

# 2022 Annual Report



## Northern Border Regional Commission



Maine



New Hampshire



New York



Vermont

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

**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

## A WORD FROM OUR FEDERAL CO-CHAIR

### Review of the Northern Border Regional Commission for 2022

As an Agency focused on the long term well-being of rural communities across Northern New England and New York, the Commission has a wide ranging and compelling mission. At its core the Commission's success is predicated on making a tangible impact on the quality of life for the residents of the region. It is with confidence that I can report that in 2022 the Commission met its goals and is well poised to have an even wider impact in the coming year.

Thanks to an increase in funds appropriated by Congress, this year the Commission made its highest level of investment in the region: fifty-six awards as part of the State Economic and Infrastructure Development grant program. More than \$24.2 million funds were awarded to a diverse range of projects across the Commission's four member states. In keeping with the Commission's statute, more than forty percent of NBRC grants were awarded to infrastructure projects. Many of these investments are drinking and wastewater initiatives that are the lynchpin in the creation of new manufacturing spaces, commercial development and housing across the region.

Communities in each state brought forward projects to address consistent themes across the region such as childcare and workforce development shortages, as well as projects that harness new economic opportunities through outdoor recreation. A hallmark of this year's awards is the number of new applicants that sought funding from NBRC. More than eighty percent of the Commission's awards were made to first-time applicants and numerous awards were made to some of the most rural communities in the region.

The Commission is fortunate that its many partnerships with other federal agencies have continued into 2022, including those with USDA, EDA, HRSA, US DOL, USFS, and EPA, and we welcomed a new opportunity to work with FHWA. These relationships resulted in increased funding opportunities for NBRC communities, technical assistance for health care institutions in the region and continuation of an initiative to encourage workforce participation by those struggling with substance use disorder. By expanding our partnership with the EPA and the USFS, NBRC communities were able to participate in the second cohort of EPA's Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program with a notable session held in partnership with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in Akwesasne, New York.

While the Commission continued its public-facing role as a grant making agency, it also undertook a number of internal initiatives designed to improve the reach and depth of its work. Consistent with the Biden Administration's focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), the NBRC formed an internal working group on DEI and expects the work of this group will inform changes to both the Commission's internal processes and external programs. Commission staff are facilitating in-depth examinations of capacity within communities and a regional study of infrastructure programs to ensure that any future programs complement rather than duplicate other federal initiatives. With the advancement of this work and other initiatives, the year ahead promises to be another year of growth and action for the Commission.

In closing, I want to recognize the hard work of the NBRC's dedicated staff. Our fully remote team has embraced an entrepreneurial spirit that centers the needs of the communities we serve at the heart of our work. It is their dedication and the strong, collaborative partnerships we hold with our Governor's Alternates, State Program Managers and support staff that makes the Commission's work so impactful.

Regards,



Chris Saunders, Federal Co-Chair  
Northern Border Regional Commission



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# ABOUT THE NBRC

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## | 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.

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## | 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.



Photography courtesy of the State of New York

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.

## 2022 | A BRIEF REVIEW

2022 was another busy year for the NBRC, as we welcomed a record number of new grantees, and were able to deploy over \$24 million in grant funds across the region. While the State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) program continues to be the NBRC's most popular grant offering, we completed a great deal of work in support of re-launching the former "Regional Forest Economy Partnership" program as the newly named "Forest Economy Program", with initial materials released to the public early in FY'23.

In addition to welcoming a new Federal Co-Chair in April, Chris Saunders, the NBRC also brought on multiple new staff members, adding capacity within our programmatic, finance, and other administrative functions, as the Agency continues to develop new ways to reach and support grantees. Looking ahead to 2023, the NBRC will unveil a suite of new and updated programs and initiatives that are the product of working regionwide to gain a deeper understanding of where our efforts and funds can be of most use to the communities we serve.

### | Highlights |



Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

- The State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program – NBRC's largest – experienced an increase of 33% in requested funds from 2021 via Letters of Interest (LOI). The LOI process was new in 2022, and required applicants to submit project details ahead of the application deadline. This allowed State Program Managers and NBRC staff to offer additional project development support, up to and including identification of complementary sources of funding.
- Though the NBRC is increasingly part of larger, multi-stakeholder projects, we continue our commitment to small projects: In 2022, 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 2022, awarding nearly \$6 million to economic development projects across the four NBRC States, and providing another year of funding for capacity building among each NBRC States' outdoor recreation economy functions.
- The NBRC also built upon an existing partnership with the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) in 2022. The HRSA partnership is in its second year of supporting organizations in the region focused on workforce re-entry of those impacted by substance use disorder, and, new in 2022, a program designed to provide technical assistance to rural healthcare facilities.



# 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



### 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:** Benoit Lamontagne & Janel Lawton



### 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



Photos courtesy of the State of Vermont

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## ANNUAL DISTRESS CRITERIA

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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](http://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](http://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%.



