



Northern Border Regional Commission

2023 Annual Report



A Federal-State partnership for economic development in Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont

A WORD FROM OUR FEDERAL CO-CHAIR

Review of the Northern Border Regional Commission for 2023

This fall marks the 15th anniversary of the Commission's establishment by Congress and thanks to their continued investment and support, NBRC has matured into a significant contributor to the economic development ecosystem in the region. The past year saw the Commission reach new heights that included deploying a record level of funding into the region; making existing funding opportunities more accessible; developing new programs; and activating key partnerships with other federal agencies.

The cornerstone of NBRC's work remains centered in grant making designed to elevate the work and vision of local communities. Thanks to the collaboration between President Biden and Congress to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), NBRC awarded a historic \$43 million in funding through its newly rebranded Catalyst Program. Not only did the additional funding made possible by BIL allow NBRC to make a record number and amount of investments, we were able to reimagine key components of our grantmaking. NBRC sought out to prioritize reaching the region's smallest and most rural communities, places that may not previously have been able to access Commission funds and elevate communities seeking to plan climate mitigation into their projects.



Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

Access to affordable childcare and healthcare are two such barriers that can be particularly difficult for rural communities to address on their own. NBRC takes a wide lens in viewing the role it should play in contributing to regional economic development, and in 2023 acted in support of easing both these challenges. In revising our flagship grant program, NBRC made adjustments that reflect our understanding that quality childcare programs are essential community infrastructure. The Commission's changes allowed childcare projects to be newly eligible for awards up to \$1 million for projects with a single site, and up to \$3 million for project investing in sites across multiple communities. These changes resulted in NBRC's largest ever award, investing \$3 million in childcare facilities across Lewis County New York.



Photo courtesy of the State of New York

This December, the Commission formally launched a J-1 Visa Waiver Program, an initiative to bring physicians to rural communities and medically underserved areas. By agreeing to practice health care in these areas, physicians who are trained in the United States are able to have restrictions on their visas waived so that they can remain in the country. Our expectation is that this new tool will help ease shortages in the region's healthcare workforce and bolster one of the underlying elements of community strength that make economic development possible.

While the aim of this annual report is to offer a reflection on the work and accomplishments of our agency, we do not operate in a vacuum. By design our NBRC team both works and lives in the region we serve and are active members in the communities across the region that were touched by tragedy and loss this year. Extreme weather impacted nearly every county in our territory, with disasters devastating towns, villages and cities in Vermont and New York. Gun violence shattered the lives of too many, particularly in Lewiston, Maine— the impact of which was felt across the state and the region.

A WORD FROM OUR FEDERAL CO-CHAIR *continued*

The Commission is not a disaster response agency, our focus is on supporting long term investments that contribute to economic success. Yet as we reflect on both our work and the events of the past year, we cannot ignore the fact that all of us have an obligation to lend our skill and resources to communities struck by tragedy and consider the ways in which we can support them in their recovery.

I strongly believe that regardless of any individual or collective challenge, the region is extremely well positioned to realize wide reaching economic prosperity. The Commission is in the final stages of producing a strategic plan that will chart a course to guide our work for the next five years. The NBRC team made remarkable strides this past year and is developing this vision with a strong foundation. As we turn the calendar to 2024, we recommit ourselves to the ways in which we currently serve our communities and strive to both improve and expand these efforts.

Regards,



Chris Saunders,
Federal Co-Chair Northern Border Regional Commission



Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

ABOUT THE NBRC

| 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.



Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

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%)

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.



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.



Northern Border Regional Commission

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

2023 | A BRIEF REVIEW



Photo courtesy of the state of New York

The NBRC in 2023 continued to welcome new staff members and to build our team, with the aim of additional capacity in support of responsiveness to grantees and to community and stakeholder needs expressed within our grant programs. Through these efforts, the NBRC funded a record number of projects in 2023 – both in the number of projects and the amount of funding deployed.

The NBRC also continued our commitment to new entrants to the program, and 76% of 2023's grantees were new to NBRC funding. It is often the case that applicants new to the NBRC are also new to Federal funding, which we view as a critical part of our mission as we work to support building the capacity of these entities to seek funding for future projects.

Looking ahead to 2024, the NBRC is planning to implement new grant management technology that will enhance our ability to accept applications from multiple programs simultaneously and provide a single resource for communications and grant administration throughout the grant lifecycle. This system will also support another major change for 2024: the expansion to two distinct points of entry for grantees, in the spring and the fall. This new design will allow applicants to take advantage of complementary funding opportunities through public and private funders, and to more closely align these deadlines.

| Highlights |

- Interest in the NBRC's Catalyst (formerly SEID) grant program has continued to grow along with the NBRC's annual appropriations, and as communities and organizations in the region increasingly see the NBRC as a valuable partner in their funding mix. The number of Letters of Interest (LOIs) submitted in 2023 was 47% higher than in 2022.
- In FY'23, the re-designed Forest Economy Program (FEP) yielded 3 new awards, totaling **\$2,544,488 Million**. These projects highlighted the continued dynamism and creativity of this industry as it continues to evolve and adapt to changing market conditions. Demand has also been strong for the program's fall 2023 round, and awards will be announced in January 2024.
- The NBRC furthered its commitment to supporting the outdoor recreation economy in the region through capacity support within State-based outdoor recreation offices, and grant awards to communities and nonprofit organizations that continue to build out the sector as a key component of community economic strategies. Additionally, a critical partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) initiative supported technical assistance to five communities in the NBRC's region, all of which view their respective approaches to outdoor recreation as key drivers of economic growth. These communities were: Akwesasne & Granville, NY, Bangor, ME, Claremont, NH, and Marshfield, VT.
- After an extensive region-wide data collection initiative to understand more precisely the region's infrastructure needs, the NBRC successfully deployed the first of its Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) funds, via the Catalyst program. This initial tranche of \$20 Million is part of a \$150 Million appropriation the Commission received via BIL. Additional funds will be deployed in 2024 and subsequent years, and they continue to represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity for development in our region.

NBRC MEMBERS

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: Christopher M. Saunders, Federal Co-Chair



Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism



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 Hampshire

Member: The Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor

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

NBRC State Program Managers: Steve Fortier, Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs



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 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



Photo courtesy of the State of Vermont

ANNUAL DISTRESS CRITERIA

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 Catalyst 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 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's year's Catalyst 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%.



Photo courtesy of the state of New York

ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN MAINE FOR FY 2023

Distressed Counties

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

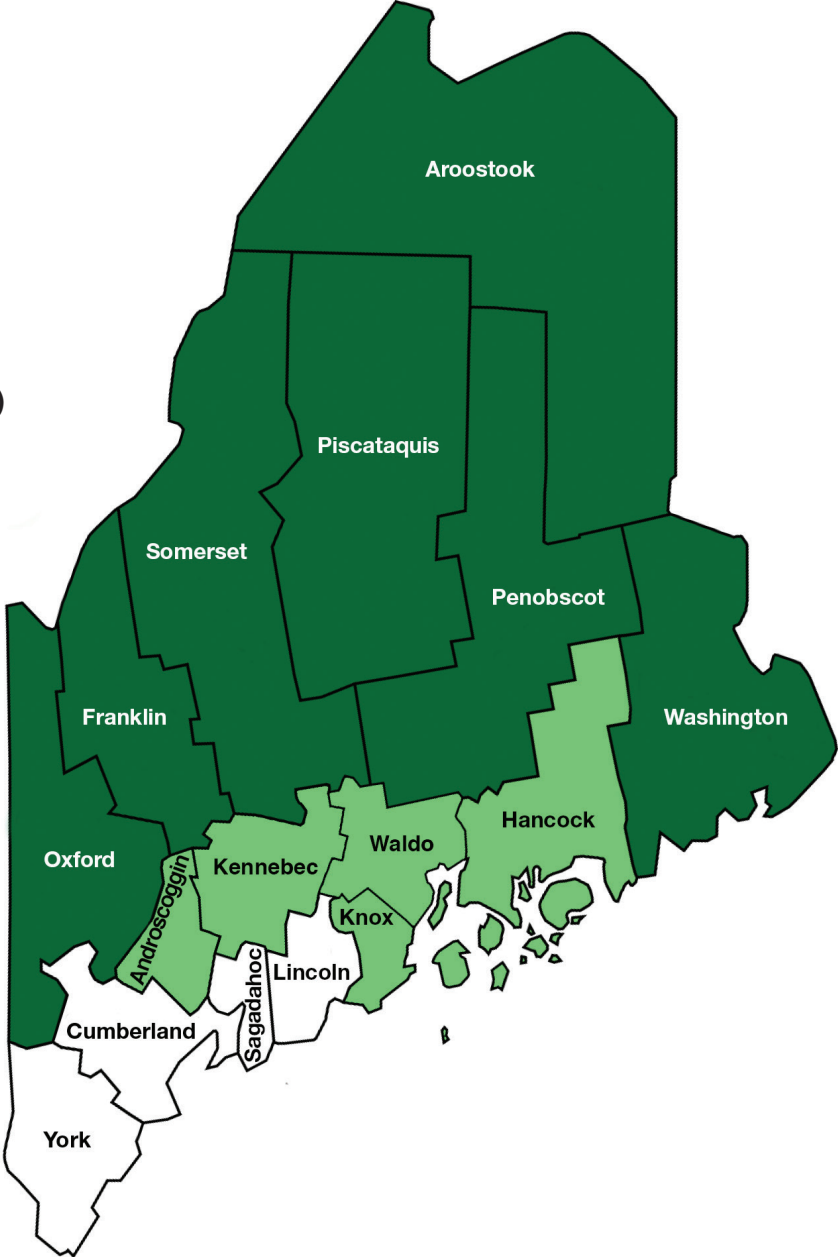
Transitional Counties

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

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has requested and received approval of a Significant Benefit Waiver

