



MAINE



NEW HAMPSHIRE



NEW YORK



VERMONT



Northern Border Regional Commission

2021 Annual Report

A WORD FROM OUR FEDERAL CO-CHAIR

Review of the Northern Border Regional Commission for 2021

Per 40 U.S.C. §15308, I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC).

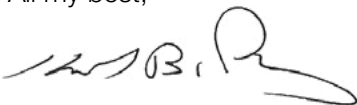
In 2021, the NBRC continued to increase its impact on the region, through the deployment of an increased annual budget, the continued development of new programs including a state broadband initiative, and the strengthening of multiple strategic partnerships. NBRC's budget increased to \$30MM in FY21, including the Regional Forest Economy grant program (RFEP), funded by \$4MM from our 2021 Congressional appropriations. We continued our partnerships with the United States Economic Development Administration (FY21, \$3MM), and the United States Department of Agriculture (FY21, \$3MM).

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic remained challenging for NBRC communities as they faced both economic and health concerns. During this difficult time, the NBRC staff continued to operate seamlessly in a remote-working environment and grew significantly as we adjusted to hiring and training new staff remotely. All of the newly hired NBRC staff members have settled in successfully and supported the largest State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant round to date. I'm proud of their dedication and professionalism, both to this region and this commission.

During 2021, the NBRC's SEID grant program funds provided over \$18.5MM in funding to some of the most distressed and rural areas in the northeastern United States. This successful grant round is emblematic of the strong working partnership between the States of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and with the Federal Co-Chair. In that spirit, I would like to thank Governors Sununu, Scott, Mills, and Hochul, and their representatives, for their dedication to the NBRC and its mission. I would also like to thank the congressional delegations of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and their staffs, for their continued strong working relationship with the NBRC. As we look ahead to the role the NBRC will play in the deployment of \$150MM in new funding as part of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, these working relationships will ensure that our region will benefit from this investment for decades to come.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the NBRC: Rich Grogan, Jon O'Rourke, Bill Gallagher, Andrea Smith, Molly Taflas, Marina Bowie, Georgia Cassimatis, and Tom Sidor, for their professionalism, dedication to the region and the NBRC, and all around, a great group of people to work with.

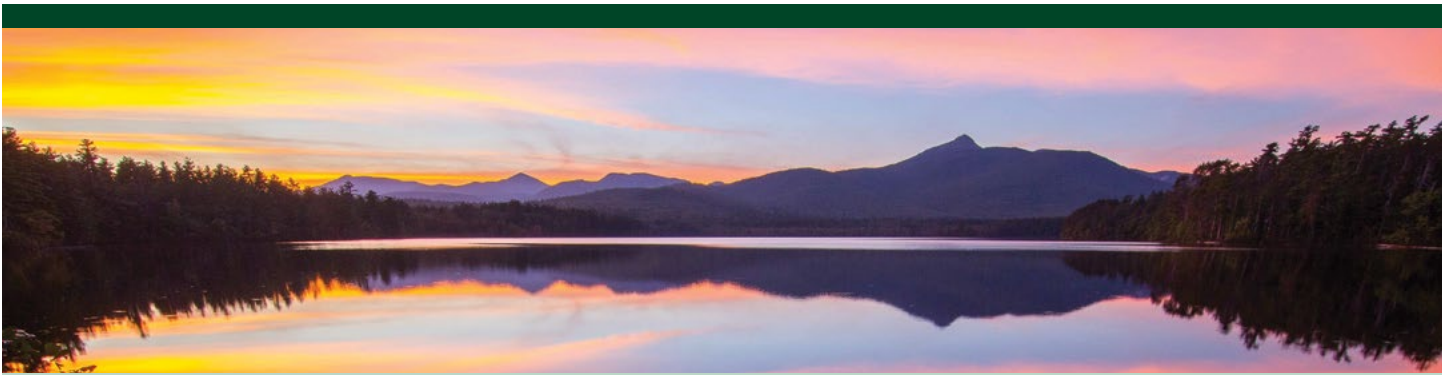
All my best,



Harold B. Parker, Federal Co-Chair
Northern Border Regional Commission

COVER IMAGES:

MAINE: Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development, NEW YORK: Photography courtesy of the State of New York, VERMONT: Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont



ABOUT THE NBRC

Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

| Vision |

The Northern Border region is known for its vital regional economies and thriving communities that provide for the well-being of the region's residents and support the stewardship of the region's natural and cultural assets.

| Mission |

The mission of the Northern Border Regional Commission is to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress and position the region for economic growth.

Authorized by Congress in 2008 (**40 U.S.C., Subtitle V**), and first appropriated by Congress in 2010, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a Federal-State partnership modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission. The NBRC was created to provide infrastructure and economic development assistance to projects in counties that have varying degrees of economic and demographic distress.

Authority and oversight functions of the NBRC are shared by five Members: The Federal Government, represented by the Federal Co-Chair, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, represented by the Governors of those States. NBRC investments and policies are approved by the vote of the Federal Co-Chair and the collective vote of the majority of State Governors.

As a Federal-State partnership, the NBRC enjoys a strong network of State economic development leaders who provide guidance and support for NBRC programs. Such support also helps NBRC staff maintain knowledge of local conditions throughout its extensive service area.

The NBRC partnership is also aided by Local Development Districts, which serve multiple functions: Technical assistance to grantees; assistance with identifying sources of complementary funds; and administration of NBRC grant funds.

The staff of the NBRC are a permanent, non-partisan administrative structure, charged with implementation of the strategic vision of the Members, including NBRC's grant programs.

MEMBERS' IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

For activities related to **Authority** and **Oversight** of the NBRC. It is up to each partner to decide on how much work they wish to dedicate to NBRC related activities. These in-kind activities are approved and appropriated by each Member government.

All **funding for grants** is provided by the Federal Government depending on appropriations.

Federal In-Kind



- Federal Co-Chair**
Salary and Benefits
- Alternate Federal Co-Chair**
Salary and Benefits
- Inspector General**
Salary and Benefits
- Operating**
Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.


Funding For Grants (100%)

MEMBERS' CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

For activities related to **Management** and **Operations**. These shared staff costs require a unanimous vote of all the States and the Federal Co-Chair. The Federal Co-Chair is not allowed to participate when the States deliberate the extent of their cash participation.

