



Fact Sheet

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

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 South Carolina** 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 South Carolina are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$193.2 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 South Carolina 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 1.7 million households in South Carolina – 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 South Carolina 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 South Carolinians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **The City of Anderson will receive *Recovery Act* funds to buy two buses and pay for the construction of ten bus shelters.** [[Independent Mail](#), 6/10/2009]
- **USC was selected by the Department of Energy to house one of its energy frontier research centers, an award that will be paid for primarily by *Recovery Act* funds.** The team of professors and students will focus their research on materials necessary for the production of devices such as fuel cells, combustion devices, electrodes, etc.” [[The Daily Gamecock \(USC\)](#), 6/3/2009]
- ***Fortune*’s “Meet the stimulus hires” – Bobby Jones of Aiken.** “I was working construction on the site, and it looked like someone would be getting laid off. But with stimulus money going to the Department of Energy, they were able to swap us over to the disassembly part of the site. The stimulus is helping – people are feeling better about getting to stay longer on the job. They actually have something to look forward to. I hope once the stimulus is over that feeling will continue.” [[Fortune](#); 6/1/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will pay to redevelop, detoxify brownfields across South Carolina.** [[Environmental Protection Online](#), 5/19/2009]
- **South Carolina Tech company CSI won contract to set up accounting software to help seniors.** [[CSI Release](#), via Marketwire, 5/20/2009]
- **Despite skepticism about *Recovery Act* bill, small business initiatives are making loan applications simpler, faster, helping businesses grow.** [[Florence Morning News](#), Editorial, 5/19/2009]
- **Governor Sanford should use the *Recovery Act* money rather than refuse it for purpose of political posturing.** “The stimulus money is supposed to do what its name implies, stimulate the economy and supplement budget cuts to education and public safety to keep people in their jobs. And that’s what should be the guiding principle here: Not who’s in control but what’s best for the people they’re all responsible for serving. In our view, that would be accepting — and using — the stimulus money to aid our state and its people in getting through what has so far been a devastating recession.” [[Anderson Independent Mail](#), Editorial, 5/17/2009]
- **Legislators urged to use federal stimulus funding to lessen the budget woes of the state’s school districts, which will still face detrimental job and budget cuts.** [[Greenville News](#), Editorial, 5/18/2009]
- **School districts and police departments desperately need the money to avoid layoffs that surely will reduce the effectiveness of public education and public safety.** “S.C. residents should tell the governor to accept all the stimulus money and stop attempting to force his reforms on folks who do not agree and at a time when South Carolina's focus must be on economic recovery.” [[Sun-News](#), Editorial, 5/13/2009]