

2010



Pennsylvania
U.S. Senator Bob Casey



THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

CREATING AND SAVING JOBS IN PENNSYLVANIA



A MESSAGE FROM SENATOR CASEY

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is helping get our economy out of the ditch by creating jobs and aiding those hardest hit by the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

On the national level, ARRA is helping to stabilize our economy while investing in long-term economic growth. It is providing tax relief for working families, investing in infrastructure, bolstering local law enforcement, allocating much-needed aid to states and additional unemployment insurance. Many of the Act's provisions are designed to be carried out over a two year period, which means that ARRA has not yet been fully implemented. The Act therefore is projected to provide additional economic benefits in 2010 and beyond. The bill includes unprecedented accountability and transparency provisions that are ensuring that the public has access to timely information about the Act.



This bill is good for Pennsylvania. The bill is helping a company in Westmoreland County create jobs and develop energy efficient technologies. It is bolstering economic development in Lancaster, building affordable housing in Philadelphia, and helping a women-owned small business in Bellefonte manufacture medical devices. These are just a few examples of how the Recovery Act is helping to stabilize the Commonwealth's economy. Pennsylvania is on track to receive **more than \$26 billion** through this bill, including billions in direct tax relief and more than \$13.5 billion in formula-driven funding for health, education, infrastructure, job training, and other aid.^[1]



That being said, for the 560,000 people out of work in the Commonwealth, ARRA is not working fast enough. Many Pennsylvanians have lost their job through no fault of their own. The unemployment rate in eight of Pennsylvania's 14 metropolitan areas remains above 8 percent. We have made progress responding to the economic crisis, but we need to implement new strategies that will put people back to work now. One idea that I've suggested is a tax credit that will help businesses on the cusp of expanding to hire additional workers now. I will continue to support policies that will accelerate job creation in the short-term while laying the foundation for a return to economic prosperity in the long-term.

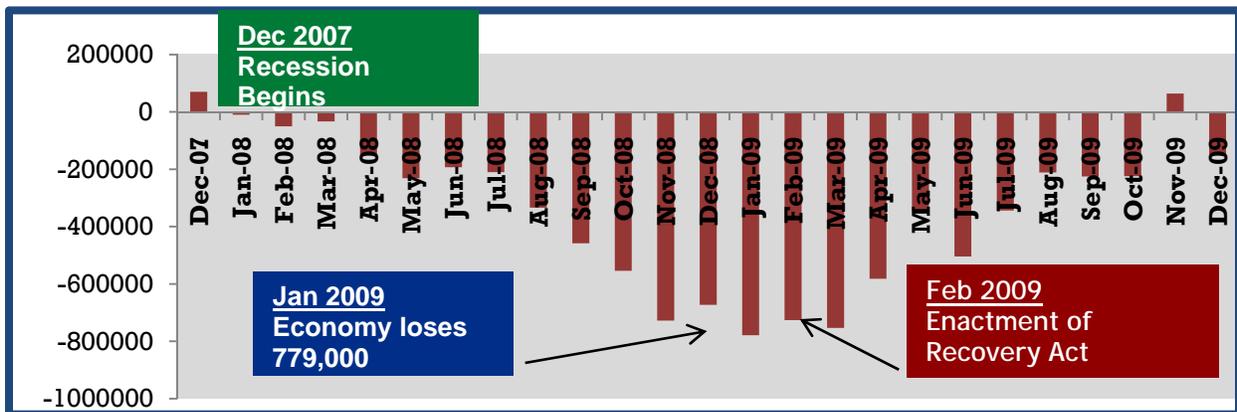
The following pages provide details on the implementation to date of the ARRA in Pennsylvania. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the content of this guide, please feel free to contact my office.

^[1] <http://recovery.pa.gov/>

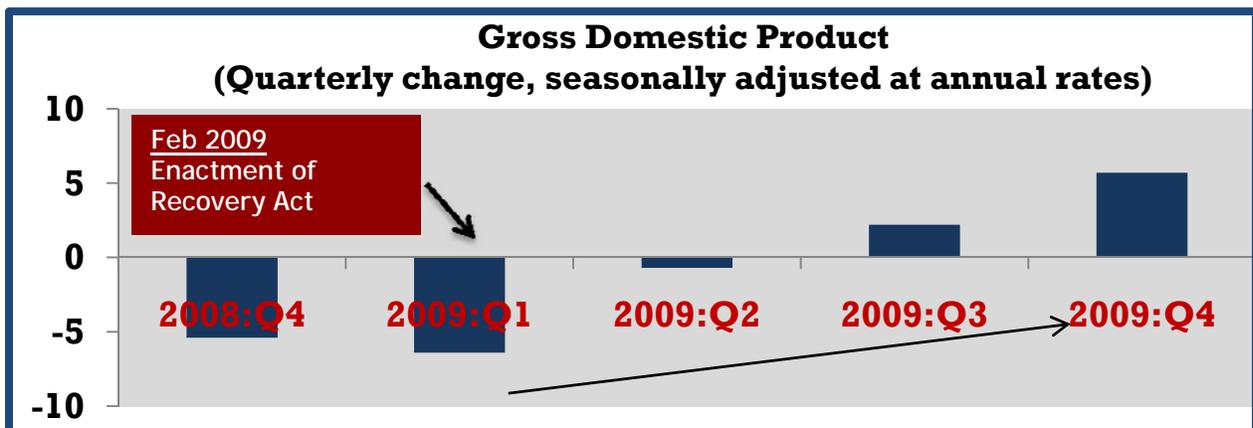
STABILIZING THE ECONOMY

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has stabilized the economy. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that “an additional 600,000 to 1.6 million people were employed in the United States and real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic was 1.2 percent to 3.2 percent higher than would have been the case in the absence of the ARRA.”^[1] More people are currently employed and more goods and services are being produced as a result of ARRA. Put another way, if ARRA was not enacted, the economic situation would be much worse than it is today.