50%

50%




Northern Border Regional Commission

- Executive Director**
Salary and Benefits
- NBRC Staff**
Salary and Benefits
- Operating**
Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.


Maine In-Kind

- Governor's Alternate**
Salary and Benefits
- NBRC State Program Manager**
Salary and Benefits
- Others**
Salary and Benefits
- Operating**
Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



New Hampshire In-Kind

- Governor's Alternate**
Salary and Benefits
- NBRC State Program Manager**
Salary and Benefits
- Others**
Salary and Benefits
- Operating**
Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



New York In-Kind

- Governor's Alternate**
Salary and Benefits
- NBRC State Program Manager**
Salary and Benefits
- Others**
Salary and Benefits
- Operating**
Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



Vermont In-Kind

- Governor's Alternate**
Salary and Benefits
- NBRC State Program Manager**
Salary and Benefits
- Others**
Salary and Benefits
- Operating**
Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.





2021 | A BRIEF REVIEW

Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

In 2021, NBRC communities continued to adjust to the complexities of the ongoing pandemic. It has been said many times that pre-existing challenges faced by communities in our region were magnified by the pandemic and its aftermath. We are grateful that Congress authorized a match waiver for State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) applicants in 2021, and awardees from 2020, which allowed eligible projects to apply or proceed without matching funds. We also offered several administrative pathways for relief during this uncertain time, such as extending grant timelines, and allowing more time to develop match funding sources. The NBRC staff continued to grow in 2021, and each new perspective has added depth and understanding to not only NBRC operations and programs, but to the region at large. The increased sophistication of the NBRC's operation and our additional staff capacity is a solid foundation from which to build a strategy for deploying the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) funds, appropriated to the NBRC early in FY 2022.

| Highlights |

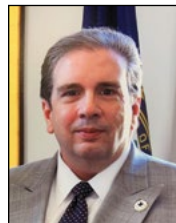
- The State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program – NBRC's largest – experienced an increase of 16% in requested funds in 2021 from 2020, following an increase of 36% in 2020 from 2019, and 46% in 2019 from 2018. Over \$81MM was requested in 2021. Though the NBRC is increasingly part of larger, multi-stakeholder projects, we continue our commitment to small projects: In 2021, we made multiple SEID awards that were \$100,000 or less.
- The NBRC furthered its partnerships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2021, awarding nearly \$6MM to economic development projects across the four NBRC states, and providing another year of funding for capacity building among each NBRC state's outdoor recreation economy functions.
- New appropriations in 2021 resulted in additional partnerships between the NBRC and the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), and Statewide broadband agencies.
- 2021 also brought to a close the first round of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-led Recreation Economies for Rural Communities (RERC) program, funded in part by the NBRC. Round I provided technical assistance to four NBRC communities (Fryeburg, ME; Gorham, NH; Cambridge, NH; and Poultney, VT) working towards strategies for improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities and downtown revitalization. The program is continuing with a new call for applications early in FY'22.



NBRC MEMBERS

Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

Policy and oversight decisions of the Commission are made by the Federal Co-Chair and a majority of Governors from Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.



Representing the Federal Government

Member: Harold B. Parker, Federal Co-Chair



Representing the State of Maine

Member: The Honorable Janet Mills, Governor

Governor's Alternate: Heather Johnson, Commissioner, Dept. of Economic Community Development

NBRC Program Manager: Charlotte Mace, Director, Maine Office of Business Development



Representing the State of New York

Member: The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor

Governor's Alternate: Deputy Secretary of State for Local Government, Mark Pattison

NBRC State Program Manager: Kyle Wilber, Local Government Specialist, NY Secretary of State



Representing the State of New Hampshire

Member: The Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor

Governor's Alternate: Commissioner Taylor Caswell, Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

NBRC State Program Manager: Benoit Lamontagne & Janel Lawton



Representing the State of Vermont

Member: The Honorable Phil Scott, Governor

Governor's Alternate: Deputy Secretary Tayt Brooks, Agency of Commerce and Community Development

NBRC State Program Manager: Kristie Farnham, Agency of Commerce and Community Development



ANNUAL DISTRESS CRITERIA

Snowmobiling in Redfield, Oswego County, New York. Photo by Tony Machia, courtesy of the NYS Tug Hill Commission

By statute, the NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress within its region, and this information is typically released on NBRC's website (nbrc.gov) along with new guidance on the SEID program:

- To have reliable and timely data that can inform NBRC leadership as they create new – and improve existing – economic and infrastructure funding programs,
- To create a benchmark in which annual compilations of economic and demographic data can be compared to the NBRC's Five Year Plan goals,
- To identify whether or not the NBRC can provide grants to projects within a county,
- To determine the level of match required by grant applicants for projects,
- To assist States as they develop their own economic and community development programs.

Annually updated distress criteria are released each spring, along with each year's SEID application materials, via the NBRC's website (nbrc.gov). The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total appropriations to projects in counties falling within the distressed designation. The maximum percent of a distressed project that can be funded by the NBRC is 80%¹.

¹ The NBRC offered a match waiver to State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) applicants in 2021, and awardees from 2020, which allowed eligible projects to apply or proceed without matching funds.



ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN MAINE FOR FY 2021

Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
 Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin,
 Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis,
 Somerset, and Washington

