



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act & USDA Rural Development

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. This was an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or retain millions of jobs, and to begin addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st Century. It was an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and included measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development had an important role in helping the nation achieve these objectives, especially in rural America.

USDA Rural Development and Implementing the Recovery Act:

Seven USDA Rural Development Programs received funding through the 2009 Recovery Act. Under the Recovery Act, no new programs were created at USDA Rural Development.

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Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program:

Approximately \$3 billion was provided in additional funds to lenders for the purpose of making financing available for the expansion or development of business, industry, and employment opportunities; to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities; and to support other projects in connection with the program's purpose.

- Wisconsin delivered over \$142.6 million under this program while creating or retaining over 5100 jobs.

Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program (RBEG):

This grant program received approximately \$20 million to provide funding for a variety of programs to support business development in rural areas by assisting to finance and facilitate in the creation of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas. The RBEG program may fund projects as varied as business revolving loan funds, business district infrastructure projects, capital improvement projects, business incubators, and downtown revitalization projects to create jobs and revitalize rural communities.

- Wisconsin approved nearly \$386,000 in grants to four intermediaries to assist 14 businesses, creating or retaining 75 jobs.

Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program:

The Community Facilities Program was given funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less. Funds were used for facility acquisition, construction, renovation, or purchase of equipment and furnishings for essential community services. Projects provided expanded access to health care at hospitals, medical clinics and assisted living facilities. They supported first responder efforts at fire, rescue and police stations; and assisted community libraries, schools, day care centers, community centers, public buildings and transportation infrastructure. ARRA provided \$1.1 billion in direct loans and \$61 million in grants.

- Through ARRA, nearly \$20.5 million was awarded in direct loans, while grants amounted to \$1.9 million for 30 projects in rural areas of Wisconsin.

Single Family Housing Program:

ARRA provided \$967,113,096 in Direct Home Loans and \$9.8 billion in Guaranteed Rural Housing Loans to assist individuals and families to become homeowners.

- Approximately \$254.8 million in loans were approved to 2,154 Wisconsin individuals and families under the Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program; and nearly \$20 million to 169 residents under the Direct Home Loan Program.

Water and Environmental Programs:

More than \$3.7 billion through ARRA was made available to provide safe drinking water, improve wastewater treatment systems, and protect the environment. Loans of \$2.73 billion and grants of \$939 million administered through the Water & Waste Disposal Programs provided funding and technical assistance for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas of 10,000 or less.

- Approximately \$63 million in loans and grants went to help improve infrastructure in rural Wisconsin communities, benefitting more than 11,400 homes, and 850 businesses through 25 projects.

Broadband Investment Program:

USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Program implemented the broadband provisions of ARRA. This funding supported the expansion of broadband service in rural America through \$1.94 billion in grants and \$7.16 billion in loans. This funding provided access to high speed internet service in locations that lacked sufficient access. USDA worked in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that these funds were awarded on a competitive basis with transparency and accountability. More information is available at www.usda.gov/rus/telecom.

- Over \$90 million was returned to Wisconsin for 15 broadband infrastructure creation projects.

For more information on ARRA and its impact, visit www.recovery.gov

