

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

>> **The Colorado Story** <<

August 18, 2010



“The Recovery Act got me back on my feet. It turned my life around. If it hadn’t been for this, I’d be out on the street.”

-**Larry Mingo**, Larry Mingo, an assembly line worker at Coolerado Corporation in Denver who received job training paid for by the Recovery Act.

“I was very excited about the Recovery Act because I feel like it’s going to promote growth and provide a lot of opportunities to people who need it. I think it’s an excellent thing for our president to do... because of the growth opportunities for all people.”

-**Margareta Bancroft**, hired as an energy auditor by Standard Renewable Energy in Boulder because of growth in business attributed to the Recovery Act.



“The money that I’m able to earn in this position goes back into the community three or four times... and I like that. I think that people would like to see the economy turn around overnight and that’s not going to happen. There are jobs in the pipeline coming down. Have some patience because it is working.”

-**Bob Ryerson**, partnership assistant with the U.S. Census Bureau; hired with Recovery Act funds.

Gov Bill Ritter Jr.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

In February 2009, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in Colorado. The landmark law will pump \$787 billion into the economy to create jobs, support those in need and invest in infrastructure and growth industries. Colorado expects to receive more than \$7.1 billion in the next two years. The largest portion of funds provides tax relief for working families and businesses. The remainder is a combination of direct aid to struggling families, loans and grants that come to Colorado through more than 140 different programs. In addition to the funds described above, Colorado also is competing for a wide range of competitive grants available through the Recovery Act, mainly in education, broadband, health information technology and renewable energy.

The day after the Recovery Act was signed, Gov. Bill Ritter appointed an oversight panel called the Colorado Economic Recovery and Accountability Board that is charged with ensuring that Recovery Act dollars are spent wisely and with full transparency. Gov. Ritter has directed his staff and state agencies to work diligently to maximize the impact of the funds to create jobs, improve infrastructure, support families in need, and boost the New Energy Economy.

This report offers an overview of the funds coming to Colorado. **This is a working draft that will change and get updated as more information is released by the federal government and groups involved with the funds.**

[Report prepared by the Governor's Economy Recovery Team](#)

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www.colorado.gov/recovery

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>> EXECUTIVE SUMMARY <<

In the year since President Obama signed the Recovery Act into law in Denver, the historic law has been supporting millions of Coloradans, creating and saving jobs and investing in infrastructure projects that are providing long-term benefits to communities across Colorado.

More than 25,000 Coloradans are saving money on purchases of energy-saving appliances and home upgrades thanks to an \$18 million rebate program operated by the Governor's Energy Office. Roughly 1.8 million families have been bringing home an additional \$60-\$80 a month in their paychecks thanks to the Making Work Pay tax cut. About 6,200 households are saving up to \$8,000 with their first home purchase. More than 500,000 Coloradans received an extra \$250 check from the Social Security Administration to help make ends meet. About 52,000 low-income college students will receive up to \$500 more in tuition assistance for the current school year. Thousands of laid-off workers are paying hundreds of dollars less per month for health care coverage through COBRA. More than 260,000 laid-off Coloradans have been receiving an extra \$25 a week in unemployment checks since February 2009.

At the same time, large-scale construction and infrastructure projects are under way. As of March 31, 2010, 82 roadway improvement projects using more than \$338 million have begun construction, 18 projects have been completed, and more than 19,000 people were hired to work on those projects. Construction projects at seven airports worth \$36.7 million are under way or complete. Thirty one vital drinking and wastewater improvement projects worth \$60 million have started. About a dozen local agencies have taken advantage of bond programs, financing almost \$900 million in capital projects and saving more than \$150 million in interest.

The Recovery Act has also helped Colorado preserve a host of critical public services. Correction facilities and public colleges and universities across the state have preserved jobs and programs – and avoided drastic cuts and layoffs - with almost \$700 million in state budget stabilization funds. Colorado has preserved Medicaid services with the help of more than \$240 million a year for three years in increased funds. Without those funds, the state would have been forced to shut down its Children's Health Plan Plus program that serves 65,000 pregnant women and children.

The private sector is also benefitting. Hundreds of companies also are benefiting from sizeable grants and contracts that help them preserve and create jobs. Contractors have completed weatherization work on about 2,200 homes at no cost to the owner or renter. And researchers at universities across Colorado have been awarded hundreds of Recovery Act grants worth more than \$244 million, allowing them to retain or hire more than 200 full-time equivalent jobs.

>> THE ECONOMIC STORY <<

There is no question that 2009 was an extremely difficult year for the economy. Every state lost jobs during the year. Colorado's unemployment rate rose 1.7 percent during that period – ending the year at 7.5 percent. We are still 2.5 points below the national average. And the rise in unemployment was one of the lowest in the country. Only five other states (Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Vermont) beat Colorado in the rate of unemployment change. Nevertheless, job losses were steep and many families are struggling.

Did the Recovery Act help? Absolutely. A growing number of studies are showing that the Recovery Act helped stop the economic bleeding and shifted the economy toward recovery:

- The Council of Economic Advisors, which advises President Obama on economic policy, issued a report on Jan. 13, 2010, that said the Recovery Act increased real Gross Domestic Product between three and four percentage points in the third quarter, and between 1.5 and three percentage points in the fourth quarter. Another CEA study released on April 16, 2010 showed that the Recovery Act added or saved about 2.5 million jobs. Indeed, job losses in the fourth quarter were one-tenth their size in the first quarter, the report said. In Colorado, the Council of Economic Advisors estimate that 46,000 jobs were created, retained or induced because of the Recovery Act.
- A recent *USA Today* survey of 50 economists indicated that the Recovery Act saved jobs. The economists said that unemployment would have hit 10.8% — higher than December's 10% rate — without the Recovery Act. That difference would have meant another 1.2 million lost jobs.
- A November 2009 report released by the Congressional Budget Office said that the Recovery Act increased GDP between 1.2 and 3.2 percent and added 600,000 to 1.6 million jobs across the country.
- Reports related to about one-third of Recovery Act funds showed that more than 600,000 full-time equivalent jobs were created or retained across the nation between Feb. 17 and Sept. 30, 2009. Almost the same number of jobs were created or retained in the last three months of 2009, according to reports submitted to the federal government by more than 100,000 recipients of ARRA grants, loans and contracts.

Going forward, economic stabilization will occur both in Colorado and across the nation. But state revenue shortfalls will continue to pose challenges, and severe budget cuts are on the near horizon. All told, \$2 billion will have been cut since mid-2008. Colorado will continue to benefit from companies moving here or expanding, and from the New Energy Economy. The New Energy Economy continues to be one of our strongest sectors, with 17,000 people now working in renewable energy and energy research jobs in Colorado, the fourth-highest concentration in the country.

>> **BACKGROUND ON JOBS AND SPENDING DATA** <<

The Recovery Act is designed to revitalize the economy by creating jobs, supporting struggling families and shifting the economy in a new direction. The Recovery Act also requires an unprecedented level of transparency about how funds are being spent. Section 1512 of the Recovery Act calls for recipients of certain grants, contracts and loans to submit a large quantity of data related to the use of the funds. For the first time, the federal government is requiring recipients to calculate the job impact created by these funds. The job figures are related to about one-third of all Recovery Act funds being distributed. Therefore, the total number of jobs created or retained by the Recovery Act is much higher than what is reported through the 1512 process.

The Recovery Act requires spending and job data to be submitted every three months starting in October 2009. This process is overseen by the federal government – mainly through the Office of Management and Budget and the national Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. Federal agencies made changes for the second and third rounds of reporting, including a different way to calculate jobs and ways to flag potential mistakes on the online reporting form. These changes were designed to make job numbers more consistent across hundreds of different programs, and to make the data more accurate. For instance, the online system was changed to notify a recipient if the congressional district was entered incorrectly, and to prompt the recipient to change that number.

The following data includes information that was submitted in July 2010 to the federal government by recipients of grants, contracts and loans. This information was submitted to comply with Section 1512 of the Recovery Act and is also available on the federal website, www.recovery.gov.

The spending data reflects activity between February 2009 and June 30, 2010. The job data reflects full-time equivalent positions funded between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010. Job numbers cannot be combined between quarters. Adding the numbers together would mean that some jobs are double-counted.

1512 DATA SUMMARY

Total number of Colorado grants subject to 1512 reporting	1,785
Total dollars awarded by recipients included in 1512 process	\$4.18 billion
Total dollars received by recipients included in 1512 process	\$1.67 billion
Total dollars spent by recipients included in 1512 process	\$1.36 billion

>> EDUCATION <<

The Recovery Act provides a host of funds to support education programs in K-12 and higher education institutions. All of the funds below will help the state and local school districts fill some of budget shortfall from declining revenues and meet increasing demand for services in schools. The funding will be distributed over three school years.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF):

Colorado will receive approximately \$760 million through the Recovery Act which is designated for maintaining funding levels for education in the face of dwindling state and local revenues. More than \$621 million must be spent on K-12, post-secondary or early childhood education. Awarded by formula to governors, in exchange for each state's commitment to advance essential education reforms: (1) making improvements in teacher effectiveness and ensuring that all schools have highly qualified teachers, (2) making progress toward college and career-ready standards and rigorous assessments that will improve both teaching and learning, (3) improving achievement in low-performing schools, by providing intensive support and effective interventions in schools that need them most, and (4) gathering information to improve student learning, teacher performance, and college and career readiness through enhanced data systems that track progress. The remaining \$138 million is allocated for budget stabilization and discretionary spending (i.e., public safety, education, other government services). The Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget (OSP), working closely with the Joint Budget Committee, have been working with the U.S. Department of Education to distribute the funds in a way that meets the budgetary needs of Colorado while adhering to federal requirements. Colorado is dedicating \$621.8 million over three years for higher education institutions. About \$70 million of the Government Services Funds are supporting jobs at the Department of Corrections. About \$10 million will be used to prepare for "Race to the Top" competitive programs to enhance Colorado's position relative to this significant opportunity. The remaining funds are being used for future budget balancing if needed and ARRA administrative costs, if necessary. Because of significant revenue shortfalls, the Governor's Office submitted a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education, stating that the state can not meet federal requirements to maintain certain funding levels for higher education with state funds. The state is working with the U.S. Department Education on this issue.

Other resources:

[Colorado Dept. of Education website](#)

[Colorado Dept. of Higher Education website](#)

[US Dept. of Education website](#)

The chart below provides the expected breakout of ARRA funds by institution:

Institution	FY 2008-2009	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011
Adams State College	\$2,459,127	\$7,207,904	\$1,413,343
Mesa State College	\$4,117,215	\$11,700,892	\$2,387,079
Metropolitan State College of Denver	\$9,934,844	\$24,765,859	\$4,665,091
Western State College	\$2,280,870	\$6,196,492	\$1,412,354
Colorado State University System	\$33,271,484	\$80,088,438	\$19,566,800
Fort Lewis College	\$3,978,508	\$7,752,908	\$2,843,580
University of Colorado System	\$49,995,467	\$119,390,747	\$35,003,398
Colorado School of Mines	\$4,443,761	\$12,463,207	\$2,845,658
University of Northern Colorado	\$8,909,433	\$23,222,224	\$5,793,766
Community College System	\$25,300,005	\$69,953,805	\$14,959,668
Local District Junior Colleges	\$3,288,323	\$8,414,708	\$2,154,256
Area Vocational Schools	\$2,697,018	\$5,351,059	\$1,649,106
TOTAL	\$150,676,055	\$376,508,243	\$94,694,099

Source: Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget

Race to the Top:

Two competitive grants worth a total of \$4.3 billion will be divided among about 12 states who propose ambitious reforms in K-12 education. One grant is worth \$4 billion and the other is worth \$350 million. On Jan. 19, 2010, Colorado submitted an application requesting \$377 million. Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien coordinated the application and conducted extensive public outreach for input.

More than 600 people helped develop the proposal. About 134 school districts serving 94 percent of the 802,000 K-12 students in Colorado supported the state's application. To support the application, Gov. Ritter issued an executive order creating a Colorado Council for Educator Effectiveness. By the end of this year, the council will define teacher and principal effectiveness and design a high-quality system of evaluation.

The proposal calls for providing incentives for improved performance and opportunities for innovation. Proposed investments include professional development for newly-adopted academic standards, creating an integrated data system that links agencies and provides more immediate information, and develops a Colorado Turnaround Center.

Colorado was named one of the 16 finalists for the first round of funds, but only 2 other states won that round. Colorado is applying again for the second round of funds in mid 2010.