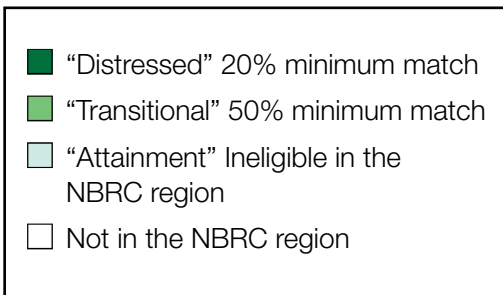
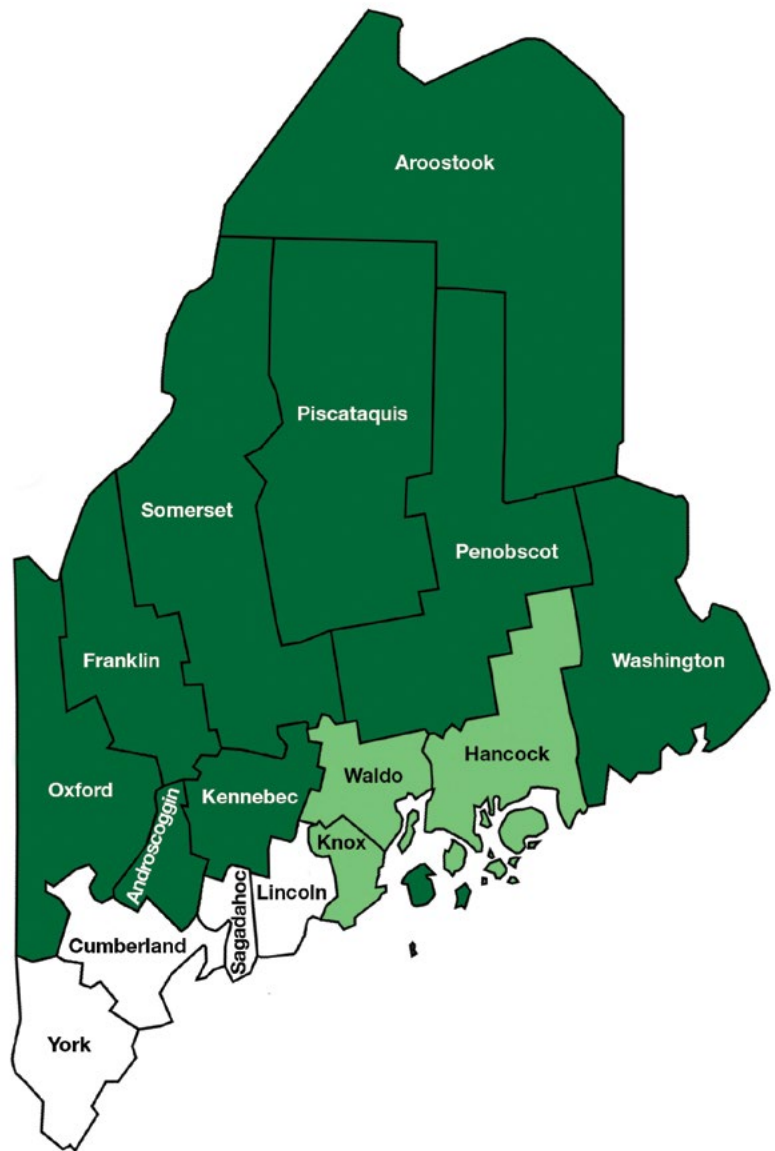
Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
 Hancock, Knox and Waldo

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Cannot award unless the project is within an
 Isolated Area of Distress
 None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)





ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FY 2021

Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
Coös, Sullivan

Transitional Counties

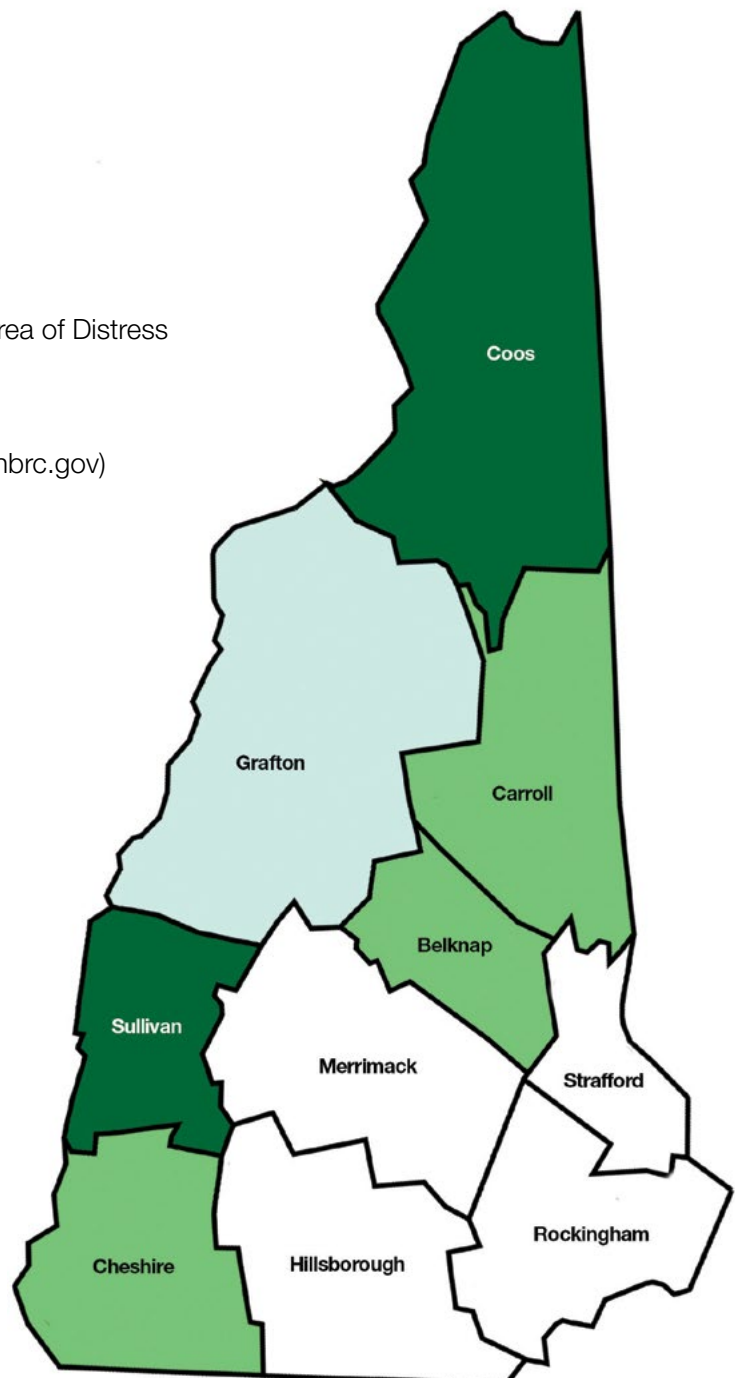
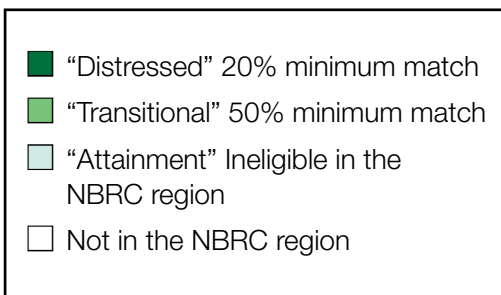
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire

Attainment Counties

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress
Grafton

Isolated Areas of Distress

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50% (see nbrc.gov)





ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW YORK FOR FY 2021

Courtesy of The Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP)

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Schenectady, Seneca, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, and Yates

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

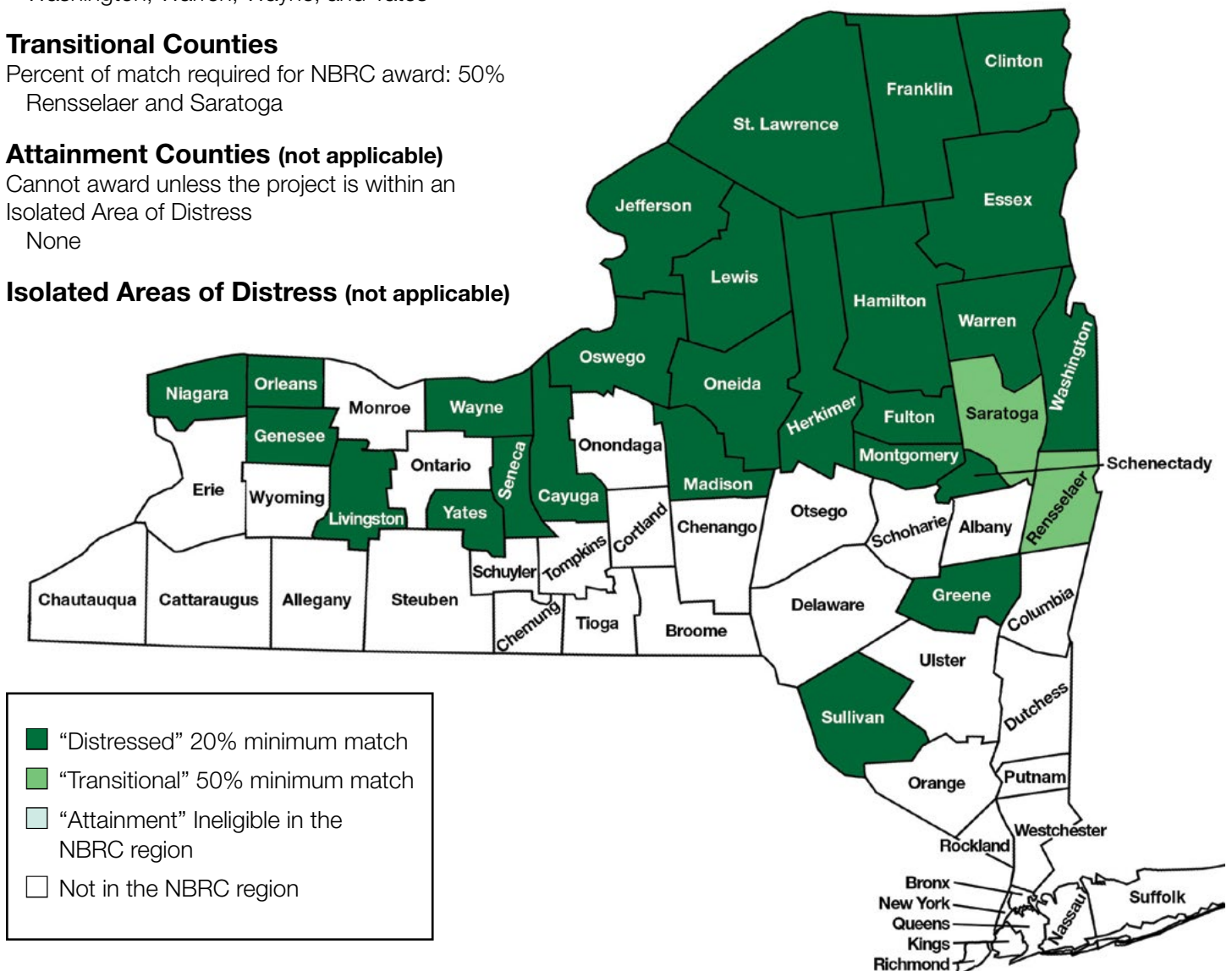
Rensselaer and Saratoga

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress

None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)





ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN VERMONT FOR FY 2021

Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%
 Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Rutland,
 and Windham

