



United States Representative CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

The 10th District of Pennsylvania

United States Representative Christopher P. Carney, The 10th District of Pennsylvania

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We experienced some technical difficulties last week and I apologize for the delay. However, I am very happy to bring you this Monday edition of "Fridays with Chris." This email should arm every one of you with the information necessary to track the stimulus money and see first hand how we are going to get our economy growing again.

One major example is the new Making Work Pay Tax Credit. More than 4,715,000 Pennsylvania workers will benefit from this tax credit. The Making Work Pay Tax Credit is available to all workers who are not claimed as another's dependant. **This tax credit, along with all of the other tax changes in the stimulus make this package the largest tax cut ever enacted for the American people.** To learn about other available credits, such as the First Time Home Buyer Tax Credit, go to the IRS recovery page and see for yourself. <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0.,id=204335,00.html?portlet=6>

In addition to the IRS, all federal departments and agencies are actively working to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which President Obama signed into law on February 17. I encourage you to monitor the progress on the www.recovery.gov website and learn how your community can apply for funds.

Key information about the implementation of the Recovery Act is already available on the recovery websites of federal departments. For example, in some cases, there are state-by-state tables on the allocations of the funding being provided under the Act.

Some of the key recovery websites of federal departments that it would be worthwhile to monitor include the following:

www.hhs.gov/recovery

www.hud.gov/recovery

www.ed.gov/recovery

www.energy.gov/recovery

www.dot.gov/recovery

www.usdoj.gov/recovery

www.dol.gov/recovery

www.usda.gov/recovery

www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204335,00.html?portlet=6

For a full list of federal department recovery websites visit:

<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/agencies>

In addition, Pennsylvania now has a recovery web page that helps explain how the funds are allocated: <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/state-recovery-page>

In the last few weeks, certain key actions have been taken to begin releasing Recovery Act funds to the states and local governments, such as:

- o The release of \$10 billion by HUD to state and local recipients for eight specific programs on February 25;
- o The release of \$15 billion in Medicaid Fiscal Relief funds to the states on February 25;
- o The release of \$155 million for Community Health Centers on March 2;
- o The release of \$27 billion for highway and bridge construction and repair on March 3;
- o The release of \$8.4 billion for public transit projects on March 4;
- o The release of \$2 billion in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants on March 6;
- o The release of \$3.5 billion for job training and employment services on March 6; and
- o The release of nearly \$8 billion in weatherization funding and energy efficiency grants on March 12.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Recovery Act provides a total of \$13.6 billion for projects and programs administered by HUD. Nearly 75 percent of that total - or \$10.1 billion - was allocated to state and local recipients on February 25, 2009 - only 8 days after President Obama signed the Act into law.

Following is an overview of the \$10.1 billion that was allocated to state and local recipients on February 25, by program. A map of the United States, providing the state-by-state totals for each of these following eight HUD programs can be found at:

<http://www.hud.gov/recovery/tcap.cfm>

Promoting Energy Efficiency & Creating Green Jobs

- o \$3 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund (PHCF)
- o \$255 million for Native American Housing Block Grants (NABF)
- o \$10.2 million for Native Hawaiian Housing Grants (NHHG)
- o \$100 million for Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR)

Supporting Shovel-Ready Projects and Assisted Housing Improvements

- o□□□\$2.25 billion for the Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP)
- o□□□\$2 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)
- o□□□\$1 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Helping Families Hardest Hit by the Economic Crisis

- o□□□\$1.5 billion for Homelessness Prevention Fund (HPF)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Medicaid

The Recovery Act protects health care coverage for millions of Americans during this recession, by providing a total of \$87 billion in additional federal matching funds to the states for Medicaid over a 27-month period - beginning October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. This Medicaid Fiscal Relief for the states is designed to help the states -- in the face of an unprecedented, massive state fiscal crisis -- to avoid further cuts in Medicaid enrollment and coverage.

President Obama announced on February 23 that states would be able to access the first two quarters of this Medicaid Fiscal Relief starting on February 25 - totaling \$15 billion.

A state-by-state table can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/statefunds.html>

Community Health Centers

The Recovery Act provides a total of \$2 billion for Community Health Centers over the next two years, in order to reduce health care costs by meeting basic health needs for uninsured Americans.

On March 2, President Obama announced the release of \$155 million in Recovery Act funds - the first installment of this \$2 billion appropriation - to support 126 Community Health Centers across the country. These grants totaling \$155 million alone will help provide health services to 750,000 Americans and create 5,500 jobs.

