

# Investing in Montana



**Putting Montana back to work:** The CEA estimates that 10,000 jobs were created or saved by the Recovery Act in Montana through June, 2010. These jobs are supported by the more than \$1.4 billion in Recovery Act funds which have been made available to Montana– and the more than \$803.5 million which has already been spent.

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

- Over \$237.2 million has been obligated for 98 transportation projects. These projects are putting 852 people to work, and improving 231 miles of highway across the state.
- 594 Recovery Act-backed small business loans have been given to Montana small businesses, who are now investing \$166 million into creating new jobs and buying new equipment they need to succeed.
  - › Example: Natural Baby Company - Kim Ormsby started the Natural Baby Company to provide environmentally friendly solutions to parenting needs. In 2009, with the help of an SBA-backed Recovery Act loan she rebranded her company and introduced Gro Baby Pro, a new product line. With the help of the SBA-backed loan, monthly revenue has climbed by 250% since the launch of Gro Baby Pro.
- America's energy future is cleaner, more efficient, and made at home, thanks in part to the 50 clean energy projects that have been funded with the \$133.8 million clean energy investment that the Recovery Act made into Montana.
  - › Example: Montana Tech of the University of Montana, in Butte, was awarded \$1.1 million for Ground Source Heat Pumps. The funds will be used to demonstrate low-cost heating of a modern building with a geothermal heat pump.
  - › Over 1,248 homes have already been weatherized, and ultimately 2,477 homes will be weatherized with Recovery Act investments.

- As many as 109,084 people and 187 community institutions, such as schools and hospitals, stand to benefit from broadband projects in Montana.
- The water infrastructure of Montana will see significant improvements as a result of the 73 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 Montana

- Because of the Making Work Pay tax credit, 400,000 Montana working families will collectively receive \$200.0 million in tax relief – dollars they can put to use immediately.
- Over 70,000 Montana residents have expanded unemployment benefits because of the Recovery Act.
- Approximately 2,300 people in Montana received COBRA benefits, due in part to Recovery Act investments.
- More than 181,915 Montana seniors and 10,271 veterans have received one-time economic relief payments of \$250, totaling over \$48.0 million.
- The Recovery Act is investing in Montana's future, helping students and their parents with education costs.
  - › 5,371 low-income undergraduate students in Montana 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 722.

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## More Investments to Support Montana

- Professors, students, and other researchers in Montana have received \$35 million to fund 60 health research projects and explore treatments and cures to medical issues that affect millions of Americans.
- More than 1,154 education positions were reported as funded by the Recovery Act in the second quarter of 2010 in Montana – which has received more than \$268.7 million in funding from the Department of Education.
- The Recovery Act has already made over \$167.0 million available to help prevent Medicaid cuts in Montana. The state has spent over \$158.6 million of the available funds.
- Law enforcement agencies in Montana received over \$5.1 million in funding to support 28 police officers' salaries and benefits for three years.

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

Office of Native American Program Projects - Blackfeet Housing, in Browning, Montana, received \$2,672,486 in Recovery Act funding. The funds are being used to moderately rehabilitate 223 homes. Part of the rehabilitation will be mold remediation. In addition, they are acquiring one duplex and the adjoining lot for student housing. They are also offering weatherization grants to 45 qualified homeowners to assist them in making their homes more energy efficient. Forty-nine jobs have been created and 86.4 percent of the funds have been expended, as of June 1, 2010.