



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

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# News Release

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## **VA Tallies Recovery Act Funding \$21,030,674 Investment Provides Improved Care, Services for Veterans**

(EAST ORANGE, NJ) – As federal agencies approach the July 31 deadline to commit funds obtained through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs facility here has tallied its total allocation -- \$ 21,030,674.

The funding, part of President Obama's economic recovery plan to improve services to America's Veterans, will go toward projects at the East Orange Campus like heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in multiple locations throughout the facility including the cardiac cath laboratory. They will also repave parking lots and roads and renovate patient wards including the Ear, Nose, and Throat clinic and the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation suite. The funding will also provide for the installation a new gamma camera and provide for security upgrades throughout the facility.

At the Lyons campus, projects include the repair of structural deficiencies in an outer building, the upgrade of the storm water system, a new security system to secure the facility, and the total replacement of an underground steam line that will reduce the energy consumption at the Lyons facility.

"Infrastructure investment on recurring maintenance is an ongoing enterprise in a health care system of this size," said medical center director, Ken Mizrach. "We are fortunate to have the funds to move these important projects forward. Our nation's Veterans deserve no less."

At other VA facilities, Recovery Act funding enables VA to improve medical facilities and national cemeteries, provide grants to assist states in acquiring or constructing state nursing homes and extended care facilities, and to modify or alter existing facilities to care for Veterans.

In addition, VA dedicated Recovery Act funds to hire and train 1,500 temporary claims processors to speed benefits delivery to Veterans and pursue needed information technology initiatives for improved benefits and services.

As part of the President's Recovery plan, VA made one-time payments of \$250 to eligible Veterans and survivors to mitigate the effects of the current economy. VA estimates \$700 million in payments were made to eligible beneficiaries as part of this measure.

Overall, VA will target about \$1.4 billion in Recovery Act funds to benefit Veterans. The VA's Internet site – [www.va.gov/recovery](http://www.va.gov/recovery) – provides current information about VA's work to deliver its portion of the Recovery Act.

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