Contact: Ellen Dumm, 303-866-6361, Ellen.dumm@state.co.us; Nina Lopez, Colorado Department of Education, lopez_n@cde.state.co.us

[Lt. Governor's Race to the Top website](#)

Investing in Innovation:

Competitive grants worth a total of \$650 million will be awarded to partnerships between local school districts and non-profit entities that support local efforts to start or expand innovative programs that help close the achievement gap and improve outcomes for students. Draft guidelines were issued in October 2009 and the final request for proposal is expected in late 2009. **Contact:** *Nina Lopez, lopez_n@cde.state.co.us*

Title IA:

Colorado received an allocation of \$111.1 million allocation to support improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged students at schools with high percentages of low-income students. Title I funds are disbursed by the Colorado Department of Education according to a federal formula, based upon approved applications submitted by school districts. Eighty-five percent of the state's total Title I, Part A funds (including regular FY 2009 Title I, Part A funds) must be obligated at the state and local level by Sept. 30, 2010. Any remaining Title I, Part A funds will be available for obligation at the state and local level until Sept. 30, 2011. The state also expects to receive \$33.8 million in January 2010 for Title I schools that are persistently low-performing (this program is called the Title I School Improvement program). **Contact:** *Patrick Chapman, Co. Dept. of Ed., 303-866-6780, chapman_p@cde.state.co.us*

Title I School Improvement grants:

Colorado was awarded \$33.8 million for Title I schools that are persistently low-performing. **Contact:** *Patrick Chapman, Co. Dept. of Ed., 303-866-6780, chapman_p@cde.state.co.us*

Title I-D:

Colorado received 4863,346 in grants for Delinquent Institution Grants that were distributed by formula to Title I schools. **Contact:** *Patrick Chapman, Co. Dept. of Ed., 303-866-6780, chapman_p@cde.state.co.us*

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act:

Colorado has received \$80.5 million through the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for students and children with disabilities. This represents half of Colorado's total allocation of \$161 million for IDEA parts B and C. These funds are available through three programs:

- Part B (section 611) formula grants totaling \$148.7 million in Colorado, will be given to state education authorities and then to local schools to improve services for children and youth with disabilities by making short-term investments that can have long-term benefits. The state has announced allocations to school districts around Colorado. Ten Colorado school districts will soon receive a total of \$4.4 million for the current school year, while the majority of the IDEA funding will be for FY 2009-10. All Part B, section 611 funds must be obligated by the state by September 20, 2011.
- Another Part B formula grant program (section 619), totaling \$5.3 million in Colorado, will help schools expand the availability and range of placement options for preschoolers (ages three to five) with disabilities by developing the capacity of public and private preschool programs to serve them. All Part B, section 619 funds must be obligated by the state by September 20, 2011. **Contact:** *Ed Steinberg, Colorado Dept. of Education, 303-866-6059, steinberg_e@cde.state.co.us; Charm Paulmeno, 303-866-6689, paulmeno_c@cde.state.co.us;*
- The IDEA part C program for infants and toddlers is distributing \$7,954,827 million across Colorado. These grants will help fund early intervention services for birth through two-year old children being served by the 20 Community Centered Boards and increase funding for statewide initiatives to improve services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities.

As of April 2010, \$2.2 million had been spent, 614 infants and toddlers were served and 40.76 full-time equivalent jobs were created. **Contact:** Ardith Ferguson, Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Early Intervention, 303-866-7657, ardith.ferguson@state.co.us;

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants:

The state received \$924,815 in Title X McKinney-Vento formula funds from the federal government on April 10, 2009. Grant awards were made in August 2009 to 17 school districts and BOCES across Colorado. All funds through this program must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2011. The funds are designed to help homeless children enroll in, attend and succeed in school. **Contact:** Dana Scott, Colorado Dept. of Education, 303-866-6930, scott_d@cde.state.co.us

Enhancing Education Through Technology (Title IID):

Colorado was awarded \$3.5 million to help school districts improve the use of technology in curricula and to help all students become technologically literate by the end of 8th grade. Half of the money will be distributed by formula related to Title I criteria. The rest will be given out through a competitive process developed by the state. **Contact:** Dan Morris, Colorado Department of Education; Morris_d@cde.state.co.us, 303-229-8301

Early Head Start/Head Start:

Colorado expects to receive almost \$8 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand capacity at pre-schools, improve services and establish advisory councils for early childhood programs. Administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services, \$690,000 has been awarded to six Head Start programs.

Pell Grants:

Colorado students are expected to receive \$131 million in additional grants. The maximum Pell Grant award will increase by \$500 to \$5,350 and will help more than 52,000 students in Colorado. There also are tax credits for college tuition. The credit will be increased from \$1800 to \$2500 for families earning up to \$180,000. All Colorado families who qualify for this tax credit will benefit from this increase. **Contact:** Inta Morris, Colorado Department of Higher Education, 303-866-4031; inta.morris@dhe.state.co.us

Work Study:

Colorado students are expected to receive an estimated \$2.7 million in federal work study grants through a competitive process through the Department of Higher Education. **Contact:** Inta Morris, Colorado Department of Higher Education, 303-866-4031; inta.morris@dhe.state.co.us

National School Lunch Program:

The U.S. Department of Education is distributing up to \$1 million in Colorado in competitive grants to public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions, with priority given to schools that have at least 50 percent of students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The funds are used for equipment that will improve the quality of meals, safety of food served, energy efficiency of food service operations and expansion of the meal program. Grants were awarded in June 2009 to more than 30 school districts. Recipients are required to finish procurement and expenditure activities within three months of the grant award. **Contact:** Herminia Vigil, Colorado Dept. of Education, 303-866-6934, vigil_h@cde.state.co.us

Impact Aid Construction:

Colorado has received \$1 million in formula grants for emergency renovations and modernization projects. The Fountain-Fort Carson School District #8 in El Paso County has awarded three contracts: \$176,000 to Weathercraft Company for roof replacement at Fountain Middle School, \$383,142.50 to All Seasons Inc. to replace boilers at Jordahl Elementary, and \$154,324 for classroom/library construction at Abrams Elementary. Two more projects are expected to be financed. These funds allowed the district to spend more on building a new school. More funds will be available through a competitive grant process in coming months. **Contact:** David Lyon, Co. Dept. of Education, 303-866-6836, lyon_d@cde.state.co.us

Teacher Incentive Fund:

The U.S. Department of Education will distribute \$200 million in competitive grants for programs that develop performance-based incentives for teachers and principals in high-need schools. This goes straight from the federal government to local school districts and non-profit groups.

Teacher Residency Program:

In April 2010, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Denver Public Schools an \$8.2 million grant to expand its teacher residency program. The program is part of DOE's Teacher Quality Partnership program. DPS will train dozens of new teachers to work in areas of critical need in the district.

Vocational Rehabilitation Grants:

The U.S. Department of Education is distributing an estimated \$7.3 million in formula grants in Colorado for job training and services for the disabled. These funds will be handled by the Colorado Department of Education.

Contact: Nancy Smith, Co. Department of Human Services, 303-866-4886, nancy.smith@state.co.us

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant:

The U.S. Department of Education is distributing \$250 million nationwide in competitive grants to state education agencies for improving data systems to manage individual student data, including college readiness test scores and teacher identification data. Contact: Richard Wenning, Colorado Department of Education, 303-866-6764, wenning_r@cde.state.co.us

>> HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES <<

Social Security benefits:

More than 500,000 Colorado residents who are receiving Social Security and SSI benefits also received a one-time payment of \$250. This benefit, totaling more than \$174 million in Colorado, was distributed throughout May and early June. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/

Medicaid:

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing was eligible to receive \$247,634,837 of increased Medicaid funds retroactive to October 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. As of August 1, 2009, Colorado had drawn down 100 percent of these funds.

Colorado experienced a significant increase in Medicaid recipients in the last year increasing by 57,916 clients, 14.4 percent, from June 2008 to June 2009. These extra dollars reduced the burden on the state General Fund and other funds that would have been tapped to cover the increased Medicaid costs. The anticipated federal relief enabled the Department to avoid provider reimbursement cuts in FY 2008-09 and prevented the reduction of services to additional children and low-income adults eligible for Medicaid or the Child Health Plan Plus program. **Contact:** Joanne C. Lindsay, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, 303-866-3144; Joanne.lindsay@state.co.us

Disproportionate Share Hospital Assistance:

Colorado hospitals that handle high numbers of Medicaid patients expect to receive \$2.3 million in additional Medicaid funds from the federal government through a formula.

Food and Nutrition Assistance:

Colorado agencies and residents are receiving additional food assistance through a variety of programs, including:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, increased an estimated 13.6 percent. Starting April 1, 2009, Colorado families began receiving an average monthly increase of \$40, amounting to almost \$180 million in additional funding to the state. As of Oct. 31, 2009, \$46.7 million had been disbursed in additional benefits statewide to more than 160,000 households – consisting of more than 370,000 people. The food stamp caseload continues to grow each month. As of April 2010, 407,731 people were receiving the extra food stamp benefit.
- The 10 largest counties, which handle more than 80 percent of the statewide caseload of food stamps, have received \$2.4 million to hire more workers or pay overtime to existing staff to process the increased number of food assistance requests in a timely manner. The funds were spent on overtime for existing staff and the hiring of 20 full-time and 20 part-time workers to process applications. The funds helped county workers serve 148,725 additional people as of April 2010. **Contact:** Sue McGinn, Colorado Department of Human Services, Food and Nutrition Division, 303-866-3391, susan.mcqinn@state.co.us; Pauline Burton, Colorado Department of Human Services; Pauline.burton@state.co.us, 303.866.5050
- Supplementary Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding will increase by \$500 million nationwide for a contingency fund to handle caseload growth and \$100 million to support state MIS projects. Colorado submitted an application for \$444,066 to the Department

of Agriculture on May 29, 2009. **Contact:** Jillian Jacobellis, Division Director, Prevention Services Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2504,

jillian.jacobellis@state.co.us

- Food banks and assistance agencies across Colorado are receiving huge shipments of commodity food items paid for with \$1.3 million in formula grants through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) targeting people below the poverty line. The grants are distributed through food commodities, not dollars, distributed to food pantries. The USDA is using their bid process to purchase food. More than 560,000 cases of food are being distributed to 50 county agencies and food banks and 43 soup kitchens across Colorado. More than 113,000 households with more than 306,000 people are receiving high-quality food including whole chickens, cheese, eggs and sliced turkey. **Contact:** Phil Loo, Colorado Department of Human Services, 303-866-5097, phil.loo@state.co.us
- County agencies also received \$715,030 to improve food delivery service to the needy through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The funds paid for the hiring of 2 refrigeration service technicians and more freezers and refrigerators to store food. The equipment and services will benefit 30 counties across the state.

Health Insurance Benefits for the Unemployed:

Colorado residents who involuntarily lost jobs between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009 and worked for businesses that offered health insurance are eligible for help with paying for health insurance. To be eligible for the increase in benefit, residents must meet certain income requirements. The benefit is part of the program known as COBRA. The Recovery Act adds a premium subsidy to the existing COBRA program, so the employee pays 35% of the health insurance premium and the employer pays 65% for up to nine months. For the state health insurance continuation program the ratios are the same, but the coverage lasts for six months. Employers are reimbursed by the federal government in the form of credits against their payroll taxes or as refunds. State officials estimate that thousands of people are getting this benefit, although exact figures are not available at this time.

Contact:

For Employers:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204708,00.html>

For General Info:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204505,00.html>



**“I depend on this,
I really do.”**

Rena Thomas, 59, of Lakewood, struggles to make ends meet. She used to work as hairdresser but went on disability years ago because of a knee and foot injury and can't work. She lives off of Social Security disability payments and other public benefits.

Since February 2009, Thomas has been getting higher food stamp benefits because of the Recovery Act. She says the extra money for groceries is wonderful and allows her buy more at the store. She also received an extra \$250 check from the Social Security Administration in the spring – also courtesy of the Recovery Act. She used the money to pay her overdue phone bill.

Thomas said she didn't know the Recovery Act was paying for the extra benefits. “That's great. It really helps.”

Thomas also goes to Agape Life Church in Arvada to get free food on a weekly basis. Food banks across the state have been giving out more meats and protein items paid for with Recovery Act funds. She said the fruits and vegetables and meat are really helpful for her diet.

