table.’” [[Daily News](#), 5/10/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* grants will increase new labs built, purchases of lab equipment, hiring of technicians, lab assistants.** Manhattan-based team will focus on proteins that protect rhesus monkeys from HIV-1, the virus that causes most human AIDS. [[Bloomberg](#), 5/6/2009]
- **Perinton, New York will receive more than \$2 million in *Recovery Act* funds for road projects.** [[MPN Now](#), 5/6/2009]

- **The Huntington Town Board approved \$7 million in recovery funds to reconstruct the Walt Whitman Road in Melville.** [[Newsday](#), 5/6/2009]