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



# ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN MAINE FOR FY 2022

**Distressed Counties**

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

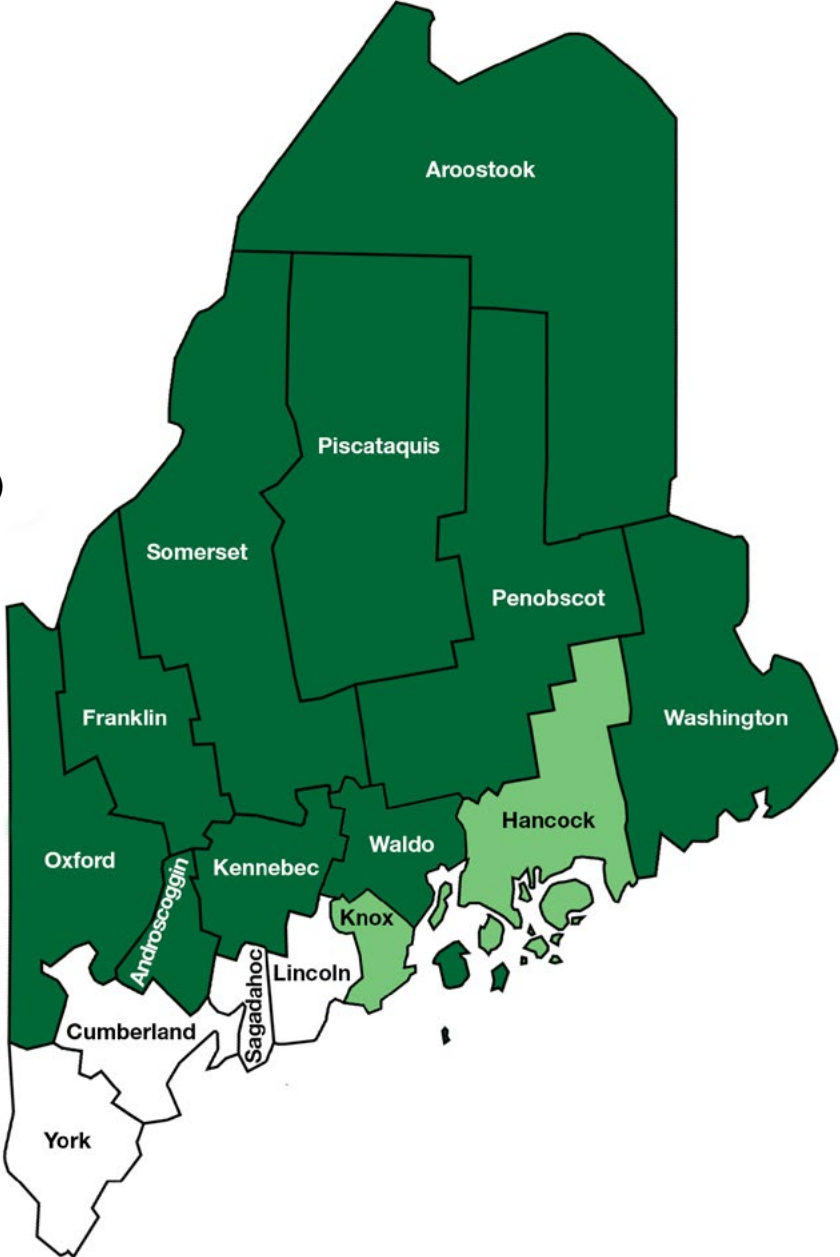
**Transitional Counties**

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

**Attainment Counties (not applicable)**

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

**Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)**



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #1a522a; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | “Distressed” 20% minimum match             |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90c080; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | “Transitional” 50% minimum match           |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black;"></span> | “Attainment” Ineligible in the NBRC region |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black;"></span>   | Not in the NBRC region                     |

# ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FY 2022

## Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Coös, Sullivan

## Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Cheshire

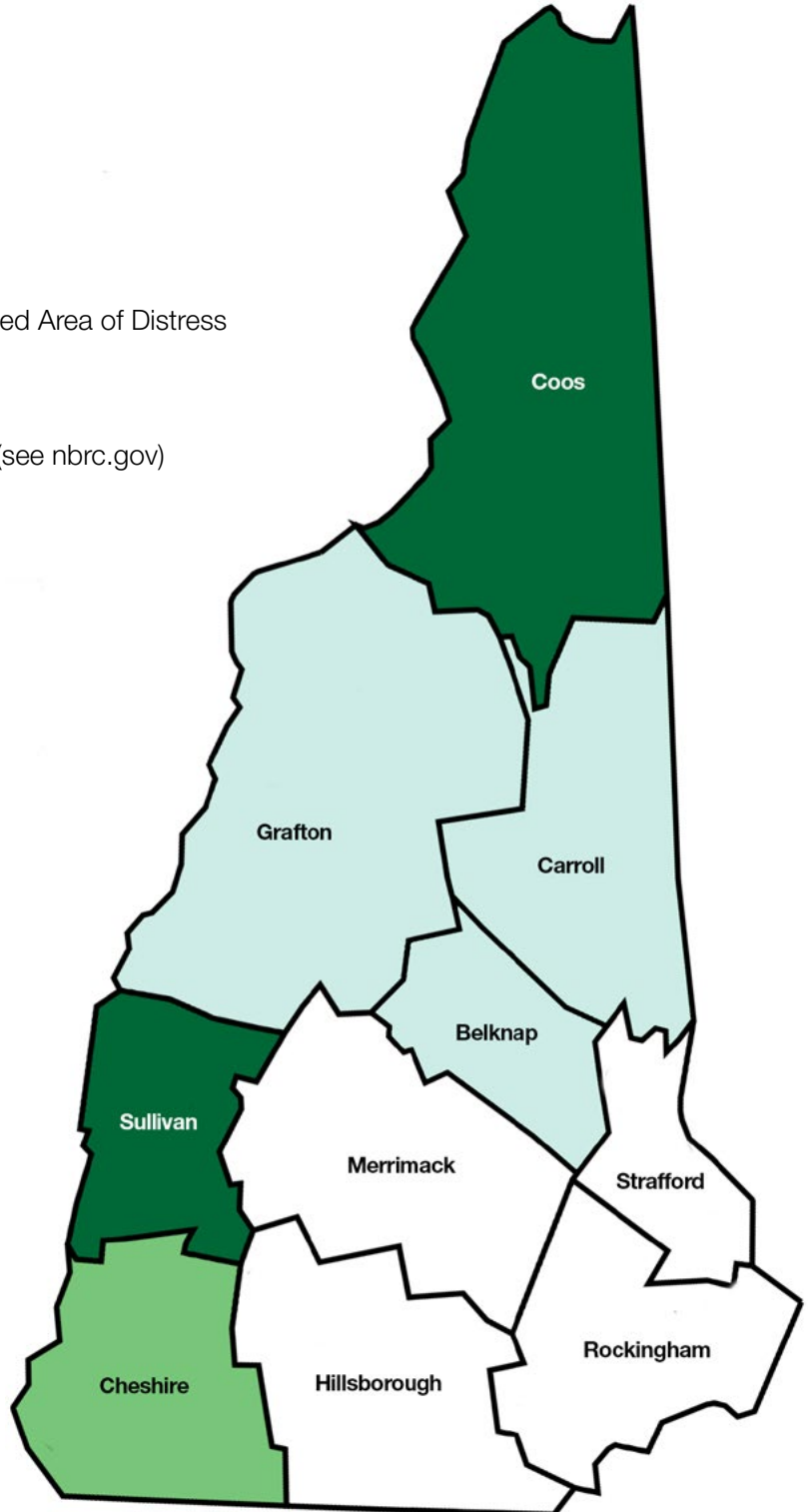
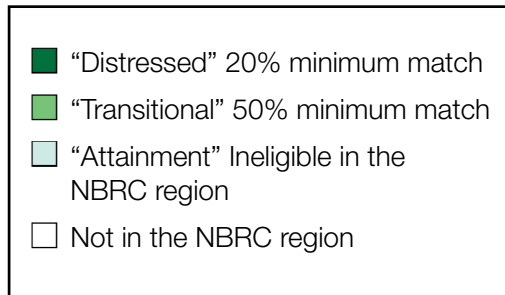
## Attainment Counties

