



Fact Sheet

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

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 Washington** 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 Washington are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$431.9 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$114.4 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$7.7 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 Washington 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 2.5 million households in Washington – 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 Washington 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 Washingtonians, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **The Washington State Arts Commission will distribute *Recovery Act* funds to arts groups that are trying to preserve jobs.** [[Puget Sound Business Journal](#), 6/8/2009]
- **In wake of lower than anticipated construction bids, Washington State will witness larger volume of highway projects *Recovery Act* funds.** Governor Gregoire: “At a time when every penny counts, these lower construction cost estimates will provide more opportunities for infrastructure improvements. We are seeing the benefits of managing these recovery funds efficiently and effectively as required by the Obama administration.” [[Press Release – Governor Christine Gregoire](#), 6/8/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds 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]
- **Pedestrians and cyclists can soon expect a little relief getting back and forth along the I-5 overpass at 196th Street Southwest.** By April 2010, a new *Recovery Act* pedestrian bridge will save walkers and cyclists from having to take their chances against cars exiting the southbound off-ramp from I-5. [[Lynnwood Enterprise](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Washington State distributed \$19.9 million from *Recovery Act* funds for the purpose of ensuring employment opportunities for young people.** Community Youth Services has received a \$442,000 contract from the Workforce Development Council to put between 180 and 200 young people to work this summer. [[The Olympian](#), 6/2/2009]
- **The first round of *Recovery Act*-funded hiring for 400 jobs at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation is under way.** A combination of the promise of pay starting about \$20 an hour, good benefits and 26 weeks of paid training for the jobs had Hanford workers with access to his cell number jockeying to recommend people for the jobs. [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Company will receive *Recovery Act* funds to work on a machine that would compress carbon dioxide so it could be pumped into the earth, reducing emissions into the atmosphere.** The federal money will help Bellevue company Ramgen finish its technology sooner so it can work with other companies dealing with the carbon capture and injection processes. [[The Seattle Times](#), 5/31/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will allow Seattle and King County to employ 850 young people for the summer.** [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), 5/29/2009]

- **Recovery Act affects projects across Washington State in national effort to generate and save jobs, from education programs to broadband access.** [[Spokesman-Review](#), 6/1/2009]
- **Millions of Recovery Act funds dedicated to improving education in Washington State.** [KHQ-NBC, /527/2009]
- **Recovery Act funds will pay for Bellevue company Ramgen to create local engineering jobs, develop carbon capture technology.** Ramgen CEO: method not just for coal, can be applied widely. [[Puget Sound Business Journal](#), 5/22/2009]
- **Washington State will hire 50 construction workers with Recovery Act funds to build new transportation maintenance facility.** [[KEPR TV Channel 19 News](#), 5/20/2009]
- **Washington State will receive \$3.58 million in Recovery Act funds to repave I-5 in Lewis County.** This three-month project will support an estimated 45 jobs. [[Governor Chris Gregoire](#) , 5/15/2009]
- **Columbia River project will be completed with help of \$26.6 million in Recovery Act funds.** [[Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), 5/13/2009]
- **Commissioner said Recovery Act funds will provide “jump start” on improving access to East Bremerton.** Constructing road will create jobs, “pay dividends in the next couple years.” [[Kitsap Sun](#), 5/7/2009]