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



- "Distressed" 20% minimum match
- "Transitional" 50% minimum match
- "Attainment" Ineligible in the NBRC region unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has requested and received approval of a Significant Benefit Waiver
- Not in the NBRC region

ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FY 2023

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Cheshire, Coös, and Sullivan

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Belknap and Carroll

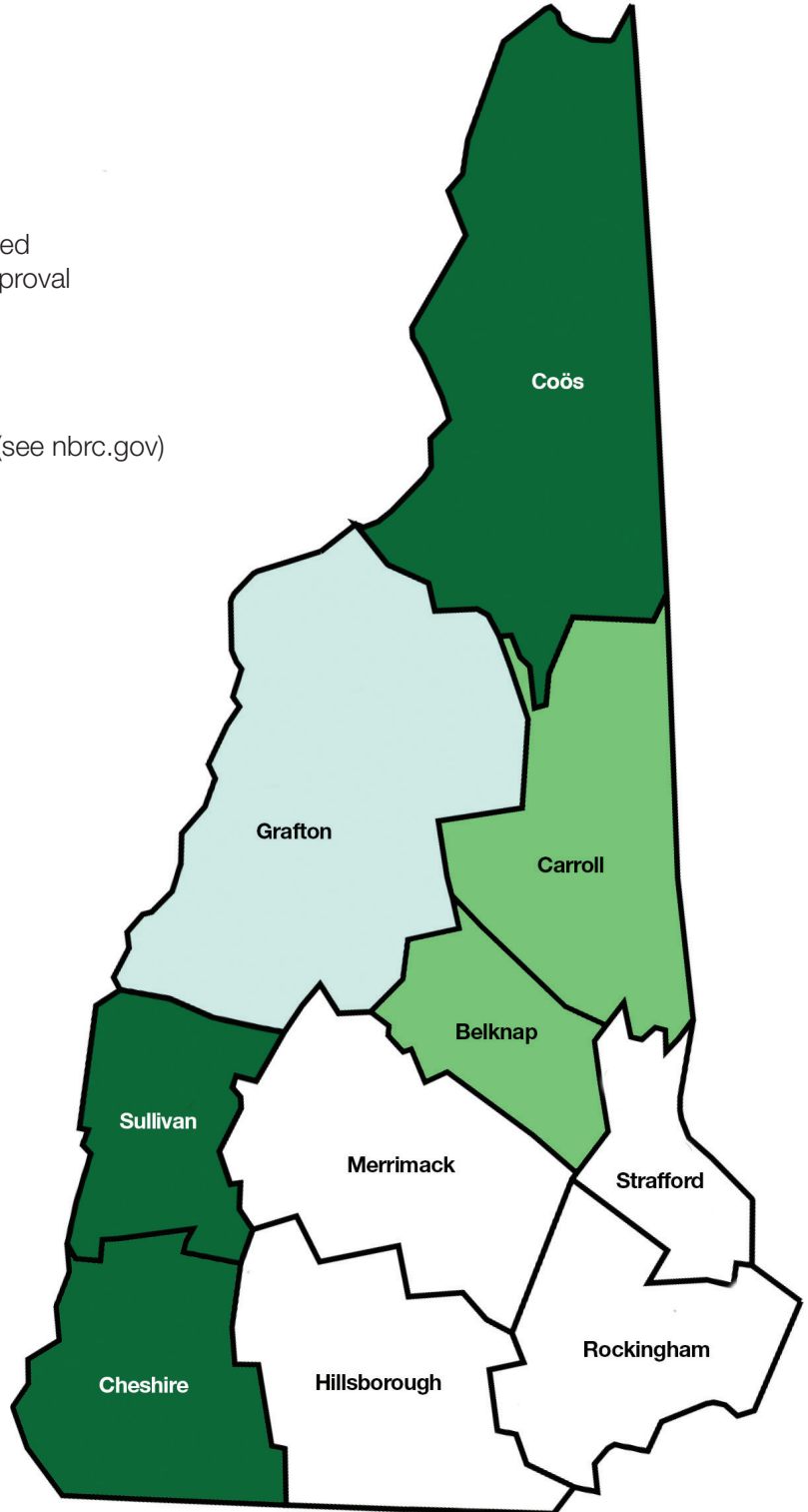
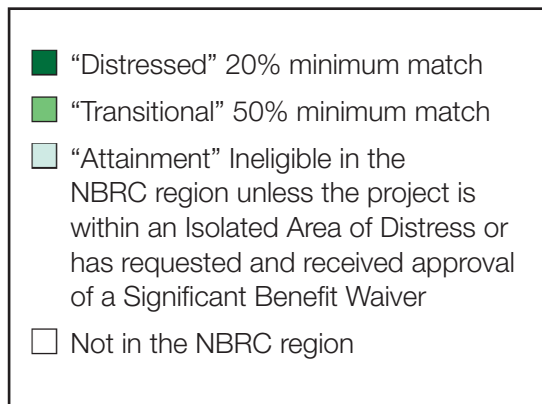
Attainment Counties

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has requested and received approval of a Significant Benefit Waiver

Grafton

Isolated Areas of Distress

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



ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW YORK FOR FY 2023

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

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

Transitional Counties

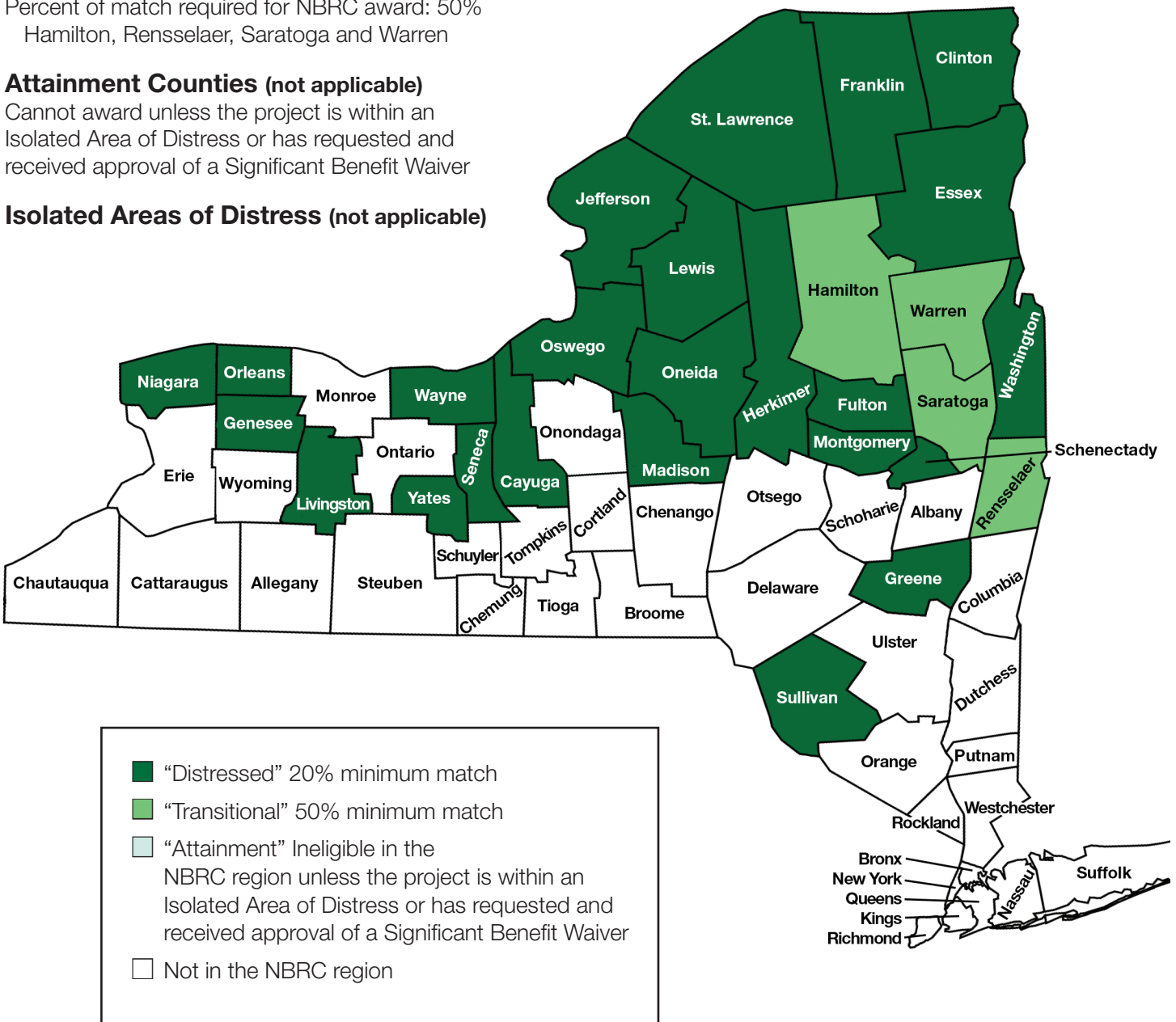
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Hamilton, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Warren