Aging Nutrition Services:

The state has distributed \$1.3 million in additional funds to 16 Area Agencies on Aging across Colorado. The local agencies were given \$847,851 for group meals and \$417,403 for home delivered meals for seniors age 60 years and older. The funds will provide 138,673 additional meals for 11,113 unduplicated seniors in a group setting and 65,367 meals delivered to homes of 3,445 unduplicated seniors. This is through two grants that both require a 15 % match from the state. The funds have largely been spent as of early 2010. **Contact:** Susan Hunt, Colorado Department of Human Services, 303.866.2727; susan.hunt@state.co.us; Jeanette Hensley, Director of Aging and Adult Services at DHS, 303-866-2636, jeanette.hensley@state.co.us

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs:

Colorado expects to receive \$68 million to boost benefits in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, formerly known as welfare. These funds are expected to be used in conjunction with a homelessness prevention project targeting low-income individuals and families with children. As of April 2010, the program helped 1,667 people with subsidized employment, 1,440 people with housing, 1,400 people with refugee services and 15,000 people with utility payments (LEAP). **Contact:** Pauline Burton, Colorado Department of Human Services; Pauline.Burton@state.co.us 303.866.5050; Kevin Richards, Director of Colorado Works Program at DHS, 303-866-2054, kevin.richards@state.co.us

Child Care Assistance:

County human service agencies are receiving \$24.3 million through 2010 for child care services to low-income families. These funds come as discretionary block grants to supplement state funding for to improve access to quality child care. Colorado has spent more than \$11.7 million and provided services to more than 4,000 additional families above existing clients served across the state. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2010. Just over \$3 million of that grant must be spent on improving quality of child care. In addition, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Indian Tribe will receive \$60,124 and \$66,936 respectively. **Contact:** George Kennedy, Colorado Department of Human Services, George.kennedy@state.co.us 303.866.4479; Rosemarie Allen, Colorado Department of Human Services, 303-866-5943; rosemarie.allen@state.co.us

Child support enforcement:

A Federal match of 66 percent is available for State administrative costs of carrying out child support enforcement program activities. Colorado has been awarded \$6.7 million, of which \$5 million has been spent as of April 2010. The funds were used to serve more than 147,000 children across all counties. The funds will be distributed to counties based on their performance. The intent of the funds is to restore financial incentives based on performance of the county agencies and retain jobs and current levels of services. **Contact:** Pauline Burton, Colorado Department of Human Services, Pauline.Burton@state.co.us 303.866.5050; John Bernhart, Director of Child Support Enforcement, 303-866-3985, john.bernhart@state.co.us

Adoption Assistance and Foster Care:

Colorado has been awarded \$1,860,880 to support foster care programs. As of April 2010, all funds had been spent to serve about 2,100 children across all counties. The state also was awarded \$1,658,485 to support adoption programs. As of April 2010, all of the adoption funds had been spent to serve about 6,600 children across the state. **Contact:** Sharen Ford, Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare, 303-866-3197 sharen.ford@state.co.us



"If I didn't have this job I'd still be looking. I really don't know what I'd do without this job."

Carla Pacheco, 45, of Littleton, was laid off from her job as an events manager for an electronics company in the fall of 2008. For nine months, she searched for work. Pacheco was hired by the U.S. Census Bureau in June 2009 to work as a partnership assistant. In this position, Pacheco works with Hispanic media outlets across 10 states to help get the word out about the upcoming population count.

Before she got the job, Pacheco's impression of the Recovery Act was that it was designed to help develop new business for companies and to create jobs. She said she is grateful to have a job paid for with Recovery Act funds. The mother said the job allows her to pay her bills and support her teenage daughter.

"It's incredible," she said of the Recovery Act. "It's government at work."

Census administration:

The U.S. Department of Commerce is distributing \$1 billion to augment the administration of the 2010 Census. The money will be used to hire additional personnel, increase media purchases and improve management and outreach to minority and hard-to-reach populations. The local Census office has been allocated \$770,000 for FY 2009-2010 to facilitate the administration of the 2010 Census in the 10-state region. About \$350,000 of those funds were used to hire employees based out of the Lakewood office. *Contact: Cathy Illian, U.S. Census Bureau, 303-264-0202, cathy.lacy.illian@census.gov; Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer, Department of Local Affairs, 303-866-2818.*

Community Services Block Grants:

Approximately \$8.7 million was allocated to Colorado for community service block grants. The funds can be used to help Colorado citizens become more self-sufficient by providing services related to employment, education, nutrition, housing, health, emergency services such as rental and mortgage assistance, financial education (income maintenance). Eligible citizens for services include individuals and families at 200 percent of poverty. Local agencies submitted applications in the spring of 2009. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs and an advisory group allocated funds to 40 counties and organizations serving rural counties. The funds will pay for services in the areas of housing, employment, healthcare, nutrition and income management. County governments can partner with non-profits to provide the services. All funds must be spent by Sept. 30, 2010. *Contact: Lucia Smead, 303-866-3128, lucia.smead@state.co.us, Department of Local Affairs*

Health Information Technology (HITECH):

The Recovery Act designates a variety of competitive grants for the development of electronic medical records and other forms of healthcare-related information technology. Funds are split into two programs:

- State Cooperative Agreements to Promote Health Information Technology: \$564 million in Planning and Implementation Projects are to advance appropriate and secure health information exchange (HIE) across the health care system. The

purpose of this program is to continuously improve and expand HIE services over time to reach all health care providers.

- Health Information Technology Extension Program: \$598 million will fund a national Health Information Technology Research Center and Regional Extension Centers. The Regional Centers will provide assistance through education, outreach, and technical assistance, to help providers in their geographic service areas use EHR technology to improve the quality and value of health

care. Regional Centers will help providers achieve exchange of health information. Awards are scheduled to be announced in December 2009.

Governor Ritter has designated the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) as the state-level entity to receive health information technology (HIT) funds. Colorado plans to use HITECH funds to establish a loan and grant program for providers who are interested in purchasing electronic health records, to reimburse Medicaid providers who utilize electronic health records to improve clinical outcomes, and train health care professionals. It also hopes to become a HIT Regional Extension Center.

CORHIO (www.corhio.org) is a nonprofit organization that works to facilitate the electronic health information exchange to improve the health of all Coloradans.

In February 2010, CORHIO won two grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The organization won a \$9.1 million grant to build out a statewide health information exchange. In May 2010, CORHIO chose Salt Lake City-based Medicity to build the technology platform for that project. CORHIO also won a \$12.75 million grant to establish electronic health records through a Regional Extension Center. This will be done with CO-REC, a consortium of health care organizations that will use electronic health records and information exchange among at least 2,200 primary care providers working in small practices and safety net providers.

In May 2010, the Colorado Beacon Consortium won a \$11.8 million grant to implement a health information technology pilot project in western Colorado.

Contact: *Phyllis Albritton, Executive Director, Colorado Regional Health Information Organization, 720-858-6062.*

Community Health Centers:

The Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services will distribute \$2.5 billion nationally in competitive grants through three programs designed to support services at federally qualified community health centers.

- **Capital Improvement Program:** Colorado's 15 federally qualified community health centers have received a combined \$16.9 million for construction, renovation, and equipment (including health information technology systems). In addition, the Colorado Coalition of the Homeless has received \$1.9 million to support electronic health records implementation and the Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN) received \$441,250 to devise plans to use existing EHRs to improve patient health outcomes.
- **Increased Demand for Services:** Colorado's 15 federally qualified community health centers have received \$7.5 million, creating or retaining an estimated 154 jobs and reaching 39,689 new patients and 21,619 uninsured patients. In addition, one health center in Colorado Springs was awarded \$1.3 million, which is estimated to create 40 jobs and reach 5,240 patients.
- **Facility Investment Program:** \$515 million in one-time competitive grants will support health center efforts to expand their capacity to provide primary and preventive health services to medically underserved populations nationwide as well as create employment opportunities in underserved communities over the next 2 years.



The **Metro Community Provider Network** in Aurora, which serves low-income and uninsured people, is receiving a host of benefits funded by millions of dollars from the Recovery Act. They will save on energy bills by installing solar panels on the roof. They will get new dentist chairs, more IT equipment for electronic medical records, and funds to cover services to an increasing number of clients.

Health P
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will

distribute \$500 million nationally to bolster and expand the health professions workforce.

- Colorado will receive \$837,257 to train health professionals \$200 million in grants to target health professions training programs to strengthen the workforce in key areas. Pueblo Community College, Colorado State University, and University of Colorado-Denver have received a combined \$45,766 for Nursing Workforce Diversity programs.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is receiving \$800,000 for fiscal year 2009 loan repayment programs and \$35,840 to help recruit new National Health Service Corps (NHSC) clinicians. In addition, the Denver Health Medical Center, Eagle County Government, and Tri County Health Department in Greenwood Village are receiving funds for the Nurse Education Loan Repayment program. **Contact:** Jillian Jacobellis, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2504, jillian.jacobellis@state.co.us

Communities Putting Prevention to Work:

The Recovery Act dedicates \$650 million nationwide to state and local levels to increase levels of physical activity, improve nutrition, decrease obesity rates, and decrease smoking prevalence, teen smoking initiation, and exposure to second hand smoke. It is unknown how much Colorado will receive. The program has four initiatives:

- **Community Initiative:** Nearly \$450 million will pay for intensive community approaches to chronic disease prevention and control in selected communities (urban, rural, and tribal). This money will include grants to communities (\$373 million), as well as providing community support and evaluation support (\$76 million). In February 2010, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment received three grants totaling \$2.7 million for tobacco cessation, improving school nutrition and to increase physical activity. .
- **States and Territories Policy and Environmental Change Initiative:** \$120 million in cooperative agreements will support States and Territories to promote wellness and prevent chronic disease through state-wide policy and environmental change for chronic disease prevention and to increase tobacco cessation through expanded quit lines and tobacco cessation media.
- **States Chronic Disease Self-Management Initiative:** \$32.5 million will support state chronic disease self-management programs. The Administration on Aging and Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention will build on an existing partnership to leverage the public health and aging networks to deploy prevention programs targeted at the elderly.

- National Prevention and Media Initiative: \$40 million will establish a National Prevention Media Initiative and a National Organizations Initiative to foster prevention and wellness messages and advertisements, amplified and extended through national organizations.

Contact: Jillian Jacobellis, Division Director, Prevention Services Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2504, jillian.jacobellis@state.co.us

Compassion Capital Fund:

\$50 million will be distributed in competitive grants by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help faith-based and community organizations increase their effectiveness, enhance their level of services to people most in need and create partnerships with other organizations.

Immunizations:

Colorado is receiving \$3.3 million to administer vaccines.

Contact: Lisa Miller, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2663; lisa.miller@state.co.us

Health Information Technology Fund – Immunizations:

This part of the Recovery Act could bring as much as \$1 million to Colorado for an electronic tracking system for immunizations that can be used nationwide. The funds, if awarded, would be used to expand the state's IT system for immunizations. **Contact:** Lisa Miller, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2663; lisa.miller@state.co.us

Healthcare Associated Infections:

\$50 million was authorized to support states in the prevention and reduction of healthcare associated infections (HAI). The funds will pay for efforts that support surveillance and research, improve quality for patients, encourage collaboration, train the workforce in HAI prevention, and measure outcomes. Colorado's request for \$1.17 million is pending. **Contact:** Lisa Miller, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2663; lisa.miller@state.co.us

Comparative Effectiveness Health Research grants:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will distribute \$1.1 billion in competitive grants to research institutions for work on developing two or more medical treatments for a particular medical condition. Some of these funds will be distributed by the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Local groups are awaiting federal guidelines on these grants.

National Cemetery Administration:

The federal government is distributing \$50 million in discretionary funds nationwide to support cemeteries that are state-owned and operated solely for eligible veterans and their dependents and/or spouses.

Strengthening Communities Fund:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$46 million in grants directly to community and faith-based organizations to increase their ability to handle the broad economic Recovery issues in their communities, including job training and retention and access to state and Federal benefits. All grants are one-time, two year awards.

- Under the State, Local, and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program, Adams County and the Colorado Nonprofit Association each received \$250,000.

- Under the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, Telluride Foundation in Telluride received \$999,684 and First Nations Development Institute in Longmont received \$800,000. The Nonprofit program requires that each nonprofit sponsor one young person who will learn how to manage and grow these organizations to create the next generation of nonprofit leadership.

>> EMPLOYMENT – WORKFORCE TRAINING <<

Extended Unemployment Benefits:

The federal government approved extensions of benefits prior to the passage of the Recovery Act, and then further extended them through the Recovery Act. This means that people who have been involuntarily laid off can receive up to 59 weeks of benefits, including the 26 weeks provided by state law. The Recovery Act extends benefits an additional 20 weeks (for a total of 79 weeks). As of March 31, 2010, more than 114,000 received additional benefits of more than \$713 million through the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program.

The Colorado General Assembly also passed a law that allows the state to use Recovery Act funds for additional unemployment benefits. As of March 31, 2010, more than 23,000 people receiving extended benefits through the State Extended Benefits (SEB) program. The total benefit so far has been \$73.9 million.

Increased Unemployment Benefits:

People receiving unemployment checks of any type are receiving \$25 more a week, which adds up to an estimated \$87 million in extra federal dollars through the Recovery Act. As of March 31, 2010,, more than 262,000 individuals have received the additional \$25 amount for a total of more than \$152 million in Federal Additional Compensation payments. Typically unemployment benefits are taxed as income, but under the bill, the first \$2,400 of benefits is deductible or tax free.