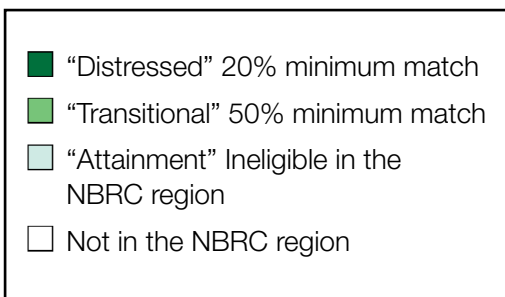
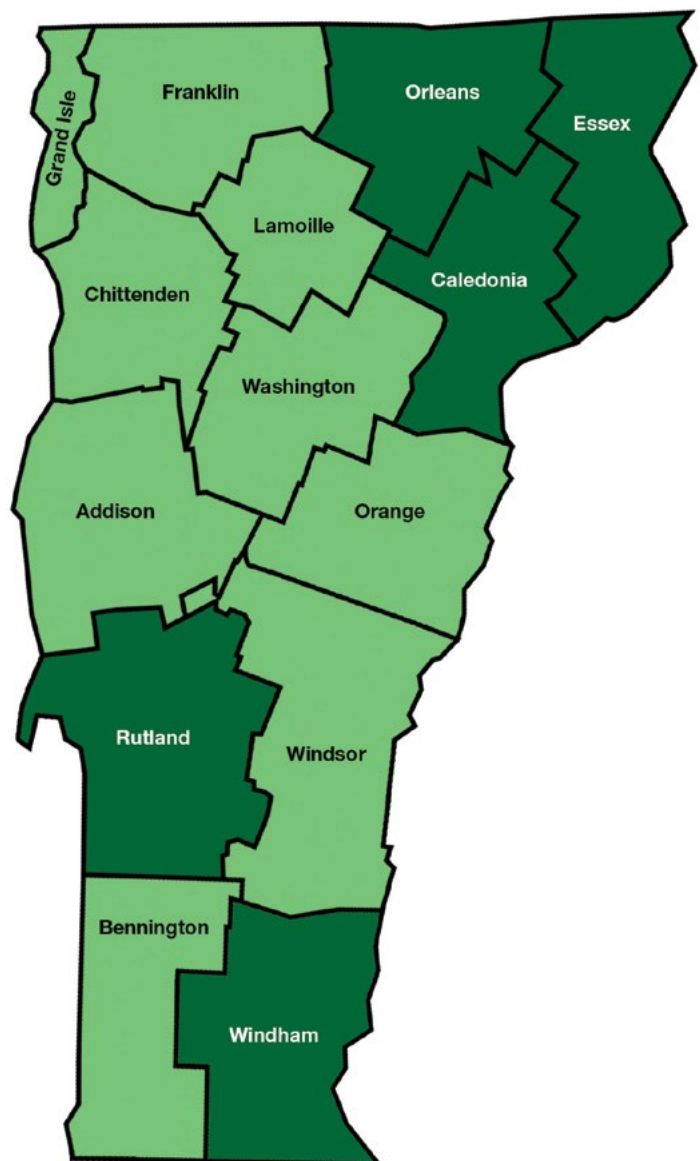
Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
 Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin,
 Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Washington,
 and Windsor

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Not eligible, unless designated as an Isolated
 Area of Distress
 None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



Northern Border Regional Commission

2021 STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM

AVAILABLE FUNDS: Approximately \$4,600,000 per State

GOAL: To provide Federal grants to employment-generating projects that reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. The parameters of the NBRC's Investment are directed by enabling legislation, standard Federal grant requirements, the NBRC Strategic Plan, and State or regional economic development plans.

PRIORITIZED GRANT PROJECTS:

- Revitalize and modernize essential infrastructure in Northern Border region communities,
- Increase access, affordability, and use of high-speed telecommunications by Northern Border residents and businesses,
- Stabilize and reduce electric and thermal energy costs,
- Retain, expand, and diversify business enterprise that capitalizes on the region's natural, cultural, and economic assets,
- Position the Northern Border region as an attractive and supportive place for creative and entrepreneurial people,
- Support and expand a highly productive workforce with skills suited to existing and future business needs,
- Foster entrepreneurial leadership and capacity for community economic development, and
- Inform and align local, state, and regional economic development decision making with regional data and perspectives.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

State and local governments, public bodies, IRS recognized 501(c) organizations, and Indian tribes.

2021 EID SUMMARY:

156 applications received totaling over \$81 Million in requests

44 awards made (12 projects in ME, 10 in NH, 9 in NY, 13 in VT) totaling \$18,622,725

Total Amount of Matching Funds (from awarded projects): \$46,477,512

Cost Share Ratio of 2.5:1

Awards to Distressed Areas: 75% (required minimum of 50%)

Awards to Infrastructure: 68% (required minimum of 40%)

Northern Border Regional Commission

2021 REGIONAL FOREST ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Summary of awards made in December 2020 (early FY'21), totaling nearly \$5MM:

Vermont Department of Public Service - \$1,000,000 (VT): Model funding program for community-driven broadband expansion to expand broadband across the State of VT.

Northern Forest Center - \$1,000,000 (ME, NH, NY, VT): Launch and capitalize Phase One of the four-state Northern Forest Fund to address the availability of quality workforce housing in four communities, one in each state of the NBRC territory.

Town of Madison - \$1,000,000 (ME): Infrastructure improvements at the former UPM Paper Mill to create a state-of-the-art Forest Products Hub.

Northern Vermont University - \$986,251 (NH & VT): Establish the NVU Forestry Accelerator & Workforce Development program to address the economic shift produced by the chronic and consistent decline of the forest products industry across the tri-county region of the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, and Coös County, New Hampshire.

Town of Hardwick - \$1,000,000 (VT): Support the Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator. The project consists of the adaptive reuse of historic property to create a business accelerator that will lead to significant job growth and market expansion in the farm and food-based sectors.

FY'21 AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$4,000,000

GOAL: The purpose of the program is to assist rural communities, institutes of education and research, and economic development support organizations in their efforts to transition the forest-based industry and its workforce to a focus on new technologies and viable business models across the 4-state NBRC region.

INVESTMENT GOALS:

1. Invest in the commercialization of new forest products and the development of new markets for forest product residuals.
2. Invest in new technology that seeks to find new uses for forest products.
3. Invest in workforce re-training for displaced forest economy workers, in support of re-entry to the workforce in new industries, or new roles within legacy forest economy enterprises.
4. Encourage projects that leverage existing (or, in some cases, new) partnerships to effect multiple counties, states and/or the entire NBRC region, and/or have the potential to do so.
5. Invest in proposals focused on research and development within the forest products industry which demonstrate the potential to impact the entire NBRC region.
6. Support for pilot projects that may provide a foundation for future region-wide impact.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

State and local governments, public bodies, IRS recognized 501(c) organizations, and Indian tribes.

2021 RFEP SUMMARY:

There were 11 Letters of Interest received, totaling over \$21,000,000. These proposals were reviewed by the RFEP Advisory Board and prioritized by the State Program Managers. RFEP award decisions will be made at the January 2022 NBRC Semi-Annual Commission Meeting. Award announcements and information on the funded projects will be available on NBRC's website in January 2022.

STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MAINE

Applications Received: 32

Total Funds Requested: \$16,155,543.80

Total Funds Awarded: \$4,855,481

Percent of Applications Awarded: 38.7%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 12 awards made from the 32 applications submitted, one of which combined funds from SEID and EDA, and is listed on p. 20.

DISTRESSED COUNTIES: Maine awarded 75% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Maine awarded 68% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

MATCHING FUNDS: Maine's projects leverage \$12,953,433 in other funds.