A list of the 126 Community Health Centers receiving this first installment of Recovery Act funding for Community Health Centers can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/applicant.html>

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Construction and Repair of Highways & Bridges

The Recovery Act provides a total of \$27 billion for building and repairing highways, roads, and bridges.

On March 3, President Obama announced the release of the entire \$27 billion to states and local transportation authorities to repair and build highways, roads and bridges. This investment will lead to 150,000 jobs saved or created by the end of 2010. State highway

departments have already identified more than 100 transportation projects across the country, totaling more than \$750 million, where construction can start within the month.

A map of the United States, providing how much each state has been allocated can be found at: <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/rebuilding-infrastructure>.

Public Transit

The Recovery Act provides a total of \$8.4 billion for public transit projects. On March 4, Vice President Biden and Secretary of Transportation LaHood announced that the entire \$8.4 billion has been made available to repair and build public transportation infrastructure throughout the country.

A state-by-state table, showing how much of the \$8.4 billion each state has been allocated can be found at: <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=node/202>

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Job Training

The Recovery Act provides \$3.1 billion for the formula grants for adult, youth, and dislocated worker job training programs and \$400 million for employment services grants to match unemployed individuals to job openings through state employment service agencies.

On March 6, the Department of Labor announced that this \$3.5 billion for job training and employment services had been allocated to the states.

The state-by-state tables showing the state allocations for the youth job training grants, adult job training grants, dislocated worker job training grants, and employment services grants can be found at:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20090249-chart.pdf>

Increase in Unemployment Benefits

The Recovery Act provides an increase in unemployment benefits for all eligible individuals of \$25 per week. These extra benefits are 100 percent federally-funded. On February 26, the Labor Department announced that the implementation of this provision was beginning in some states as early as the week of March 1. Over the next several weeks, all states will be implementing this increase. The \$25 weekly increase is retroactive, covering weeks of unemployment beginning February 22. More information can be found at the Labor Department's recovery website: <http://www.dol.gov/recovery>

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The Recovery Act provides \$5 billion for weatherization grants and \$3.1 billion for State Energy Program funding. The weatherization grants will allow an average investment of up to \$6,500 per home in energy efficiency upgrades. The State Energy Program funding will be available for rebates to consumers for home energy audits or other energy-saving

improvements; development of renewable energy projects for clean electricity generation and alternative fuels; efficiency upgrades for state and local government buildings; and other innovative state efforts to help families save money on their energy bills.

On March 12, Vice President Biden and Secretary of Energy Chu announced that the funding for the weatherization grants and the State Energy Program had been released. A map of the United States, providing how much each state has been allocated for weatherization grants and the State Energy Program can be found at:

<http://www.energy.gov/recovery/>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

On March 7, the Department of Education announced that \$44 billion in Recovery Act funding will be distributed to the states in the next 30 to 45 days. Specifically, the Department stated that, by the end of March, half of the \$10 billion in Title I grants in the Recovery Act - or \$5 billion - will be released to the states and half of the \$12 billion in IDEA grants in the Recovery Act - or \$6 billion - will be released to the states, without new applications. Furthermore, by the end of March, governors will be able to apply for 67 percent of the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds - or \$32.5 billion. These funds will then be released within two weeks after approvable applications are received.

The Education Department website has some state-by-state tables showing preliminary estimates of how Recovery Act funding for a number of education programs will be allocated, including Title I, IDEA, and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. These state-by-state tables can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/09arrastatetables.pdf>

The website also has, for each state, a school district-by-school district table showing a preliminary estimate of how the Title I funding in the Recovery Act will be allocated. The tables for each state can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/titlei/fy09recovery/index.html>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Recovery Act provides \$2 billion for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program. On March 6, President Obama announced the release of the \$2 billion in Byrne JAG funding, in order to provide assistance to state and local law enforcement and prevent the laying off of police officers by state and local governments suffering from budget shortfalls.

The state and local allocations of the Byrne JAG funding can be found at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryallocations.html>

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The IRS website has details on many of the tax changes in the Recovery Act, including details about the Making Work Pay tax cut that will start increasing Americans' paychecks by April 1st. The specific IRS website with the information on the Recovery Act provisions is:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204335,00.html?portlet=6>

A USEFUL OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS FUNDED IN THE RECOVERY ACT

The Council of State Governments has released a useful report that summarizes all of the relevant provisions of the Recovery Act, including a list of every funded program. The report is entitled, "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: A Guide for State and Local Governments." This report can be found at:

<http://www.staterecovery.org/federal-assistance>.

I know that this is a lot of information to deal with so I encourage you to take your time and research how you and your community can benefit from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. And, as always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions that you may have or assistance you may require. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress

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