



VA Medical Center  
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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Veterans Affairs Medical Center Gets Recovery Act Funding *Martinsburg Targeted for Upgrades, Improvements***

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg VA Medical Center (MVAMC) is receiving an infusion of federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Recovery Act package, enacted by Congress in February 2009, will provide infrastructure improvements at the medical center.

“This funding will help us become more environmentally friendly,” said Medical Center Director Ann R. Brown. “At the same time, we hope it will help provide some jobs. But most importantly, these improvements will provide a better experience for Veterans who rely on us for health care.”

The first of twelve projects focuses on funding \$2.8 million for replacement of air handling systems in the medical center to meet VA heating, ventilating, and air conditioning facility standards. The project was awarded in August and construction is expected to begin soon.

A second project aims to ensure environmental compliance through the installation of groundwater monitoring wells. The estimated \$2.5 million project will address groundwater resource and processing concerns as well as provide compliance with West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection requirements.

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The design study was awarded last June, and design, analysis, construction, and remediation strategies will be awarded via competitive acquisition no later than July.

A third stimulus project would implement select energy conservation measures by replacing outdated building and utility systems. At an estimated \$3.3 million, the project provides additional weatherizing support to vintage facilities to increase their energy efficiency and decrease annual resource requirements. Individual initiatives will be sent to the National Energy Business Center for solicitation this month, and all projects should be awarded via competitive acquisition strategies no later than September 30.

The next project replaces an electrical transformer to provide redundant electrical capacity during peak season. This \$750,000 project was awarded in September and is underway.

Another project replaces the existing patient wandering system that is no longer supported by the manufacturer. This project was awarded in August at a cost of \$264,000 and is nearing the activation phase.

The MVAMC also received approval to replace the nurse call and code blue system. The new modernized system will provide a better experience for patients. This \$1 million project was awarded in August, but will require extensive phasing to complete.

Additionally, the MVAMC received approval to replace part of the steam generation system; specifically, replacing a deteriorated condensate surge tank with a custom-made stainless steel unit that should provide a significantly increased life expectancy over similar products. The \$180,000 replacement was awarded in August 2009 and was completed in January 2010.

Another valuable project was the relocation of the MVAMC main mail collection and distribution center to address security issues. The project was awarded in August 2009 at a cost of \$570,000 and is scheduled for completion in spring 2010.

“Going Green” is at the centerpiece of VA’s commitment to protect the environment, and the MVAMC’s \$140,000 E-85 fueling station project that uses alternative fuels is designed to help achieve this goal. Completion is anticipated in late summer 2010.

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Two projects to upgrade the MVAMC electrical distribution system to ensure the integrity and temperature requirements of data networks have also been approved. Funding for the data networks was awarded in March 2010 at approximately \$673,000 and the electrical project is scheduled for award this month.

Last, the MVAMC received approval for a construction project that will ultimately consolidate campus fire and security dispatch functions. The project involves a mix of new construction and renovation to existing structures. Design completion is expected by the end of next month, with the anticipated award by late June.

As part of its local projects around the country, VA is targeting nearly one-quarter of its \$1.4 billion in stimulus funding to investments in clean energy generation and energy conservation.

Another provision of the law has allowed VA to hire nearly 2,300 benefits claims processors, a move that will reduce the time Veterans wait for a decision on claims for compensation and pensions and education benefits.

Companies interested in vying for VA-related contracts can get information at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or by calling the Martinsburg VA Medical Center Facility Management Office at (304) 263-0811, extension 3381.

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### **About the Martinsburg VA Medical Center**

The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the Medical Center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women's health, mental health, hospice/palliative care, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 130,000 veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the Medical Center operates three VA-staffed Outpatient Clinics in Cumberland and Hagerstown, Md., and Stephens City, Va., and three contract clinics in Franklin and Petersburg, W.Va. and Harrisonburg, Va. Construction for a new clinic in Fort Detrick, Md. has started with an opening tentatively scheduled in Fall 2010.

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