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

Belknap, Carroll, and Grafton

## Isolated Areas of Distress

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



# ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW YORK FOR FY 2022

## 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, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Seneca, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, and Yates

## Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

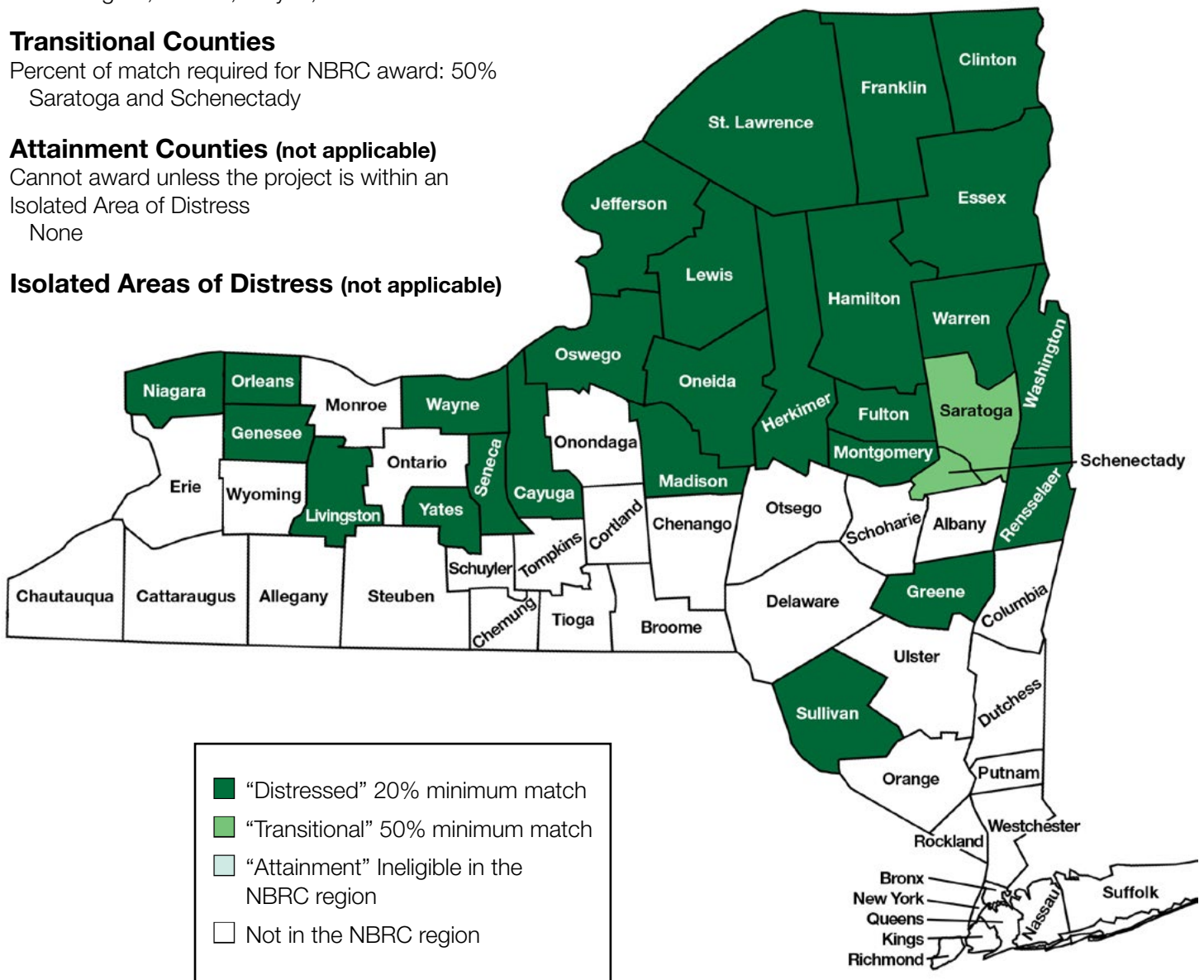
Saratoga and Schenectady

## 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 2022

## Distressed Counties

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

## Transitional Counties

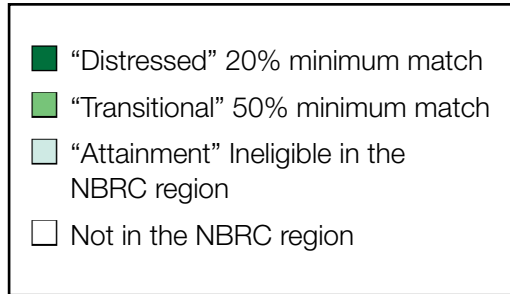
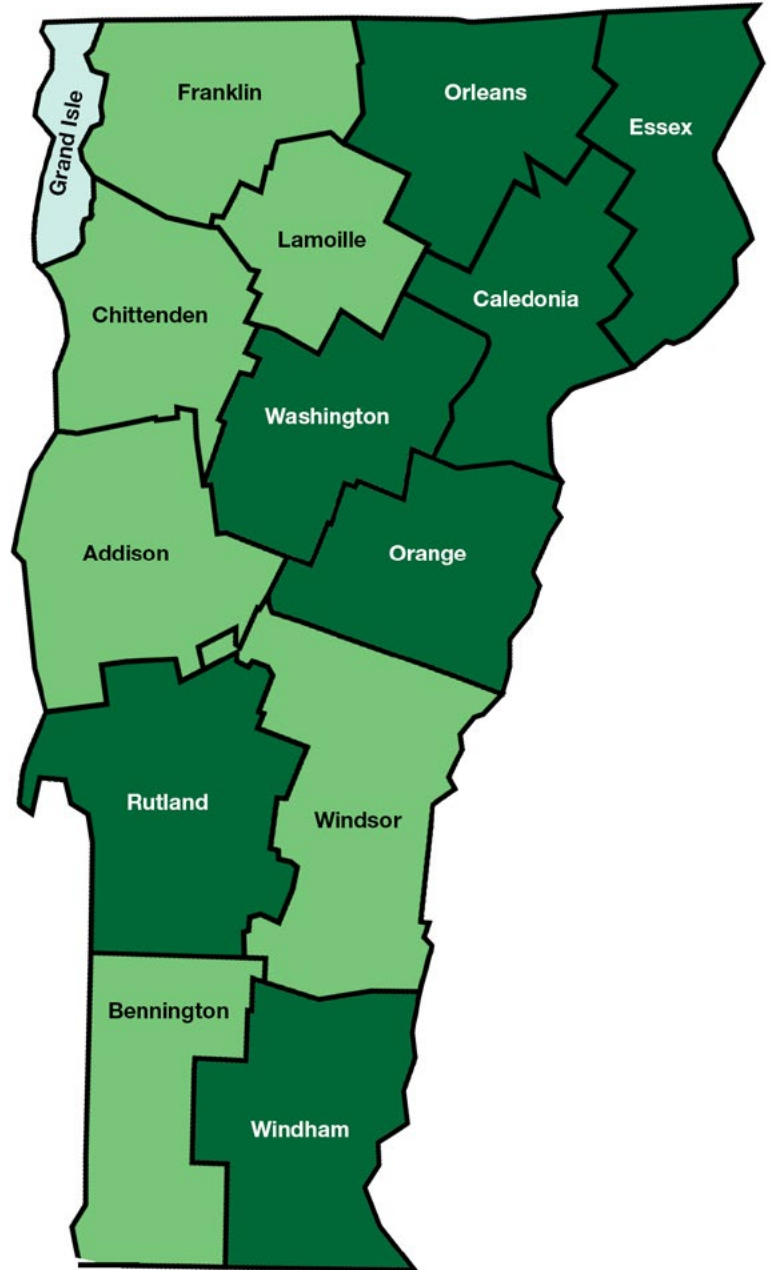
Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%  
Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin,  
Lamoille, and Windsor

## Attainment Counties

Cannot award unless the project is within an  
Isolated Area  
Grand Isle

## Isolated Areas of Distress

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



**Northern Border Regional Commission**  
**2022 STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

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**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** Approximately \$5,800,000 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.

**2022 EID SUMMARY:**

181 Letters of Interest (LOI) received totaling over \$120 million in requests

56 awards made (11 projects in ME, 19 in NH<sup>1</sup>, 12 in NY; 14 in VT) totaling \$24,200,000

**Total Amount of Matching Funds (from awarded projects):** \$120,190,588

Cost Share Ratio of 5:1

**Awards to Distressed Areas:** 59% (required minimum of 50%)

**Awards to Infrastructure:** 48% (required minimum of 40%)

<sup>1</sup>NH allocated a portion of available broadband funds to a SEID grantee, resulting in a higher total award amount.

## Northern Border Regional Commission

# 2022 REGIONAL FOREST ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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In 2022, NBRC took considerable steps to further develop our Forest Economy Program (FEP), formerly known as the “Regional Forest Economy Partnership Program”, or “RFEP”, to ensure the funding is well positioned to address the needs of the Northern Border Region’s forest economy.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2019, NBRC was directed by the U.S. Congress to appropriate \$4 million per year for initiatives that seek to address the decline in forest-based economies throughout the region. To date, NBRC has awarded approximately \$11.8 million in support of projects ranging from forest economy workforce development, to demonstration of new wood product innovations, and projects that address the availability of quality workforce housing.

### **2022 PROGRAM EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

With increased appropriations in 2022 to support economic development in our region, this year was the opportune time to evaluate the program’s effectiveness, and to make any necessary adjustments to ensure the highest and best use of program dollars.