Persons interested in filing an unemployment compensation claim or with general questions about unemployment insurance can contact: www.coworkforce.com

Denver Metro: (303) 318-9000; Toll Free: (800) 388-5515; Hearing Impaired (TTD) Denver Metro: (303) 318-9016; Hearing Impaired (TTD) Toll Free: (800) 894-7730

Re-employment and Training:

Colorado will receive funds through several grants from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job training, job placement and support services for workers who lose their jobs as well as those who are unemployed for other reasons. The programs will be administered through local workforce agencies, but will be coordinated and tracked through the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. These funds include:

- \$6.2 million to the state in formula grants through the Wagner-Peyser Act.
- \$4.8 million to the state in formula grants through the Workforce Investment Act for adult job training and support services.
- \$14.4 million to the state in formula grants through the Workforce Investment Act for adult dislocated workers.
- Potential grants through a competitive program for High-growth industry training that was amount to \$750 million nationwide.

For persons interested in receiving job training service, contact: (303) 318-8035

Youth training and support:

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment expects to receive funds through several grants to help train young people enter the workforce. They include:

- \$11.8 million to Colorado to help train young people, ages 15 to 24, to enter the workforce through paid summer jobs.
- The potential for grants through a competitive program called YouthBuild, offering \$50 million nationwide to help young people finish high school and learn housing construction job skills through work on low-income and affordable housing projects.
- Formula funds through the Job Corps Program, offering \$250 million nationwide, to support construction and modernization of residential facilities for at-risk youth. It is unclear how much Colorado will receive.

More than 3,500 young people were placed in summer jobs across Colorado. Contact: Gary Estenson, gary.estenson@state.co.us; Kelly Brown, Kelly.brown@state.co.us; 303-318-8035



"I want to do something that gives back to the community and helps underprivileged youth. This helps me see how things work."

- Julia Kirklen, a Denver teen who spent the summer of 2009 working with other youth at the Denver Youth Workforce Office

Rural Nurses Training:

Otero Junior College and Trinidad State Junior College received a \$5 million grant from the US Department of Labor to recruit and train about 700 nurses to serve in an 11-county region in southern Colorado. **Contact:** Denise Root, 719-384-6894, denise.root@ojc.edu.

Healthcare Information Technology Training:

The University of Colorado College of Nursing received a \$2.6 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services to train healthcare professionals in information technology. This program will help the medical community more effectively use information technology. **Contact:** Caitlin Jenney, 303-315-6376, Caitlin.jenney@ucdenver.edu

Community Service jobs for seniors:

Colorado will receive \$240,104 to help low-income seniors who are 55 years old or older and have poor employment prospects. The program pays minimum wage to seniors who are placed in community service jobs for up to 20 hours a week. There is a 10% percent match requirement. Services will be provided through the Senior Community Service Employment Program. There are 25 people working in this program in the Denver metro area and 12 southern counties. As of April 2010, \$144,986 had been spent. **Contact:** Gary Estenson, gary.estenson@state.co.us; Kelly Brown, Kelly.brown@state.co.us; 303-318-8035; Audrey Krebs, Colorado Department of Human Services, 303-866-2846, audrey.krebs@state.co.us;

Employment support for people with disabilities:

The U.S. Department of Education is distributing funds for three programs that help disabled people gain employment and live independently. The money will be given to states according to a formula and

will be handled by the Colorado Department of Human Services. All the funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2011. The programs include:

- \$7.3 million from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to help people with disabilities obtain jobs. There is no matching fund requirement. As of April 2010, \$1.2 million has been spent and 5,298 people were served. Almost 10 full-time equivalent positions were created with these funds.
- \$242,913 for independent living services, including peer support, advocacy and independent living skills training at the 10 Colorado Centers for Independent Living. As of April 2010, \$20,308 had been spent.
- \$497,578 for services for visually-impaired people that focus on helping these people live independently and stay active.
- The federal government is distributing \$87.5 million nationwide in competitive grants to non-profit organizations for independent living programs.

Contact: Nancy Smith, director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DHS, 303-866-4886; nancy.smith@state.co.us; Sandy Pratt, chief financial officer, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DHS, 303-866-4990 sandy.pratt@state.co.us;

Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act:

The Recovery Act provides a series of funds to states for modernizing the unemployment insurance programs. The General Assembly passed SB 247, signed into law by Gov. Ritter in June 2009 that modifies Colorado's unemployment insurance provisions to comply with federal guidelines, among other provisions. The law allows the state to qualify for up to \$127 million for modernization of the unemployment benefits system. **Contact:** Gary Estenson, gary.estenson@state.co.us; Kelly Brown, kelly.brown@state.co.us; 303-318-8035

Workforce Investment Act Assistance National Emergency Grants:

The U.S. Department of Labor has designated \$200 million nationally to make emergency grant awards for areas that experience mass layoffs, plant closings and other types of worker dislocations. The funds would be used for job training and placement services. These funds would be distributed at the discretion of the head of the federal agency. **Contact:** Gary Estenson, gary.estenson@state.co.us; Kelly Brown, kelly.brown@state.co.us; 303-318-8035

High Demand and Green Jobs Grants:

The U.S. Department of Labor has designated \$750 million across the country for competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth jobs. Within that fund, \$500 million in competitive grants is dedicated to programs to prepare workers for jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency as established in the Green Jobs Act of 2007. On June 24, 2009, the DOL issued a solicitation for grant applications for this program, detailing five different categories of grant funding. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment submitted a statewide application in all five categories on Oct. 20, 2009. The priority for the rest of the funds will be to prepare workers for jobs in health care. . In January 2010, the US Department of Labor awarded Mi Casa Resource Center for Women Inc. a \$3.6 million grant through the Pathways Out of Poverty program. This grant will provide green job training to 500 people. **Contact:** Gary Estenson, gary.estenson@state.co.us; Kelly Brown, kelly.brown@state.co.us; 303-318-8035

>> BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <<

Small business loans:

The Recovery Act dedicates funds to ensure access to several loans through the Small Business Administration. Since the Recovery Act was signed, the Colorado SBA office has approved 654 7(a) and 504 loans worth \$330 million. The loan programs are:

- 504 loans: To help small businesses with fixed asset projects, including purchasing land and improvements, existing buildings, grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping; construction of new facilities or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities; purchasing long-term machinery and equipment. The SBA is directed to collect no fee or to reduce fees. These competitive grants will be available until Sept. 30, 2013.
- 7 (a) Loan Guarantee Program: To help business owners operate, acquire or expand an existing business. Loan fees are also removed or reduced. Available until Sept. 30, 2012.
- Business Stabilization Program: Competitive loans for small businesses that are having trouble paying their existing loans. These funds will stay available until Sept. 30, 2014.
- Micro-loan Program: Small loans for start-up, newly established or growing small businesses. These loans will go through non-profit community based lenders to the borrowers. The average loan size is \$13,000. Funds will remain available until Sept. 30, 2011.
- ARC loans: viable small businesses can borrow up to \$35,000 to make payments of principal and interest, on one or more existing, qualifying small business loans for up to 6 months. This includes credit card obligations, capital leases, bills to vendors/suppliers. This is designed to help businesses facing immediate financial hardship. The program was announced May 18, 2009. As of early October, 2009, the agency had approved 30 ARC loans worth \$928,000.

Contact: Lynette Newman, SBA, 303-844-2607 ext. 223; Bob Martin, 303-844-2607 ext. 212.

Kevin DeLange, owns **Dry Dock Brewery** on Hampden Avenue in Aurora. His business has been thriving so he applied to Key Bank for a loan. Because of the Recovery Act, the Small Business Administration waived the closing costs for the loan. DeLange used the \$15,000 to \$20,000 he would have spent on the loan to buy a new fermenter. Here he is pictured with the new fermenter.



Surety Bond Guarantees:

The Small Business Administration is offering higher surety bonds for businesses to compete for construction and service contracts. Now, businesses can qualify for SBA-backed surety bonds of up to \$5 million, which is more than double the previous \$2 million maximum surety bond guaranteed by SBA. SBA guarantees bid, payment and performance bonds. Surety bonds protect the project owner against financial loss if contractors default or fail to perform. **Contact:** *Lynette Newman, U.S. Small Business Administration, 303-844-2607 ext. 223; Bob Martin, 303-844-2607 ext. 212.*

Bonds:

The Recovery Act created several new public-finance opportunities for government entities. These new bonds are substantially subsidized by the federal government and allow government agencies to access cheaper capital, in some cases at 0% interest. The bond sales finance projects, including building schools, creating renewable-energy projects, undertaking job and workforce training, and investing in public infrastructure. The State Treasurer worked with the Governor's Office and Legislature to pass important legislation related to bonds. The legislation allows cities, counties, school districts, special districts, and the state to take full advantage of these federally subsidized financing opportunities, which are only available until the end of 2010. As a result, many local government entities are issuing bonds and moving forward with capital projects.

Recovery Zone Bonds:

The Recovery Act dedicates \$25 billion nationwide for economic zones designated by a local government as having high levels of poverty, unemployment, and foreclosures. Colorado received an allocation of about \$99 million in Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds and \$148.5 million in Recovery Zone Facility Bonds. Government issuers of these bonds may receive a 45 percent credit of interest payable on the bonds. All bonds must be issued by the end of 2010. As of late January 2010, all but \$1.2 million in the facility bonds had been allocated to higher education projects. And about \$61 million in the economic development bonds had been allocated to higher education projects. **Contact:** *Mary Wickersham, Colorado State Treasurer's Office, Mary.wickersham@state.co.us; 303-866-2442*

Qualified School Construction Bonds:

The Recovery Act dedicates \$22 billion for a new category of tax credit bonds for construction, rehabilitation or repair of public school facilities or for the purchase of land on which to build a public school. Colorado received an allocation of \$87 million. The state issued all of its allocation to fund the Building Excellent Schools Today program. The funds will be used to replace 6 schools in the San Luis Valley. The bonds will save the state about \$65 million in interest and sinking fund interest earnings. Other school projects are expected to be financed. In late September 2009, Denver Public Schools saved an estimated \$3.69 million on the sale of bonds for school repairs and renovations. **Contact:** *Mary Wickersham, Colorado State Treasurer's Office, 303-866-2442, Mary.wickersham@state.co.us*

Build America Bonds:

Build America Bonds lower costs to public entities on financing because the federal government subsidizes 35% of the interest paid on the project. The program is one of several financing programs created by the Recovery Act to help government agencies move capital construction projects forward while saving hundreds of millions of dollars. As of mid October 2009, nine local agencies, including Denver Water, Jefferson County, Colorado Springs Utilities and the Pueblo Board of Water Works, issued bond sales for the construction of new facilities and

improvements to existing facilities, saving a total of about **\$115 million**. The projects to be funded with these bonds include the new state History Museum and Justice Complex in Denver, a new police facility and civic center in Parker and expansion of the Bus Rapid Transit system in Carbondale and Aspen. **Contact:** *Mary Wickersham, 303-866-2442, Mary.wickersham@state.co.us, Colorado State Treasurer's Office*

Energy Conservation Bonds:

These bonds would be used to finance work that reduces energy consumption in public buildings, implementing green community programs or promoting rural renewable energy production. Colorado may issue \$102 million with zero interest financing. The Governor's Energy Office allocates the funds to large counties and municipalities. **Contact:** *Mary Wickersham, 303-866-2442, Mary.wickersham@state.co.us, Colorado State Treasurer's Office*

Renewable Energy Bonds:

The U.S. Department of Energy is distributing \$2.4 billion through a competitive process to producers of renewable energy. Federal guidelines are pending.



Mesa State College in Grand Junction took advantage of **Build America Bonds** to finance the new \$30 million College Center. The bond sale was done at an extremely low interest rate, saving the college thousands, if not millions of dollars in finance costs. Construction is under way.

National Endowment for the Arts:

The National Endowment for the Arts is distributing \$50 million in competitive grants to organizations that promote arts and culture across the nation. Some of those funds will go directly from NEA to local arts organizations and non-profit groups. In early September 2009, the Colorado Council on the Arts (CCA), the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA), and the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) announced that 47 Colorado non-profit arts organizations will receive \$568,040 to preserve or restore **313 salaried and contract positions**. An additional \$740,000 has been awarded to four Colorado non-profits and the CCA for projects that focus on job preservation in the arts. **Contact:** *Elaine Mariner, Director of Colorado Council on the Arts, 303-892-3840, Elaine.mariner@state.co.us*

Rural Business Programs:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development office is distributing loans and grants totaling more than \$3 trillion to save and create jobs in rural areas. The programs include:

- Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan – provides incentives for business lending in rural communities. In January 2010, the USDA awarded two loan guarantees: a \$796,000 loan to a business group in Crestone for the construction of two new commercial buildings and a \$632,000 loan to the Dance of the Rockies studio in Durango to purchase property.
- Rural Business Enterprise Grant – facilitates the development of small and emerging rural businesses, helps fund distance learning networks, and helps fund employment-related training programs.
- Farm Direct Operating Loan Program -- assists eligible family farmers and ranchers in building and sustaining successful farm operations

Contact: www.rurdev.usda.gov

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers:

USDA will provide \$202.5 million nationally in technical assistance and cash payments to assist qualified farmers and fishermen, adversely affected by imports, in adjusting their business operations to either be more competitive with imported products or to switch to production of commodities that could be more profitable. Cash payments of up to \$4,000 after the completion of an approved business plan, and up to \$8,000 for the implementation of an approved long-term business plan, will be paid to participants through the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms:

The U.S. Department of Commerce has designated \$50 million nationwide to help companies that have been hurt by jobs going overseas to make them more competitive. These are competitive grants.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Sector Partnership Grants:

The U.S. Department of Labor has \$40 million nationwide for competitive grants to facilitate partnerships between industry, state and local governments, companies, labor groups and educational institutions to boost industries in the area. These are discretionary grants. **Contact:** Gary Estenson, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, gary.estenson@state.co.us; Kelly Brown, Kelly.brown@state.co.us; 303-318-8035

Recovery Zone/Economic Development Assistance:

The U.S. Department of Commerce is distributing \$150 in competitive grants to state and local governments and non-profit groups in areas that experience sudden and severe economic dislocation and job loss due to corporate restructuring.