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has requested and received approval of a Significant Benefit Waiver

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN VERMONT FOR FY 2023

Distressed Counties

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

Transitional Counties

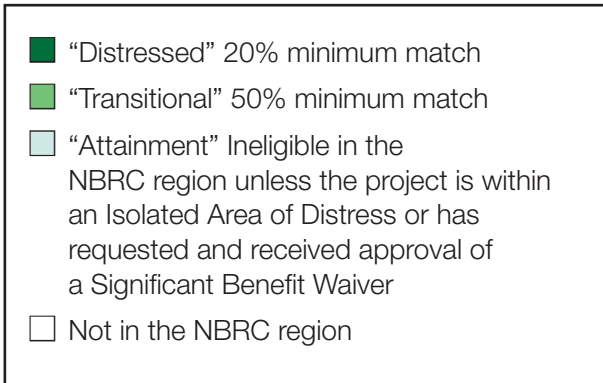
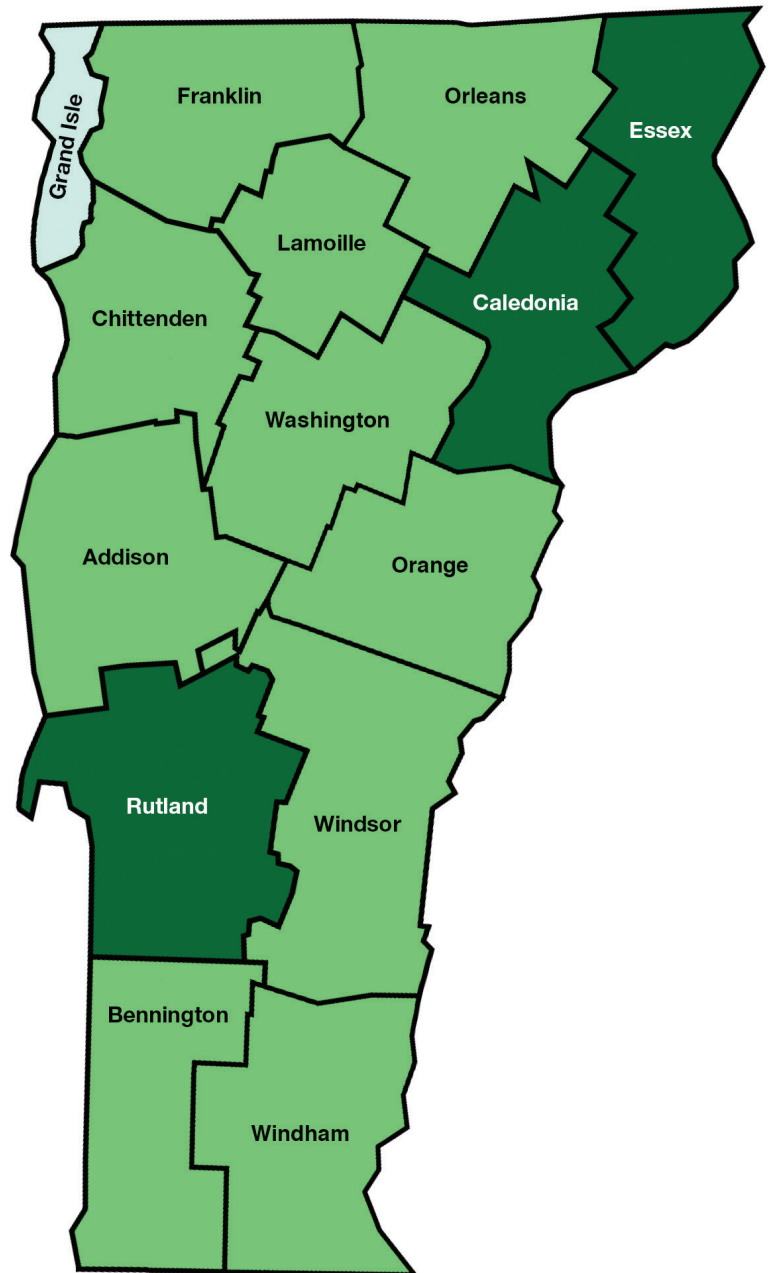
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Washington, Windham, and Windsor

Attainment Counties

Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress or has requested and received approval of a Significant Benefit Waiver
Grand Isle

Isolated Areas of Distress

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



Northern Border Regional Commission 2023 CATALYST PROGRAM

The Catalyst Program incorporates elements from the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) program as well as updated infrastructure priorities to reflect the infusion of funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$43,000,000 total funds available, approximately \$11,000,000 per State. An additional \$750,000 per State was made available under the NBRC partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$712,500 per State under the partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-RD).

GOAL: To stimulate economic growth and inspire partnerships that improve rural economic vitality across the 4-state region.

PRIORITIZED GRANT PROJECTS:

The Catalyst Program will prioritize funding for projects that demonstrate both readiness and projected direct impacts on the region's economy and communities. All projects must be consistent with the economic development goals of the region and advance a combination of NBRC and member state strategic investment priorities.

NBRC priorities include:

- Projects that provide benefits or demonstrate meaningful engagement with communities who have been under-represented in past NBRC investments (including rural communities of population less than 5,000, communities of color and tribal communities)
- Projects that address multiple needs and cross multiple infrastructure and non-infrastructure categories
- Projects that adapt to changing climate conditions and extreme weather events
- Economic Impacts such as job retention, job creation and/or wage growth and align with larger economic development strategies
- Project Readiness demonstrated by completed planning, design and permitting, detailed milestones for completion and projects with greater immediacy
- Organizational Capacity demonstrated through collaboration and relationships with other entities, including early outreach to NBRC's Local Development District (LDD) network

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

State and local governments, public institutes of higher education including secondary and career technical centers, other political subdivisions of States, American Indian tribes, and IRS recognized 501(c) organizations.

2023 CATALYST SUMMARY:

- 287 Letters of Interest (LOI) received totaling over \$257 million in requests
- 187 Applications received totaling over \$151 million in requests
- 77 awards made (17 projects in ME, 29 in NH, 15 in NY; 16 in VT) totaling \$49,188,560.22 (this figure includes EDA & USDA partnership awards)

Total Amount of Matching Funds (from awarded projects): \$153,666,419.80

Cost Share Ratio of nearly 3:1

Awards to Distressed Areas: 69% (required minimum of 50%)

Awards to Infrastructure: 74% (required minimum of 40%)

Northern Border Regional Commission 2023 FOREST ECONOMY PROGRAM

AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$7,000,000

GOAL: The purpose of this program is to support the forest-based economy, and to assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the 4-state NBRC region.