Toward that end, the Commission allocated additional resources to this program, hiring a Program Manager to lead program development and administration. This summer, we met with over 50 diverse forest economy stakeholders to understand how funds could be most useful in support of the forest economy. The feedback received was presented during the Commission’s annual meeting and used to inform the investment priorities and funding areas for the next iteration of this program. Further, we recruited an Advisory Board of state-appointed forest economy experts to help guide the success of this program in 2023 and beyond.

### **THE 2023 FOREST ECONOMY PROGRAM**

The outcome of this concerted effort is a revised program, newly named the “Forest Economy Program”, which is thoughtfully constructed with input from stakeholders across the region and refined by our newly appointed Advisory Board of forest economy experts. The resulting 2023 Forest Economy Program intends to support the forest-based economy and to assist in the forest industry’s evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the four-state NBRC region. The Commission will make up to \$7 million in grants available, with a maximum single award of \$1 million.

Eligible organizations, which include nonprofit and governmental entities (state, local & Indian tribes), are now able to access a program overview of the FEP via NBRC’s website ([nbrc.gov](http://nbrc.gov)).



# STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MAINE

**Applications Received: 34**

**Total Funds Requested: \$21,599,442.47**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$5,800,000**

**Percent of Applications Awarded: 32%**

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:**

There were **11** awards made from the 34 applications submitted.

**DISTRESSED COUNTIES:**

Maine awarded **91%** of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Maine awarded **73%** of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/ sewer, broadband and transportation.

**MATCHING FUNDS:**

Maine's projects leverage **\$33,245,413.90** in other funds.

**Town of Van Buren:**

**NBRC Award: \$236,737, Matching Funds: \$496,631**

**Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

Enhance truck and rail accessibility and growth to the Ferry/Pierce Street industrial park.

**Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,**

**Matching Funds: \$ 20,232,750**

**Location: Oxford County (ME-02)**

Comprehensive upgrade to all unit processes at the main wastewater treatment facility and RMSD's largest pump station.

**Town of Baileyville:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$720,000**

**Location: Washington County (ME-02)**

Renew existing sewer, storm drain, and water utilities, including a water main, fire hydrants, catch basins, manholes, and portions of services located within the right of way.

**Town of Bingham**

**NBRC Award: \$897,000, Matching Funds: \$225,000**

**Location: Somerset County (ME-02)**

Replacement of existing flooded suction pump station with a new modern engineered pump station. This facility will be modernized with improved equipment and reliability which will transport sewage flows into the treatment plant.

