



Fact Sheet

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

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

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 Vermont** 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 Vermont are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$50 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 Vermont 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 300,000 households in Vermont – 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 Vermont 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 Vermonters, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **\$5,295,000 granted to Green Mountain National Forest for projects ranging from roads to waterway improvement.** Five projects on and around the Green Mountain National Forest will create jobs while contributing improvements to public health, safety and access to the Forest. Two road rehabilitation projects will improve water quality by reducing sediments in Vermont streams and help restore aquatic habitat for fish in areas affected by road erosion. Other projects will improve fish passage by replacing stream crossings, bridges and culverts, while opening two miles of fish spawning and rearing habitat. [[Press Release – Senator Patrick Leahy](#), 6/8/2009]
- **First-time home owners are receiving an \$8,000 federal tax credit, paid for by the *Recovery Act*.** “The new credit can get money in the pockets of first-time homebuyers quickly.” [[Burlington Free Press](#), 5/29/2009]
- **Vermont Rural Ventures Inc. receives \$30 million for tax credits related to low-income housing development.** The money will help invigorate the state's languishing construction industry. [[Burlington Free Press](#), /528/2009]
- **The Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is getting a *Recovery Act* grant to combat child exploitation.** “The money will be used to maintain and expand the state's efforts to combat child exploitation on the Internet.” [[Associated Press](#), 5/24/2009]
- **Vermont has applied for a \$22 million clean energy grant from the *Recovery Act* to add to the state clean energy development fund.** Funding would encourage \$150 million of total expenditure on energy projects. [[All American Patriots](#), 5/14/2009]