National Jobs Picture: Since ARRA’s passage in February 2009, job losses have swung from a staggering 779,000 lost in January 2009 to a gain of 64,000 in November.



National Economic Growth: Growth in GDP, which measures the total value of annual output of goods and services produced within a nation’s borders, is equally encouraging. In the first quarter of 2009, the economy shrank 6.4 percent. Since enactment of ARRA in February 2009, the economy has grown, experiencing 5.7 percent growth in the last quarter of 2009.



^[1] Estimated Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on Employment and Economic Output as of September 2009, Congressional Budget Office, November 2009, <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/106xx/doc10682/11-30-ARRA.pdf>.

OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT IN PENNSYLVANIA

Tax Relief for Pennsylvania Families and Business^[2]

The bill is providing an estimated \$10.8 billion^[3] in tax relief to households and businesses in Pennsylvania. Key examples of the tax relief provisions included in ARRA are as follows:

- Up to **\$400** for workers (or **\$800** for married couples) in the new Making Work Pay Tax Credit for **4.9 million** workers and their families
- **\$250** to Social Security beneficiaries, SSI recipients and disabled veterans
- **\$2,500** for **138,000 additional families** in Pennsylvania qualify for the new American Opportunity Tax Credit that makes college more affordable for 3.8 million families nationwide
- Extended and increased **Homebuyer Tax Credit** has helped aspiring homeowners and stabilize plummeting home prices
- Extended **Bonus Depreciation and Small Business Expensing** (through 2009) has allowed businesses that make capital investments to immediately deduct one-half the cost. Small businesses can immediately deduct 100 percent of the cost of these investments

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has protected over 26 million working families across the nation from the **Alternative Minimum Tax**, representing thousands of dollars in additional income taxes.

Extended Unemployment Insurance for Pennsylvania

According to the National Employment Law Project, an additional **\$100** in unemployment insurance benefits has been offered to approximately **1.1 million workers** who have lost their jobs. In addition, the Recovery Act has alleviated the tax burden for already struggling Americans collecting unemployment benefits by **temporarily suspending the federal income tax on the first \$2,400 of benefits per recipient in 2009.**

^[2] White House; Senate Committee on Finance

^[3] Pennsylvania Stimulus Oversight Commission

Direct Investments^[4,5]

The bill has already provided or will provide investments in several areas of Pennsylvania's economy. It is investing in the Commonwealth's infrastructure—our roads and bridges, mass transit, rail, air, clean water and broadband—and providing crucial resources that will help alleviate budget shortfalls on the state level. It is providing an immediate injection of local community development and housing projects. These immediate and substantial investments have helped reduce pressures on state and local governments. The following pages provide a sampling of some of the funding that's already been allocated or will be allocated over the coming months.

Transportation and Infrastructure for Pennsylvania

- **\$1 billion** in funding for **highways and bridges** for activities eligible under the Federal-aid Highway Program's Surface Transportation Program.
- **\$347 million** for **mass transit projects**
- **The bill also provides \$4.6 billion nationwide for funding for the Corps of Engineers.** While these dollars will be administered on the federal, as opposed to state, level, the four Corps districts with jurisdiction over Pennsylvania have numerous projects that are "ready to go" that have received an injection of new funding
- **\$223.8 million for clean water and drinking water projects.**

Economic and Community Development

- **\$1 billion nationwide for the Community Development Block Grant** program for community and economic development projects including housing and services for those hit hard by tough economic times

Law Enforcement in Pennsylvania

- **\$73.2 million** in **Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants** to support state and local law enforcement efforts.
- **\$1 million in Internet Crimes Against Children Grants** for law enforcement agencies. Funding is targeted towards enhancing the investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems or other computer technology to sexually exploit children

^[4] Democratic Policy Committee, United State Senate; It is not a complete listing of all the programs included in the legislation. Due to rounding, the sum of the programs may not equal the estimated total.

^[5] <http://recovery.gov>; <http://recovery.pa.gov/>

- **\$6.4 million** in **Violence Against Women Grants** for victim services programs to improve the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women and to assist victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking who are in need of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance and related support services

Energy for Pennsylvania

- **\$99.6 million** through the **State Energy Program**, which provides grants to states and directs funding to state energy offices. States, in turn, use grants to address their energy priorities and program funding to adopt emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies
- **\$253 million** through the **Weatherization Assistance Program**, which enables families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient

Housing

- **\$212 million** through the **Public Housing Capital Fund** to enable local public housing agencies to address a national \$32 billion backlog in capital needs – especially those improving energy efficiency in aging developments – in this critical element of the nation's affordable housing infrastructure
- **\$95 million** in **HOME Funding** to enable state and local government, in partnership with community-based organizations, to acquire, construct and rehabilitate affordable housing and provide rental assistance to poor families
- **\$90.4 million** through the **Homelessness Prevention Fund** to be used for prevention activities, which include: short or medium-term rental assistance, first and last month's rental payment or utility payments. As such, most of this funding will go directly into the economy of local communities, as the funds will be used to pay housing and other associated costs in the private market

