



# Fact Sheet

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## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Rhode Island**

### **Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Rhode Island**

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 Rhode Island** 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 Rhode Island are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$103.4 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 Rhode Island 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 400,000 households in Rhode Island – 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Islanders, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- ***Recovery Act* funding will be directed to affordable housing projects in Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Washington State.** These states have elected to exchange a portion of their unused allocation of low-income housing tax credit for direct cash assistance, which will be then transferred to affordable housing developers. [[Thomson Reuters](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Rhode Island to be awarded \$36.8 million of *Recovery Act* resources for low-income housing tax credit program.** Rhode Island will use the money to support building, buying and rehabilitating housing for low-income families and individuals. In the process, the state will use the money to preserve and create jobs, especially in the construction industry. The *Recovery Act* money will create an estimated 800 construction jobs this summer and result in 300 affordable homes. [[Providence Journal](#), 6/4/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will create 821 summer jobs for young people in Providence at 30 local agencies and a handful of municipal departments.** The work opportunities will have the double benefit of bolstering community organizations and exposing young people to new skills, potential career paths, and a better understanding of the community around them. [[Providence Journal](#), 6/3/2009]
- **Thousands of young people from low-income families will be the recipients of jobs made possible by \$4 million in funding from the *Recovery Act*.** 900 summer jobs will be created through the investment of \$2 million of the federal money in programs chosen by the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island, which serves all cities and towns except Providence and Cranston. And 800 jobs will be available to Providence and Cranston residents through \$1.9 million being funneled into the city-based Workforce Solutions of Providence and Cranston. [[Providence Journal](#), 6/2/2009]
- ***Fortune's* "Meet the stimulus hires" – Wellington Hall of Providence.** "I went to get a master's degree last year and got an internship with the Department of Transportation. I was told it would take a long time to get hired. This year, they saw 300 résumés for 70 internships. But when the state gave them stimulus funding, I was one of the first in line to get hired for a new gig... The DOT is going to start me off reviewing things we get from consultants, doing field work, checking plans, and responding to any customer-service calls we get." [[Fortune](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Rhode Island officials say that *Recovery Act* money is arriving just in time to save hundreds of jobs in schools statewide.** [[The Providence Journal](#), 5/20/2009]
- **Rhode Island picks up \$1.8 million in federal 'brownfields' funding to clean up the chlorinated hydrocarbons that were part of the solvents used by the laundry.** The mill can be renovated and sold for re-use to become a vibrant building once again. [[Woonsocket Call](#), 5/18/2009]
- **Warwick police chief expects to use \$321,583 in *Recovery Act* funds to upgrade equipment.** [[Warwick Beacon](#), 4/2/2009]

- **Rhode Island to receive \$300,000 for arts from *Recovery Act*.** The state's share will be channeled through the Rhode Island State Council on the Art and will be available to arts groups in grants of \$2,500 and \$12,500. Any nonprofit group with a "significant arts component" is eligible. [*Providence Journal*, 3/21/2009]
- **Social Security recipients can expect an extra check for \$250.** Senator Whitehouse: "These economic recovery payments will mean over \$34 million in additional funds for the state's seniors and disabled citizens, who are among the most likely to spend rather than save any additional income, helping further stimulate the economy." [*Providence Journal Moneyline*, 4/13/2009]