>> TRANSPORTATION <<

Highway and bridge construction:

Colorado will receive \$404 million for transportation projects statewide. Part of that money is expected to projects that will do a wide range of work, from replacing traffic signals to highway resurfacing and bridge replacement. These projects are being coordinated by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

The Recovery Act also gives additional funds directly to transit agencies and the three large metropolitan planning organizations in the state for their prioritized projects:

- \$37.3million to the Denver Regional Council of Governments. The group voted in March 2009 to fund 7 projects, including renovations to Union Station in Denver, a pedestrian bridge in Arapahoe County, and a new I-225 interchange in Aurora. As of March 31, 2010, all of the funds had been allocated and \$12,046 had been spent.
- \$13.1 million to Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. As of March 31, 2010, all of the funds had been allocated and no dollars had been spent.
- \$5.8 million to North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization. As of March 31, 2010, \$5 million had been spent.

Work began May 19, 2009, on the first Recovery Act-funded roadway project in Littleton. As of April 2010, 82 roadway projects using more than \$338 million have begun construction, 18 projects have been completed, and more than 19,000 people were hired to work on those projects. More than \$126 million has been spent. In all, 102 projects will be paid for with Recovery Act funds.

[CDOT Recovery Act website](#); **Contact:** Herman Stockinger, CDOT, 303-757-9077; Stacey Stegman, CDOT, 303-757-9362, Stacey.stegman@state.co.us;

Jace Sanders, 37, of Pagosa Springs, has worked in construction all his life. He moved to Phoenix a few years ago looking for steadier work. When the recession hit and the company he worked for dropped in size 75%, he knew he had to find something else. Mr. Sanders was hired by the contractor, CS & W, to help rebuild the runways at Durango County Airport. The job allowed him to move back to Pagosa Springs with his wife and five children. "I can still pay my bills, take care of my kids and my wife, and keep our cars."



Transit:

There are several grant programs to help with transit needs. Colorado also has been allocated \$103 million in Capital Investment Grants for transit projects. Most of the money - \$90.2 million - will go to transit agencies in urban areas for capital projects such as new transit facilities or new vehicles.

- Regional Transportation District – Working on more than 25 projects worth \$132.5 million from a variety of programs. These projects include: installing smart card technology for fare boxes, capital maintenance on bus and rail systems, \$40 million for the West Corridor light rail and

construction at Denver Union Station. As of April 2010, RTD had spent almost \$80 million on the projects.

- City of Colorado Springs – allocated approximately \$8.8 million; \$4,550,000 has been obligated
- City of Fort Collins – \$3,403,060 has been allocated for work and \$51,094 has been spent
- Mesa County – moving forward with a \$2.5 million project at a transit maintenance facility
- City of Greeley – has a \$2 million allocation and moving forward with a \$13,000 safety rail retrofit for disabled and senior riders
- City of Pueblo – moving forward with three projects: \$1.8 million for busses, \$25,264 for replacement of a support vehicle, \$41,400 for fare box parts

The remaining \$12.5 million in transit funds will go to rural areas and will be managed by CDOT. About \$10.3 million will be used to fund a new bus maintenance facility in Summit County. Half of the funds must be obligated by Sept. 1, 2009 and the other half by March 5, 2010. There are “Buy America” provisions in these grants, calling for the purchase U.S.-made goods for the projects.

The Federal Transit Administration also is distributing \$750 million nationwide in discretionary funds for improving energy efficiency and reducing costs and dependence on foreign oil in transit projects. This fund is called the Transit Capital Investment Grants for new starts. A third grant program focuses on clean energy initiatives. The FTA will distribute \$100 million nationwide through a competitive process to public transit agencies for projects that reduce energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions.

Contact: Herman Stockinger, Colorado Department of Transportation, 303-757-9077; Stacey Stegman, Colorado Department of Transportation, 303-757-9362, Stacey.stegman@state.co.us;



Workers at a resurfacing project on US 160 in the Durango area in southwest Colorado. This is one of 47 highway projects, coordinated by CDOT, that have started statewide as of October 2009. More than 5,000 people have been hired for these projects.

Aviation:

Construction work at seven Colorado airports began over the summer with \$36.6 million in Recovery Act funds aimed at improving capacity, safety and security. More than \$33 million has been spent. The Federal Aviation Administration selected the grant recipients.

- Denver International Airport awarded \$7 million in contracts for runway rehabilitation, which is substantially complete. Another \$4.4 million contract for apron improvements is underway.

- \$3.1 million for taxiway rehabilitation at Centennial Airport.
- \$3.5 million for apron improvements at Aspen-Pitkin County Airport.
- \$6.7 million for taxiway rehabilitation at the Colorado Springs Airport.
- \$9.3 million for apron improvements at the Grand Junction Airport.
- \$1.9 million for resurfacing at the Durango Airport.
- \$556,797 for taxiway improvements at Fort Collins Airport.

Contact: Travis Vallin, Division of Aeronautics at CDOT, 303-261-4418, travis.vallin@state.co.us

Explosive Detections Equipment:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is distributing \$1 billion in discretionary grants nationwide to airports for the purchase and use of devices that detect explosives.

Multimodal Projects:

The U.S. Department of Transportation will distribute \$1.5 billion in discretionary grants to projects that are between \$20 and \$300 million in size and are of national or regional significance. The criteria for grant applications are due by mid May and applications are due within 180 days. Awards will be announced within one year. **Contact:** Herman Stockinger, CDOT, 303-757-9077; Stacey Stegman, CDOT, 303-757-9362, Stacey.stegman@state.co.us;

There also are other grants available through the Federal Transit Administration for public transit projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce dependence on oil, and promote alternative forms of travel. These funds total \$2.3 billion and are either competitive or discretionary through the US DOT.

High-speed Rail:

The Colorado Department of Transportation received two grants to advance high-speed rail in the state. The first grant, worth \$1 million, will pay for a Connectivity Study that shows how high-speed rail systems outside the Denver metro area might interface with RTD's FasTracks system. The second grant, worth \$400,000, will develop a state rail plan. **Contact:** Stacey Stegman, 303-757-9362, Stacey.stegman@dot.state.co.us.

>> ENERGY EFFICIENCY – CONSERVATION <<

State Energy Program:

Colorado's State Energy Program plan has been approved by the Department of Energy, and the state has received most of its allocation of \$49.2 million for energy efficiency and conservation projects. The Governor's Energy Office plans to distribute these funds to create jobs, develop clean energy sources, reduce energy costs for residents and cut emissions of greenhouse gases while injecting the state's economy with critical investments. The state plan divides the funds into seven categories: \$19.2 million for finance and capital investment grants and revolving loans, \$5.6 million for residential programs, \$9.7 million for renewable energy development and expansion, \$4.9 million for energy efficiency work on commercial buildings, \$4.7 million for public information and consumer outreach, \$723,348 for reducing the environmental impact of state government operations and \$1.28 million for increasing energy efficiency among utility customers and electric utilities. **Contact:** *Todd Hartman, Governor's Energy Office, 303-866-2262, todd.hartman@state.co.us; Barbara Alderson, U.S. Department of Energy, 303-275-4816, Barbara.alderson@go.doe.gov.*

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program:

Colorado expects to receive \$42.6 million for projects that reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. The Governor's Energy Office and various cities and counties are applying to the federal government. The goal is to reduce statewide energy used by 25 percent compared to 1990 use and to develop programs that will remain viable after the Recovery Act funds are spent. The money must be spent by Sept. 15, 2012 and is allocated mostly through formulas. The following grants have been awarded:

- \$18.9 million to the following cities from the U.S. Department of Energy: Arvada, Aurora, Broomfield, Castle Rock, Centennial, Colorado Springs, Commerce City, Denver, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, Greeley, Littleton, Thornton
- \$4.7 million to the following counties from the U.S. Department of Energy: Adams, Boulder, Arapahoe, Boulder, El Paso, Garfield, Larimer, Mesa, Weld
- \$9.6 million to the Governor's Energy Office from the U.S. Department of Energy for statewide distribution. At least 60 percent of that money must go to cities and counties that did not receive a direct allocation of EECBG funding. \$2.2 million of this was awarded in January 2010 to 18 community organizations to serve rural counties. More awards will be announced.

Contact: *Ms. Angie Fyfe, 303-866-2059, angie.fyfe@state.co.us, Governor's Energy Office; <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/grantees/default.html>*

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants – competitive:

The U.S. Department of Energy is distributing \$450 million in competitive grants to local and state government agencies for "Retrofit Ramp-Up" projects targeting community-scale retrofit projects that make significant, long-term impacts on energy use and can serve as national role models for grassroots energy efficiency efforts. The Governor's Energy Office received a \$25 million grant for retrofit projects in Boulder, Denver and Garfield counties. The project includes Xcel Energy as a partner. **Contact:** *Ms. Angie Fyfe, 303-866-2059, angie.fyfe@state.co.us*

Consumer Energy Tax Incentives:

Colorado residents have access to tax incentives to make their homes and vehicles more energy efficient.

- Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Tax Credits -- This program is run through the Energy Star program, a joint venture of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency. Colorado consumers are expected to receive \$4.5 million in Energy Star appliance rebates. Consumers who purchase and install specific products, such as energy-efficient windows, insulation, doors, roofs, and heating and cooling equipment in existing homes can receive a tax credit for 30% of the cost, up to \$1,500, for improvements. The Governor's Energy Office launched the program on April 19, 2010 and more than 25,000 people signed up in the first week.
- Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credits -- Consumers who install solar energy systems (including solar water heating and solar electric systems), small wind systems, geothermal heat pumps, and residential fuel cell and microturbine systems can receive a 30% tax credit for systems placed in service before December 31, 2016; the previous tax credit cap doesn't apply.
- Automobile Tax Credits – Hybrid gas electric and alternative fuel vehicles, plug-in electric vehicles, and plug-in hybrid conversion kits qualify for tax credits. Qualifying purchase dates and credit amounts vary. See the link below for more information.

Homeowners must apply for the tax credit when they file income taxes. The IRS will determine final tax credit amounts. *For more information:* <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/taxbreaks.htm>

Wind Technology grant:

The Northeast Colorado Wind project in Phillips County won a \$2.5 million grant to build a community-owned 30-megawatt project with the goal of building a 650-megawatt wind farm in Sedgwick, Phillips and Logan counties.

Low-Income Weatherization Program:

The Governor's Energy Office is coordinating the dispersal of \$79.5 million over three years for low-income residents to improve the energy efficiency of homes by replacing energy consuming appliances, weather stripping and insulation. To be eligible, a person's income must be up to 200 percent of the poverty level. Priority is given to the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high energy users, and households with high-energy burdens. The grant is up to \$6,500 per home. More than 10,000 homes are expected to receive improvements each year through this program. The program includes funds to train contractors for the work. All funds must be spent by March 31, 2012. Weatherization services will be provided by 11 partner agencies across the state. Work began in July and 2,200 homes received work using ARRA dollars as of March 31 2010. In addition, the state has hired an organization to administer a \$2,501,242 statewide multi-family program that will serve approximately 625 homes through June 30, 2010.

Contact: Brittany Purdum, Governor's Energy Office, 303-866-2401; Seth Portner, Governor's Energy Office, 303-866-2100 seth.portner@state.co.us



Mike Flaherty, an Iraq war veteran, at work doing weatherization at a home. Flaherty works for **Veterans Green Jobs**, which is doing energy efficiency improvements in hundreds of homes in the San Luis Valley. His job was created with Recovery Act funds.