Education and Training in Pennsylvania

- **\$1.6 billion** through the **State Fiscal Stabilization Fund** to local school districts and public colleges and universities in addition to incentive grants as a reward for meeting key education performance measures and additional funding for other high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education
- **\$427 million** for **Special Education Part B State Grants** to help improve educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities, raising the federal contribution to nearly 40 percent, the level established when the law was authorized more than 30 years ago

- **\$25.4 million** in **education technology funds** to purchase up-to-date computers and software and provide professional development to ensure the technology is used effectively in the classroom
- **\$523.8 million** for **Title I Education for the Disadvantaged** to help close the achievement gap and enable disadvantaged students to reach their potential
- **\$15.1 million** in **State Employment Service Grants** to match unemployed individuals to job openings through state employment service agencies and allow Pennsylvania to provide customized reemployment services
- **\$42.5 million** in **Dislocated Workers State Grants**, particularly for grants that support immediate strategies for regions and communities to meet their need for skilled workers, as well as longer-term plans to build targeted industry clusters with better training and a more productive workforce
- **\$16.5 million** for **Department of Labor's Adult State Grants**; **\$40.6 million** for **Department of Labor's Youth State Grants**; and **\$20.9 million** for **Vocational Rehabilitation** to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and sustain gainful employment

Helping Those Affected by the Economic Downturn in Pennsylvania

- **\$3.4 million** for **National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance**
- **\$4 million** through the **Emergency Food Assistance Program**
- **\$780 million** in **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits** (formerly Food Stamps)
- **\$3.8 million** for the **Emergency Food and Shelter Program**, which provides grants to nonprofit and faith-based organizations at the local level to supplement their programs for emergency food and shelter to provide for the immediate needs of the homeless
- **\$60.1 million** in **Child Care and Development Block Grants** to provide quality child care services for in low-income families who increasingly are unable to afford the high cost of day care
- **\$22.9 million** for **Head Start** to allow additional children to participate in this program, which provides development, educational, health, nutritional, social and other activities that prepare children to succeed in school
- **\$42.6 million** in **Community Services Block Grants** to local community action agencies for services to the growing numbers of low-income families hurt by the economic crisis.

SUCCESS STORIES

On the following pages, you will find some examples of how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is creating and saving jobs in Pennsylvania. [Click here to read more stories](#) from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Powerex, Inc. - Creating Jobs and Building a Green Economy

Powerex, Inc., located in Westmoreland County, manufactures power semiconductors and energy products. The funding Powerex received through the Recovery Act is creating jobs and making their company more competitive in the new 'green economy'.

The Recovery Act designated \$2.4 billion to accelerate the manufacturing and deployment of the next generation of U.S. batteries and electric vehicles—the largest single investment in advanced battery technology for hybrid and electric-drive vehicles ever made. Powerex is just one of the many companies benefiting from this investment.

With funds from the Recovery Act, Powerex will create an electric drive semiconductor development, qualification, and production center. This new automated production center will be capable of producing silicon and silicon carbide modules used in inverters for the electric vehicle, aerospace and industrial marketplaces. This project is expected to create an estimated 42 new manufacturing and technical jobs once the Center is in full production.

I recently visited Powerex, where I had the opportunity to tour the facility and hear firsthand how the company is benefitting from ARRA. The CEO of Powerex told me that not only does this funding create jobs; it will be “invested in an automated production center and test equipment which will afford us opportunities to compete against foreign competitors.”

“WITH THE \$8.3 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT, POWEREX EXPECTS TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL 40 JOBS.”

**--CRAIG MORROW, POWEREX
CEO, WESTMORELAND COUNTY**

City of Lancaster- Providing Local Governments with Resources

“THE IMPACT OF ARRA FUNDS ON LANCASTER HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT, VISIBLE, AND VARIED. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EXPANSION, ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES, JOB TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, HAVE ALL BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE ARRA PROVIDED THE CRITICAL SUPPORT.”

--CITY OF LANCASTER MAYOR RICK GRAY

Like many local governments across the Commonwealth, the Recovery Act has provided the City of Lancaster with funding to promote economic development and address infrastructure needs.

For example, the City has received grants to renovate the Lancaster Amtrak station and expand Red Rose Transit’s Queen Street Bus station. The School District of Lancaster has used ARRA funds to renovate two of its elementary schools.

The City government has also received an injection of funding to

undertake energy efficiency projects and economic development projects.

Piezo Resonance Innovations, Inc. – Small Business Success

Piezo Resonance Innovations, Inc. (PRII), a women-owned small business located in Bellefonte, develops medical devices that exhibit greater performance than those currently available resulting in improved outcomes and patient care. In 2010, PRII will begin manufacturing high value added medical components in Bellefonte. In addition to commercial partner projects, PRII uses Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and other funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Defense to develop high-value, innovative devices with a clinical and market need.

“UTILIZING THE NSF GRANT SUPPORTED BY THE RECOVERY ACT, PRII HIRED AND RETAINED SEVERAL KEY ENGINEERS ENABLING A FAST TRACKED DEVICE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE. PRII PLANS TO SEEK FDA APPROVAL AND BEGIN MANUFACTURING IN 2010.”

--MAUREEN L. MULVIHILL, PHD, PRES. & CEO

Using National Science Foundation grants supported by the Recovery Act, PRII is developing critical care technologies for clearing Feeding Tube for patients that can no longer feed themselves such as patients with traumatic injury or elderly illness such as Dementia, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, or Cancer. The devices have been positively reviewed by over forty

nurses and doctors. PRII has steadily grown since its incorporation in 2006, doubling revenue each year supported by medical company partnerships and federal grants.

