

# Investing in Arkansas



**Putting Arkansas back to work:** The CEA estimates that 26,000 jobs were created or saved by the Recovery Act in Arkansas through June, 2010. These jobs are supported by the more than \$3.2 billion in Recovery Act funds which have been made available to Arkansas – and the more than \$1.9 billion which has already been spent.

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

- Over \$373.5 million has been obligated for 145 transportation projects. These projects are putting 644 people to work, and improving 311 miles of highway across the state.
- 370 Recovery Act-backed small business loans have been given to Arkansas small businesses, who are now investing \$183 million into creating new jobs and buying new equipment they need to succeed.
  - › Example: Shields Wood Products, Inc. - Shields Wood Products, created by Angela and Richard Shields, offers everything from grade oak lumber to cross ties and woodchips. When the housing crisis lowered the demand for lumber, the high price of fuel sent their costsskyrocketing, and a season of record flooding badly hurt the Arkansas timber industry. The Shields' were able to obtain a SBA-backed 7(a) loan which helped them to keep their business going, and save the jobs of many of their 40 employees.
- America's energy future is cleaner, more efficient, and made at home, thanks in part to the 34 clean energy projects that have been funded with the \$151.9 million clean energy investment that the Recovery Act made into Arkansas.
  - › Example: Nordex USA, Inc. in Jonesboro was awarded a clean manufacturing energy tax credit for \$22.2 million to assist with the creation of a wind turbine manufacturing facility.
  - › Over 2,052 homes have already been weatherized, and ultimately 5,578 homes will be weatherized with Recovery Act investments.

- As many as 1,390,404 people and 641 community institutions, such as schools and hospitals, stand to benefit from broadband projects in Arkansas.
- The water infrastructure of Arkansas will see significant improvements as a result of the 25 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 Arkansas

- Because of the Making Work Pay tax credit, 1.0 million Arkansas working families will collectively receive \$500.0 million in tax relief – dollars they can put to use immediately.
- Over 220,000 Arkansas residents have expanded unemployment benefits because of the Recovery Act.
- Approximately 13,000 people in Arkansas received COBRA benefits, due in part to Recovery Act investments.
- More than 621,643 Arkansas seniors and 20,979 veterans have received one-time economic relief payments of \$250, totaling over \$160.7 million.
- The Recovery Act is investing in Arkansas's future, helping students and their parents with education costs.
  - › 18,596 low-income undergraduate students in Arkansas 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 721.

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## More Investments to Support Arkansas

- Professors, students, and other researchers in Arkansas have received \$28 million to fund 70 health research projects and explore treatments and cures to medical issues that affect millions of Americans.
- More than 1,456 education positions were reported as funded by the Recovery Act in the second quarter of 2010 in Arkansas – which has received more than \$842.0 million in funding from the Department of Education.
- The Recovery Act has already made over \$551.1 million available to help prevent Medicaid cuts in Arkansas. The state has spent over \$537.9 million of the available funds.
- Law enforcement agencies in Arkansas received over \$8.7 million in funding to support 60 police officers' salaries and benefits for three years.

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

The city of Batesville received \$10 million of ARRA funds, \$6.3 million of which were principal forgiveness, to replace the existing wastewater mains (to the treatment facility) with a 3,100 linear foot gravity sewer. 1,700 linear feet is constructed as a 54 inch tunnel under the local golf course. Batesville previously transported all sanitary wastewater via a pumping station and two force mains, the larger of which is often submerged in the White River. The project saves 62 percent of energy, or about 700,000 kW hours/year over the minimum 40 year life of the tunnel.