



Rep. Louise M. Slaughter  
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules  
Representing New York's 28<sup>th</sup> District



## The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Buffalo

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was passed on February 17, 2009 to cushion the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression and lay a new foundation for economic growth. One year later we see its impact on Buffalo and Erie County.

More than **\$377 million in contracts, grants, and loans** was awarded to recipients in the 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional district in 2009. Recipients in greater Buffalo area were awarded nearly **\$140 million**.

**Nearly 150 projects have been funded in the greater Buffalo area in New York's 28<sup>th</sup> district. Here is a sample of projects:**

- **Road & Bridge Construction** **\$ 74,300,000**
  - The 4-county Western New York region received \$74.3 million for road and bridge repair and construction projects.
  
- **Cleveland BioLabs** **\$ 3,302,871**
  - Funding from the National Institutes of Health helped the company to retain five local scientists and convert three research associates to full-time positions.
  - It provided R&D support to keep Cleveland BioLabs on track to advance development of their new anti-radiation drug in the clinic. This new drug could not only protect civilians and first responders in the event of a nuclear terrorist attack, but may also provide a new breakthrough way to protect healthy tissues during cancer therapy. The commercialization of this drug has the potential to support significant future local job growth.
  
- **Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority** **\$ 24,430,788**
  - The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority was awarded over \$24 million by the Federal Transit Administration to purchase 56 new buses to service Erie and Niagara counties.
  - \$2.2 million was awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to hire 6 new transit police officers and supply them with necessary equipment, support and training.
  - \$409,946 was allocated for the purchase of light batteries for use in the Buffalo metro rail. 30 jobs were created manufacturing and installing the batteries.

- **Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, Inc.** **\$ 14,510,364**

  - The Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, Inc. has been awarded a \$14.5 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to finance a number facility improvements, including energy efficiency projects. As of the last reporting date, projects were in the design stage, and three project managers and four mechanical engineers had been hired to complete the early stages of the project.
  
- **Roswell Park Cancer Institute / Health Research, Inc.** **\$ 10,964,251**

  - Roswell Park through its research arm, Health Research, Inc., has been awarded nearly \$11 million in research grants from the National Institutes of Health to continue their cutting edge work in cancer prevention, lung cancer, prostate cancer, and other related fields.
  
- **Community Health Center of Buffalo** **\$ 714,578**

  - The Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc. received over \$700,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration to finance building improvements, expand hours, and retain staff.
  - The Center was able to retain a full time physician assistant, hire a part time physician assistant, two part time medical assistants, a part time nurse practitioner and a part time registration clerk.
  - At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009, the center had sent its Certificate of Need to New York State for approval of the project plans and building drawings.
  
- **Local Schools** **\$ 29,343,466**

  - Local school districts and charter schools have received nearly \$30 million in education funding to keep teachers in the classroom, implement innovative reforms, and better serve students with disabilities.
  - Recipients include the school districts of Buffalo, Kenmore, and Tonawanda, as well as the Aloma D. Johnson Fruit Belt Community Charter School, Enterprise Charter School, Buffalo United Charter School, Tapestry Charter School, and Oracle Charter School.
  
- **Canisius College** **\$ 139,714**

  - Canisius College received nearly \$140,000 from a Department of Education grant to fund federal work study positions for its students. Thirty-seven students were supported with this grant.
  
- **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** **\$ 50,000**

  - The BPO received a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment of Arts to preserve the jobs of local musicians.
  
- **Just Buffalo Literary Center** **\$ 25,000**

  - The Just Buffalo Literary Center received a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, allowing it to retain its education director. The education director delivers half of the organization's programming.

A full list of projects reported by the recipients of the funding is available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) or can be provided by Slaughter's office.

**But there's more than just these projects funded.**

- The Ways and Means Committee in the House of Representatives reported that approximately **243,000 families in NY-28** have benefited from the Making Work Pay Tax Credit.
- Since the Recovery Act's passage one year ago, **Erie County groups, governments, and institutions have been awarded \$383,790,763 in contracts, grants, and loans.**

The funds for some of the most critical programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including food stamps, unemployment insurance, Pell Grants, Medicaid assistance.

**New York State will receive at least \$31 billion over the course of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.**

As of November 2, 2009, New York had projected that over the two-year implementation period of the Recovery Act, [Erie County](#) will receive:

- **\$212.5 million in Direct Assistance to Individuals**
  - \$59.6 million in Food Stamps
  - \$146.8 million in Unemployment Insurance
  - \$6 million in Pell Grants\*
- **\$199.8 million to County Governments and Schools**
  - \$74.2 billion in Medicaid Assistance
  - \$125.6 million in Education Assistance\*
- **\$80.9 million in Major Infrastructure Programs**
  - \$12.2 million in Weatherization Grants
  - \$9.8 million in Clean Water and Drinking Water Grants
  - \$36.8 million in Highway Projects

\* Education funding is 2009 figure, and Pell Grant funding is money awarded to date.

## Background on the Recipient Reporting Process

The projects listed on Page One come from data submitted by the project recipients: data from Cleveland BioLabs, the Community Health Center of Buffalo, etc. Some things to note as you look at recipient reported data (as opposed to data submitted by the agencies handing out the money):

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is comprised of three components:
  - \$288 billion in Tax Benefits
  - \$275 billion in Contracts, Grants, and Loans
  - \$224 billion in Entitlements
  - Total: \$787 billion
  
- As of January 29, 2010:
  - \$92.8 billion of \$288 billion in Tax Benefits have been distributed
  - \$74.4 billion of \$275 billion in Contracts, Grants, and Loans have been paid out
  - \$105 billion of \$224 billion in Entitlements have been paid out

The recipient reported data and jobs numbers made available on [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) on Saturday, January 30, 2010 reflects the synthesis of a \$54 billion of Recovery Act spending in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009 (October 1st-December 31st).

Recipient reports only include data on spending associated with the \$275 billion contracts, grants, and loans, a third of the overall Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

For example, unemployment insurance and Medicaid assistance, two critical Recovery Act programs, are categorized as entitlement programs, and not included in recipient reported data.

Also, Recovery Act funding allocated to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund and other Department of Education Recovery Act programs, was doled out to states to avoid teacher layoffs and invest in education, and is not included in prime recipient reported data. In that instance, New York State was required to report to the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, not individual schools in the district.

Also, recipient reporting only accounts for direct jobs, i.e. a job whose salary was directly paid for with Recovery Act dollars.

\* Note\* The White House Council of Economic Advisors and others have estimated that total jobs created when considering the effect on suppliers, distributors, neighboring businesses and general economic stimulus totals about 2 million jobs.