

Graphic Detail

Geographic Information Systems organize and clarify the patterns of human activities on the earth's surface and their interaction with each other. GIS data, in the form of maps, can quickly and powerfully convey relationships to policymakers and the public. This department of Cityscape includes maps that convey important housing or community development policy issues or solutions. If you have made such a map and are willing to share it in a future issue of Cityscape, please contact david.e.chase@hud.gov.

Recovery Act of 2009— Public Housing Capital Fund: Obligations and Number of Jobs by ZIP Code

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the economy, create or save millions of jobs, and address long-neglected challenges. The Recovery Act investments in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs will generate tens of thousands of jobs, modernize homes to make them more energy efficient, and help the families and communities hardest hit by the economic crisis. The Recovery Act includes a \$4 billion appropriation for the Public Housing Capital Fund. The Public Housing Capital Fund program is expected to benefit the nation by (1) creating jobs; (2) transforming public housing into energy-efficient, green communities; (3) redeveloping distressed public housing; (4) addressing the needs of public housing residents who are elderly and disabled; and (5) providing funding for public housing projects that lack the private capital to proceed with development.

HUD has developed a series of maps using the Recovery Act program data from internal sources and external sources such as the FederalReporting.gov¹ and Recovery.gov² websites. One such map, shown in exhibit 1, represents the Public Housing Capital Fund program's distribution of funding

¹ FederalReporting.gov is the governmentwide data collection system for federal agencies and recipients of federal awards under Section 1512 of the Recovery Act. Recipients access FederalReporting.gov to fulfill their reporting obligations. Federal agencies, prime recipients, and subrecipients are required to submit data quarterly for grants, loans, and federally awarded contracts under the Recovery Act. Recipient data is posted on the Recovery.gov website after it passes a quality assurance check.

² Recovery.gov was created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to foster greater accountability and transparency in the use of funds made available. The site's primary mandate is to give taxpayers the user-friendly tools to track Recovery Act funds.

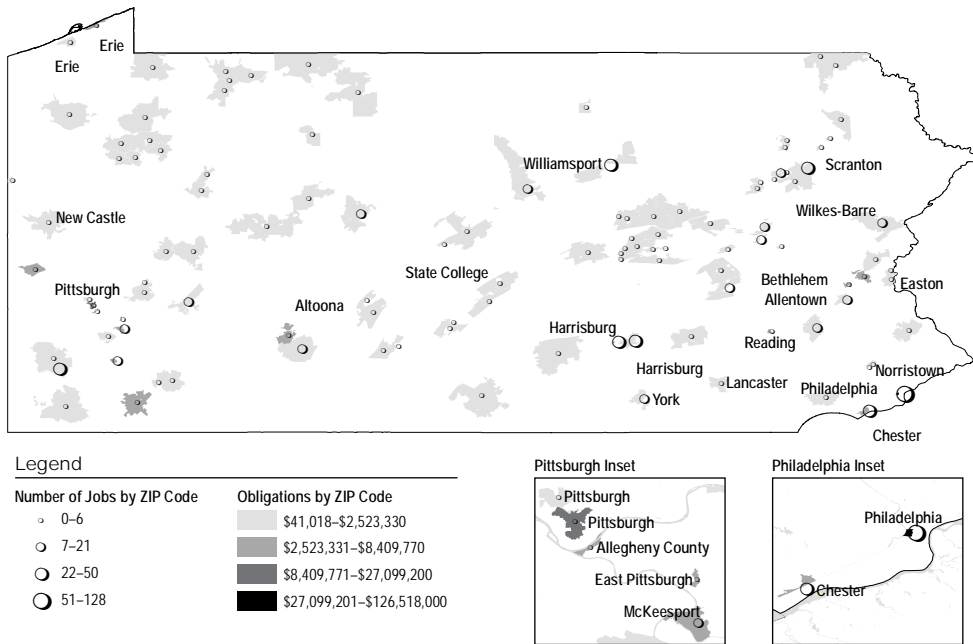
obligations and number of jobs by ZIP Code³. For example, exhibit 1 depicts the state of Pennsylvania with two major urban centers, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as insets. Pennsylvania is used as an example to show a graphic representation of Recovery Act program data.

Exhibit 1 illustrates areas of funding obligations by ZIP Code for the fourth quarter of 2009. The funding obligations are in ascending order and are indicated in grayscale on the map. A second dataset illustrates the number of jobs created or saved by ZIP Code for the same quarter. The cities with more than 25,000 in population are labeled at their ZIP Code centroid.

Exhibit 1 shows that the highest amount of funding obligations occurs within two ZIP Code areas within the two largest urban centers, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Philadelphia, a large-sized urban area, accounts for \$126,518,000, or 45 percent of the total funding for Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh is a medium-sized urban area and is represented as two ZIP Code areas that account for \$27,099,200, or 10 percent of the total funding for Pennsylvania. The remaining \$126,622,616, or 45 percent, is distributed among the remaining ZIP Code areas that are found in small-sized urban areas. For example, Harrisburg is a small-sized urban area and is represented as two ZIP Code areas

Exhibit 1

Recovery Act of 2009—Public Housing Capital Fund Obligations and Jobs by ZIP Code



³ ZIP Codes are mapped at their centroids—a point representing the geographic center of the polygon for a 5-digit ZIP Code.

that account for \$9,035,250, or 3 percent of the total funding⁴. Finally, Chester, another small-sized urban area, accounts for \$8,409,770, or 3 percent of the total.

As of December 2009, recipients of Public Housing Capital Fund grants in Pennsylvania have created or saved a reported 611 jobs based on recipient-reported data from FederalReporting.gov. The total number of jobs created or saved by all Recovery Act programs for all agencies is 12,248 for Pennsylvania as reported on Recovery.gov. The highest number of jobs created or saved occurs in a ZIP Code area in Philadelphia. Philadelphia accounts for 128 jobs, or 21 percent of the total jobs created or saved in Pennsylvania. In addition, Harrisburg accounts for 82 jobs, or 13 percent of the total jobs between the two ZIP Codes. Pittsburgh, which received the second highest funding amount, accounts for 5 jobs or less than 1 percent of the total jobs between two ZIP Codes. Finally, Chester, Williamsport, and Pittston, all small-sized urban areas, created or saved roughly a combined 143 jobs, or 23 percent of the total.

This map is intended to provide a snapshot view of the distribution patterns of funding and job creation under the Recovery Act 2009 Public Housing Capital Fund program in Pennsylvania. It suggests that the patterns would be similar in other states or metropolitan areas. Researchers and planners concerned about Recovery Act funding in their regions should consider exploring the HUD Recovery Act data to see whether these divergent patterns are consistent with facts on the ground and whether they hold true across other metropolitan areas for other programs. HUD is very interested in finding out how researchers are able to use the Recovery Act data. If you create any maps using the Recovery Act data that you want to share, or if you have any questions or comments, please send them to david.e.chase@hud.gov.

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⁴Some state-level grants are reported at the state capital rather than at their place of performance. This reporting variance could skew the results for Harrisburg.

