



Fact Sheet

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

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 Oklahoma** 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 Oklahoma are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$381 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$2.8 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 Oklahoma 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 1.3 million households in Oklahoma – 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 Oklahoma 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 Oklahomans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- ***Recovery Act* funds expanding Oklahoma’s employment services for disabled citizens.** “The state rehabilitation services Department recently got \$7.6 million in federal stimulus funds, opening up service to hundreds of people who were on a waiting list. Economic stimulus money will be put directly in the hands of local employers and nonprofit groups to provide on-the-job training and permanent employment to people with disabilities.” [[Tulsa World](#), 6/9/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will help pay for homeless resource center and day shelter in Oklahoma City.** [[The Oklahoman](#), 6/2/2009]
- **The Stillwater Regional Airport will use *Recovery Act* funds to fix a deteriorating runway.** The grant is the largest one ever received by Stillwater's airport authority. [[Associated Press](#), 5/24/2009]
- **The first *Recovery Act*-funded transportation project, replacing two structurally deficient bridges, will start after Memorial Day.** [[news6.com](#), 5/24/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will pay for Tulsa’s buses to be replaced.** Switch to environmentally friendly compressed natural gas in buses will save money, create jobs for those converting maintenance shop to CNG. [[KOTV Channel 6 News](#), 5/21/2009]
- **Because of *Recovery Act* funding, what it would have taken us six or seven years to do, we’ll be able to do in the next 18 months.** Oklahoma transportation secretary: “The funds not only work to support ODOT construction workers and contractors, but those who work to make the asphalt, steel and dozens of other items needed to build and repair roads and bridges.” [[The Journal Record](#), 5/20/2009]
- **Oklahoma is set to receive *Recovery Act* funds for national parks, Native American affairs, and law enforcement.** [[The Oklahoman](#), 5/14/2009]