School District of the City of Erie – Enhancing Children’s Education

One of the less told stories about the Recovery Act is its impact on local school districts across

“THE PASSAGE OF THIS ACT WAS A BIG WIN FOR PENNSYLVANIA AND ESPECIALLY FOR ERIE.”

--DR. JAMES BARKER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ERIE

the nation, and specifically in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Over \$69 billion in the Recovery Act were designated for education funding. Every county in the Commonwealth has received grants for local school districts to be used for teacher retention, programmatic funds, and school infrastructure needs.

With the \$6.3 million The School District of the City of Erie received over \$6.3 million received in Recovery Act funds, it restored a building used for reading programs and made the building a safer learning environment for the children.

Schuylkill Community Action – Reducing Heating Costs for Families

Schuylkill Community Action is a non-profit organization that coordinates and focuses all available resources on the needs of low -income Schuylkill County residents in effort to enable residents to obtain adequate, affordable housing and have opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency.

Under the Recovery Act, Pennsylvania received \$225 million for weatherization programs. Schuylkill County received approximately \$3.4 million that allows for the creation more jobs and the continuation of their mission to help low-income households become more energy efficient.

As a direct result of the Recovery Act funding, Schuylkill Community Action can now spend \$6,500 per home for weatherization—an increase almost \$4,000 per home. The agency will weatherize an additional 445 homes over the next two years and has added ten full time employees. The funding received from the Recovery Act allows Schuylkill Community Action to better serve the residents of Schuylkill County through increased service and the ability to weatherize homes more thoroughly.

“THE RECOVERY ACT IS “GOING TO ENABLE US TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT A HOUSE AND SUPPLY SOME EXTRA MEASURES, SO THAT'S A VERY POSITIVE THING”

--TED DRIESBACH, EX. DIRECTOR OF SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY ACTION, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

East Penn Manufacturing (Berks County) – Promoting Energy Efficiency

The ARRA funding received by East Penn Manufacturing allows the company to create more jobs and become more competitive in the new “green economy.” Under the Department of Energy, the ARRA set aside funding for a Smart Grid Demonstration Project for next generation batteries and hybrid vehicles.

East Penn Manufacturing received two grants under the Smart Grid Demonstration program. The first is a \$2.4 million grant to demonstrate the economic and technical viability of a 3MW grid-scale, advanced energy storage system using the lead-carbon UltraBattery (lead-acid battery with a carbon super capacitor combination). This technology regulates frequency and manages energy demand. This project will create 10 new manufacturing jobs.

The second grant awarded to the company is \$32.5 million for the production of the UltraBattery for micro and mild hybrid applications to accelerate the manufacturing and deployment of the next generation of U.S. batteries and electric vehicles. This project includes construction of a dedicated facility on the East Penn campus in Lyon Station, PA that will be used as a working energy storage demonstration for UltraBattery modules.

As a result of the ARRA funding, East Penn plans to quickly become a leading U.S. source of Advanced VRLA and UltraBattery power. Through the production of safe, cost effective, and highly recyclable battery products, East Penn will play a crucial role in the reduction of our nation’s energy consumption.

“WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DOE, EAST PENN IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITIES TO MANUFACTURE HIGH VOLUMES OF ADVANCED VRLA BATTERIES. THESE BATTERIES WILL SERVE AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE (HEV) MARKET AND SMART GRID PROJECT INITIATIVES. THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF BATTERIES PROJECTED TO BE PRODUCED WILL HELP PRESERVE AND CREATE HUNDREDS OF JOBS.”

--SALLY MIKSIEWICZ, VICE CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF EAST PENN MANUFACTURING

PECO – Encouraging Renewable Energy

“THIS INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY WILL EQUIP CUSTOMERS WITH THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THEY USE ENERGY, HOW THEY CAN CONSERVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT.”

--DENIS O'BRIEN, CEO OF PECO

PECO is another recipient of Smart Grid Technology grants from the Department of Energy. The \$200 million PECO received will be used for infrastructure needed to support Advanced Metering and Smart Grid technologies. The project will create green jobs, increase reliability and energy efficiency, lower emissions and encourage renewable energy.

PECO is one of the only six utilities nationwide selected to receive the maximum amount of DOE funding from the Recovery Act. The OMB projects that this job will create 4,300 jobs over the next three years. This project will positively impact Southeastern Pennsylvania for years to come.

Follow the link below to read more stories from
Across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

http://casey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Supplemental_Success_Stories.pdf

TOTAL INVESTMENT BY COUNTY^[6]

Adams County	\$27,839,347	Erie County	\$86,293,189	Northumberland County	\$43,757,843
Allegheny County	\$683,983,472	Fayette County	\$58,329,988	Perry County	\$18,134,521
Armstrong County	\$55,382,675	Forest County	\$5,902,533	Philadelphia County	\$1,250,229,889
Beaver County	\$57,385,839	Franklin County	\$27,711,054	Pike County	\$19,362,007
Bedford County	\$28,285,382	Fulton County	\$7,796,358	Potter County	\$17,549,744
Berks County	\$146,916,748	Greene County	\$19,118,694	Schuylkill County	\$153,378,172
Blair County	\$37,718,937	Huntingdon County	\$35,892,405	Snyder County	\$109,882,284
Bradford County	\$24,154,700	Indiana County	\$45,804,734	Somerset County	\$24,266,795
Bucks County	\$109,036,850	Jefferson County	\$14,472,082	Sullivan County	\$6,230,610
Butler County	\$38,411,749	Juniata County	\$7,140,559	Susquehanna County	\$20,510,494
Cambria County	\$117,935,239	Lackawanna County	\$63,205,509	Tioga County	\$20,714,011
Cameron County	\$11,980,793	Lancaster County	\$99,977,429	Union County	\$14,361,176

^[6] Figures are compiled from county fact sheets posted on Pennsylvania's recovery website at www.pa.recovery.gov and the national website at www.recovery.gov. The total figure for each county represents the summation of ARRA funding received by a county from the Commonwealth and ARRA funding distributed directly from federal agencies to a project in a given county. These numbers are subject to change as additional awards are made.