PRIORITIZED GRANT PROJECTS:

- Invest in the development and commercialization of technologies that create new markets for forest product residuals.
- Invest in workforce recruitment, development, and training to increase job placement across the forest product continuum.
- Support for eligible entities helping to sustain and grow existing forest industry businesses and operations, such as through technical assistance.
- Revitalization of rural communities through the diversified use of northern border forests for economic activity to include wood products and advanced materials manufacturing, as well as for other economic activity that utilizes northern border forests sustainably for the production of wood products and advanced materials manufacturing.
- Encourage projects that leverage existing (or, in some cases, new) partnerships to impact multiple counties, states and/or the entire NBRC region, and/or have the potential to do so.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

State and local governments, secondary and career technical centers, other political subdivisions of States, Native Tribes, non-profits, institutes of higher education.

2023 Spring FEP Summary:

- **17 Letters of Interest (LOI) received totaling over \$13.2 million in requests**
- **3 awards made (2 projects in ME, 1 project in NH) totaling \$2,544,488**
- **Total amount of matching funds (from awarded projects): \$9,065,090**

2023 Fall FEP Summary:

- **14 Letters of Interest (LOI) received totaling over \$9.3 million in requests**
- **Awards for the fall 2023 funding round will be announced in January 2024**



Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

FOREST ECONOMY PROGRAM GRANTS

Applications Received: 15

Total Funds Requested: \$12,183,609

SPRING 2023 GRANTS:

St. John Valley Technology Center

NBRC Award: \$946,140

Matching Funds: \$0

Location: Aroostook County, ME

Acquire a new piece of equipment, a Timberpro Combi-unit with harvesting head and SuperGrip grapple, to foster improved educational infrastructure within the Forest Technology programming.

University of New Hampshire

NBRC Award: \$998,348

Matching Funds: \$320,000

Location: Strafford County, NH. Impact across counties in NH, VT, and ME

Accelerating Adoption of CLT Made from Local Species: Adoption of local CLT is dependent on cost; developers' knowledge of the technical aspects of the product and its use in construction; consumer awareness of CLT's economic, societal and environmental benefits; and financial and operational risk to developers. This project will address these barriers.

Jesup Library

NBRC Award: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$8,745,090

Location: Hancock County, ME

Mass Timber Expansion to a 1911 public library building in downtown Bar Harbor, using cross-laminated timber (CLT) manufactured from eastern hemlock sourced in the northeastern United States.

FALL 2023 GRANTS:

Fall 2023 grant awards will be announced in January 2024. Check [nbrc.gov](https://www.nbrc.gov) for grant announcements.



Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN MAINE

Applications Received: 39
Total Funds Requested: \$33,689,309
Total Funds Awarded: \$12,462,500
Percent of Applications Awarded: 43.6%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 17 awards made from the 39 applications submitted, one of which combined funds from Catalyst and EDA, and one of which was funded through USDA.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE: Maine awarded 81% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

MATCHING FUNDS: Maine's projects leverage **\$34,810,595** in other funds.

Jesup Library

NBRC Award: \$600,000
Matching Funds: \$8,745,090
Location: Hancock County, ME

Mass Timber Expansion to a 1911 public library building in downtown Bar Harbor, using cross-laminated timber (CLT) manufactured from eastern hemlock sourced in the northeastern United States.

University of Maine System:

NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$663,641
Location: Penobscot County (ME-02)

The project will create an Immersive Manufacturing Center called the "GEM Gateway," within the Green Engineering and Materials (GEM) Factory of the Future, a transformational mass timber facility that consists of an integrated, flexible manufacturing space that leverages digital manufacturing technology using sustainable, bio-based materials. The Gateway will build community connectivity and career opportunities in Maine within fields critical to the future of the State of Maine, specifically at the intersection of advanced manufacturing and sustainable, biobased materials.

City of Presque Isle:

NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$250,000
Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)

Presque Isle International Airport (PQI) serves two Native American Tribes, two cities (under 10,000 residents each), 53 towns, nine plantations and 112 unorganized townships with all but the two cities having less than 5,000 residents; and part of the Canadian Province of New Brunswick as well as the First Nation. The project will replace the circa 1954 undersized terminal building at PQI with a new, efficient terminal. Unlike the existing terminal, the proposed terminal will be fully ADA-compliant.

Black Mountain of Maine:

NBRC Award: \$380,000, Matching Funds: \$102,555
Location: Oxford County (ME-02)

The purpose of this project is to increase the snowmaking ability at Black Mountain of Maine through the acquisition of 13 additional snowguns. This increase in snowmaking ability will allow the mountain to open earlier in the season, when skiers' pent-up demand is at its greatest.

Mahoosic Pathways dba Inland Woods:

NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$2,532,000
Location: Oxford County (ME-02)

The Western Maine Trails Investment Partnership (WMTIP) is a unique collaboration of five partners, and this project will improve access, amenities, and opportunities for trail-based recreation at 15 trail systems in Oxford County, including resurfacing trails, improving trailhead parking areas, and establishing miles of new mountain bike trails.

Shiretown Development Corporation:

NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$1,367,585
Location: Aroostook County (NH-02)

The proposed project will include the purchase of a pre-engineered steel building, concrete slab, fixtures and cabinetry, electrical and utility hookups, and site work at the Houlton Industrial Park to house a manufacturer that will construct energy efficient tiny homes.

Town of Greenville:

NBRC Award: \$991,708, Matching Funds: \$265,000
Location: Piscataquis County (ME-02)

The project includes construction of public roads and related parking, sidewalks, and storm water management systems, sewer line extensions, and water line extensions to facilitate construction of a proposed 26-unit, \$6.5 million workforce housing development.

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN MAINE (CONTINUED)

**Sunrise County Economic Council:
NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$500,000
Location: Washington County (ME-02)**

The project will address income uncertainty, industry volatility, and climate change challenges by supporting commercial fishers and their families in coastal Washington communities. This will be achieved through business coaching, training, technical assistance; financial literacy education; connection to career opportunities; and connection to recovery and behavioral health resources.

**East Millinocket:
NBRC Award: \$750,000, Matching Funds: \$6,750,000
Location: Penobscot County (ME-02)**

Infrastructure improvements made to the former East Millinocket mill site will be fundamental to its redevelopment and enhance the functionality and safety for all the businesses located on the repurposed campus.

**Our Katahdin:
NBRC Award: \$750,000, Matching Funds:
\$11,403,825 Location: Penobscot County (ME-02)**

The proposed project at One North is the long-delayed decommissioning and re-purposing of the wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to enable site redevelopment for new industrial tenants and manufacturers.

**City of Belfast:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds:
\$2,180,000 Location: Waldo County (ME-02)**

Improvements to sections of two streets include sewer line, in-ground storm drains and catch basins, sidewalks, curbing, pedestrian crossings.

**Town of Eagle Lake*:
NBRC Award: \$250,000, Matching Funds:
\$5,632,000 Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

The project will replace the lagoon liners and aeration system, construct a new headworks building that will house a new screening system, backup generator and septage receiving station, install new pumps valves and controls, telemetry and SCADA systems and parking lot overlay. Three other pump stations will have new pumps, valves and modern controls. *This project was awarded an additional \$750,000 through the EDA Partnership Program.

**Town of Stonington: NBRC Award: \$671,364,
Matching Funds: \$653,364 Location: Hancock
County (ME-02)**

The Town of Stonington will upgrade Oceanville Road to ensure climate resiliency and ensure transportation of lobsters and other products critical to the local economies in this area of coastal Maine.

**Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan
Chamber of Commerce:
NBRC Award: \$440,378, Matching Funds: \$587,337.50
Location: Androscoggin County (ME-02)**

Workforce Initiative to connect people with career training and employment, test private sector transportation solutions, create and implement a training program for employers to address recruitment, and hiring and retention best practices for a culturally diverse workforce.

**City of Caribou:
NBRC Award: \$472,550, Matching Funds: \$152,480
Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

Riverfront Master Plan will promote economic development, tourism, recreation, environmental protection, and enhance the sense of place for Caribou, and will include the purchase of two available properties critical to maintaining and enhancing the historical, cultural, and environmental qualities in Caribou.

**Knox County:
NBRC Award: \$294,000, Matching Funds: \$294,000
Location: Knox County (ME-01)**

This project will include the installation of electric automobile charger and an electric aircraft charger at the Knox County Regional Airport. The electric aircraft charging station will be the first to be installed in Maine to enable autonomous delivery of mail, parcels, and groceries to the neighboring island communities.

**Anson Madison Sanitary District:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds:
\$3,704,500 Location: Somerset County (ME-02)**

The enhancement of the wastewater treatment system by improving lagoon aeration, improving chemical storage and delivery systems, and adding tertiary treatment systems to improve wastewater treatment and use technology to remove PF AS contamination.