**City of Old Town:**

**NBRC Award: \$274,842, Matching Funds: \$69,108**

**Location: Penobscot County (ME-02)**

Blend existing green space, park amenities, and recreation infrastructure with a seasonal retail market incubator space, pop up shops, installation of power, improvement of sidewalks and addition of crosswalk for safer pedestrian crossing. This project will compliment Four Directions Development Corporation's tourism hub project and allow for the tribal businesses and artisans to participate in the retail space created by the pop-up shops and farmers' market.

**Isle au Haut Electric Power Company:**

**NBRC Award: \$300,696, Matching Funds: \$300,696**

**Location: Hancock and Knox Counties (ME-01)**

Replacement of 40-year-old submarine electric cable with larger, greater capacity submarine cable combined with high-speed broadband fiber optic cable to provide reliable power and high-speed internet to all households and businesses in the Town of Isle au Haut.

**Town of Houlton:**

**NBRC Award: \$978,880, Matching Funds: \$244,720**

**Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

Removal of Houlton International Airport's two underground fuel storage tanks as well as associated pumps, piping, leak detection systems, and electrical wiring. A new fueling system will be constructed that includes aboveground storage tanks and fuel management system.

**Town of Weston:**

**NBRC Award: \$57,042, Matching Funds: \$13,974**

**Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

Creation of waterfront park along the shores of East Grand Lake, including the construction of a parking area, swimming area, walking trails, hand-carry boat launch and ADA compliant facilities.

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## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MAINE (CONTINUED)

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**West Oxford Agricultural Society:**

**NBRC Award: \$701,900.80,**

**Matching Funds: \$175,835.10**

**Location: Oxford County (ME-02)**

Replace water main line, extend the water main distribution lines, and replace the building service lines complete with 13 new curb stops to eliminate lead and copper service lines within the Fairgrounds.

**Big Rock:**

**NBRC Award: \$102,902.20,**

**Matching Funds: \$4,948,799.80**

**Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

Replace a double chairlift to the top of Big Rock Mountain with a modern chairlift and upgrade existing snowmaking infrastructure. (Reduced award)

**Town of Fort Kent:**

**NBRC Award: \$250,000, Matching Funds: \$5,817,900**

**Location: Aroostook County (ME-02)**

NBRC awarded this project an additional \$750,000 as part of our EDA partnership funding. Please see the EDA section of this report for additional project information.



Photos courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Applications Received: 24**

**Total Funds Requested: \$9,662,459.76**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$6,800,000**

**Percent of Applications Awarded: 79%**

### **NUMBER OF AWARDS:**

There were **19** awards made from the 24 applications submitted.

### **DISTRESSED COUNTIES:**

New Hampshire awarded **37%** of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

New Hampshire awarded **32%** of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

### **MATCHING FUNDS:**

New Hampshire's projects leverage **\$14,031,962.74** in other funds.

### **Cottage Hospital:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$1,247,620 Location: Grafton County (NH-02)**

Replacement of sewer line inside and outside of the facility. The investment will allow continued expansion of this rural critical access hospital and build in long term financial stability.

### **Nansen Ski Club:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$87,500 Location: Coos County (NH-02)**

Installation of an on-site snowmaking system and an exterior staircase. This investment represents the final step of the revitalization of this historic, completion-level ski jump. This will enable high level events to be scheduled, bringing competitors and fans to the area.

### **Mountain Top Music Center:**

**NBRC Award: \$125,000, Matching Funds: \$125,000 Location: Carroll County (NH-01)**

Investment in Majestic Theatre and Café in Conway with equipment and site improvements including a sound system and stage lighting.

### **Waumbec Methna Snowmobile Club**

**NBRC Award: \$240,360, Matching Funds: \$ 64,897.00 Location: Coös County (NH-02)**

Purchase of a trail groomer and Mogul Master Drag to improve grooming operations and associated economic/tourism benefits of approximately 100+ miles of snowmobile trails in the Jefferson area.

### **City of Laconia:**

**NBRC Award: \$225,000, Matching Funds: \$225,000 Location: Belknap County (NH-01)**

Extension of the existing multi-use WOW bike trail in Laconia, which is a portion of the "Opechee Loop". The WOW trail connects Laconia and Weirs along a scenic route, allowing a connection that avoids growing vehicle traffic on the road.

### **Town of Gorham:**

**NBRC Award: \$225,298, Matching Funds: \$56,324 Location: Coös County (NH-02)**

New trail hub within walking distance of the downtown commercial district, featuring a natural viewshed, canoe/kayak launch, information and interactive kiosks, bike racks bike repair station, and ADA-compliant restrooms. This investment takes advantage of a rapidly developing trail network for ATV use, hiking along the Appalachian Trail and mountain biking.

### **Presidential Range Riders Snowmobile Club:**

**NBRC Award: \$241,967, Matching Funds: \$60,492 Location: Coös County (NH-02)**

Purchase of a trail groomer and mogul master drag to maintain/increase tourism in the greater Berlin/Gorham area connecting to Maine trails.

### **Tri-Town Bike Friendly Community Initiative:**

**NBRC Award: \$349,234, Matching Funds: \$662,739 Location: Coös and Grafton Counties (NH-02)**

Establish a comprehensive, year-round, diverse bicycling destination. Project will provide safe, accessible cycling, increase number of visitors and enhance economic opportunities for area businesses. This project incorporates 3 existing trail systems (Littleton, Franconia, Bethlehem), Profile Safe Routes to School trails, and safe road and gravel routes.



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## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (CONTINUED)

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### **Northern Forest Center:**

**NBRC Award: \$119,395, Matching Funds: \$55,000**

**Location: Coös and Grafton Counties (NH-02)**

Strategic Mountain Bike Trail Development is a growing network of destination mountain bike trails and will expand the trail networks in NH. Through the JFC's Bike Borderland program, trail development will increase visitation, making towns more attractive to the potential workforce, and benefiting local businesses. (Reduced award)

### **Town of Haverhill:**

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

**\$4,000,000 Location: Grafton County (NH-02)**

Support of town-formed broadband committee to focus on delivering last-mile services through Haverhill. Haverhill is the convergence of several of the county "loops" that would create redundancy for end users in Haverhill and throughout Grafton County. This infrastructure will improve telecommunications, giving the Town more opportunities to start-up and grow, as well as support and retain remote workers.