Carbon County	\$33,526,956	Lawrence County	\$43,392,678	Venango County	\$25,111,554
Centre County	\$65,943,751	Lebanon County	\$34,790,321	Warren County	\$10,939,696
Chester County	\$79,387,960	Lehigh County	\$103,179,463	Washington County	\$64,612,161
Clarion County	\$31,754,777	Luzerne County	\$122,220,594	Wayne County	\$74,925,882
Clearfield County	\$40,626,641	Lycoming County	\$45,189,318	Westmoreland County	\$77,526,337
Clinton County	\$26,645,362	McKean County	\$16,418,202	Wyoming County	\$8,137,346
Columbia County	\$29,010,258	Mercer County	\$40,635,384	York County	\$67,438,909
Crawford County	\$26,656,181	Mifflin County	\$6,669,728		
Cumberland County	\$41,612,703	Monroe County	\$86,167,365		
Dauphin County	\$173,280,304	Montgomery County	\$193,312,192		
Delaware County	\$94,779,920	Montour County	\$3,997,043		
Elk County	\$32,530,610	Northampton County	\$73,634,578		

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT IN PENNSYLVANIA: COUNTY BY COUNTY SUMMARY ^[7,8,9]

^[7] Figures included in the county summaries include (1) line by line summaries of ARRA funding allocated to the Commonwealth for distribution to local governments as posted on <http://recovery.pa.gov>; (2) summaries of estimated direct benefits to families as posted on <http://recovery.pa.gov>; (3) summary information on funding allocated to entities located within a county directly from the federal government (see “Direct Funding” category) derived from various sources, including press releases issued by federal agencies and information posted on <http://recovery.pa.gov>. Jobs numbers referenced in summary headers are derived from estimates posted on <http://recovery.gov>. As more information becomes available, these pages will be updated accordingly.

^[8] Because transportation dollars are allocated to metropolitan planning and rural planning organizations as opposed to directly to individual counties, in some cases references to transportation funding appears on more than one county summary.

^[9] All maps included on these documents were made by David Benbennick and have been released into the public domain for use.

PRESS ARTICLES

On the following pages, you will find recent press articles detailing how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is creating and saving jobs in Pennsylvania.

Lebanon Daily News – “Economic stimulus award reaches milestone, and some gainfully employed locals are grateful”

October 25, 2009

John Latimer

http://www.ldnews.com/ci_13632532

Saturday marked the 250th day since passage of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act - the \$787 billion economic-stimulus package designed to put the brakes on the nation's worst economic slide since the Great Depression.

The act, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on Feb. 17, spread the money in a number of ways with the intent of creating jobs and saving others. Tax cuts and incentives to people and businesses accounted for \$288 billion, while \$144 billion went to the states to bolster their finances and \$82 billion is being used on social-entitlement programs, including extending unemployment benefits.

Federal agencies are spending the remaining \$273 billion to award contracts, grants and loans around the country to businesses, organizations, schools and municipalities. So far, Lebanon County has been awarded more than \$39 million of it.

While there may have been no fanfare to mark the 250-day milestone, some who have benefited from the program have reason to celebrate.

Derek Byler is a custom-kitchen designer and builder from Cornwall who owns Heart of the Homes Kitchens in Hershey. When the economy hit the skids, so did his business.

To keep himself and his three employees working, Byler began looking for any jobs they could do. As a former general contractor, Byler was familiar with the government bid process. When he learned that the Lebanon County Housing Authority had received economic-stimulus money and was looking to replace windows in 61 dwellings, he put in a bid of \$345,000 and won the contract.

"I used to be a contractor and home builder 23 years ago," Byler said. "For the last 11 years I've primarily been doing custom kitchens. But when things started slowing down I reached back into my past. This job is keeping me floating for the next few months."

Money for the window replacements was part of \$4 billion the recovery act allocated to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for improvements to public housing. The housing authority's share was \$835,000, more than its regular annual allocation of \$660,000 director Bryan Hoffman said.

The HUD grants were among the first announced after the recovery act was signed into law, and the money moved out quickly. It's a practice for which the federal agency is not always known, Hoffman remarked.

"Actually, HUD was incredibly efficient about getting the money out," he said. "We executed our first contract on March 18."

One of the reasons the money was put to use so quickly is that the authority had a long list of shovel-ready projects on its to-do list, Hoffman said.

"The money that has come to housing authorities has been used relatively successfully because most of us are using it on a backlog of projects we wanted to do," he said. "We all have five-year plans, and virtually everyone was sitting on projects that needed to be done."

In addition to the windows, the authority used the stimulus money to install security cameras and repave some parking lots at its senior apartments. About \$300,000 remains, and it will be used in the spring, either to replace windows at Washington Arms on Chestnut Street or to restore the bell tower at Stevens Towers on Willow Street, Hoffman said.