Eastern Maine Development Corporation:
NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$105,000
Location: CD-2 (Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Waldo Counties)

EMDC will provide technical assistance for climate resiliency planning, growth strategies for second stage businesses, and access to capital/investments.

Town of Vinalhaven:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$4,216,160
Location: CD-1 (Knox County)

Vinalhaven's Downtown Project constructs road, sidewalk, crosswalk, parking, boat launch, stormwater drainage, sewer, and water main on .6 mile of Main Street—the island's economic hub, which contributes \$39M/yr. in lobster landings and sustains 52 businesses with 200 jobs and \$10MM in taxable sales.

Town of Guilford:
NBRC Award: \$280,000, Matching Funds: \$70,000
Location: CD-2 (Piscataquis County)

This project will enhance existing green space and improve sidewalks, walking paths and signage to develop a walkable downtown. It will also serve to create a robust walkable downtown Wi-Fi network for residents and visitors to use and enjoy.

Town of Pittsfield:

NBRC Award: \$245,000, Matching Funds: \$0 (COVID Waiver) Location: CD-2 (Somerset County)

Reconstructing sidewalk/conduit, replacing one electrical control, and adding broadband capacity to increase and diversify business growth and jobs, leverage private investment, retain and increase talent, and improve working wages by creating a safe thriving downtown.

National Digital Equity Center:

NBRC Award: \$150,000, Matching Funds: \$1,194,275
Location: CD-2 (Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington County)

The National Digital Equity Center will continue digital literacy/computer skills learning for approximately 10,000 adult learners throughout Maine to develop workforce skills that will increase employability of participants.

Greater Augusta Utility District:

NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$3,867,000
Location: CD-1 (Kennebec County)

This project replaces a 900 ft 8" sewer utility crossing the Kennebec River with 16" pipe, provides water system looping resiliency with 6,300 feet of 12" and 16" pipe, and increases fiber optic system reliability with 15,000 ft of new fiber cable.

Town of Frenchville:

NBRC Award: \$758,000, Matching Funds: \$445,000
Location: CD-2 (Aroostook County)

The Town of Frenchville project will upgrade the existing pump station #2 and replace 3,200 feet of existing 4-inch PVC force main with a 6" HDPE force main. The project will also support increased flows from the Town of Saint Agatha.

Loring Development Authority of Maine:

NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$2,490,000
Location: CD-2 (Aroostook County)

Replace 20,000 feet of 60- to 70-year-old sewer pipe and 62 manholes resolving overflows of untreated wastewater and discharge permit violations into the Aroostook River watershed caused by infiltration and inflow at the wastewater treatment plant. This project will also benefit 1,062 sewer users.

STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MAINE (CONTINUED)

Town of Millinocket:

NBRC Award: \$203,439, Matching Funds: \$50,860

Location: CD-2 (Penobscot County)

Architectural/engineering design for a new terminal for the municipal airport. There is growing demand for air travel directly to Millinocket, and airport improvements are seen as critical to continued economic growth.

Town of Danforth:

NBRC Award: \$229,200, Matching Funds: \$57,300

Location: CD-2 (Washington County)

This project funds downtown revitalization efforts: construction of a market pavilion, survey costs, sidewalk repairs, building demolition, and relocation of a playground which will increase Danforth's economic development capacity, foster entrepreneurialism, and support ecological restoration.

Western Foothills Land Trust:

NBRC Award: \$89,842, Matching Funds: \$57,738

Location: CD-2 (Oxford County)

The project will improve access to biking and Nordic ski trails, a warming hut, and equipment at Roberts Farm Preserve in Norway. It will create 72 parking spaces with 4 networked EV chargers powered by a PV-roofed pavilion for an outdoor farmer's market, classes, arts, and performance space.



Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Applications Received: 34
Total Funds Requested: \$19,248,245 Total
Funds Awarded: \$4,591,679 Percent of
Applications Awarded: 29.4%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 10 awards made from the 34 applications submitted, one of which combined funds from SEID and EDA, and is listed on p. 20.

DISTRESSED COUNTIES: New Hampshire awarded 76% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

INFRASTRUCTURE: New Hampshire awarded 74% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

MATCHING FUNDS: New Hampshire's projects leverage \$18,442,809 in other funds.

White Mountains Community College:
NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$8,674,649
Location: CD-2 (Grafton County)

The Project will offer an increased presence (including a significant boost in courses offered), to allow WMCC to increase its support for providing highly skilled and productive workers to the region, and regional efforts to retrain the local workforce.

Mid-State Community Development Corporation:
NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds:
\$2,718,552.96 Location: CD-2 (Grafton County)

To serve workforce needs, Mid-State Children's Learning Center plans to expand from 18 to 60+ children, to serve the needs of 816 children in the area under the age of six (6) who lack access to childcare services. The project will create 6 full-time jobs.

Town of Newport:
NBRC Award: \$600,000, Matching Funds: \$1,330,000
Location: CD-2 (Sullivan County)

This project will replace and improve ~4,000 ft of water lines throughout the most critical and high-risk areas of the Town's water distribution system, ensuring the over 1,600 residential users, and all the Town's major employers, have reliable access to clean, safe water.

Littleton Industrial Development Corp:
NBRC Award: \$210,000, Matching Funds: \$290,000
Location: CD-2 (Grafton County)

Funding for expansion of Littleton Industrial Park, including 600 feet of access road, culvert replacement, installation of 200 feet of water/sewer, landscaping, and permitting. These improvements will allow new businesses to locate within the park and/or for existing businesses to expand and thrive.

Umbagog Snowmobile Association:
NBRC Award: \$251,076, Matching Funds:
\$62,769 Location: CD-1 (Coos County)

The purchase of a new trail groomer will replace an old groomer, supporting the ability of winter snowmobiling to sustain existing businesses and encourage new business activity in the community.

Town of Hebron:
NBRC Award: \$995,110, Matching Funds: \$864,910
Location: CD-2 (Grafton County)

The Town of Hebron will construct a 25-mile fiber-optic network that will be a middle mile network connecting and integrating into the Town of Bristol and the University of New Hampshire's fiber networks. This fiber network will create a resilient, fail-safe broadband system that spurs economic growth.

