



# Fact Sheet

Senator Jay Rockefeller, West Virginia

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILL --WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLIGHTS

*(Funding figures as of March 18, 2009)*

### Job-Creating Investments

An estimated 20,000 new jobs will be created in West Virginia from the economic recovery bill -- through rebuilding roads, replacing sewers, improving clean water, and rehabilitating public housing. Highlights include:

- \$19.5 million through the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** to get at the backlog of West Virginia's drinking water infrastructure needs, such as new pipelines and sewer systems.
- \$61.1 million through the **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** to help deliver clean water.
- \$210.9 million in **Highway Funding** to repair or construct roads, bridges and highways.
- \$16.5 million for the **Tax Credit Assistance Program** to provide grant funding for Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects.
- \$18.7 million for **Transit Capital Improvements** through the Federal Transit Administration.
- \$13.2 million for the **Public Housing Capital Fund** for capital and management activities of Public Housing Agencies, with priority on rehabilitation of vacant rental units and capital projects that are already underway.

### Education and Training

The economic recovery bill provides funding to modernize hundreds of West Virginia schools, improve education, and help displaced workers learn new skills. West Virginia would receive:

- \$156 million over two years in **School Construction Bonds** to help repair, renovate and construct West Virginia public schools in ways that raise energy efficiency and improve technology. The bill also expands the popular **Qualified Zone Academy Bonds** program.\*
- \$266.4 million through the **State Fiscal Stabilization Fund** to help West Virginia school districts and public colleges and universities with budget shortfalls.
- \$75.9 million for **IDEA Part B** grants for students with disabilities.
- \$3.6 million for **IDEA Part B** grants for preschool.
- \$2.1 million for **IDEA Part C** grants for infants and toddlers.
- \$3.9 million in **Education Technology** grants for schools to purchase computers and software.
- \$4.3 million for **Vocational Rehabilitation** grants to help West Virginians with disabilities prepare for the workforce.
- \$1.2 million in **Federal Work Study** funding to provide part-time employment to undergraduate and graduate students with financial need.
- \$182.4 million in **Federal Pell Grant** funding to increase the maximum Pell award for all eligible students by \$500 to help students afford postsecondary education.

## Tax Relief

To help West Virginia families keep more of their hard-earned money, the bill:

- Provides a “making work pay” **Tax Cut** of up to \$400 for individuals earning below \$75,000 per year and up to \$800 for couples earning below \$150,000. This is estimated to benefit more than 670,000 West Virginians.\*
- Increases eligibility for the refundable **Child Tax Credit** by lowering the income threshold to \$3000 (from \$12,000), so that over 200,000 West Virginia families can benefit from the credit.\*
- Expands the **Earned Income Tax Credit** to families with three or more children, helping an estimated 50,000 West Virginia families.\*
- Gives tax relief to 86,000 West Virginians by preventing them from paying the **Alternative Minimum Tax**.\*

## Clean Coal and Energy Efficiency

To jump start research and development for advanced coal technologies and invest in energy efficiency, the economic recovery bill:

- Contains \$3.4 billion nationally for the **Fossil Energy Research and Development** programs, divided into three separate funds:
  - \$1 billion for fossil energy R&D;
  - \$800 million for the Clean Coal Power Initiative Round III Funding; and
  - \$1.5 billion for a competitive solicitation for industrial carbon capture and energy efficiency improvement projects.\*\*
- Provides \$37.5 million for West Virginia **Weatherization** assistance to help families insulate their homes and reduce their energy costs.
- Provides \$32.7 million for **State Energy Program** funding for West Virginia to design and carry out energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

## Help for the Unemployed

To help West Virginians facing a recent job loss, the economic recovery bill:

- Lowers **COBRA** health care premiums by 65% for unemployed West Virginians for up to nine months. COBRA recipients will be responsible for only 35% of COBRA premium costs.\*\*
- **Extends Emergency Unemployment Compensation** for West Virginians by providing up to 20 weeks of extended unemployment benefits through the end of this year.\*\*
- Raises the weekly unemployment compensation benefit by \$25, and temporarily suspends federal income taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment assistance.\*\*
- Creates a **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** contingency fund.\*\*
- Temporarily reauthorizes and significantly expands **Trade Adjustment Assistance** programs for West Virginians who lose their jobs because of foreign trade.\*\*
- \$5.3 million for **Workforce Investment Act Youth Activities** in West Virginia, providing funding for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth.
- \$2.4 million for West Virginia’s **Workforce Investment Act Adult Activities** for employment and training, particularly for low-income individuals and public assistance recipients.
- \$3.2 million for **Employment and Reemployment Services** to facilitate the reentry of West Virginia’s unemployed workers into the workforce.
- \$3.6 million for **Dislocated Workers State Grants** to help workers and communities in West Virginia deal with plant closings, mass layoffs and other worker dislocations through employment and training services.

## Essential Services and Health Care for Vulnerable Families

For families struggling in this economy, the economic recovery bill provides help to keep food on the table or the roof over their head. Highlights include:

- \$450 million for a temporary increase in federal **Medicaid** funding to protect health care coverage for vulnerable populations in West Virginia.\*
- \$585,327 for the West Virginia **School Lunch Program**.\*
- \$163.6 million in additional **Food Stamp** assistance for West Virginia families.\*
- \$13 million in **Child Care and Development Block Grants** to help our families with the high cost of day care.\*
- \$5 million for West Virginia's **Head Start** program to enroll more children to help prepare them for school and meet their developmental, educational, health, and nutritional needs.\*
- \$11.2 million in **Community Services Block Grants** to local West Virginia community action agencies to offer housing and mortgage counseling, jobs skills training, food pantry assistance.\*
- \$224,360 for West Virginia's **Senior Meals on Wheels Program** to ensure home delivered nutrition services to frail elders at home.
- \$455,732 for **Congregate Nutrition Services** provided at senior centers and other community sites in West Virginia.
- \$10.2 million through **The Homelessness Prevention Fund** to help West Virginians with short or medium-term rental assistance, first and last month's rental payment, or utility payments.
- \$6.6 million for the **Community Development Block Grants** to enable local governments to provide affordable housing, create economic opportunities.
- \$12.2 million for **Project Based Rental Assistance** to fund existing contracts under the Section 8 rental assistance program.

## Competitive Grant Programs Accessible to West Virginia

The economic recovery bill contains funding for nationwide competitive-grant programs for which our state, local governments, and community-based organizations in West Virginia can apply. These include:

- \$7.2 billion in **Broadband Grant Funding** to expand high-speed internet in rural areas.\*\*
- \$1.5 billion in **Community Health Center Capital Funding** to construct, renovate and equip community health centers.\*\*
- \$500 million for **Community Health Centers Grants** to increase the number of uninsured individuals served.\*\*
- \$19.2 billion in Medicare/Medicaid bonus payments to physicians and hospitals that adopt **Electronic Health Record Technologies** to reduce medical errors and drive costs down.\*\*
- \$1.6 billion to improve the health coverage tax credit under for **Trade-Displaced Workers** under Trade Adjustment Assistance.\*\*
- \$1 billion for the **COPS Hiring Recovery Program** to address the personnel needs of state and local law enforcement agencies.\*\*

*Note:*

\* *Estimate pending final allocation from federal department or agency.*

\*\* *Overall national funding level or new guidelines with specific numbers not yet available.*