The housing authority money is just a tiny portion of the hundreds of billions of dollars made available in the stimulus package. As of Oct. 13, \$309 billion in federal allocations have been announced, and \$116 billion has been distributed, according to Recovery.org, the government Web site created to keep track of the money flow. Of that amount, Pennsylvania was awarded \$9 billion and has distributed \$3.5 billion.

Fort Indiantown Gap has received \$12 million from the Department of Defense, or almost a third of the more than \$39 million that has been awarded to the county. The money is being used for about 50 projects and will create or sustain an estimated 100 jobs in the private sector, spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver said. The base is also overseeing about \$9 million in other National Guard projects around the country.

Like the housing-authority money, the funds being sent to Fort Indiantown Gap are going to good use, Cleaver said. Projects include upgrading 21 World War II barracks, sealing the runway at Muir Army Airfield, and replacing utilities, including an antiquated sewer system.

"We are getting to a lot of critical infrastructure projects that we had on our dockets for years," he said. "This is a much-needed investment for Fort Indiantown Gap."

Other large economic-stimulus projects in the county include road improvements to a three-mile stretch of Route 22 west of the Route 72 interchange in Union Township and upgrades to the Lebanon VA Medical Center at a cost of \$5.5 million.

Pennsy Supply is to perform the Route 22 job, which includes adding turning lanes and reconfiguring the exit and entrance ramps, in the spring at a cost of almost \$6 million.

Pennsy is a Harrisburg firm with a quarry in North Annville Township. Construction manager Barry Harbonic said the Route 22 job is one of four projects funded with economic-stimulus money that PennDOT awarded to the company.

Each month, Pennsy is required to report to PennDOT the number of man-hours worked on each project so the number of jobs created or maintained can be tabulated, Harbonic said. PennDOT then reports that figure to the federal government.

The recovery-act projects kept hundreds of the company's workers employed, Harbonic estimated. Subcontractors and other companies that provide material for the road work also benefited.

"It has maintained a lot of jobs," he said. "We have about 300 of what we call seasonal employees, and a lot of them would have had a real short season if it hadn't been for the stimulus projects."

Several area companies have taken advantage of low-interest loans using recovery-act funds. They include Weaber Inc., a sawmill in South Annville Township. The company received a \$7.5 million loan at 2 percent interest from the Department of Agriculture, which was used to buy out leased equipment and restructure its financial portfolio to free up working capital, Executive Vice President Matthew Weaber said when the loan was announced in August.

A depressed housing industry recently forced the company to lay off about a quarter of its 400-member work force. But the loan will allow investments that will put the company in good position when the housing industry picks up, said Tom Buzby, vice president for corporate affairs.

Other local businesses to take advantage of stimulus loans from the Small Business Administration are Always Bagels, a New York company building a plant in North Lebanon Township, and Rothermel Funeral Home in Palmyra.

Several municipal governments have also received economic-stimulus money.

Annville Township received a \$99,000 rural business enterprise grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which it put toward its downtown-redevelopment project. And Lebanon received an extra \$225,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding from HUD, which it is using for road and water-main projects.

Lebanon also received a \$1.5 million Neighborhood Revitalization Grant from HUD to buy foreclosed and blighted homes in the city. Ray Bender, director of Lebanon County Redevelopment Authority, told City Council last week that the first two homes were recently purchased for a combined price of \$70,000 and will cost about that much to renovate.

Lebanon County's Community Action Partnership has been awarded several grants totaling more than \$1 million for social-service programs, including homelessness prevention, job-search training and child-care assistance. Agency director Phyllis Holtry said the state budget impasse has held up the funds, but she hopes to receive them next month.

"There's tremendous need out there, and this money will be put to good use," she said.

Hazleton Standard Speaker – “Hazleton opens intermodal hub”

November 17, 2009

Jim Dino

<http://republicanherald.com/news/hazleton-opens-intermodal-hub-1.423861>

The last time a building stood on the piece of land bounded by Church, Mine, Laurel and Chestnut streets, people were using it for travel.

On Monday, history repeated itself as the Hazleton Intermodal Center was opened to the public for the first time.

Built on the site of the former Hazleton Lehigh Valley Railroad Station, the newly dubbed Church Street Station will be a hub for buses and taxicabs, and perhaps trains. It will also hold parking facilities and commercial/retail establishments.

Renee Craig, acting director of Hazleton Public Transit, outlined the amenities of the 10,000-square-foot building.

"The ridership of the Hazleton Public Transit system have been waiting very patiently for this day, but as you can see, it was worth the wait," Craig said. "Our riders can now wait inside a climate-controlled facility, or wait outside underneath the extended canopy, where we also have advanced lighting and security systems."

Local buses will begin routes Nov. 23. Susquehanna Trailways and its affiliated companies - Bieber Trailways and Greyhound - will begin running buses the first week of December, Craig said.

Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta said the city has procured \$12.2 million for the project, which is approximately 80 percent federal and 20 percent state and local funds.

"This building is desperately needed," Barletta said. "We've increased (Hazleton Public Transit's) ridership. Everyone from students to seniors rely on HPT to take them to school, to the mall or to

destinations in three counties. Buses take people to work in the morning, and bring them back home at night. They no longer have to wait in small shelters."

Toby Fauver, local deputy secretary for the state Department of Transportation, said the Hazleton intermodal represents a first.