Town of Sandwich:
NBRC Award: \$840,493, Matching Funds: \$2,702,207
Location: CD-1 (Carroll County)

The Town of Sandwich will form a public-private partnership to construct a fiber optic broadband network which will service the entire Town and provide access for every household and business to fast, reliable Internet service at an affordable price. The Town is currently served by unreliable DSL.

Town of Goshen: NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$1,554,722: CD-2 (Sullivan County)

The project will bring broadband access to every property in Goshen and re-design Mill Village Road South (Route 10) to facilitate future economic development by attracting both traditional brick and mortar businesses, and the newly emerging remote workforce.

Town of Wakefield: NBRC Award: \$245,000, Matching Funds: \$245,000: CD-1 (Carroll County)

The Project will rehabilitate the Old Union Hotel to include the renovation of the second and third floors. It will support job creation and training initiatives.

STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW YORK

Applications Received: 65

Total Funds Requested: \$35,769,352

Total Funds Awarded: \$4,661,981

Percent of Applications Awarded: 13.8%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 9 awards made from the 65 applications submitted.

DISTRESSED COUNTIES: New York awarded 100% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

INFRASTRUCTURE: New York awarded 75% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/ sewer, broadband and transportation.

MATCHING FUNDS: New York's projects leverage \$1,856,719 in other funds.

Village of Tupper Lake:

**NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$370,000
Location: CD-21 (Franklin County)**

The Village of Tupper Lake will construct infrastructure upgrades required for redevelopment of the highly visible and centrally located 120,000 sq ft former OWD facility as workforce and market-rate housing, a production brewery, taproom and restaurant, and an entrepreneurial business center.

City of Ogdensburg:

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$800,000
Location: CD-21 (St. Lawrence County)**

The pump station's critical equipment, including pumps, controls, system communications, electrical, heating and ventilating and plumbing systems will be replaced to reliably collect and transport liquid waste from the west side of the City to the WWTP for treatment.

Wells College:

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$76,364
Location: CD-24 (Cayuga County)**

Project will replace two DE filters in an aging municipal water treatment plant, thus increasing both water quality and treatment efficiency, and retain local jobs and businesses.

Lewis County: NBRC Award: \$263,053, Matching Funds: \$65,763 Location: CD-21 (Lewis County)

This project will provide affordable and reliable high-speed broadband to approximately 1,173 homes and businesses covering a 10-mile radius, to include the Village of Copenhagen and surrounding rural communities that are currently underserved or have no access to internet.

**Village of Lima: NBRC Award: \$664,960,
Matching Funds: \$178,552 Location: CD-27
(Livingston County)**

The Village of Lima will partner with Empire Long Distance Corporation to build a 12.4-mile fiber optic network. The XGS PON network will provide businesses and residents in the Village with internet speeds of up to 10 Gigabits per second.

**Orleans Land Restoration Corporation:
NBRC Award: \$460,000 Matching Funds: \$115,000
Location: CD-27 (Orleans County)**

The project will reconstruct the public Team Track in Medina, build a new Team Track in Holley, and complete preliminary engineering to extend rail access to the new Medina Business Park South in Shelby, to retain existing jobs and provide for future industrial development in Orleans County.

Lake Champlain- Lake George Regional Planning Board: NBRC Award: \$160,000, Matching Funds: \$40,000 Location: CD-21 (Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton County)

An inventory of the available area median income housing/rental units to include: economic analysis of unmet housing needs, and a strategy for addressing identified issues.

**City of Batavia: NBRC Award: \$334,000,
Matching Funds: \$84,000 Location: CD-27
(Genesee County)**

The City of Batavia will install 950 linear ft of 8-inch diameter water main along Bank St. This will replace undersized and aging 90+ yr. old water lines, thus improving reliability. The results will include an increase in firefighting flows, and supply water needed for redevelopment projects.

**Village of Potsdam: NBRC Award: \$279,968,
Matching Funds: \$127,040 Location: CD-21
(St. Lawrence County)**

Potsdam will construct a new 300 ft 2-way street in its downtown, including sidewalks, streetlighting and transit improvements. The effort will aid in the commercial revitalization of a blighted area of downtown Potsdam that is poised for new growth.

STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN VERMONT

Applications Received: 26

Total Funds Requested: \$10,175,311

Total Funds Awarded: \$4,513,584

Percent of Grants Awarded: 50%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 13 awards made from the 26 applications submitted, one of which combined funds from SEID and EDA, and is listed on p. 20.

DISTRESSED COUNTIES: Vermont awarded 47% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Vermont awarded 56% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

MATCHING FUNDS: Vermont's projects leverage \$13,224,551 in other funds.

Vermont Farmers Market Education Center, Inc.:
NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$1,090,158
Location: CD-1 (Rutland County)

Construction of a Commercial Kitchen Center, housing a product development kitchen and culinary training kitchen that will certify students in food safety and preparation.

Town of Middlebury:
NBRC Award: \$600,000, Matching Funds: \$1,388,350
Location: CD-1 (Addison County)

Replacement of a water transmission main to provide potable water supply and fire suppression to the downtown business district.

VT Granite Museum of Barre:
NBRC Award: \$100,000, Matching Funds: \$30,000
Location: CD-1 (Washington County)

The Vermont Granite Museum will construct three classrooms to teach stone arts classes in support of Vermont granite companies. The objective is to develop highly skilled sculptors adept at using 21st century processes, ensuring the longevity of an essential Vermont industry.

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets:
NBRC Award: \$350,000,
Matching Funds: \$0 (COVID Waiver)
Location: CD-1 (All counties)

This project will fund two to eight competitive grants to Vermont's non-profit food hubs to help with critical infrastructure needs, enabling hubs to support more farm and food businesses, expand their workforces and advance their ongoing efforts to access larger metro markets.

City of Barre: NBRC Award: \$142,733, Matching Funds: \$285,467
Location: CD-1 (Washington County)

Replace a gravity fed wastewater ejector station with a submersible wastewater pump station that will improve infrastructure and increase MGD capacity by 73%, allow development of up to 32 subdivisions, retain 8 businesses, and retain 320 jobs in Barre City and Barre Town.

Dorset Fire District #1:
NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$4,500,000
Location: CD-1 (Bennington County)

Replace over 3.2 miles of water main and water service lines to improve system capacity, enabling a state moratorium on new water connections to be lifted. The project will create jobs and allow for future development in Dorset Village.