### **County of Cheshire:**

**NBRC Award: \$875,000, Matching Funds: \$1,642,032**

**Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)**

Purchase and installation of radio system equipment and installation of repeater sites. This will allow equipment status monitoring, problem detection alerting, remote diagnostic capabilities and control, and uninterrupted backup power systems. This side area digital network radio system for first responders' primary use will have clear and seamless quality, widespread radio coverage, continuity of communications and operations, enhanced security, and reduced environmental vulnerabilities at remote sites.

### **North Country Community Radio:**

**NBRC Award: \$244,412.50,**

**Matching Funds: \$244,412.50**

**Location: Grafton County (NH-02)**

Expand the recording capacity of NCCR by upgrading and expanding the existing recording studio. The addition will include a control room and a recording room. The equipment to be purchased will be used to increase programming outside the studio, allowing NCCR to become more sustainable.

### **The Park Theatre:**

**NBRC Award: \$304,000, Matching Funds: \$304,000**

**Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)**

This project will assist with the purchase and installation of stage sound, rigging and lighting to support live productions in the Theatre's 333-seat William David Eppes Auditorium. The events held at this downtown venue attract visitors and residents for performances as well as dining and shopping activities.

### **Town of Campton:**

**NBRC Award: \$71,590, Matching Funds: \$71,592**

**Location: Grafton County (NH-02)**

Installation of digital radio repeater equipment and antenna and purchase/installation of new mobile radios for police, fire, and the highway department, including necessary FCC licensing.

### **Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center:**

**NBRC Award: \$280,000, Matching Funds: \$620,000**

**Location: Coös County (NH-02)**

Construction of new 3,000 sq ft Environmental Education Center on a 16-acre property in Jefferson in order to retain and create jobs, expand programs, and provide ongoing and new services in education, food access, and agriculture that will make the region more economically viable and attractive to residents. Programming will include farm apprenticeship/incubator, environmental education internship, and teacher training programs, along with nature/agriculture-based camps, afterschool programs, programs for homeschoolers and partner schools, and a semester/gap-year program for high school and college students.

### **Twin State Maker Spaces:**

**NBRC Award: \$349,989.25,**

**Matching Funds: \$88,283.49**

**Location: Sullivan County (NH-02)**

Claremont Maker Spaces (CMS) Workforce and Business Development program will add a key component to efforts in Sullivan County to develop the regional workforce and economy. CMS provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to launch a business with low overhead, and is designed for people whose careers were disrupted by COVID, in order to up-skill in pursuit of higher-paying roles; and for people who were formerly incarcerated, or who are in recovery, to gain vital employability and technical skills.

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## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (CONTINUED)

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### **Town of Woodstock:**

**NBRC Award: \$242,500, Matching Funds: \$263,325**

**Location: Grafton County (NH-02)**

Upgrade existing municipal wastewater infrastructure on Route 112 to accommodate anticipated developments and future growth. This project will increase the pumping capacity of their wastewater pump station system to accommodate the development of 30-units of workforce housing and an additional 60-units at full buildout. In addition, it will allow for the expansion of Ice Castles-NH beyond the winter season, allowing for increased economic activity, job retention and growth.

### **Town of Swanzey:**

**NBRC Award: \$306,254.25,**

**Matching Funds: \$1,713,745.75**

**Location: Cheshire County (NH-02)**

Design and reconstruction of 0.65 miles of roads, replace and construct 2,400 linear feet of sidewalk, extend 450 linear feet of sewer and construct 2,050 linear feet of closed draining improvements to North Winchester Street and California Street in the Village of West Swanzey. These two streets are important “gateways” from Route 10 and provide access to the historic commercial core of the village. (Reduced award)

### **Town of Newport:**

**NBRC Award: \$250,000,**

**Matching Funds: \$2,500,000**

**Location: Sullivan County (NH-02)**

NBRC awarded this project an additional \$750,000 as part of our EDA partnership funding. Please see the EDA section of this report for additional project information.



Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW YORK

**Applications Received: 55**  
**Total Funds Requested: \$35,538,998.86**  
**Total Funds Awarded: \$5,800,000**  
**Percent of Applications Awarded: 22%**

### **NUMBER OF AWARDS:**

There were **12** awards made from the 55 applications submitted.

### **DISTRESSED COUNTIES:**

New York awarded **92%** of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

New York awarded **67%** of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/ sewer, broadband and transportation.

### **MATCHING FUNDS:**

New York's projects leverage **\$11,584,756.67** in other funds.

### **Town of Schroon:**

**NBRC Award: \$853,440, Matching Funds: \$213,360**  
**Location: Essex County (NY-21)**

The project will improve wastewater conveyance to local businesses and residences on Main Street along Schroon Lake. This includes the replacement of an existing vitrified clay pipe sewer to support existing businesses and jobs, and future economic growth. Further, it will protect natural resources, and ensure SPDES Permit compliance.

### **Town of Fayette:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$4,851,730**  
**Location: Seneca County (NY-23)**

The sewer project will install over 11 miles of force main to approximately 330 parcels to connect the town's district to the Village of Waterloo Sanitary Sewer System. The new system will serve properties on Seneca Lake and reduce septic system discharge to the Lake.

### **Village of Nelliston:**

**NBRC Award: \$50,000, Matching Funds: \$950,000**  
**Location: Montgomery County (NY-19)**

NBRC awarded this project an additional \$750,000 as part of our EDA partnership funding. Please see the EDA section of this report for additional project information.

### **Village of Canton:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$1,277,483**  
**Location: St. Lawrence County (NY-21)**

The proposed project will design and construct a new secondary water source to address a compliance issue relating to capacity. The project will add new infrastructure and increase water capacity by approximately 26% to accommodate future growth.

### **Adirondack Mountain Club:**

**NBRC Award: \$303,960, Matching Funds: \$76,235**  
**Location: Essex County (NY-21)**

The project will enable the Adirondack Mountain Club to renovate the former Cascade Cross Country Ski Center to help visitors and residents connect with the many and varied natural assets of the Adirondacks. Funding will make the 200-acre property available to the public for skiing and other outdoor activities, as well as increase capacity by adding a fully accessible, year-round world-class outdoor education and visitor information center.