Energy Saving Tax Incentives and Grants for Businesses:

The bill includes a three-year extension of the popular federal production tax credit (PTC) for electricity derived from wind (through 2012) and for electricity derived from biomass, geothermal, hydropower, landfill gas, waste-to-energy, and marine facilities (through 2013). Many renewable energy companies in Colorado use this tax credit to build renewable energy production facilities. There also is a new federal manufacturing tax credit for investment in advanced energy facilities, such as facilities that manufacture components for the production of renewable energy, advanced battery technology, and other innovative next-generation green technologies. Six Colorado clean-tech companies won \$75 million in tax credits. They include: Abound Solar in Longmont (\$12.6 million), Advanced Energy Industries in Fort Collins (\$1.2 million), Coolerado Corporation in Denver (\$750,000), Reflec Tech in Arvada (\$750,000), Hexcel Corp. in Windsor (\$8.1 million), Vestas Blades America Inc. in Brighton (\$30.2 million), Vestas Towers America Inc. in Pueblo (\$21.6 million). *For more information:*

<http://www.energy.gov/recovery/index.htm>

Alternative Fuel Vehicles Pilot Program:

Competitive grants from the Department of Energy through the Clean Cities Program to help state and local agencies purchase alternative fueled vehicles or ultra-low sulphur diesel vehicles and the infrastructure and maintenance needed for these fleets. About \$300 million is available nationally.



Gov. Ritter visited **Confluence Energy**, a pellet manufacturer in Kremmling. Confluence Energy received a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service to assist with grinding, hauling and processing wood at the facility. This was one of four such federal biomass grants that went to Colorado groups.

Electric Transportation

The U.S. Department of Energy is distributing \$400 million in competitive grants for electric transportation projects. The grants are targeted to end-users and manufacturers and federal guidance is pending.

Geothermal Technologies Program:

The U.S. Dept. of Energy is distributing \$400 million nationwide in competitive grants to state and local governments for research and development that emphasizes advancement of geothermal systems. In late October 2009, four Colorado companies, three state institutions and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science received \$18 million for geothermal projects. The winners include Flint Geothermal LLC in Denver (\$4.78 million); Composite Technology Development Inc. in Lafayette (\$557,150); Colorado School of Mines (\$2.29 million in three grants); Power Environmental and Energy Research Institute in Narthrop, Chaffee County (\$1.84 million); Composite Technology Development Inc. of Lafayette (\$954,546); William Lettis & Associates of Denver and Virginia (\$708,000); Co. Department of Personnel and Administration (\$4.6 million); Colorado Northwestern Community College (\$430,000); Denver Museum of Nature and Science (\$2.61 million).

Fossil Energy Research:

This is a competitive grant program through the Department of Energy for fossil energy research and development programs. This includes carbon capture and energy efficiency improvement projects, clean coal initiatives, and geologic sequestration training and research grants. A total of \$3.4 billion is available nationwide. The Governor's Energy Office is coordinating applications for these grants. **Contact:** David Abercrombie, David.Abercrombie@hq.doe.gov; <http://www.fossil.energy.gov/aboutus/budget/stimulus.html>

Wood to Energy:

The U.S. Forest Service distributed grants through a competitive process across the country for projects that would develop biomass and wood to energy projects. Four \$250,000 grants were awarded in Colorado to: Confluence Energy in Kremmling, Noresco LLC in Florence, Colorado Springs Utilities and Boulder County Parks.

Biomass Technology Grants:

Competitive grants distributed by the Department of Energy for research, development and deployment of biomass technologies, including feedstock development, biofuels and bio-based products. .. Rentech Inc. has won a \$22 million grant to install a gassifier at its plant in Commerce City that will convert biowaste into synthetic jet fuel. *For more information:* <http://www.eere.energy.gov/recovery/>

Advanced Battery Manufacturing Grants:

\$2 billion available nationally in competitive grants for the manufacturing of advanced batteries and components for vehicles, including advanced lithium ion batteries and hybrid electric systems. In August 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy announced awards, including \$45.1 million to Frederick-based UQM Technologies and \$5 million to Colorado State University.

Advanced Research Energy Projects Research:

Grants will be distributed to research foundations, private businesses and institutions of higher education by the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA-E) to develop and deploy energy-related technologies. Approximately \$400 million is available. In October 2009, the DOE awarded grants to two Colorado companies: Foro Energy, Inc. (\$9.1 million) and ITN Energy Systems, Inc. (MAG Industrial Automation Systems, EPRI, and Colorado School of Mines - \$4.98 million). In April 2010, the DOE awarded two grants to Colorado organizations: \$6 million to OPX Biotechnologies Inc. in Boulder (which includes NREL) and \$3.1 million to the University of Colorado – Boulder.

For more information: <http://arpa-e.energy.gov/index.html>



UQM Technologies in Frederick won a \$45 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to expand production of electric vehicle motors. UQM manufactures electric-drive systems for all-electric and hybrid cars, buses, recreational vehicles, and golf carts. The company estimates that the Recovery Act award will help create up to 3,000 new manufacturing jobs over the next three years.

Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability:

This program, funded at \$4.5 billion nationally, funds research and development in pilot projects for modernizing the electricity grid.

- Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Grants – Colorado has received \$653,209 to improve state emergency preparedness plans and ensure quick recovery and restoration from any energy supply disruptions. The award will also help states address cyber security concerns and prepare for the challenges of integrating smart grid technologies and renewable energy sources into the transmission network. In February 2010, six cities – Aspen, Aurora, Denver, Durango, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge – won grants ranging from \$210,040 and \$59,193 for their own energy assurance plans.
- Smart Grid Investment Program -- The City of Fort Collins will receive \$4,841,647 in Recovery Act funds from the U.S. Department of Energy for a smart-grid demonstration project that aims to reduce peak load electricity demand by at least 15 percent at distribution feeders and allow for expanded use of energy from renewable sources.
- Smart Grid Workforce Training – In April 2010, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded the University of Colorado – Boulder \$2.4 million to build a smart grid workforce training program.
- State Electricity Regulatory Assistance Grants – The Public Utilities Commission of the state of Colorado has received \$875,899. \$46 million is available nationally.

Contact: *Brittany Purdum, Governor’s Energy Office, 303-866-2401; Seth Portner, Governor’s Energy Office, 303-866-2100 seth.portner@state.co.us*

Resources:

The U.S. Department of Energy is handling many of the grants listed above. Their website is www.energy.gov/recovery

There also is a toll-free number for the DOE Recovery Act Clearinghouse: 1-888-DOE-RCVY (1-888-363-7289), open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

>> ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES <<

Water Quality Improvements:

The Environmental Protection Agency is distributing funds for a range of infrastructure improvements for drinking and wastewater systems across Colorado. The 31 projects started in the fall of 2009 and are expected to create at least 300 jobs statewide.

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund: The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority is distributing \$31.3 million for work on 12 projects statewide. No less than 20% of the grant must be used for work that implements green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities. Four percent of funds can be used for administration. As of April 2010, all of the projects were underway with one finished and \$9.5 million had been spent and 140 jobs had been created.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority is distributing \$34.4 million to build and upgrade 19 drinking water systems statewide. This program also requires that no less than 20 percent of the grants go to projects that improve energy efficiency, green infrastructure and other ways to benefit the environment. Four percent of these funds can be used for administration.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has received \$317,100 for Water Quality Management Planning. This grant supports a broad range of activities, such as setting standards, monitoring the quality of the water, developing plans to restore polluted waters, and identifying ways to protect healthy waters from becoming polluted.

Contact: Steve Gunderson, Division Director, Water Quality Control Division, 303-692-3509; steve.gunderson@state.co.us. <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/New/ARRA.html>



Manitou Springs and the surrounding community will get millions of dollars in drinking and wastewater improvements paid for with Recovery Act dollars.

Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention:

Colorado landowners are expected to receive \$3.58 million to improve management strategies, erosion control, and irrigation systems applied on cropland and adjacent properties to the Arkansas River in the Beaver Creek, Highline Breaks, Holbrook Lake Ditch, Limestone-Graveyard Creeks, and Trinidad Lake North watersheds. An additional \$614,234 will be used to purchase Colorado floodplain easements. This program is administered through the US Department of Agriculture.

Water Infrastructure Reliability and Safety:

The U.S. Dept. of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation is distributing \$29 million to 10 Colorado projects that will replace and repair failed or failing equipment for hydroelectric generators and power plants.

For more information: <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

Diesel Emissions Reduction:

EPA is awarding \$300 million nationally to replace, re-power and retrofit engines in school buses, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural vehicles, and construction vehicles. Four Colorado awards totalling \$4.6 million have been announced:

- Regional Air Quality Council grant: \$1,020,144 and \$250,000 in matching funds to install 100 auxiliary power units, 20 diesel oxidation catalysts, 56 fuel operated heaters, 44 thermal coolers, 10 full sets of SmartWay low rolling resistance tires, 20 SmartWay gap fairings, conduct on engine re-power, and install on combination diesel oxidation catalyst and closed crankcase filter. An estimated 2,891.2 tons of pollutants will be removed annually from the air.
- State of Colorado grant: \$1,730,000 to implement the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act in the State. It is estimated that over 350 school buses in Weld, El Paso, and Mesa Counties will be retrofitted with engine pre-heaters, diesel oxidation catalysts, and closed crankcase filtration units. An estimated 190.2 tons of pollution will be removed from the air annually
- CDPHE grant: \$850,000 to provide a cost share opportunity to 180 individual long-haul truckers to purchase auxiliary power units or battery air conditioning systems for their vehicles. It is estimated that 1,435.9 tons of pollution will be removed from the air each year.
- City and County of Denver grant: \$700,000 will retrofit 9 snow plows with fuel operated cab heaters, 48 refuse vehicles with fuel operated hydraulics and cab heaters, and 53 heavy duty diesel vehicles with diesel oxidation catalysts, and closed crankcase filtration devices, and well as increase the use of biodiesel fuel. It is estimated that this project will remove 405.5 tons of pollution from the air each year.

Contact: Paul Tourangeau, Air Pollution Control Division, 303-692-3114; paul.tourangeau@state.co.us

Leaking Underground Storage Cleanups:

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment has been allocated \$2.5 million to clean up leaks from underground storage tanks. Funding will be used primarily for "shovel-ready" site assessment and cleanup activities at orphaned or abandoned sites, where the owners/operators of the sites are unknown or unable to pay. **Contact:** Gary Estenson, Gary.estenson@state.co.us, 303-318-8035

Brownfield Cleanups:

The Recovery Act allocates \$100 million nationally to the EPA Brownfields Program for cleanup, revitalization, and sustainable reuse of contaminated properties. The funds will be awarded to eligible entities through job training, assessment, revolving loan fund, and cleanup grants, and contractual assistance. Twenty-five percent of the funds must be used to address petroleum contamination. The EPA has announced two Colorado awards:

- The city of Aurora is receiving \$1.45 million in revolving loan funds to provide low-interest loans for cleanup projects in the urban renewal area surrounding the Fitzsimons medical and technology campus and in other redevelopment target areas.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment will use \$1.35 million to provide cleanup grants that encourage the redevelopment of nearly a dozen properties throughout the state. **Contact:** Gary Baughman, Division Director, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, 303-692-3338;

Superfund Site Cleanups:

The Environmental Protection Agency is providing funds for two Colorado projects to clean up Superfund sites.

- Work has begun on constructing a foundation for a new water treatment plant at the Summitville Superfund site in southwest Colorado. The 1,600 gallons-per-minute water treatment plant will remove contaminants from acidic metals-contaminated mine drainage before the water leaves the site and enters the headwaters of the Alamosa River, which flows into the Rio Grande. When the plant is operational, all cleanup work at the Summitville Mine site will be complete. Moltz Construction is conducting the work with a \$4.3 million contract.
- Work has begun on mine waste pile capping near Central City at the Clear Creek/Central City Superfund site. Funds will accelerate the cleanup of the 400-square-mile Clear Creek watershed that is impacted by wastes from historic mining activities. Improvements will include the consolidation and capping of mine waste piles, sediment control and water treatment to mitigate heavy metals impacts to Clear Creek, a tributary of the South Platte River. Work at the site will also reduce metals entering the watershed which supplies water to Denver-area residents. McCollum's Excavating is conducting the work with a \$1,138,000 contract.

All funds received by the state must be obligated within 12 months and 70 percent must be spent within two years of the EPA regional office receiving the funds. About 15 to 20 new construction jobs should be created for three construction seasons. **Contact:** Gary Baughman, Division Director, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, 303-692-3338;

Forest Service, Capital Improvement and Maintenance:

The state expects to receive \$28.6 million for the Forest Service, Capital Improvement and Maintenance program administered through the US Department of Agriculture. The Pike- San Isabel National Forest, Pawnee National Grassland, San Juan National Forest, Brainerd Lake Recreation Area, Rio Grande National Forest, Green Mountain Reservoir, Rainbow Lakes recreation area, Buckeye Reservoir recreation area, and several trailheads will receive funds for road and parking area maintenance, trail reconstruction, upgraded access to fishing piers to accommodate disabled anglers, and upgrades to campground facilities. These projects will provide jobs in road construction and maintenance trades in areas experiencing high rates of unemployment. Other projects include \$1.5 million to Fort Collins Lab for energy efficient, functional laboratory space, \$3.3 million for historic building restoration at 21 sites, and \$458,000 to the Veterans Green Jobs Trail Project. **Contact:** Barb Timrock for the Pike-San Isabel National Forests, 719-553-1415; Veterans Green Jobs Project at 866-984-8452.

