



News Release

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USDA, Northern Border Regional Commission Announce \$3 Million in Joint Funding for Projects in 4 States

Investments to benefit New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine initiatives

MONTPELIER, Vt., Sept. 23, 2021 – Today, the [Northern Border Regional Commission \(NBRC\)](#) and [U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development \(RD\)](#) announced \$3 million in funding for economic-development projects in Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. The NBRC has received funding in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for these awards, reinforcing the strategic objectives of both agencies.

Cheryl Ducharme, Acting State Director for RD in Vermont and New Hampshire, was happy to announce the 2021 award. “The recipients chosen this year are unquestioned drivers of economic development in their respective regions,” she said. “The NBRC is a crucial partner in our mission to create better lives for rural Americans through business and community development, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with them.”

“This year’s slate of NBRC-USDA projects demonstrates both Agencies’ commitment to furthering crucial technical assistance, outdoor recreation, and workforce development efforts that will benefit communities in all four NBRC states,” said **NBRC Executive Director Rich Grogan**.

NBRC’s award will support the following efforts across its four-state region:

- **Town of Carrabassett Valley (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 (NH): \$350,000**
This initiative will increase business advising capacity in Coos, Carroll, and Sullivan Counties. Over 3 years, planners anticipate 1800-2000 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 Foundation (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 (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 serve 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.

About USDA Rural Development

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you’d like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

About the Northern Border Regional Commission

Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to help alleviate economic distress and encourage private sector job creation in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. In its twelve-year history, the Commission has awarded 287 grants amounting to more than \$72 Million across the four states through its primary Economic & Infrastructure Development (EID) grant program and other special initiatives. [Subscribe here](#) to receive NBRC news and updates.

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