### **Historic Saranac Lake:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$2,320,000**  
**Location: Franklin County (NY-21)**

The project will rehabilitate the historic Trudeau Building in Saranac Lake to create an accessible history museum campus in the downtown that will create jobs and drive economic development in the Adirondack North Country.

### **St. Lawrence County IDA:**

**NBRC Award: \$494,400, Matching Funds: \$123,600**  
**Location: St. Lawrence County (NY-21)**

The project will rehabilitate the industrial track and bridge over the Oswegatchie River that have been inactive since defects were discovered in 2009. Funding will restore reliable, direct rail service to the Dunn Paper Mill in Natural Dam and allow for further industrial development of parcels in the Town of Gouverneur.



## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW YORK (CONTINUED)

### **Paul Smith's College:**

**NBRC Award: \$675,452, Matching Funds: \$168,863**

**Location: Franklin County (NY-21)**

The project will improve wastewater and drinking water services for Paul Smith's College by replacing over 1,000 lineal feet of sanitary sewer lines to improve waste transmission to the wastewater treatment plant and 11,325 lineal feet of drinking water distribution pipes. These improvements are necessary to sustain the health and wellbeing of the college community and support increased enrollment and revenue, job retention and creation, and serve the needs of the north country community.

### **Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce:**

**NBRC Award: \$285,600, Matching Funds: \$20,933.67**

**Location: Clinton County (NY-21)**

The project will develop a comprehensive welding training program to train 50 individuals and prepare them to enter the workforce as a welder. Upon completion, trainees will have the skills required to obtain a welding job at any North Country manufacturing operation. This pool of trained welders will help support both the short-time workforce needs and long-term workforce needs of manufacturers during this workforce shortage. The training will be housed at Clinton Community College's Institute for Advanced Manufacturing.

### **Griffiss Local Development Corporation:**

**NBRC Award: \$353,360, Matching Funds: \$88,340**

**Location: Oneida County (NY-22)**

The project will expand rail yard capacity within Griffiss Business & Technology Park by approximately 16 railcars to provide greater flexibility to serve existing Park tenants.

### **Warren County:**

**NBRC Award: \$160,000, Matching Funds: \$40,000**

**Location: Warren County (NY-21)**

Warren County will develop an improvement plan for the Warren County Bikeway and Feeder Canal Trail that serve as the connections between the Empire State Trail and Lake George, as well as the various downtowns in between. The plan will provide Warren County and municipal partners with an actionable plan for making investments in the multi-use trail network.

### **Town of Glenville:**

**NBRC Award: \$273,788, Matching Funds: \$1,454,212**

**Location: Schenectady County (NY-20)**

The Town of Glenville will extend a water main to complete a hydraulic loop to meet increasing demand for improved water capacity, and water pressure at the Glenville Business and Technology Park. The enhanced water service will have a regional economic impact and support current and future manufacturing processes and office facilities as well as enabling reliable fire protection with functional hydrants/sprinkler systems. (Reduced award)



Photography courtesy of Nick Rowell and the State of New York

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN VERMONT

**Applications Received: 22**

**Total Funds Requested: \$10,685,004.05**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$5,800,000**

**Percent of Grants Awarded: 64%**

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:** There were **14** awards made from the 22 applications submitted.

**DISTRESSED COUNTIES:** Vermont awarded **43%** of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Vermont awarded **43%** of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

**MATCHING FUNDS:** Vermont's projects leverage **\$61,914,029.68** in other funds.

### **Bennington County Industrial Corporation:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$42,139,361**

**Location: Bennington County (VT-01)**

92,000 square feet of mixed use, energy efficient building providing space for Southwestern VT Health Care (SVHC), retail and housing (aka Putnam Block Phase II). Space will include a walk-in clinic and dialysis center, add 63 new households to the downtown, remove blighted buildings and remediate brownfields.

### **Little River Health Care:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$3,275,000**

**Location: Orange County (VT-01)**

Renovate 3,600 square feet of LRHC's Wells River clinic and construct a 5,400 square foot, two-story expansion with an elevator and negative pressure isolation wing, increasing capacity. The project will create 10 new exam rooms, two new procedure rooms, eight offices, a lab, a new group medical visit room and a reception area. This will provide for additional medical, behavioral health and mental health providers, and support staff.

### **Porter Medical Center:**

**NBRC Award: \$346,223, Matching Funds: \$0 (COVID Waiver) Location: Addison County (VT-01)**

Porter Medical Center (PMC) will create a simulation lab to provide entry-level training and upskilling education for healthcare workers. The lab will allow learners to earn stackable credentials, practicing hands-on skills in a controlled environment with instructor oversight.

### **Lake Champlain Sailing Center:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$350,000**

**Location: Chittenden County (VT-01)**

Construction of boat ramp, universally accessible education pier, safe launch site, and deep-water basin hoists will improve functionality, boost safety, expand access and increase impact. This investment will enable responsible use and long-term stewardship of Lake Champlain by fostering educational and recreational opportunities for all members of the community.

### **Otter Creek Child Care:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$478,957**

**Location: Addison County (VT-01)**

Develop design and construction documents for all aspects of the childcare expansion project, which includes architecture, civil, structural, specifications, acoustics, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, code, lighting, playground/landscape design, etc. The facility expansion, after evaluation, aims to increase stability and predictability of service to families across the region, and increases overall childcare capacity by 77 daily slots.

### **Springfield Area Parent Child Center:**

**NBRC Award: \$196,732.50, Matching Funds: \$192,875**

**Location: Windsor County (VT-01)**

Purchase of a nearby building to increase capacity within the Learning Together program, which provides education and intensive job skills training to teen and young parents. The space will provide early childhood educational (ECE) professional development to current and future educators.

**Town of Lyndon: NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$335,000 Location: Caledonia County (VT-01)**

Rehabilitate the Sanborn Bridge (one of the last Paddleford truss covered bridges in existence in the United States, and one of only two in Vermont), create a 1.5-acre riverfront park adjacent to the bridge, connect recreational trails and waterways and enhance the attraction for visitors.

