

# Investing in Florida



**Putting Florida back to work:** The CEA estimates that 161,000 jobs were created or saved by the Recovery Act in Florida through June, 2010. These jobs are supported by the more than \$19.2 billion in Recovery Act funds which have been made available to Florida – and the more than \$12.1 billion which has already been spent.

## Developing and Advancing Florida's Growing Industries and Infrastructure

- Over \$1.8 billion has been obligated for 683 transportation projects. These projects are putting 2,949 people to work, and improving 907 miles of highway across the state.
- 2,748 Recovery Act-backed small business loans have been given to Florida small businesses, who are now investing \$1.5 billion into creating new jobs and buying new equipment they need to succeed.
  - › Example: A. Harold and Associates – Andy Harold served 10 years as a Navy helicopter pilot. Afterwards, he started working for a company that did helicopter training for the Department of Defense using multimedia. Andy got two SBA Recovery loans from Regions Bank over the past year. In September 2009, he got a Patriot Express loan for \$350,000 to help with general operations. In February 2010, he got a 7(a) loan for \$750,000. This loan is helping finance a federal contract to support the electrical kit for a simulator which trains our troops whose vehicles get flipped over on the battlefield. Because of the waived fees, he saved over \$33,000 on these two Recovery loans, and he's hiring 10 new people.
- America's energy future is cleaner, more efficient, and made at home, thanks in part to the 156 clean energy projects that have been funded with the \$1 billion clean energy investment that the Recovery Act made into Florida.
  - › Example: Saft in Jacksonville was awarded \$95.5 million to build advanced lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles.

- › Over 2,961 homes have already been weatherized, and ultimately 19,090 homes will be weatherized with Recovery Act investments.
- As many as 1,353,794 people and 373 community institutions, such as schools and hospitals, stand to benefit from broadband projects in Florida.
- The water infrastructure of Florida will see significant improvements as a result of the 77 rural water and waste disposal projects, and clean and drinking water projects being launched across the state by the Recovery Act.

## Providing Relief to the Individual Residents of Florida

- Because of the Making Work Pay tax credit, 7.1 million Florida working families will collectively receive \$3.5 billion in tax relief – dollars they can put to use immediately.
- Over 1,240,000 Florida residents have expanded unemployment benefits because of the Recovery Act.
- Approximately 265,000 people in Florida received COBRA benefits, due in part to Recovery Act investments.
- More than 3.7 million Florida seniors and 136,005 veterans have received one-time economic relief payments of \$250, totaling over \$962.1 million.
- The Recovery Act is investing in Florida's future, helping students and their parents with education costs.
  - › 94,647 low-income undergraduate students in Florida have received grants to help them further their education and provide opportunities they might not otherwise have. What's more, the average grant to students increased by 704.

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## More Investments to Support Florida

- Professors, students, and other researchers in Florida have received \$156 million to fund 381 health research projects and explore treatments and cures to medical issues that affect millions of Americans.
- More than 25,208 education positions were reported as funded by the Recovery Act in the second quarter of 2010 in Florida – which has received more than \$5.1 billion in funding from the Department of Education.
- The Recovery Act has already made over \$3.9 billion available to help prevent Medicaid cuts in Florida. The state has spent over \$3.7 billion of the available funds.
- Law enforcement agencies in Florida received over \$87.9 million in funding to support 428 police officers' salaries and benefits for three years.

## Just One of Many Great Examples of How the Recovery Act is Investing in Florida's Future

Workforce Connection, one of 24 local workforce investment boards in Florida, was awarded \$2,985,175 million to implement the West Ocala Green Jobs Project. The initiative will prepare 665 disadvantaged persons of West Ocala for certification and employment in green jobs. The project will place 556 or 84% into jobs. The project will create 150 new jobs and will promote small business development.