

# Overview of State and Local Funds to Support Healthy Communities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (economic recovery act) includes at least \$144 billion for state and local governments. This table provides an overview of the specific ways state and local policy-makers can use much of that funding to create healthier environments for children and their families. By increasing access to healthy foods and safe places to walk, bike and play, policy-makers can help reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. Please visit the Leadership for Healthy Communities Web site at [www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org](http://www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org) for our full policy brief on the economic recovery act.

Available Funds	Recommendations
<b>Invest in Complete Streets and Improve Mass Transit</b>	
\$27.5 billion	Create “complete streets”—streets designed to enable safe and convenient access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users.
\$8.4 billion	Make public transportation investments, such as improving infrastructure and increasing access to trains and buses.
\$1.5 billion	Apply to use competitive grants for complete streets or public transportation investments.
<b>Build Healthier Schools</b>	
\$8.79 billion	Modernize, repair or renovate public school gyms, playgrounds and other recreation facilities using funds from a new state fiscal stabilization fund.
Up to \$22 billion	Offer bonds to finance land acquisition, construction, rehabilitation or repair projects that result in a more activity-friendly environment for a public school facility.
<b>Make Neighborhoods Healthier</b>	
\$130 million	Use rural community facilities program grants and loans to construct or maintain community centers, recreation centers, food banks, farmers’ markets and mixed-use development in rural areas.
\$1 billion	Use community development block grants to construct or maintain mixed-use developments, public recreation centers, parks and playgrounds; to clean up and beautify neighborhoods; and to incentivize or subsidize new supermarkets, farmers’ markets, community gardens and food banks.
\$9 billion	Invest in public housing maintenance and redevelopment to create and improve homes in safe, walkable neighborhoods.
<b>Improve Safety</b>	
\$2 billion	Provide state and local law enforcement assistance through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant program.
\$1 billion	Hire additional police officers and improve community policing through Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).
<b>Increase Food Access</b>	
\$20 billion	Support increased benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides nutrition education and financial assistance to purchase food.
\$295 million	Use SNAP program administrative funds to expand the number of farmers’ markets and other healthy food sources accepting electronic benefit transfer cards and to promote these healthy food sources to program participants.
\$100 million	Purchase, renovate or replace equipment necessary to prepare healthy meals through the National School Lunch Program’s equipment assistance grants.
\$500 million	Increase the number of eligible children and families enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and establish, improve and administer WIC management information systems.
<b>Prevent Disease</b>	
\$650 million	Implement evidence-based community prevention and wellness strategies that reduce chronic diseases.