

2009 RECOVERY ACT FUNDS

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). The Recovery Act provides the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with funding for grants to assist State, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring.

This is the Nebraska State Patrol's portal for informing citizens about the use of federal stimulus funding received under the Recovery Act. The site provides accountability and transparency on how stimulus funds are being spent by our agency. Please explore this site to obtain information about the Recovery Act programs implemented by the Nebraska State Patrol. Links to quarterly updates will provide recent information as the projects progress.

*Thank you,
Colonel David Sankey*

The Nebraska State Patrol received Recovery grant funds for the following programs.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC)

The national ICAC Task Force Program supports a national network of 61 multiagency, multijurisdictional task forces engaged in investigations, forensic examinations, and prosecutions related to Internet crimes against children and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Additionally, the task forces provide forensic and investigative technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecutorial officials, as well as community education to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement, and others concerned with child victimization.

Nebraska's ICAC Task Force is coordinated by the Nebraska State Patrol and operates with affiliate agencies consisting of federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. Recovery funding supported personnel, training and equipment.

On December 31, 2011, all ICAC Recovery grant funds were expended. The new ICAC investigator positions are absorbed into the Nebraska State Patrol's budget and the Computer Forensic Examiner is now funded by a non-Recovery Nebraska ICAC Task Force grant. ICAC investigators and forensic personnel enhanced their skills and productivity through training and the use of grant-funded equipment. With the help of the Recovery funding, Nebraska saw an increase in the number of cases and arrests related to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children.

ASSISTANCE TO RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COMBAT CRIME AND DRUGS PROGRAM: FACILITATING CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION

Recovery funds through the Bureau of Justice Assistance were awarded to assist law enforcement in rural states and rural areas through improving the criminal justice system and assisting communities to prevent and combat crime and drugs. The Nebraska State Patrol received funding to support the state's Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) and the establishment of an information-sharing network. Upon completion of the project, public and private partners will gain access to electronic criminal justice information that has to date, been unavailable due to lack of a statewide method to collect and exchange information.

The NIAC is housed and administered by the Nebraska State Patrol. Recovery funds allowed the agency to hire and assign three employees to this project. Work continues and nears completion to implement a network that allows the electronic collection, sharing and dissemination of criminal justice information. NIAC staff is testing the system and completing “Train the Trainers” training before making the information network available to users. To-date, fifteen data sources have been integrated and tested. A product dissemination portal is developed and being deployed to authorized users. A solution for mobile connectivity by user agencies is being developed and implemented. Efficiencies and enhancements created in criminal justice information sharing will lead to the identification and arrest of criminal and drug offenders. It is anticipated the Nebraska Fusion Information Network will become available to users in Summer 2012.

Project efforts are coordinated with criminal justice agencies whose information will be accessible through the NIAC. The NIAC Advisory Board and Nebraska State Patrol serves as a liaison to local law enforcement, other government agencies, criminal justice organizations and private sector entities that will participate in the fusion center process.

MID AND UPPER LEVEL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) awarded Recovery grant funds for the purpose of continuing the Mid and Upper Level Enforcement (MULE) drug and violent crime project. Recovery funds allowed the Nebraska State Patrol to retain funding for thirteen employees. The MULE project focuses on three major areas in Nebraska’s drug enforcement effort:

On November 30, 2011, all MULE Recovery grant funds were expended. Sworn and civilian employees are now funded with Byrne/JAG funds which are passed through from the Crime Commission. MULE investigators worked on mid and upper level drug cases. The Administrative Assistant assigned to the State Crime Laboratory continued to perform tasks including evidence management. Staff assigned to the Nebraska Investigative Analysis Center continued to enter intelligence reports.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM

The Domestic Violence Sexual Assault (DV/SA) Program serves as a statewide law enforcement resource for domestic violence and sexual assault cases and issues. Recovery funds, awarded through the Nebraska Crime Commission, allow the program to maintain current services by funding a Program Assistant and assist with the administrative duties for the statewide leadership team.

Recovery funds enhance DV/SA investigations by funding the purchase of infrared cameras. State Patrol Crime Lab utilized funds to purchase equipment that enhanced their abilities in analyzing sexual assault kits. Nebraska’s Sex Offender Registry was able to purchase document scanners to digitize offender files. In addition, the project has provided several specialized trainings to law enforcement, courts and advocates and allowed Nebraska State Patrol staff to obtain advanced knowledge in specific areas by attending national training seminars.

As an overall result of the Recovery funding, the Nebraska State Patrol was able to create and maintain jobs and implement programs that enhance the safety of Nebraska’s citizens.

Use the links below for additional information about jobs created and expenditures.

[**RECOVERY.GOV**](http://RECOVERY.GOV)

[**RECOVERY.NEBRASKA.GOV**](http://RECOVERY.NEBRASKA.GOV)