

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Alaska Status Report



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[begich.senate.gov](http://begich.senate.gov)



On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law. This urgently-needed legislation was passed by a 60-vote supermajority in the Senate in response to the worst economic recession since World War II. I am proud to have voted for the Recovery Act. Over the last six months, Alaska has been awarded more than **\$1.5 billion** to fund 400 projects. The Recovery Act is creating good-paying local jobs, making long-term investments in Alaska's infrastructure, and cutting taxes for working Alaska families. Alaska currently leads the nation in per capita money received from the Recovery Act, with over \$2,000 per person already committed. These Economic Recovery dollars mean big projects like a new Arctic research vessel and the long-overdue replacement of the hospital in Nome, as well as innumerable smaller projects in communities from Ketchikan to Kodiak and Anchorage to Anvik. Although the U.S. and Alaska economies are certainly not out of the woods, there are positive signs that the Recovery Act is working. There are many more to come over the next several years. I will continue to keep Alaskans up to date on the Recovery Act through these status reports and on my website at [begich.senate.gov](http://begich.senate.gov).

Mark Begich  
United States Senator

### **Recovery Act Web Resources**

Recovery.gov  
Recovery.org  
[begich.senate.gov](http://begich.senate.gov)

## Recovery Act Investment in Alaska

Agency	Amount
Corp. Nat'l Service	\$57,000
Dept. of Agriculture	\$46,242,000
Dept. of Commerce	\$13,078,000
Dept. of Defense	\$246,476,000
Dept. of Education	\$205,693,000
Dept. of Energy	\$60,344,000
Dept. of Health & Human Services	\$470,625,000
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development	\$91,151,000
Dept. of the Interior	\$84,503,000
Dept. of Justice	\$16,500,000
Dept. of Labor	\$22,954,000
Dept. of State	\$75,000
Dept. of Transportation	\$221,848,000
Dept. of Veterans Affairs	\$2,822,000
Environmental Protection Agency	\$45,921,000
General Services Administration	\$11,011,000
Railroad Retirement Board	\$48,000
Social Security Administration	\$18,190,000
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$898,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,558,436,000</b>



## **Helping Alaskans Cut Energy Bills and Invest in Clean Energy**

The Recovery Act is helping Alaskans invest in clean energy and make energy-saving improvements to their homes. The Recovery Act is bringing \$28 million for State Energy Programs, \$18 million for the Weatherization Program, and \$18 million for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to Alaska. In addition, many Alaska communities and organizations have received competitive grants to cut energy use and invest in clean energy. Projects include:

- \$2.7 million for energy efficiency improvements in Anchorage
- \$750,000 for the Chaninik Wind Group's project to help complete a wind turbine project in Kongiganak.
- \$950,000 for a geothermal project in Unalaska.

## **Building Better Infrastructure**

The Recovery Act has awarded over \$200 million for infrastructure improvements in Alaska, including major upgrades to highways, airports, transit, ports, military bases and water and sewer projects. Projects include:

- \$14 million for resurfacing and repairs on the Glenn Highway
- \$3.5 million for runway improvements at the Fairbanks International Airport
- \$245 million for infrastructure improvements on Alaska military bases
- \$3 million for road improvements in Kotzebue
- \$44 million for rural water and sewer projects
- \$26 million for the Alaska Railroad for track rehabilitation and other improvements.

## **Improving Health Care Across Alaska**

In Alaska, 26 health centers are now providing expanded services to residents throughout the state due to improvements made with ARRA funding. Projects include:

- \$150 million for a new hospital in Nome
- \$680,000 for the Interior Community Health Center
- \$1.7 million for Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
- \$862,800 for Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center.



## **Bringing Economic Support to Rural Alaska**

Alaska's rural communities are frequently the hardest hit by economic downturns, but Recovery Act money is helping them continue to develop health care facilities, improve energy conservation and weatherization programs and improve local infrastructure.

Projects include:

- \$59 million in housing grants for Alaska Native tribes
- \$1.4 million for a new landfill in Emmonak
- \$3 million for the ferry terminal in Hoonah
- \$3.6 million for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program
- \$191,900 for the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes.



## **Tax Relief for Alaska Families and Small Businesses**

More than 40% of the Economic Recovery Act went to tax relief for working American families and businesses. Within months of passage of the Recovery Act, Alaska families and small businesses are seeing the benefits. Tax relief included:

- Making Work Pay tax credit received by 300,000 Alaska families
- \$8,000 new home buyer tax credit
- \$250,000 small business tax write off for capital investments and new equipment purchases in 2009
- 5-year carry-back of net operating losses.



## **Creating New Jobs in Alaska Communities**

It's estimated that the Recovery Act will create or save 8,000 jobs in Alaska over the next several years. New jobs are being created across business sectors and industries in Alaska, from construction to public safety to research. Projects include:

- \$10 million to hire police officers in communities across Alaska
- \$1.64 million for Petersburg Mountain Trail Group Deferred Maintenance
- \$1 million for marine debris cleanup projects statewide
- \$26.8 million for remediation of abandoned mines and wells.