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Applications Received: 46
Total Funds Requested: \$22,886,955
Total Funds Awarded: \$12,146,028
Percent of Applications Awarded: 63%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 29 awards made from the 46 applications submitted, one of which combined funds from Catalyst and EDA, and four funded through USDA.

DISTRESSED COUNTIES: New Hampshire awarded 77% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

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

MATCHING FUNDS: New Hampshire's projects leverage \$33,492,232.56 in other funds.

**Valley Regional Hospital:
NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$780,300
Location: Sullivan County (NH-02)**

This project will renovate existing structure on the hospital's campus, resulting in the creation of (3) single and (1) ADA bedroom units and (4) dormitory-style spaces to support short-term transitional workforce lodging for up to 8 healthcare workers.

**Claremont Development Authority/West Claremont Center for Music & Art:
NBRC Award: \$444,397, Matching Funds: \$111,249
Location: Sullivan County (NH-02)**

This project consists of the required construction, utility, and roof repair work to support the second phase of the rehabilitation of the long-vacant former Claremont National Bank Building into the home of the new Creative Center.

**Hannah Grimes Center:
NBRC Award: \$416,154.20, Matching Funds:
\$104,038.55 Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)**

This project provides the capacity to convene and support formal working groups focused on regional challenges including housing, childcare and food systems, a statewide entrepreneur support organization network, and collaborative information sharing among the networks.

**Mount Washington Observatory:
NBRC Award: \$499,046.87, Matching Funds:
\$109,166.13 Location: Coos County (NH-02)**

This project enables MWO meteorologists to provide accurate, real-time forecasts to help conservation, tourism, and recreation organizations in New Hampshire's North Country plan, develop, and manage natural resource-based tourism while also facilitating their business and workforce development. Modernization of the Mount Washington Regional Mesonet (MWRM) ensures everyone can recreate safely by preparing for variable weather.

**Bethlehem Redevelopment Association:
NBRC Award: \$267,671, Matching Funds:
\$328,358 Location: Grafton County (NH-02)**

This project will install renewable energy upgrades at The Colonial Theater including a solar array, air sealing, upgrading exterior doors, and adding insulation.

**Clean Energy NH
(NH Sustainable Energy Association):
NBRC Award: \$219,572.83, Matching Funds:
\$35,643.17 Location: Sullivan County (NH-02)**

The funding will expand the Energy Circuit Rider program to small, rural communities in Sullivan County. The program will provide direct, customized support to the staff and committees of low-income municipalities to assist them in accessing funding, incentives and providers for clean, energy efficient building and renovations, system upgrades and vehicle charging infrastructure. Project approved under a Significant Benefit Waiver.

**GALA Community Center:
NBRC Award: \$499,883, Matching Funds: \$557,807
Location: Carroll County (NH-01)**

This project is a Business and Workforce Development Initiative building upon the success and momentum of GALA Community Center's makerspace and vocation hub, Makers Mill. Makers Mill will develop workforce, entrepreneur, and small business programming and resources that align with local and regional development plans and results in new businesses, job creation and a more prepared workforce.

**Monadnock Community Services Center: NBRC
Award: \$180,233, Matching Funds: \$45,060
Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)**

This project will reduce operating costs with the installation of a 143-panel solar array and directly apply cost savings to workforce attraction and retention initiatives.

CATALYST PROGRAM

GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (CONTINUED)

WREN: Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network:
NBRC Award: \$65,079.60, Matching Funds:
\$63,803.53 Location: Grafton County (NH-02)

The project will renovate the interior of the Gallery to increase accessibility and community engagement; convert the lower level to a Learning Center with a Media Studio; and make the outdoor Pocket Park more usable, accessible, and attractive as a gathering space.

Theater UP:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds:
\$9,174,000 Location: Grafton County (NH-02)

The project will construct a significant new cultural arts center in Littleton, New Hampshire. The first phase is the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of a historic building that has been underutilized on Main Street.

Monadnock Affordable Housing Corporation
(Keene Housing Authority):
NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$9,180,000
Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)

The project includes redevelopment of the vacant Roosevelt School building in downtown Keene into 30 apartments which will be leased to low- and moderate-income households. Funding will be used for infrastructure including new water and sewer lines, power, interior roads, parking areas, and landscaping.

Jackson Ski Touring Center:
NBRC Award: \$169,115.49,
Matching Funds: \$173,614.64
Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)

The project re-routes 0.7 miles of cross country ski trail system out of the Ellis River flood plain and replaces 7 non-compliant bridges to meet required White Mountain National Forest's climate change standards.

Monadnock United Way:
NBRC Award: \$499,015, Matching Funds: \$273,821
Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)

The Monadnock Region Afterschool Partnership Program (MRAPP) will bring afterschool programs together with higher education institutions and local businesses to build career development opportunities and add state-licensed afterschool childcare providers to the regional workforce.

Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,
Matching Funds: \$1,917,100
Location: Coos County (NH-02)

The project will create a medically-based wellness center by renovating and expanding an existing space for a wellness center including a recreational pool and therapy pool, a fitness gym, an indoor walking track and multipurpose space for classes, workshops, community events and rehabilitation services.

Conway Public Library:
NBRC Award: \$340,523, Matching Funds: \$330,524
Location: Carroll County (NH-01)

The Conway Public Library will renovate and redesign the Library Park as a strategic resource and meet outdoor space needs.

Greater Monadnock Collaborative
(Chamber of Commerce):
NBRC Award: \$233,152, Matching Funds: \$57,038
Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)

The project is a two-year highly targeted (16-29) marketing campaign that showcases the ample opportunities available in Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The goal is to recruit and retain a modern workforce as outlined in New Hampshire's Economic Expansion and Recovery Strategy.

Monadnock Economic Development Corporation:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds:
\$2,700,000 Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)

The project will help purchase a 12.9-acre vacant parcel and develop the infrastructure needed for the new Keene Technology and Innovation Park, resulting in at least 140 jobs being created/retained and 80-100 individuals being trained for careers in advanced manufacturing annually.

Granite State Adaptive:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,
Matching Funds: \$1,000,000
Location: Carroll County (NH-01)

This project will build a state-of-the-art energy efficient equine therapeutic center consisting of an accessible facility including a barn, a classroom, indoor arena, and composting system. This facility will extend the season for adaptive and therapeutic recreation programs with youth, teens, disabled adults, and Veterans.

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (CONTINUED)

Claremont Opera House:

NBRC Award: \$128,360, Matching Funds: \$32,304

Location: Sullivan County (NH-02)

This project will complete a multi-phased project to purchase and install audio-video infrastructure upgrades for the theater.

Lakes Regional Model Railroad Museum:

NBRC Award: \$250,000,

Matching Funds: \$285,000

Location: Carroll County (NH-01)

This funding will enable a multi-phase project to revitalize the 1872 Freight House to create a model railroad museum and STEM education center.

Avesta Housing Development/Mount Washington Valley Economic Council:

NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$720,000

Location: Carroll County (NH-01)

The project will extend necessary road infrastructure to support 160 units of new affordable housing and new business development in North Conway.

Town of Lisbon: NBRC Award: \$18,000,

Matching Funds: \$26,040.80

Location: Grafton County (NH-02)

The project will help provide a parking plan for the downtown area to support residents, businesses and visitors using the Cross-NH rail trail.

Town of Gilford:

NBRC Award: \$54,000, Matching Funds: \$54,000

Location: Belknap County and Carroll County (NH-01)

The project will help provide a parking plan for the downtown area to support residents, businesses and visitors using the Cross-NH rail trail.



Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

Town of Lancaster:

NBRC Award: \$849,325.01,

Matching Funds: \$2,383,091.99

Location: Coos County (NH-02)

The project will upgrade aging water, sewer and drainage infrastructure to support downtown business and high-density residential districts.

Town of Lancaster*:

NBRC Award: \$50,000, Matching Funds: \$3,350,000

Location: Coos County (NH-02)

The project will install a 500,000-gallon water-storage tank and valve near the Lancaster Public Water System plant to address capacity, water quality, and water flow issues. *This project was awarded an additional \$750,000 through the EDA Partnership Program.

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN NEW YORK

Applications Received: 71
Total Funds Requested: \$64,875,222.03
Total Funds Awarded: \$12,283,628.80
Percent of Applications Awarded: 21.1%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 15 awards made from the 65 applications submitted, one of which was funded through EDA, and two funded through USDA.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE: New York awarded 78% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

MATCHING FUNDS: New York's projects leverage **\$37,018,695.32** in other funds.