Town of New Haven:
NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$409,800
Location: CD-1 (Addison County)

The project will relocate the historic New Haven Rail Station from its current site at 5450 Ethan Allen Highway to a new site on North Street, adjacent to the Town Office. The rail station must be moved to accommodate a new intercity passenger rail Amtrak service from Rutland to Burlington.

North Calais Memorial Hall Association:
NBRC Award: \$222,000, Matching Funds: \$222,627
Location: CD-1 (Washington County)

The project restores a community facility to enhance the regional economy through job creation from construction and the vendors required to host large gatherings.

STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN VERMONT (CONTINUED)

Vermont Agency of Transportation:

NBRC Award: \$492,000, Matching Funds: \$123,000

Location: CD-1 (Orleans County)

The project is for design, permitting, and construction of a new terminal building to replace the outdated existing facility at the Northeast Kingdom International (NEKI) Airport. This project builds upon the successful 2015 runway extension investment, further enhancing operations at the airport.

Green Mountain Economic Development

Corporation: NBRC Award: \$175,000, Matching Funds: \$175,000 Location: CD-1 (Orange County)

The project will purchase a vacant building on Route 66 in Randolph, Vermont, to renovate and repurpose the building to a high-quality, affordable childcare program. 88 new childcare spaces will be created, contributing to workforce retention and recruitment in the east-central Vermont region.

Cross Vermont Trail Association, Inc.:

NBRC Award: \$75,000, Matching Funds: \$75,000

Location: CD-1 (Washington County)

The project will build 1.55 miles of universally accessible path, which will be fully compliant for both recreational and transportation uses.

Community Development Support, Inc.:

NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$4,250,000

Location: CD-1 (Windham County)

The project will acquire and substantially renovate all building elements of a vacant and blighted historic building to house the Innovation HUB and 19 new affordable housing units benefitting LMI residents and the economy in downtown Brattleboro.



Village of Whitehall – courtesy of The Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP)



Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) COLLABORATIVE AWARDS

Projects are funded under the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the NBRC and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to amplify both agencies' economic development impact in Northern Border communities. The NBRC has received a special appropriation since 2018 for these awards, which has resulted in working closely with the EDA to award funds to projects that meet the strategic objectives of both agencies.

The awards made in 2021 total **\$3,000,000** for the following projects:

- **Town of Hermon (Penobscot County, ME) - \$750,000:**
The *Hammond Street* pump station upgrade and *Logistics Lane* main transmission install will add wastewater capacity for both existing and new industrial properties. The pump station upgrade modernizes and right sizes infrastructure currently at the end of its useful life. **(Note: The NBRC also awarded this project \$50,000 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 4, 2021)**
- **Town of Colebrook (Coös County, NH) - \$750,000:**
The project invests in municipal wastewater treatment through cleaning and dewatering, providing additional depth capacity for the Town's wastewater treatment facility. The project supports the expansion of a manufacturer, which will add jobs to the community. **(Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$250,000 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 4, 2021)**
- **Town of Johnsburg (Warren County, NY) - \$750,000:**
The funds for this project will support the construction of a wastewater collection and treatment system in the Hamlet of North Creek, which will allow for increased economic development activities in the Hamlet's downtown.
- **Town of St. Johnsbury (Caledonia County, VT) - \$135,859:**
Design and construction of a cross-country trail and new South Main Street underpass, creating a seamless off-road transportation route linking the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, and St. Johnsbury's Designated Downtown, promoting non-motorized travel and supporting businesses in the area. **(Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$806,851 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 4, 2021)**
- **Town of Westford (Rutland and Windsor Counties, VT) - \$466,194:**
The project will expand the public wastewater system for Westford by expanding wastewater capacity and allowing for future connections. As such, the completed project will support local business creation and expansion.
- **Town of Richmond (Franklin County, VT) - \$147,947:**
The project will extend an existing town sewer system on Route 2, which will retain jobs at a brewery that has outgrown its location, increase tourism, and allow for more housing and commercial development.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT (USDA RD), COLLABORATIVE AWARDS

NBRC in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD), funded 5 projects, in addition to continuation of support for the NBRC Outdoor Economy Council, which serves all four NBRC States. Collectively, these awards amplify both agencies' economic development impact in Northern Border communities. The NBRC has received funding in 2019 and 2020 for these awards, which has resulted in working closely with USDA RD to award funds to projects that meet the strategic objectives of both agencies.

The awards made in 2021 total nearly **\$3,000,000** for the following projects:

- **Town of Carrabassett Valley (Franklin County, ME) - \$300,000:**
The project will construct approximately 5.5 miles of bicycle-specific trail in the region, expanding quality outdoor recreational opportunities and creating new connections for area residents and tourists. Increased activity will provide local economies opportunity for employee and business development.
- **University of New Hampshire (Carroll, Coös, Sullivan Counties, NH) - \$350,000:**
This initiative will increase business advising capacity in Carroll, Coös, and Sullivan Counties. Over 3 years, planners anticipate 1,800-2,000 hours of advising to 250-300 small businesses, resulting in 15-20 new businesses, \$7-8 million in new capital formation and 150-200 jobs created or saved.
- **Hudson Valley Community College (Saratoga County, NY) - \$350,000:**
Funds will be used to construct and renovate an educational and workforce-development facility in Malta, NY. With more academic and workforce programs available, more students and workers will be trained and prepared for jobs as a result, benefitting Saratoga County and surrounding municipalities.
- **Retreat Farm (Windham County, VT) - \$350,000:**
Restoring Retreat Farm's North Barn into a year-round event venue will fulfill a vital need for large indoor gathering space. This evocative space will service residents and attract more tourists, increasing spending and jobs as a result. Funding will help strengthen the social bonds of families and communities by bringing people together and invigorating the economic vitality of the Brattleboro region.
- **Outdoor Economy Council (ME, NH, NY, VT) - \$1,600,699:**
Policymakers in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont have identified the outdoor economy as a key driver of post-pandemic economic recovery. The Outdoor Economy Council work in 2021 builds upon the work of the previous two years by leveraging foundational marketing projects and extending their benefits to additional communities.