



Fact Sheet

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June 16, 2009

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

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

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 Pennsylvania** 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 Pennsylvania are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$725.4 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$147.9 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$600,000 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 Pennsylvania 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 4.8 million households in Pennsylvania – 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvanians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **\$12 million acquired from *Recovery Act* will renovate Croydon Railroad Station in Bristol, a major hub between Pennsylvania and Trenton, NJ.** “Officials said remodeling will provide a state-of-the-art facility for riders while improving transportation in the area. The project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is one of 32 projects planned by SEPTA.” [*CBS 3 – Philadelphia*, 6/15/2009]
- **The Lancaster School District received a *Recovery Act* grant to replace outdated, inefficient cafeteria equipment.** The modest grant is significant for what it represents: the first trickle in an estimated \$44 million stream of stimulus funds for Lancaster County's public schools over the next two years. [*Intelligencer Journal*, 6/11/2009]
- **IA Construction Corporation supplied with \$2.3 million from the *Recovery Act* will replace three bridges in Fairhope Township.** The three structures that are under the design/build part of the contract are the bridge on Route 2019 – Fairhope Road – and two bridges on Route 2021 – Shaffers Run Road. [*Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*, 6/8/2009]
- **Allegany County granted \$200,000 to generate 100 employment opportunities for young people.** Local officials gratified to have funding to improve job prospects for teenagers. [*Cumberland Times-News*, 6/8/2009]
- **Cambria County will receive \$1.5 million to reinforce three bridges.** Projects will improve transportation efficiency and public safety. [*Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*, 6/5/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* resources buttress expansion of Pennsylvania’s COBRA health benefits through 65 percent subsidy.** [*Philadelphia Inquirer*, 6/4/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will fund sewer repairs in Porter Township.** [*Sun Gazette*, 6/3/2009]
- **\$524,947 from *Recovery Act* used to replace superstructure of Salem Township bridge.** Northeastern Pennsylvania expected to be site of \$72 million in aggregate from *Recovery Act*. [*Pocono News*, 6/2/2009]
- **The TSA will use *Recovery Act* funds to streamline baggage screening and improve security at the airports in Erie and Philadelphia.** [*Erie Times-News*, 5/31/2009]
- **First time homebuyers tax credit will improve housing market by increased incentive to purchase, in conjunction with action by Pennsylvania government.** For purchases of homes between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30, the credit is 10 percent of the purchase price, up to a maximum credit of \$8,000. To qualify, the buyer must not have owned and used a home as a principal residence for the three years preceding settlement. [*Intelligencer Journal*, 6/1/2009]

- **Local company won contract to administer *Recovery Act*-funded summer jobs for Lancaster County youths.** “The program will provide career camps, skills training and jobs this summer for 300 to 400 local low-income young people ages 14 to 24.” [[Lancaster New Era](#), 5/29/2009]
- **\$10 million bridge repair marks the first Western Pennsylvania *Recovery Act*-funded project.** Gov. Ed Rendell says the \$10 million project on the Beaver-Rochester Bridge will create 40 jobs and use the services of five companies, four from western Pennsylvania. [[Associated Press](#), 5/28/2009]
- **The Erie Police Department will use *Recovery Act* funds to buy equipment.** Plans include purchase of six vehicles, a fingerprint identification machine, and an upgraded video system. [[The Times-News](#), 5/24/2009]
- **STEP, Inc. enhances weatherization in Lycoming, Clinton counties in Pennsylvania through *Recovery Act*.** “There will be job creation, subcontracting and materials purchase. The beauty of it, too, is that we will be helping a lot of people reduce their energy costs.” [[Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#), 5/26/2009]
- **Norristown officials briefed small businesses on how to take advantage of *Recovery Act* help.** “Our purpose is to make sure minority- and women-owned businesses have a seat at the table.” [[The Times Herald](#), 5/22/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* will increase funding for lower income families’ weatherization and train workers on installing new insulation.** The \$250 million represents a five-fold increase in annual spending on state weatherization effort. [[The Times Herald](#), 5/22/2009]
- **Pennsylvania will use *Recovery Act* for clean water projects.** [[The Times Herald](#), 5/22/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* package is showing some results.** “Like individuals in recovery, the nation as a whole would be wise to savor small successes and take life one day at a time.” [[Delaware County Times](#), Editorial, 5/18/2009]
- **Mayor Nutter announced that \$14 million in recovery funds will be used for workforce development in Philadelphia.** Investments for adult and dislocated workers are expected to be targeted in two areas – re-employing workers displaced in the recession and increasing the employability of displaced workers and other Philadelphians. [[Philadelphia Center City Weekly Press](#), 5/12/2009]
- **Menallen will spend *Recovery Act* funds on providing 16 homes with public water.** [[Herald Standard](#), 5/9/2009]
- **Pennsylvania hopes to hire 216 corrections officers through *Recovery Act*-funded grant.** [[Gant Daily](#), 5/7/2009]
- **Pennsylvania and New Jersey research institutions are submitting hundreds of applications for NIH grants paid by *Recovery Act* funding.** [[Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 5/6/2009]

- **Delaware County could benefit from *Recovery Act* funds to upgrade libraries to high bandwidth internet access.** Nationwide, libraries are competing for stimulus funds. [[Associated Press](#), 5/5/2009]