Clinton County Chapter NYSARC: NBRC Award: \$452,672, Matching Funds: \$637,296 Location: Clinton and Essex Counties (NY-21)

The project will ramp up and rapidly expand workforce recruitment and retention activities for professional/paraprofessional to fill over 500 vacancies in a two-county. This will ensure service continuity and quality of care that is essential for the "hidden" communities of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board: NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: (100% COVID match waiver) Location: Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Washington Counties (NY-21)

The Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board will establish a Revolving Loan Fund for purchase/rehabilitation of long-term rentals within five upstate New York counties. This will increase the stock and affordability of long-term rentals for the year-round workforce within the Adirondack Park. Projects will be focused in hamlets and developed areas, and constrained to units that house year-round workforce, increasing business' ability to attract workforce for the creation/retention of jobs within the region. This fund will provide at least 4 loans in the disbursement phase, renovating 4 buildings, creating approximately 12 units, and leveraging private investment.

Hand in Hand Early Childhood Center: NBRC Award: \$2,996,422, Matching Funds: (100% COVID match waiver) Location: Lewis County (NY-21)

Hand in Hand will expand their flagship center located in Lowville by adding two classrooms and 24 more potential childcare slots. The proposal also includes the creation of two satellite facilities located at the northernmost and southernmost school districts in Lewis County. These satellite facilities would provide approximately 32 childcare slots at each school campus.

Development Authority of North Country (DANC): NBRC Award: \$2,455,079, Matching Funds: \$541,177 Location: Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence Counties (NY-21)

The Development Authority of the North Country will complete a multijurisdictional telecommunications project bringing affordable, high-speed broadband to approximately 488 unserved households in rural communities in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. The project will result in 63.3 miles of new fiber and bring digital parity to rural residents.

Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance: NBRC Award: \$248,570, Matching Funds: \$83,759.72 Location: Essex County (NY-21)

This project will renovate a vacant 10,000 sq ft building into a public childcare center walkable to Ticonderoga downtown and parks. Currently the town only has 16 childcare slots for more than 300 children under the age of 6. The project will create 50 new childcare slots for children from infancy through 5 years.

Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority: NBRC Award: \$605,385, Matching Funds: \$164,830 Location: Cayuga County (NY-24)

The project will install over 5,000 feet of 12-inch waterline from an existing source to the Cayuga County Industrial Park. The project will increase the capacity for water delivery by approximately 1.0 MGD to Cayuga Milk Ingredients (CMI), a major tenant in the Park, which is in the permitting stage for a \$170 million expansion and create 85 new jobs.

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN NEW YORK (CONTINUED)

Canton-Potsdam Hospital:

NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$4,500,000

Location: St. Lawrence County (NY-21)

Canton-Potsdam Hospital (CPH) will construct 16 exam rooms for practical learning, a fully equipped conference room, and office space for the program director, administrative support, and residents in support of the development of a residency program in Rural Family Medicine. This project seeks to address a need for more rural-focused clinicians in the primary care setting and it is anticipated that clinic visits will increase 5 to 6 times from having residents available to provide care.

Town of Henderson:

NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,

Matching Funds: \$24,000,000

Location: Jefferson County (NY-21)

The Town of Henderson will construct a wastewater treatment and collection system to address sanitary waste problems for residents utilizing individual subsurface sewer disposal systems. The Town's economy is almost entirely dependent on outdoor recreational tourism and this project will assist with the expansion of existing businesses and creation of new economic opportunities.

Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority:

NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds:

\$3,800,000 Location: St. Lawrence County (NY-21)

The project will build a new, easily accessible 15,000 square foot childcare center for the residents of St. Lawrence County to provide daycare, an integrated preschool program and other childcare services.

Valley Residential Services, Inc.:

NBRC Award: \$400,000,

Matching Funds: (100% COVID match waiver)

Location: Herkimer County (NY-21)

This funding will extend 1,300 linear feet of sanitary sewer lines from the Town of Herkimer's municipal system to a 226-acre campus to assist with a new \$53.3M 160-bed, neurobehavioral and skilled nursing facility, creating and retaining essential healthcare jobs, and ensuring the health and wellbeing of the community.

Clayton Improvement Association, Ltd.:

NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$2,217,511

Location: Jefferson County (NY-21)

The project will rehabilitate a 9,240 square foot mixed use building, located in the center of LaFargeville in the Town of Orleans. The rehabilitation will create 2-3 new commercial spaces, 2 newly renovated commercial spaces and 4 residential units. These newly created spaces and newly renovated units will allow for new entrepreneurial small business. The revitalization of the large mixed-use building is expected will act as a catalyst for growth and development throughout the small community.

The Fort Ticonderoga Association:

NBRC Award: \$200,000, Matching Funds: \$51,000

Location: Essex County (NY-21)

Fort Ticonderoga proposes to replace approximately 820 linear feet of water line that services the Ticonderoga peninsula. The pipe is the only connection between the town water line and the peninsula, which includes Fort Ticonderoga, a Department of Environmental Conservation, boat launch and facilities, Amtrak Train Station and Fort Ticonderoga Ferry dock.



Photo courtesy of the State of New York

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN VERMONT

Applications Received: 31

Total Funds Requested: \$30,420,787

Total Funds Awarded: \$12,296,403.42

Percent of Grants Awarded: 51.6%

NUMBER OF AWARDS: There were 16 awards made from the 31 applications submitted one of which combined funds from Catalyst and EDA, and four funded through USDA.

DISTRESSED COUNTIES: Vermont awarded 39% 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 **\$48,344,896.92** in other funds.

Center for Agricultural Economy:

**NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$1,196,788
Location: Caledonia County (VT-01)**

Renovations and interior fit-up of the \$12,500 square foot Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator building to expand agricultural and small business support services.

**Town of Wilmington: NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,
Matching Funds: \$2,472,000 Location: Windham
County (VT-01)**

The Route 9 Infrastructure Expansion will construct water/wastewater infrastructure along VT Routes 9 East/100 South to allow 22,000 square feet of underutilized space to become revitalized.

**Green Mountain Economic Development
Corporation: NBRC Award: \$750,000, Matching
Funds: \$2,796,328 Location: Orange County (VT-01)**

Renovation and construction of a new childcare center, Orange County Parent Child Center (OCPCC), Randolph. OCPCC Randolph is a partnership between GMEDC and OCPCC to redevelop a vacant building in Randolph into a childcare center and serving as a work-based learning center to support workforce development for the early care and education (ECE) industry.

**Town of North Hero:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,
Matching Funds: \$3,037,475**

Location: Grand Isle County (VT-01)

Replacement of water main pipe along US Route 2 and construction of water storage tank allowing for improved water service reliability.

**Town of Johnson:
NBRC Award: \$861,945.42,
Matching Funds: \$861,945.42
Location: Lamoille County (VT-01)**

Creation of a new light/industrial/commercial park in the town of Johnson. Infrastructure improvements will include a paved access road, foundational sewer collection lines, foundational water distribution lines, stormwater collection lines, treatment basin, and electric and telecommunication lines.

Town of Killington*:

NBRC Award: \$2,250,000,

Matching Funds: \$20,602,436

Location: Rutland County (VT-01)

Infrastructure improvements including a municipal water system and a redesigned roadway system which is required for the development of the Six Peaks Killington Village project (a village at the base of the ski resort). *This project was awarded an additional \$750,000 through the EDA Partnership Program.

Neck of the Woods Vermont, LLC:

NBRC Award: \$425,000, Matching Funds: \$425,000

Location: Washington County (VT-01)

Renovations of the second floor of the Neck of the Woods Childcare and Early Education Center building to expand childcare services adding new classrooms and new bathrooms, handicap access including an elevator, and associated energy efficiency upgrades.

CATALYST PROGRAM GRANTS IN VERMONT (CONTINUED)

The Center for Cartoon Studies:
NBRC Award: \$971,315, Matching Funds: \$1,117,950
Location: Windsor County (VT-01)

Renovation of the “Telegraph Building” in White River Junction. Once renovated, the Telegraph Building will house a production lab, a learning center, original art archive, studio space, classrooms for on-location and online instruction, a public gallery, and a bookstore.

Friends of the Vergennes Opera House, Inc.:
NBRC Award: \$300,000, Matching Funds: \$1,339,428
Location: Addison County (VT-01)

Addition of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant upgrades to City Hall/Vergennes Opera House to increase accessibility. Upgrades include a new elevator tower, a walkway from the street to the new entrance, a motorized lift and ADA restroom.

Maquam Bay of Missisquoi:
NBRC Award: \$500,000, Matching Funds: \$1,684,498
Location: Franklin County (VT-01)

Redevelopment and renovation of the Abenaki tribal headquarters to expand space and organizational capacity to deliver health, nutrition, and recreational programs.