Wildland Fire Management:

State and private forestlands will receive \$19.8 million from the US Department of Agriculture to reduce wildland fire risk and improve overall forest health. Arapaho-Roosevelt, Medicine Bow-Routt, and Pike-San Isabel National Forests in Colorado will receive a total of \$5 million to complete tree removal projects in those areas hardest hit by the bark beetle infestation. Approximately \$500,000 of those funds will pay for an agreement to employ young adults through ten accredited Colorado Youth Corps

organizations. An additional \$500,000 will fund a partnership with Veterans Green Jobs and Southwest Conservation Corps to employ returning veterans in tree removal projects. \$1.5 million will fund noxious weed control projects across San Juan National Forest. Four grants of \$250,000 each will fund Colorado projects designed to convert the wood collected during wildland fire management projects to energy and energy feedstock. These wood-to-energy projects are located in Grand, Fremont, El Paso and Boulder counties. **Contact:** *Mary Ann Chambers, Bark Beetle Incident Management Team, 970-295-6676; Barb Timrock, Pike-San Isabel National Forests, 719-553-1415; Veterans Green Jobs 866-984-8452.*

Aquaculture Assistance:

The State Department of Agriculture has distributed \$46,421 to fish farm facilities to help with feed costs in Colorado. **Contact:** *Jim Miller, Colorado Department of Agriculture, 303-239-4103.*

Disaster Assistance Transition:

These loans total \$194 million nationwide and will be allocated by the US Department of Agriculture to farmers and ranchers to help operate farms. **Contact:** *Jim Miller, Colorado Department of Agriculture, 303-239-4103.*

Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program:

These are loans and grants that total \$3.78 billion nationwide that will be awarded through a competitive process for municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts and non-profit agencies. The USDA is distributing these funds. **Contact:** *Jim Miller, Colorado Department of Agriculture, 303-239-4103; Dolores Sanchez-Maes, 720-544-2927, Dolores.sanchezmaes@co.usda.gov*



The Steamboat Colorado Youth Corps clear a beaver dam at the Swan River Valley. This project was coordinated by the **Colorado State Forest Service**. The Colorado State Forest Service, part of Colorado State University, is distributing \$10.7 million through the Recovery Act to create and retain forestry-related jobs in Colorado.

Colorado State Forest Service:

The Colorado State Forest Service, an agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University, has received \$10.7 million to solicit proposals that will create and retain forestry-related jobs in Colorado. A \$6.25 million grant will be distributed on a competitive basis to organizations that want to create or retain jobs to help implement high-priority forest restoration and fuels mitigation projects. A second grant for \$4.465 million will help fund jobs affiliated with developing and implementing community wildfire protection plans. A portion of the funds also will create and retain jobs in Colorado's wood products industries. Fifteen organizations and companies received grants in November 2009. **Contact:** *Terrie Craven, CSFS ARRA Program Manager, 970-491-8466, Terrie.Craven@ColoState.EDU.*

>> HOUSING AND PUBLIC FACILITIES <<

The Recovery Act provides a range of funding programs to build affordable housing, prevent neighborhood blight and help low-income families weatherize their homes.

Tax Credit Assistance Program and Tax Credit Exchange Program:

Colorado will receive \$45.1 million in competitive funds for help with local housing needs.

The Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP) provides grant funding for capital investment in Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has federal oversight of the program. These funds will provide financing for gaps caused by the collapse of the tax credit equity market, to help stalled development projects and to stimulate economic activity and job creation. Priority is given to projects that are expected to be completed by February 2012. All funds must be expended by the recipients by February 2012. As of April 2010, 16 organizations working on housing projects in Fort Collins, Denver, Boulder, Lakewood, Westminster and Golden had been awarded funds. Denver Gardens, a 100-unit housing complex for low-income seniors, was the first applicant to receive an award for rehabilitation of the units. **Contact:** Colorado Housing Finance Authority, Tasha Weaver, Manager Tax Credit Allocation, 303-297-7429; tweaver@chfainfo.com

The Tax Credit Exchange Program (TCEP) allows state housing credit agencies the option of exchanging eligible portions of the state's housing credit ceiling for cash grants. The Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) applied to HUD in May 2009 for these funds. Grants can then be used by the agency to make sub-awards to qualified projects, including the construction or acquisition and rehabilitation of qualified low income buildings. As of April 2010, eight projects in Cortez, Rifle, Denver, Loveland and Silver Cliff were awarded funds. **Contact:** Colorado Housing Finance Authority, Tasha Weaver, 303-297-7429, tweaver@chfainfo.com

Neighborhood Stabilization Program:

Colorado has been awarded \$44.4 million in grants to stabilize housing values and properties in neighborhoods heavily impacted by foreclosure. This will be done by purchasing and rehabilitating or demolishing foreclosed and vacant homes and then turning them into affordable housing. The awards were:

- \$23,433,236 to Chicanos Por La Causa Inc.: This grant application was coordinated by the Phoenix-based organization Chicanos Por La Causa Inc. on behalf of local organizations in cities across the country. Several Colorado agencies, including the Colorado Rural Housing Development Corporation and Del Norte/NEWSED CDC and the Northeast Denver Housing Center, will administer the grant. The rural housing agency will use the funds to serve Thornton, Westminster, Conejos County, Costilla County, Alamosa, Saguache, Hayden, Walsenburg, Monte Vista, and Del Norte in southern Colorado. The other agencies will serve Denver neighborhoods.
- \$18,994,444 to the City and County of Denver Office of Economic Development: Denver will focus on efforts to revitalize 12 neighborhoods of the city, including Montbello, Northeast Park Hill and West Colfax, to create affordable housing. The funds will also be used for workforce training and assistance, developing small business opportunities and green job creation.

Contact: Lynn Shine, Department of Local Affairs, 303-866-2046, lynn.shine@state.co.us; Martha DiBella, HUD, 303-672-5414, Martha.a.dibella@hud.gov.

Homelessness Prevention:

In July 2009, the federal government awarded \$8.2 million in competitive grants to Colorado to re-house families that fall into homelessness, or prevent them from becoming homeless. These grants will be administered by the state Department of Local Affairs. Five percent of the funds have been designated for administration. Colorado Springs, Aurora, Pueblo, Adams County, and Denver have also received \$7.3 million in direct allocations from HUD. Local Affairs awarded the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless \$5,036,663 for management of program funds in the Metropolitan Denver area, which has the highest prevalence of homelessness in state. The coalition will also use \$2,182,664 to provide services for the 56 counties outside of metro Denver and El Paso County. The City of Colorado Springs has been awarded \$795,668 for management of HPRP funds in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. All funds must be spent by Sept. 30, 2011. **Contact:** Lynn Shine, 303-866-2046, lynn.shine@state.co.us; Martha Dibella, HUD, 303-672-5414, Martha.a.dibella@hud.gov

Community Development Block Grants:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved \$10.1 million in grants to 17 city and county governments in Colorado for community development work in low and moderate income areas. The funds are intended to help local governments implement projects in public facilities, economic development and housing. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs awarded \$2.8 million to three small, rural governments for public facilities upgrades. Bent County will receive \$415,000 to expand an existing medical clinic located in the city of Las Animas. The Town of Boone will receive \$1,295,000 to upgrade and improve the town's wastewater treatment facility. The Town of Red Cliff will receive \$1,336,228 to replace its wastewater treatment plant. The three projects are expected to create 42 construction jobs. **Contact:** Becky Murray, 303-866-2818; becky.murray@state.co.us

Public Housing Capital Fund:

Colorado's 43 public housing agencies received \$16,949,529 from the Public Housing Capital Fund formula grant awards. These funds can be used for developing, financing, or modernizing public housing or for improving management or the physical condition of housing units. There also is a separate competitive grant for addressing the needs of the elderly and/or persons with disabilities, public housing transformation, gap financing for stalled projects, and creating energy efficient, green communities. Colorado housing agencies have received \$28.8 million. **For more information:** www.hud.gov/recovery

Rental Assistance:

Colorado expects to receive \$35.5 million to enhance benefits through the Project Based Rental Assistance program (Section 8, 202 and 811 housing). This money would provide full-year payments to 152 existing landlords in the program so that the low-income residents can stay in those homes longer. **Contact:** Linda Cluck, HUD, 303-672-5412, linda.y.cluck@hud.gov

Rural Housing Programs:

The Single Family Direct and Single Family Guaranteed Housing Programs provide 100% financing to individuals in rural areas for the purchase of a home. Direct Loans are available for very low-income (below 50% of area median income), and low-income (between 50 & 80% of area median income) households. The USDA Rural Development Agency will distribute \$8.2 million in direct loans and guarantee \$81.4 million in competitive loans in Colorado.

Rural Community Facilities Program:

Colorado expects to receive grants and loan guarantees for the construction and development of essential community services in rural areas. Grants are available to local government, non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribes that are unable to obtain needed funding from financial institutions at reasonable rates and terms. Eligible projects include hospitals, health clinics, health and safety vehicles and equipment, public safety vehicles, child and elder care facilities in rural areas. More than \$1 billion is designated nationwide for the loans and \$61 million for grants. A \$380,000 loan was given to Courage to Change Ranch addiction rehabilitation center in El Paso County. In February 2010, the USDA awarded five grants: \$72,910 to the Costilla County Senior Citizens Center for equipment, \$32,439 to the Town of Mountain Village for equipment for daycare facility, \$25,000 to Bent County for improvements to a nursing home, \$12,650 to Lincoln County for emergency power equipment and \$42,778 to Sedgwick County for emergency warning sirens. **Contact:** www.rurdev.usda.gov/

Native American Housing:

The Native American Housing Grant Program is designed to assist Native American tribes improve and expand their housing supply, promote energy efficiency and create jobs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded a combined \$1.1 million in grants to the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Tribes.

>> PUBLIC SAFETY <<

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants:

In August 2009, Colorado announced funding for 77 programs statewide that will fund 65 jobs that were newly created or had been identified for elimination. The funds for those programs will come from \$18.3 million to be used over the next four years to improve the administration of justice, crime prevention and other public safety programs. Colorado counties and municipalities have also received \$11.5 million directly from the Department of Justice based on pre-existing formulas. Under the Byrne Justice Assistance Competitive Grant Program, the First Judicial District Attorney's Office received \$149,029 and the Colorado Judicial Department received \$2.7 million. **Contact:** Meg Williams, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, (303) 239-5717, meg.williams@cdps.state.co.us

- The Colorado Department of Human Services received a \$1,496,570 JAG grant to provide specialized case management services to adult offenders with behavioral health disorders who are transitioning from incarceration to the community. This grant will create 10 full-time counselors at 10 mental health centers across the state.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):

Administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing, the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention work. Colorado will receive more than \$5 million in grants to fund the hiring and rehiring of 23 law enforcement officers in Englewood, Grand Junction, Ault, Commerce City, Florence, Telluride, Colorado Springs, Steamboat Springs, Alamosa, Ignacio, Idaho Springs, Vail and Black Hawk. There is no local match requirement. COPS grants provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts. At the conclusion of federal funding, grantees must retain all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant.

More information is available at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/>



A Grand Junction Police officer takes evidence from a crime scene. The **Grand Junction Police Department** won a Recovery Act grant that will pay for the salary and benefits for **five police officers** for three years. These funds, from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, will allow the department to return to full strength with sworn personnel. A total of 23 officers will be hired across Colorado through this program.

Violence Against Women:

The Recovery Act designates \$225 million nationwide for state, local and tribal governments and courts for programs that prevent and combat violence against women. Of that amount, \$50 million in competitive grants will be dedicated for a transitional housing assistance program for victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault. The Department of Justice has awarded a \$500,000 transitional housing assistance grant to Crossroads Safehouse in Fort Collins to expand its Housing Opportunity and Mentoring Enrichment (HOME) Project, while the state of Colorado has received \$2.3 million under the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. The Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence has received \$78,125 under the State Coalitions Program; another \$78,125 is earmarked for an organization under the State Sexual Assault Coalition. **Contact:** Nancy Feldman, Colorado Department of Public Safety, 303-239-4437, nancy.feldman@cdps.state.co.us; Ruth M. Glenn, Colorado Department of Human Services, Domestic Violence Program, 303-866-2855, ruth.glenn@state.co.us

Victim's Assistance and Compensation:

The Recovery Act provides \$100 million nationwide to support state compensation and assistance programs for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, impaired driving and other crimes. The state received 49 applications requesting \$2,602,045 with more than 20 new positions and a smaller number of jobs restored or retained. The Colorado Division of Criminal Justice has received \$1.8 million. **Contact:** Nancy Feldman, 303-239-4437, nancy.feldman@cdps.state.co.us

Substance Abuse Treatment:

The Colorado Department of Human Services received \$94,296 to maintain substance abuse treatment to high-risk girls at the Betty K. Marler Youth Services Center in Denver. These funds served 30 girls as of April 2010 and created a part-time counselor position.