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN VERMONT (CONTINUED)

### **Town of Hinesburg:**

**NBRC Award: \$460,020, Matching Funds: \$451,000**

**Location: Chittenden County (VT-01)**

Addition of well #6 to Hinesburg town's drinking water system to increase capacity by 84%, supporting proposed housing development (66 perpetually affordable homes to those earning less than 100% of the area median income), ensuring the longevity of a essential Vermont industry.

### **Town of Greensboro: DECLINED AWARD**

**NBRC Award: \$153,553, Matching Funds: \$38,390**

**Location: Orleans County (VT-01)**

Create a rail trail hub by purchasing a 0.4-acre parcel near the trail to locate the parking area and commercial businesses, and by adding trail amenities facilities to include bike racks, tables, benches, artwork, flower tubs, enclosures for restrooms and vending machines, a pad for a food truck, and a building for a new business collective.

### **City of Winooski:**

**NBRC Award: \$817,908.37,**

**Matching Funds: \$11,753,649.63**

**Location: Chittenden County (VT-01)**

The project includes the complete modernization of infrastructure on Main Street: 0.75 miles of new water, stormwater/wastewater utility infrastructure, undergrounding the telecom and cable lines, and rebuilt complete streets, allowing for future high density commercial and housing development within walking biking and public transportation distance to major Chittenden County employers. (Reduced award)

### **Vermont Agency of Transportation:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$900,000**

**Location: Orleans County (VT-01)**

Install a container handler and container chassis on an existing site (rail-truck transload facility) to create regional train-truck transload infrastructure for the Northeast Kingdom. The project aims to enable cost-effective freight shipping for rural businesses in the Northeast Kingdom and northern Vermont.

### **Town of Montgomery:**

**NBRC Award: \$817,908.37,**

**Matching Funds: \$404,418.81**

**Location: Franklin County (VT-01)**

The "Montgomery Gateway" project will construct 1,600 feet of sidewalk, a bike lane, marked crosswalks, and parking along the north side of Route 118, creating a multi-modal connection between the municipal Recreation Center and the state-designated Village Center and businesses. (Reduced award)

### **Greater Rockingham Area Services:**

**NBRC Award: \$817,908.36, Matching Funds:**

**\$1,072,941.64 Location: Windham County (VT-01)**

Replacement of an antiquated heating system with a new energy-efficient biomass boiler, a boiler backup, and an exterior wood chip silo. This project includes project management, engineering, boiler installation, piping installation, demolition of the existing boiler system and piping, a light remodel of the boiler room, remediation of the underground oil tank, and electrical and control work for the boilers at the health center complex in Bellows Falls.

### **Rutland Economic Development Corporation:**

**NBRC Award: \$89,746.40,**

**Matching Funds: \$522,436.60**

**Location: Rutland County (VT-01)**

NBRC awarded this project an additional \$400,000 as part of our EDA partnership funding. Please see the EDA section of this report for additional project information.



Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont



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

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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 2022 total **\$3,000,000** for the following projects:

- **Town of Fort Kent, ME - \$750,000**

The project will replace deteriorated water mains on Route 1 from Pump House Road to Northern Maine Medical Center (NMMC). This work will improve the water distribution system by replacing the three current water mains presently at high risk of failure. **[Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$250,000 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]**

- **Town of Newport, NH - \$750,000**

This project will establish an additional water supply well in the northern portion of the Town to increase the water system's supply capacity, resiliency, and security. The increased water system resiliency will provide the Town with added confidence that its existing water customers will maintain the level of service provided by the water system while supporting economic growth. **[Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$250,000 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]**

- **Village of Nelliston, NY - \$750,000**

The project will rehabilitate approximately 15,000 linear feet of existing sewer main within the Village to enhance environmental health as well as promote future development and job growth. **[Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$50,000 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]**

- **Town of Rockingham, VT - \$350,000**

This funding will facilitate the acquisition of the Bellows Falls train station, built in 1923 and listed as a contributing structure on the National Register of Historic Places. Following the acquisition, this project will abate lead and asbestos, repair the bulkhead foundation door, restore historic canopies, and rehabilitate windows and the station's brick facade to US Department of Interior Historic Preservations standards.

- **Rutland Economic Development Corporation, VT - \$400,000**

The Rutland Airport Business Park expansion project will extend the water infrastructure from Phase I of the Park to additional parcels that will make up Phase II. This project will create over 40 acres of prime developable real estate for manufacturing property inventory and will allow expansion of manufacturers and producers, creating high-quality jobs and benefitting all of Rutland County and surrounding areas. **[Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$89,746 as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]**



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

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NBRC in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD), funded 4 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 since 2019 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 2022 total nearly **\$3,000,000** for the following projects:

- **North Country Workforce Partnership (Plattsburgh, NY) \$335,834**  
The Authentic STEM Connect US (ASTEM) is an innovative approach to career and technical training and workforce development, partnering secondary school students with regional businesses to solve real-world challenges. The program aims to partner with 80 companies, train 30 mentors, and reach 250 students in the next three years.
- **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (Farmington, ME) \$335,834**  
This project involves construction of a multiple-use bridge over the Sandy River connecting the Whistle Stop Trail to downtown Farmington, Maine. By increasing the accessibility of Farmington's downtown the project will result in increased trail use, downtown visitation, and local spending. When completed it will be the longest pedestrian bridge and single-span snowmobile bridge in Maine.
- **Franconia Soaring Foundation, Inc. (Franconia, NH) \$335,834**  
The FSF will construct a multi-functional Training and Operations Center facility on its property comprising the south end of the Franconia Airport. The Center will facilitate career development opportunities in aviation-related fields and provide a training and education resource for regional STEM programs.
- **Pittsford Village Farm (Pittsford, VT) \$335,834:**  
The Pittsford Village Farm will renovate a currently vacant space in a historic building in the village center and repurpose it for childcare programming and community functions. The project aims to offer high-quality, affordable early childhood education opportunities for 26 households. Additionally, space within the building will be set aside as a community gathering room for the public to use for meetings or events.
- **Outdoor Economy Council (ME, NH, NY, VT) - \$1,566,664:**  
Building on the success of past funding, NBRC and USDA will again fund a regional Outdoor Economy Council that leverages ongoing initiatives in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont to further develop and market each state's tourism and recreation-based economies. Increased coordination across the NBRC territory will help to drive the regional Outdoor Recreation economy and collectively develop broader regional capacity for expanding this crucial industry.







**Northern Border Regional Commission**

[www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)