"This is the first stimulus (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) intermodal project finished in the state," Fauver said. "When you put a public facility of this high a quality downtown, you want it to fit in well and attract other high-quality development. I think that's what will happen here. And it created or sustained 150 construction jobs, and helped provide a much-needed boost to 50 regional suppliers."

Craig said another advanced feature is coming in 2010: a state-of-the-art vehicle locator system.

"As a Hazleton Public Transit bus arrives at the station, an announcement will be made that will detail the bus number and route," Craig said. "It will also tell people in the station the number of the stall where that bus will be. This will inform our riders and help them find their buses easily."

Craig also said the Church Street end of the building has room for a small retail operation, which has not yet been named.

The center is not finished, however. Four parking decks are planned to top Church Street Station, connecting to a retail development that would be built on Broad Street.

The former train station closed in 1963.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – “Two area health centers to receive stimulus funds”

December 14, 2009

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09348/1020759-454.stm>

Two area clinics are among 85 community health centers in the country to receive \$508 million from the federal Recovery Act, the White House announced this week.

The Squirrel Hill Health Center, located in the Jewish Association on Aging's Campus off Old Browns Hill Road, is set to receive \$792,700, and Cornerstone Care in Greensboro, Greene County, is slated to receive \$2.5 million. The center is not affiliated with the Jewish Association on Aging.

The money is directed toward construction and renovation projects.

"It is going to enable us to build a dental center so we can offer oral health care to uninsured and underserved residents," said Susan Friedberg Kalson, CEO of the Squirrel Hill Health Center. A site has been secured nearby. The center applied for the money this summer and received the full amount, she said.

Robert MtJoy, CEO of Cornerstone Care, said the money will be used to build two more clinics within Greene County, one in Mount Morris, the other in Waynesburg.

"The community is so excited," he said. "Finally after all these years, and how desperately we need it."

The money awarded to these clinics falls under the Recovery Act's assistance to community health centers, which offer service regardless of whether people have insurance and based on a sliding fee scale.

In a speech Wednesday on community health centers, President Barack Obama said, "Studies show that people living near a health center are less likely to go to the emergency room and less likely to have unmet critical medical needs. CHCs are proven to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in care. And the medical expenses of regular CHC patients are nearly 25 percent lower than those folks who get their care elsewhere."

Morning Call – “Stimulus plan to aid small business owners”

January 6, 2010

Gregory Karp

http://articles.mcall.com/2010-01-06/news/4505479_1_business-owners-small-businesses-business-experts

Low-income business owners can score up to \$5,000 in free services to help their ailing businesses under a new local stimulus program announced Tuesday. Small-business owners who don't qualify can get free professional advice on improving their bottom lines from SCORE, a volunteer group of business experts.

Nearly \$300,000 in federal economic stimulus money will be committed to helping the area's small businesses, said Arthur Scott, president of Northampton Community College and co-chairman of the Recession Response and Recovery Task Force, a local group formed to solicit stimulus money from the federal government to revitalize the Lehigh Valley economy.

The effort is ultimately a plan to create and preserve jobs, considering small businesses in aggregate employ far more people than large ones. The current unemployment rate in the Lehigh Valley stands at 9.3 percent, with about 39,000 people out of work, according to the most recent numbers from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. That's near a 40-year high.

"Healthy small businesses are key not only to our economic recovery but to an ongoing healthy economy," said George Mowrer, board president of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, which initiated the task force. "But things are tough for small businesses these days. And many are struggling to survive. Unfortunately, a large number are opting to close their doors."

Much of the money pledged Tuesday, \$120,000, is earmarked for low-income small-business owners. Those whose gross household income is less than double the federal poverty guidelines - - \$44,100 for a family of four -- could be eligible for up to \$5,000 in services. Those services might include Web design, accounting, marketing, legal advice and professional training. Money does not go directly to business owners but to providers of those services.

One candidate for help is Bonnie Ortiz, an Allentown resident and owner of Gracious Ways Painting, which does interior and exterior painting of homes and businesses in the Lehigh Valley. Ortiz will be applying to the new program for marketing or legal help. She already received some technical assistance from the Community Action Development Corp. of Allentown, including developing a business plan, creating business cards, sending e-mail blasts and attending a trade show.

But the economic downturn has hurt, she said. "The last year has put a tremendous amount of financial pressure on me to wait out the economy," she said. While business has been slow, she's been networking and taking classes to prepare herself for a turnaround and start growing her business again. She's hopeful the new grant will help.

Struggling business owners who don't qualify under the income restriction can receive free services from the Lehigh Valley chapter of SCORE, formerly Service Corps of Retired Executives, a partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

SCORE features individualized advice from active and retired business executives and entrepreneurs who volunteer their time to counsel small-business owners. The local chapter has 44 counselors and is recruiting more, said Tom Moore, its chief executive officer. Topic-specific advice can come from counselors around the country, where SCORE has about 12,000 volunteers, he said. Business experts can offer help with business plans and strategies, as well as acting as an advisory board for businesses. Meetings are held face to face and online.

Moore concedes the local chapter has done a lousy job of making its services known. To get the word out, SCORE will get \$25,000 from the task force to promote its services, workshops and roundtable events to Lehigh Valley small-business owners.

Small businesses will receive some of the \$1.4 million given to CACLV as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was signed earlier this year by President Barack Obama to add jobs and help stabilize the economy.

Other allocations for the \$296,882 pledged by CACLV on Tuesday go to Kimberly Stout's \$55,000 salary as the committee's small-business intervention specialist, CACLV small-business development programs in Allentown and Bethlehem, a community micro-loan fund and a program to promote local minority- and women-owned businesses.

