

The New Deal

Immediately after his inauguration, FDR mapped out a number of proposals to aid economic recovery. Farmers, young people, and needy people were the target groups whom the president especially wanted to help. From FDR’s historic First Hundred Days (March 9 to June 16, 1933) to 1938, Congress passed the legislative acts listed in the chart below. Because they were referred to by initials, they became known as Roosevelt’s alphabet soup.

Initials	Program	Provisions
AAA	Agricultural Adjustment Act	set a new national farm policy, by providing that farmers be paid to limit the production of crops and livestock
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps	gave jobs to more than two million young men in environmental improvement projects, especially the National Park System
FERA	Federal Emergency Relief Act	gave money to local and state relief organizations
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	insured bank deposits up to \$5,000 and eliminated the fear of bank failures
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act	raised minimum wage to 40 cents per hour and shortened the work week to forty hours; last major piece of New Deal legislation
FSA	Farm Security Administration	loaned money to sharecroppers and tenant farmers so they could purchase their own land
HOLC	Home Owners Loan Corporation	reduced interest on loans and provided for postponement of payments
NIRC	National Industry Recovery Act	created work codes and industry safety regulations
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board	guaranteed workers the right to join labor unions and call strikes
NRA	National Recovery Administration	encouraged business owners and labor unions to cooperate in regulating prices, production, and wages
PWA	Public Works Administration	provided four billion dollars for the construction of highways and public buildings
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission	created to regulate and reform financial practices, particularly buying stocks on credit
SS	Social Security	established a federal pension system for elderly Americans by using money from payroll deductions and matching employer contributions
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority	provided funding for the development of the Tennessee River Valley; taught farmers better farming techniques
WPA	Works Progress Administration	reorganized all New Deal relief programs under this single federal agency in 1935; employed workers on large construction projects and gave jobs to writers and artists