Town of Brighton:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$3,867,137
Location: Essex County (VT-01)

Upgrades to a non-compliant and at-capacity wastewater treatment facility.

Town of Greensboro:
NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$8,049,768
Location: Orleans County (VT-01)

Construction of a new Town-owned wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment, and soil-based disposal facility to replace failing on-site septic systems, protecting public health and the environment, and allowing for housing and business development.

Sterling College:
NBRC Award: \$275,643, Matching Funds: \$ 313,456
Location: Caledonia, Lamoille and Orleans Counties (VT-01)

Development and launch of a new curricular component, Experiential Endeavors, focused on the agricultural, ecological, educational, recreational, and food systems sectors.



Photo 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 2023 total **\$3,000,000** for the following projects:

- **Town of Eagle Lake, ME – \$750,000:**

This project will fund critical wastewater infrastructure updates for a 40-year-old system that is relied upon by three communities and several businesses, while also providing protection to Eagle Lake and the region's natural resources. [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$250,000 as part of the Agency's Catalyst Program, on August 23, 2023]

- **Town of Lancaster, NH – \$750,000:**

Aged and outdated components put the town's water system at risk of poor drinking water quality, an increased potential for water main breaks, and insufficient water flow to hydrants. This project will address these concerns with the installation of a 500,000-gallon water-storage tank and valve near the Lancaster Public Water System plant. [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$50,000 as part of the Agency's Catalyst Program, on August 23, 2023]

- **Town of Killington, VT – \$750,000:**

Funding will provide infrastructure improvements including a municipal water system and a redesigned roadway system which is required for the development of the Six Peaks Killington Village project (a village at the base of the ski resort). [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$2,250,000 as part of the Agency's Catalyst Program, on August 23, 2023]

- **Town of Lawrence, NY – \$750,000:**

This project consists of septic upgrades and increased septic tank capacity, preserving sanitary sewer service to businesses and residences, and providing affordable sanitary sewer for the most vulnerable populations within the Town.

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 11 projects. Collectively, these awards amplify both agencies' economic development impact in Northern Border communities. The NBRC has received funding under this partnership since 2019, 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 2023 total **\$2,800,000** for the following projects:

- **Friends of Quarry Road (Waterville ME) \$712,500**

Public Park improvements to improve the region's outdoor recreation capacity, including construction of a guest services building, multi-use trail, parking lot with smart charter stations and onsite septic and water service. This award will also address parking, draining and stormwater management issues

- **Coos Economic Development Council (Lancaster NH) \$144,260.64**

Support of the LEAN In (Leadership, Expansion, Advancement & Networking) program which advances workforce and business development objectives in Coös County to better connect businesses with workforce advancement needs, support business expansion with our Canadian partners, and build pipelines for youth and adults via workshop programs, high school technical learning programs, and casual learning from professional networking groups.

- **Upper Valley Snowsports/Whaleback (Enfield NH) \$100,000**

Purchase of additional snowmaking guns, an additional water pump and upgraded electrical supply, effectively doubling snowmaking capacity. The fan guns operate on 3-phase electrical supply and will require upgrading the electrical supply on the mountain to maximize concurrent snowmaking. The additional snowmaking equipment will allow the mountain to maximize the use of their water supply during limited early season snowmaking windows and expect total snowmaking volume to increase in the earliest part of the winter season.

- **White Mountain Science, Inc. (Littleton NH) \$216,048.75**

Creation of an expansive STEM Skill and Workforce Development program. This project will provide a variety of workshops that increase workforce development and community engagement within Grafton and Coos Counties. Workshops will include topics in computer science, technology, design, engineering, artistry, and problem solving.

- **Shugah Valley Snow Riders (Claremont NH) \$252,190.61**

Purchase of new grooming equipment: a groomer, drag, and trimming attachment. Modern groomers have almost double the horsepower and can safely navigate challenging terrain even in icy conditions. The new drag is required because the trails systems are narrow and shared with ATVs. The trail trimming attachment will save volunteer hours and improve rider safety.

- **Clarkson University (Potsdam NY) \$412,500**

Clarkson's Lewis School of Health Sciences, nationally known for preparing students and medical providers for rural healthcare, will train EMTs and paramedics impacting multiple NBRC counties affected by the healthcare workforce crisis. The project will add four high fidelity simulation labs to increase skill level of EMT and paramedic students and add to the number of full time EMS providers in St. Lawrence County.

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

- **Visiting Nurses Association of Central New York, Inc. (Syracuse NY) \$300,000**

Expansion of the existing home care nurse residency program into Oneida County, and improve recruitment, retention and preparation of novice nurses and integrate a culture of health addressing social determinants. The program will accept new applicants every 2 months with a goal of graduating 80% of participants and decreasing the turnover rate of novice nurses in the first 2 years while creating a homecare nursing staff dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health that play a critical role in the well-being of patients.

- **Franklin County Field Days, Inc. (St. Albans VT) \$25,000**

Franklin County Field Days (FCFD) has undertaken a feasibility study to determine the final location for their annual event as the current location will not be available going forward. These funds will be utilized for preacquisition legal expenses specific to the purchase of a property suitable for relocation.

- **Vermont Adaptive (Killington VT) \$500,000**

Development of a multi-year retreat facility for people with disabilities to increase access to physical activity and outdoor recreation. Multi-phased project with multiple yurts, glamping platforms, pavilion, garden, accessible trails, etc.

- **The Space on Main, Inc. (Bradford VT) \$80,687.50**

Expanded STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education programming for all ages at SOM site. NBRC funds will be used to outfit a basement space as a youth innovation lab and for personnel support.

- **Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (Montpelier VT) \$106,812.50**

Funds will be used to support capacity at the local development district (LDD) level; to provide technical assistance, financial resource planning and pre-development work in support of industrial park and facility development projects. Eligible entities shall be limited to those local development corporations who have either secured an NBRC award or who serve a municipality that has secured NBRC funds for industrial park-facility development activities.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (WORC)

In 2023, NBRC was added to the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative, managed by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This program provides grant funds to support workforce development activities that prepare workers for good jobs in high-demand occupations in rural communities. The program also awards funding to initiatives directed at workforce development partnerships in support of local and regional workforces' employment and training needs, while also recognizing the need to expand access to supportive services.

On September 15, 2023, the U.S. Department of Labor, in partnership with NBRC, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Delta Regional Authority announced more than \$44MM in awards, \$4.7MM to recipients serving the Northern Border Regional Commission.

Recipient	State	Amount
Northern Forest Center Inc.	NH	\$1,217,487
Brattleboro Development Credit Corp.	VT	\$1,038,681
Vermont Healthcare & Information Technology Education	VT	\$1,221,916
Community College of Vermont	VT	\$1,221,916

The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for WORC 6 is scheduled to be released on April 2, 2024.



Photo courtesy of the State of Vermont

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

In collaboration with the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), in 2023 HRSA funding was awarded to seven (7) organizations in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont to support innovative programs designed to enhance healthcare services to rural residents in all four states.

An example of project funding deployed through the Rural Northern Border Region Healthcare Support Program is a series of sub-awards to innovative new approaches to rural healthcare that will be administered in partnership with RHRCO during the funding period from October 1, 2023, to September 29, 2024. The selected programs will address issues in OUD and SUD, leadership development, food insecurity, pediatric oral health, mobile integrated care, addressing health equity and enhancing access to primary care.

One of the over-arching goals of this supplemental funding is to develop programs with the ability to create best practices and scalable solutions applicable across other rural communities in the NBRC region and beyond. The RHRCO is delivering technical assistance (TA), through a three-year cooperative agreement from HRSA, to rural health care providers and organizations in the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) geographic area. The awardee organizations are:

Maine: Community Care Partnership of Maine (CCPM) - \$182,453:

CCPM will develop an extended-release buprenorphine implementation (ERB) learning community in partnership with the Schmidt Institute. The project aims to educate, mentor, and guide rural healthcare teams to implement ERB, an effective medication for opioid use disorder (OUD), with a focus on reducing administrative barriers particularly in areas highly affected by the opioid crisis. This initiative targets individuals with OUD at rural healthcare organizations who would benefit from ERB, particularly those with challenges like limited transportation, housing insecurity, homelessness, or co-morbid mental health disorders.

Maine: Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership - \$112,303:

The Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership will provide customized leadership development training for rural physicians and advanced practice providers in Aroostook County, Maine. Through this training providers will gain the leadership and management skills necessary to address challenges like the state's substance use disorder (SUD) crisis, workforce shortages, and the implementation of new payment models. The 10-month, 40-hour curriculum will focus on leadership development, promoting health equity, performance improvement, planning initiatives, and assessing community needs.