“Public spending keeps construction up in city”**January 12, 2010****Bernard Harris**<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/247364>

The private-sector economy may barely have a pulse, but the public sector is keeping the city building.

Lancaster city benefited from significant public spending in 2009, with construction of schools and other public facilities boosting the city to its third-best year ever.

The city had \$137.9 million in construction activity last year, based on estimates provided by builders when applying for city building permits. The 2009 total falls below the \$138.2 million the city saw in 2007 and far below the city record of \$239 million set in 1996 — the year permits were issued for the combined Lancaster County Convention Center and Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square hotel.

Those totals do not include electrical work or furnishings.

Most of the most expensive building permits drawn from the city last year were for public-sector projects.

Two of those projects, totaling \$19.2 million, are being done by the Red Rose Transit Authority. The county's public bus system is constructing an expansion of its downtown Queen Street Station, additional space for the Lancaster Museum of Art and a parking garage, at a permitted cost of \$14.1 million.

RRTA's second project is the renovation of its Erick Road administrative and maintenance facility. The \$5.1 million project will introduce energy-efficiency improvements, such as solar panels and a waste-oil burner for heating. The upgrades are expected to cut the facility's energy costs by as much as 75 percent. That project is being paid for with federal economic stimulus funds.

Other projects being supported by stimulus funds are the \$12 million renovation of the Lancaster Amtrak station and, partially, the \$3 million redevelopment of the former Davidson Shoe factory into the Park Avenue Apartments.

Another two projects in the top 10 are renovations to two School District of Lancaster elementary schools, Lafayette and Ross, totaling \$21 million.

Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray said he is not surprised to see federal stimulus money making an impact in the city. He cited the many public facilities in the city and the intent to get people to work by investing in bricks-and-mortar projects.

"It's great news that stimulus money is coming here," Gray said.

Last year also saw the continuation of a trend from the year before — there were more permits drawn in 2009 than in previous years. Many of those building permits were for small residential projects, such as renovating a kitchen or bathroom.

"It's good news that people are continuing to invest in the city," the mayor said.

The city issued 1,859 building permits in 2009. That number is up slightly from 1,843 issued in 2008 and up significantly from the 1,661 permits issued in 2007.

There were 26 permits for \$1 million or more.

The mayor anticipated there will continue to be investment in the city in the new year.

He cited plans for office building construction on the former Lancaster Stockyards site. One \$1 million permit was taken for that project last year.

"We'll weather it," the mayor said of the economic recession.

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review – “Allegheny County gets part of \$6M federal grant for green job training”

January 20, 2010

Tim Puko

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_663147.html

Pennsylvania will receive \$6 million in federal money to promote training in Allegheny and Tioga counties for environmentally friendly jobs, the U.S. Department of Labor announced today.

The state's program will focus on helping the unemployed, the disabled, veterans, at-risk youths and high school dropouts. The federal government is using economic recovery funds to train more people, especially needy populations, for work primarily in the energy sector.

Pennsylvania's grant is one of the largest of 34 grants. The department awarded \$190 million from this program.

Officials have yet to give specifics on how the Pennsylvania program will work.

Philadelphia Inquirer—“Phila. to get \$27 million more in U.S. funds”**January 28, 2010****Miriam Hill**

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/city/20100128_Phila_to_get_27_million_more_in_U_S_funds.html

An additional \$27 million in federal stimulus money is headed Philadelphia's way, and the city plans to use it to help businesses build and expand, and become more energy-efficient.

Mayor Nutter said he planned to get the money to businesses as quickly as possible. Last year, the city was awarded about \$133 million in federal stimulus money.

"Small businesses are the key to the economy. They put our neighbors to work and are the key to economic vitality," he said. "And President Obama wants us to spend this wisely but also timely," in apparent reference to questions about whether stimulus dollars here and nationally are getting into the economy efficiently.

Nutter urged interested business owners to get more information by going to www.pidc-pa.org/DevelopmentOpportunities.asp

The new stimulus dollars will be used for four programs:

\$4.5 million for "gap financing" to complete projects in development. The city will hold an information session on gap financing at 1 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp. (PIDC) office on the 26th floor of 1500 Market St.

\$9 million in "Greenworks" loans for energy efficiency and conservation projects, half of which will come from federal stimulus funds and the other half from the Reinvestment Fund, the Philadelphia nonprofit devoted to revitalizing neighborhoods. Businesses interested in these loans may attend an information session at 2 p.m. Feb. 5, also at the PIDC office. The interest rate on these loans is expected to be about 3 percent.

\$500,000 in rebates, available in increments of up to \$10,000, to help smaller businesses make energy-efficient investments. The city will hold an information session for those interested in these rebates at 2 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Mayor's Reception Room at City Hall.

\$13 million to finance new construction, rehabilitation, and expansion of existing facilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FEDERAL WEB SITE

www.recovery.gov

STATE WEB SITE

www.recovery.pa.gov

INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS

“The Economic Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act” by Mark Zandi, Chief Economist of Moody’s Economy.com

http://www.economy.com/mark-zandi/documents/Economic_Stimulus_House_Plan_012109.pdf

“Recovery and Reinvestment 101: What caused the current recession?” Center for American Progress

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/pdf/stimulus_101.pdf

“Implementing ARRA,” a series of reports by the Brookings Institute

http://www.brookings.edu/metro/implementing_ARRA.aspx

