

U.S. Senator

**TOM HARKIN** OF IOWA



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**ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE CONTAINS  
CRUCIAL FUNDING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE,  
NUTRITION AND CONSERVATION, SAYS HARKIN**

*“This downturn has cut across all sectors of our economy and areas of our country, further straining household budgets and economies in communities of all sizes,” said Harkin. “This bill sends urgently needed aid to these targeted communities, in the form of grants and loans for services like broadband, roads, and bridges. At the same time, it creates jobs and puts food into the hands of those who need it most – one of the best economic stimulators.” – Senator Tom Harkin*

**Helping Rebuild Iowa’s Infrastructure:**

**TRANSPORTATION:**

**Highways:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$359 million for Iowa highway and bridge projects. These funds will run through the local transportation planning organizations for allocation to specific projects, including rail.

**Transit:** \$6.9 billion, of which 80 percent of the funds shall be provided through the Federal Transit Administration’s urbanized formula; 10 percent shall be provided through FTA’s rural formula; and 10 percent shall be provided through FTA’s growing states and high density formula. Iowa transit agencies will likely be allocated \$36 million through these formula funds.

**Aviation:** To provide grants to repair and improve critical infrastructure, safety and capacity at our nation’s airports, the bill provides \$1.1 billion. An additional \$200 million is included to upgrade power systems; modernize aging en route air traffic

**Grants for National Surface Transportation System:** the bill provides \$1.5 billion in competitive grants for projects across all surface transportation modes that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region. It also requires the Secretary to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural communities.

**The Corps of Engineers:** For construction of and major rehabilitation of inland waterway locks and dams, the bill provides \$2 billion– not less than \$200 million of those funds shall be used for environmental infrastructure assistance. Dollars can be used for operations and maintenance including dredging federal harbors and waterways, maintenance of flood control, navigation and public use facilities. An additional \$375 million was included for construction, and maintenance of projects along the Mississippi River and tributaries that can be completed with the funds included by the bill and will not require further appropriations to complete. Lastly, \$25 million for “investigations” which are likely to be prioritized to recent flooded area needs.

**Hazards to Navigation:** The bill will provide \$142 million for alterations or removal of bridges that are hazards to navigation. There are two bridges in Iowa that could qualify for funding – bridges in Burlington and Fort Madison are currently through the design process and are nearly ready for construction.

## **INVESTMENTS IN OUR WATER SUPPLY**

**USDA Rural Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grants:** To develop water and waste disposal systems in areas and towns with populations fewer than 10,000, the bill provides \$1.38 billion for the USDA Rural Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Programs. These funds will support a program level of \$3.768 billion. \$968 million will be available for grants and \$2.8 billion will be available for loans. Iowa communities currently have \$224.4 million in pending applications at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which could be funded under this program.

**EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** The bill will provide \$2 billion in funding that will help provide loans to public drinking water systems for capital improvements aimed at increasing public health protection. Iowa may receive about \$24 million through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to address the backlog of drinking water infrastructure needs in the state.

**EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** The bill includes funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, non-point source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management. Iowa may receive about \$54 million through this program to address the backlog of clean water infrastructure needs in the state.

## **HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Community Development Block Grants:** The bill provides \$1 billion in funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The CDBG program provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs that will aid in economic recovery.

**Neighborhood Stabilization Fund:** To help states, local governments and nonprofit organizations for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed and vacant housing, it will also provide \$2 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Fund.

**Home Investment Partnership Program:** To help move stalled housing projects to be used in conjunction with the low income housing tax credits, the bill provides \$2.25 billion for the Home Investment Partnership Program.

**Lead Hazard Reduction:** To remove lead-based paint hazards in low-income housing, the bill provides \$100 million for competitive grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations. Projects that were highly rated in 2008 competitions but were not funded due to constrained resources will be the focus of these resources.

**Homelessness Prevention Fund:** The bill provides \$1.5 billion for the Homelessness Prevention Fund which will be distributed by formula. These funds will provide short term rental assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services for families who may become homeless due to the economic crisis.

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Rural Community Facility Program:** To build vital community facilities in rural areas and towns with populations of fewer than 20,000 people including day care and elder care facilities, hospitals, health clinics and public safety, the bill provides \$130 million. This funding will support \$1.17 billion in loans and \$67 million in grants. Iowa communities currently have \$15 million in applications pending at USDA that could be funded under this program.

**Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program:** To improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment to improve the economic climate in eligible rural communities with populations of fewer than 50,000 people, the bill provides \$150 million. This funding will support \$3 billion in guarantees and \$20 million in related grants particularly important for many businesses facing credit difficulties. Iowa communities currently have \$68.7 million in applications pending at USDA that could be funded under this program.

**USDA Rural Housing Assistance:** To provide home ownership opportunities for eligible low to moderate-income families in rural areas, the bill provides \$200 million. These funds will support \$11.4 billion in direct and guaranteed loans. Iowa currently has \$14.5 million in applications pending at USDA that could be funded under this program.

**Broadband:** To extend and improve high-speed broadband service in rural communities and across the nation, the bill makes the largest investment ever in this technology which is critically important to economic growth, jobs, education and health care. To support broadband grants, loans, and loan guarantees, a total of \$7.2 billion is included, with \$2.5 billion of that going to USDA's Rural Utilities Service and targeted to rural areas and towns with populations below 20,000, and \$4.7 billion going to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help both rural and urban areas suffering a lack of adequate, modern broadband service.

**Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Building Improvements:** The legislation includes \$176 million in funding to address the deferred maintenance of the ARS's aging laboratory and research infrastructure. Funding could be used to address improvement needs at the National Animal Disease Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE GRANTS:**

**Law Enforcement:** \$18.7 million in Byrne/JAG grants to support law enforcement efforts, \$1 million in Internet Crimes Against Children Grants to help law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems, or other computer technology to sexually exploit children, \$2 million in Violence Against Women Grants for victim services programs to improve the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women and to assist victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking who are in need of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services.

**Firefighter Assistance Grants:** For modifying, upgrading or constructing non-Federal fire stations, the bill includes \$210 million. The legislation limits grants under this program to not more than \$15 million.

## **Food and Nutrition:**

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):** \$150 million to help supplement the diets of low-income individuals, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance in food banks, community pantries, and related services.

**Women, Infants and Children Program:** the bill includes \$400 million in grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

**Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP):** The bill provides \$20 billion for the SNAP program which helps eligible low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health. Iowa will receive an estimated \$161 million in SNAP funds impacting 279,000 participants. The state will also receive \$2.7 million to help administer the increased benefits.

## **Conservation:**

**Watershed Flood and Prevention Operations:** To prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds or rivers and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, the bill provides \$290 million for Watershed Flood and Prevention Operations. \$145 million was set aside for the purchase of easements in and restoration of floodplains under the authorities of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, with a funding limit of \$30 million per state. Iowa has a significant backlog of floodplain easement projects. This money will be an important step toward eliminating the backlog.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be carried out with full transparency and accountability. To track the progress: please go to [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).