New Hampshire: Ammonoosuc Community Health Services (ACHS) - \$48,539:

The ACHS Resilient American Community (RAC) Initiative aims to create hyperlocal community-based health hubs. The primary idea is to approach health and wellness as a co-creative process that addresses social determinants of health within local communities. The initiative, which includes the integration of Health Hubs in local libraries, received a total of \$1,066,354 from HRSA, FCC, and CDC to fund various aspects such as remote monitoring units, IT upgrades, health workers, and more. ACHS, founded in 1975 and operating as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) since 1994, serves about one-third of the residents in its 26-town service area.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

New Hampshire: Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital - Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity - \$126,105:

The Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital's Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity is partnering with various health departments and health consortiums in Vermont and New Hampshire to improve oral health care in five rural pediatric primary care practices. This project will involve training and capacity-building for these practices, enabling them to provide silver diamine fluoride (SDF) oral health care treatment for young children as a part of their routine care. The practices are in HRSA-defined rural counties and will include a mix of FQHCs and a practice specifically dedicated to children affected by substance misuse.

New York: Canton-Potsdam Hospital - \$133,600:

Canton-Potsdam Hospital, part of the St. Lawrence Health System (SLH), will develop the Peer Support Net program aimed at enhancing access to healthcare, specifically in Behavioral Health/SUD, and improving recruitment and retention of peer recovery advocates. The program targets various demographics in underserved communities in St. Lawrence County, New York, providing them with essential non-clinical support services as part of their treatment or recovery plan. The project focuses on mental health/behavioral health/substance use and workforce recruitment and retention.

New York: Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) - \$225,000:

The Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) will collaborate with primary care and social service entities in the regional Independent Practice Association (IPA) to improve primary care access, patient experience, and address health equity issues. The proposed plan will involve workforce training and the implementation of patient-centered strategies. The main target population includes low-income, disabled, and elderly individuals, primarily those insured by Medicaid or Medicare, living in rural areas of Lewis and Saint Lawrence Counties and certain tracts in Jefferson County.



Photo courtesy of the State of New York

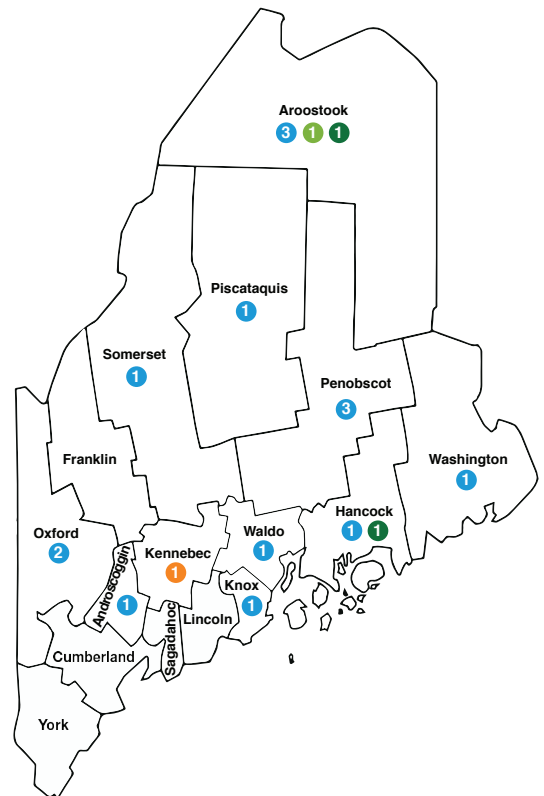
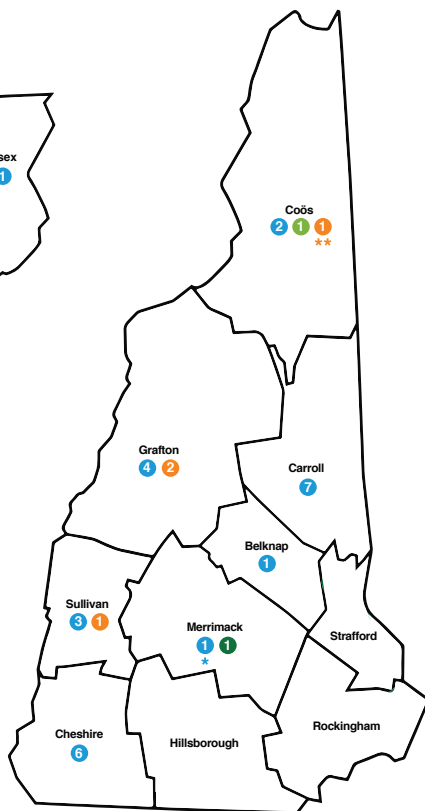
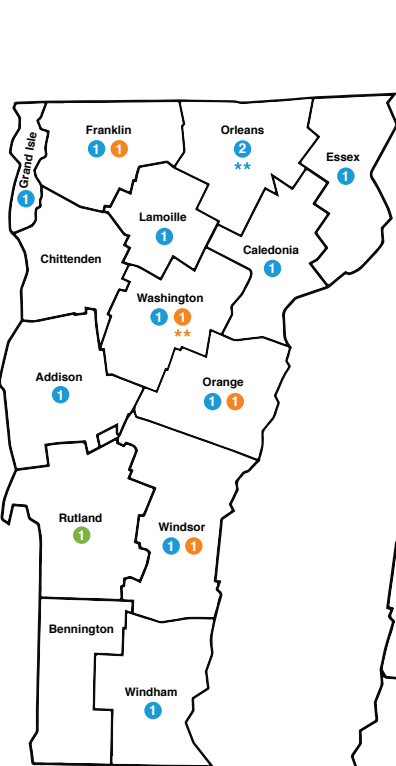
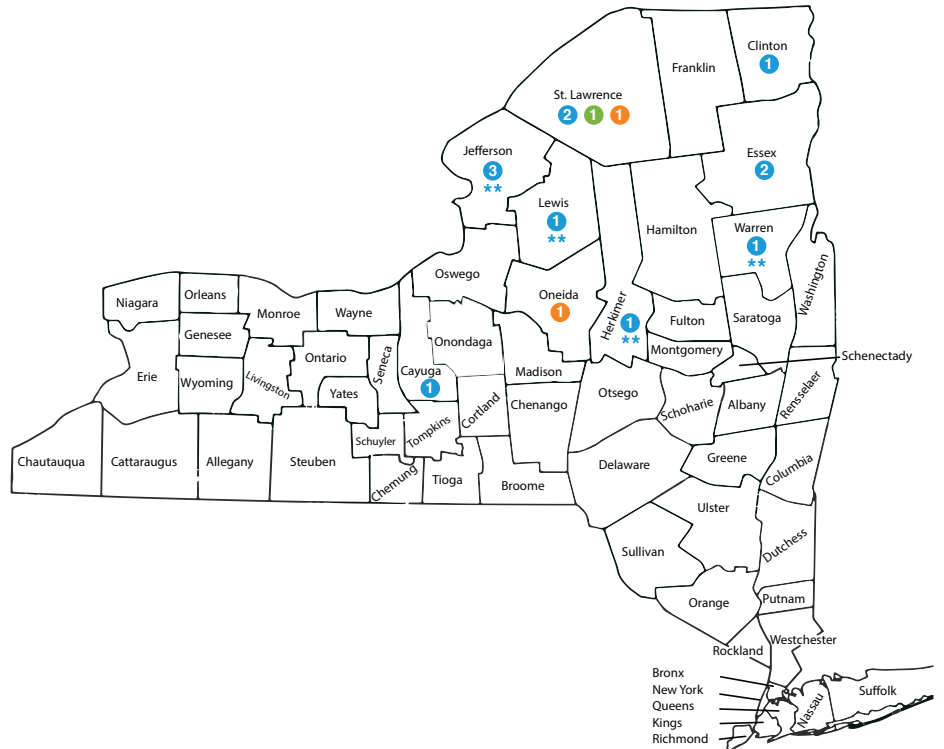
NBRC AWARDS IN 2023

Key for Regional Maps

- **Catalyst Program**
 62 projects funded
 \$43M Awarded
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA)**
 4 projects funded
 \$3M Awarded
- **Forest Economy Program**
 3 projects funded
 \$ 2.5M Awarded*
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
 11 projects funded
 \$2.8M awarded

*approved under a Significant Benefit Waiver

**Multi-jurisdictional project





Northern Border Regional Commission

www.nbrc.gov