

# Investing in Nebraska



**Putting Nebraska back to work:** The CEA estimates that 17,000 jobs were created or saved by the Recovery Act in Nebraska through June, 2010. These jobs are supported by the more than \$1.7 billion in Recovery Act funds which have been made available to Nebraska– and the more than \$843.1 million which has already been spent.

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

- Over \$261.9 million has been obligated for 132 transportation projects. These projects are putting 522 people to work, and improving 279 miles of highway across the state.
- 663 Recovery Act-backed small business loans have been given to Nebraska small businesses, who are now investing \$249 million into creating new jobs and buying new equipment they need to succeed.
  - › Example: Geothermal Green Team - Greta, Nebraska's, Geothermal Green Team uses geothermal heating to reduce their customer's carbonfootprint and cut their monthly energy bills by 30% or more. The Green Team wanted to expand their business and obtained two Recovery Act 7(a) loans totaling \$753,000 for a line of credit to meet payroll and to purchase a new sonic drill. The company expects to create four or five new drill jobs in the near future.
- America's energy future is cleaner, more efficient, and made at home, thanks in part to the 41 clean energy projects that have been funded with the \$146 million clean energy investment that the Recovery Act made into Nebraska.
  - › Example: TPI Composites, Inc., in Grand Island, was awarded a clean energy manufacturing tax credit for \$5.1 million. TPI will operate a new manufacturing facility to produce the next generation of wind turbine blades.
  - › Over 892 homes have already been weatherized, and ultimately 4,000 homes will be weatherized with Recovery Act investments.

- As many as 209,017 people and 129 community institutions, such as schools and hospitals, stand to benefit from broadband projects in Nebraska.
- The water infrastructure of Nebraska will see significant improvements as a result of the 52 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 Nebraska

- Because of the Making Work Pay tax credit, 700,000 Nebraska working families will collectively receive \$400.0 million in tax relief – dollars they can put to use immediately.
- Over 100,000 Nebraska residents have expanded unemployment benefits because of the Recovery Act.
- Approximately 10,000 people in Nebraska received COBRA benefits, due in part to Recovery Act investments.
- More than 296,734 Nebraska seniors and 16,751 veterans have received one-time economic relief payments of \$250, totaling over \$78.4 million.
- The Recovery Act is investing in Nebraska's future, helping students and their parents with education costs.
  - › 9,794 low-income undergraduate students in Nebraska 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 578.

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## More Investments to Support Nebraska

- Professors, students, and other researchers in Nebraska have received \$42 million to fund 101 health research projects and explore treatments and cures to medical issues that affect millions of Americans.
- More than 2,004 education positions were reported as funded by the Recovery Act in the second quarter of 2010 in Nebraska – which has received more than \$514.5 million in funding from the Department of Education.
- The Recovery Act has already made over \$251.5 million available to help prevent Medicaid cuts in Nebraska. The state has spent over \$216.6 million of the available funds.
- Law enforcement agencies in Nebraska received over \$5.1 million in funding to support 27 police officers' salaries and benefits for three years.

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

The Community Hospital Association secured \$17 million in ARRA funding to expand McCook's Community Hospital and better serve the community needs. Funding for the project was provided through a \$17 million Rural Development community facility loan, funded under the Recovery Act. An additional \$15 million Rural Development community facility guaranteed loan was financed through Thayer County Bank of Hebron, Neb., representing a group of Independent Community Banks in Nebraska. The hospital will contribute the remaining \$2,730,000 needed. The Community Hospital currently employs 250 staff; 197 full-time & 53 part-time.