Suicide Prevention:

The Colorado Department of Human Services received a \$3,480,190 grant for a program to reduce suicides at a facility in Pueblo. They expect to use these funds to serve 64 people.

Juvenile Justice Capacity Building:

The Colorado Department of Human Services received \$1.8 million to provide training in juvenile justice programs and to provide direct services to children in the justice system in 9 counties. The program began in March 2010. The goal is to serve 400 youth in Alamosa, Conejos, Denver, Douglas, Fremont, Grand, Garfield, Larimer and Mesa counties.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force:

These funds are distributed by the US Department of Justice to states and local law enforcement agencies to enhance investigation of child sexual exploitation over the Internet. The City of Colorado Springs received a \$675,991 grant in May 2009. The Colorado Springs Police Department ICAC Task Force plans to use funds to create a new ICAC Coordinator position. The ICAC Program Coordinator will coordinate and oversee the operations and activities of the Colorado ICAC Task Force. **Contact:** Det. Brian Steckler, Colorado Springs Police, 719-444-7000

Law Enforcement in Rural Communities:

The Recovery Act provides \$125 million nationwide for drug enforcement, drug prevention and treatment, and other law enforcement work in rural areas. As with the other grants, this one focuses on job creation and retention and provides national support, including training and technical assistance

programs, strategically targeted to address rural needs. Colorado state and local governments and non-profit groups can compete for these grants. Montezuma County has received \$394,428 and Routt County has received \$1.5 million to combat crime and drugs. **Contact:** Meg Williams, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, (303) 239-5717, meg.williams@cdps.state.co.us

Local Youth Mentoring Initiative:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado and Poudre R-1 School District have received approximately \$500,000 each to develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs that promote measurable, positive outcomes for at-risk youth and reduce juvenile delinquency, violence, gang participation, school failure, and dropout rates. The U.S. Department of Justice administers these grants.

Firefighter grants:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will distribute competitive grants (known by the acronym SAFER) to emergency service providers to help fire departments increase the number of trained “front-line” firefighters in their communities. The Colorado Department of Public Safety is involved in the grant applications, which begins in November 2009. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is also distributing \$210 million in competitive grants for improvements or construction of non-federal fire stations. The City of Pueblo Fire Department has received \$2.7 million and Fairmount Fire Protection District in Golden has received \$132,787.

>> TELECOMMUNICATIONS <<

Broadband

The Recovery Act provides a total of \$7.2 billion nationwide for expanding access to broadband. These funds come through two programs, one administered by the Department of Commerce and the other by the Department of Agriculture.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in the Department of Commerce will distribute \$4.7 billion for broadband enhancements to unserved and underserved areas across the nation through competitive grants.

The program requires a 20% local match and may be applied for by a state, local government, tribe, non-profit, service provider or infrastructure provider. The funds may be used for the purchase of equipment, software, hardware, digital network technology; construction of broadband infrastructure; access to broadband service by community anchor institutions; and access to broadband by low-income, aged or otherwise vulnerable populations. These funds will come in two phases.

The NTIA offered states the opportunity to comment on applications. Colorado prepared a framework of priorities and a panel appointed by Gov. Ritter evaluated dozens of proposals in late September and early October and submitted comments to the NTIA in mid October. The Governor's Office of Information Technology is coordinating the state broadband effort, and has held meetings with private and public providers to communicate requirements and solicit input.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture also is awarding \$2.5 billion in grants through the Rural Utilities Service. This program is designed to expand broadband access in rural areas by laying new cables and upgrading facilities or equipment. Seventy-five percent of these competitive grants are to be allocated to rural areas, and rural projects must be submitted to this program before submission to NTIA.

In December 2009, the USDA awarded a \$1.5 million grant to the Peetz Cooperative Telephone Company in Logan County. This grant will allow the company to provide broadband service for the first time to hundreds of customers in northeastern Colorado.

In November 2009, Colorado received an award of approximately \$1.6 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period. The grant will be administered by the Governor's Office of Information Technology.

In March 2010, the Wiggins Telephone Association in Morgan County received a grant and a loan totaling \$4.3 million to expand broadband access to county residents by installing fiber optic cables to homes.

Contact: John Conley, jconley@www.colorado.gov, 303-866-3992

Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Program:

The Commerce Department is distributing \$650 million nationwide in discretionary grants to the general public. These are coupons mailed to homes including funds for public education on the program.

>> SCIENCE AND RESEARCH FUNDING <<

Research grants from the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation:

The National Institute of Health (NIH) received about \$8.2 billion for additional scientific research grants, of which \$1.6 billion is being distributed by NIH's National Center for Research Resources in competitive grants to non-federal research facilities. Funds will be used primarily for research grants but also to repair, renovate or construct research facilities, acquire instrumentation and other research equipment, and for NIH Challenge Grants and Career Development Awards.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is using most of its \$3 billion from the Recovery Act to support pre-submitted projects that it could not previously fund. CH2MHill has received a \$7 million contract through these grants and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research has received \$18.5 million.

Colorado facilities have received more than \$245 million, including:

- Colorado State University –Fort Collins, \$93.8 million for 137 grants
- National Jewish Health, \$10.3 million
- University of Colorado at Boulder, \$76 million for 130 grants
- University of Colorado at Denver, \$55.2 million for 137 grants
- University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, \$1.4 million for five grants
- Colorado School of Mines, \$8.2 million for 26 grants.

Additional award applications are pending.

For more information: http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/the_american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act/



Thanks to a \$5 million ARRA grant, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs electrical and computer engineering Associate Professor **Gregory Plett** will join forces with a team of Detroit automotive engineers who are designing the next generation of batteries to power electric and hybrid vehicles.

Plett and colleagues from the University of Michigan (main grant recipient) and General Motors will collaborate over the next three years on the Advanced Battery Coalition for Drivetrains.

Along with two UCCS graduate students, Plett will concentrate on creating controls for batteries that will extend the life of electric vehicles and feed important information to on-board computer systems

Photo courtesy of University of Colorado – Colorado Springs

National Institute of Standards and Technology:

The NIST is awarding competitive grants for the construction of science research facilities through higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. In addition, \$220 million will be awarded through competitive grants and research fellowships for NIST laboratory research, measurements, and other services supporting economic growth and U.S. innovation. In April 2010, NIST awarded the University of Colorado- Boulder a \$15 million grant for construction of a new biotechnology and biomedical research facility. In February 2010, NIST awarded the University of Colorado – Boulder a \$20 million grant to develop and implement fellowship programs for NIST. ***For more information:*** <http://www.nist.gov/recovery/>

Department of Energy, Office of Science:

\$1.6 billion nationally is available for research in basic energy sciences, biological and environmental sciences and computational sciences through the Department of Energy Office of Science. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden has been awarded \$20 million in five year funding for Energy Frontier Research Center research. Proposals for the Early Career Research Program are currently under review. These funds will be awarded to individual research programs of scientists at universities and DOE National Laboratories nationwide.

Department of Energy Early Career Research Program:

In January 2010, five researchers at Colorado universities were awarded grants to bolster their work. Each of the researchers will receive at least \$150,000 per year to cover summer salary and research expenses. Four winners are from the University of Colorado and one is from Colorado State University. These 5-year grants are designed to bolster the nation's workforce by providing support to exceptional researchers.

>> DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING <<

General Services Administration—Public Buildings Service

The General Services Administration is planning to award \$333.6 million in competitive contracts to carry out high-performance green building updates to federal buildings in Colorado. **Contact:** *Public Buildings Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 1-888-999-4777. For more information, including a list of projects:* http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/pbs/American_Recovery_and_Reinvestment_Act_2009.pdf

Department of Energy

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO has received more than \$174.5 million for research, maintenance and upgrades grants to NREL for construction of new buildings. Some of these funds will benefit partner institutions in other states.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration:

In March 2010, NASA awarded Centennial-based United Launch Alliance a \$6.7 million grant to develop commercial spaceflight. The grant is part of NASA's Commercial Crew Development Program.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allocated funds totaling \$9.2 million to 9 wildlife refuges across the state. The FWS projects include new construction projects, maintenance projects and habitat restoration projects. **For more information:** <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

Bureau of Land Management:

The BLM has identified 116 projects within the state totaling \$20.2 million. They include:

- \$1.1 million for 25 Trail Maintenance and Construction Projects;
- \$1.1 million for 16 Abandoned Mine Projects
- \$3 million for 27 Habitat Restoration Projects
- \$4.4 million for 19 Deferred Maintenance Projects
- \$6 million for 17 Construction Projects
- \$3.8 million for 12 Renewable Energy – Facilitating Authorizations and Permits Projects
- \$695,000 for Roads and Bridges Maintenance

For more information: <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

National Parks Service:

The U.S. National Parks Services has allocated \$20.9 million to Colorado. There are currently 10 projects throughout the state encompassing site preservations, building repairs, trail, road and boating improvements and a photovoltaic system. <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

Bureau of Reclamation:

The Bureau of Reclamation has allocated \$30.5 million to Colorado for environmental/ecosystem restoration. **For more information:** <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

Bureau of Indian Affairs:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has allocated \$2.2 million to Colorado tribes. \$1.9 million will fund two road and two bridge maintenance projects, while \$303,000 will fund workforce training.

For more information: <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

U.S. Geological Survey:

The U.S. Geological Survey has allocated \$573,000 to Colorado. \$63,000 will fund 6 deferred maintenance projects and \$510,000 will fund upgrades for streamgages.

For more information: <http://recovery.doi.gov/press/state/colorado/?state=CO>

US Army Corps of Engineers:

The US Army Corps of Engineers is distributing \$4 billion nationwide in discretionary funds for ongoing projects for engineering and construction services for navigation, flood and storm protection, ecosystem restoration, environmental protection and other needs. Four reservoirs around Colorado have been selected for Recovery Act funding totaling \$5.3 million.



A scene from Fort Carson Army base near Colorado Springs. The military base is benefitting from dozens of improvement projects funded by the Recovery Act. The Department of Defense is spending \$131 million for Colorado projects.

Department of Defense:

\$7.4 billion of Recovery funds have been allocated for Defense-related appropriations, with \$555 million for DOD's Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP). HAP refunds active and former military members who have sold their primary home for a loss. The Department of Defense has allocated \$131 million to Colorado, mostly for Fort Carson and Buckley and Peterson Air Force bases. There are 196 restoration and modernization projects plus 3 construction projects. The construction projects include work at the Fort Carson Child Development Center, and \$11.2 million contract for Peterson Air Force Base Child Development Center. **For more information:** <http://www.defenselink.mil/recovery/>

>> NEW STATE LEGISLATION <<

Governor Ritter signed the following bills in the last month to help Colorado maximize its eligibility for Recovery Act funding and ensure that Recovery dollars are used as effectively as possible.

House Bill 1346: The Colorado Recovery and Reinvestment Finance Act

This law allows Colorado agencies to take full advantage of federal bond subsidies and benefit from a lower cost of borrowing on Recovery Act projects. The Recovery Act includes federal funds to subsidize the interest payments on bonds issued by public entities for certain projects. This law clarifies how Colorado agencies may qualify for these interest subsidies and authorizes the use of other bonds.

House Bill 1349: Extending Health Care Benefits

This law helps workers who lost their jobs between September 1, 2008 and February 16, 2009 maintain their health care coverage. The Recovery Act provides a premium subsidy and an extended period for laid off workers to enroll in Federal COBRA health coverage. This law applies a similar extension to Colorado's equivalent healthcare extension program and specifies notification requirements.

Senate Bill 247: The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act

This law qualifies Colorado for more than \$120 million in federal aid by modifying Colorado's unemployment insurance provisions to comply with federal guidelines. The law extends unemployment benefits by 20 weeks and allows certain ineligible unemployed workers to become eligible for benefits through an alternate means of calculating eligibility. The law also qualifies Colorado for an additional \$15 million for job training benefits over the next three years. By unlocking these federal funds, this law helps Colorado's unemployment insurance program remain solvent and expands the number of Coloradans who will receive benefits during their unemployment.

Senate Bill 297: Contract Flexibility for ARRA Projects

This law allows Colorado agencies to waive standard contract or procurement requirements to comply with Recovery Act deadlines. It is intended to be used only in extreme cases when the state is in jeopardy of losing Recovery Act funds because of federal deadlines. The state would have to get written approval from the Attorney General and other officials to use this process.