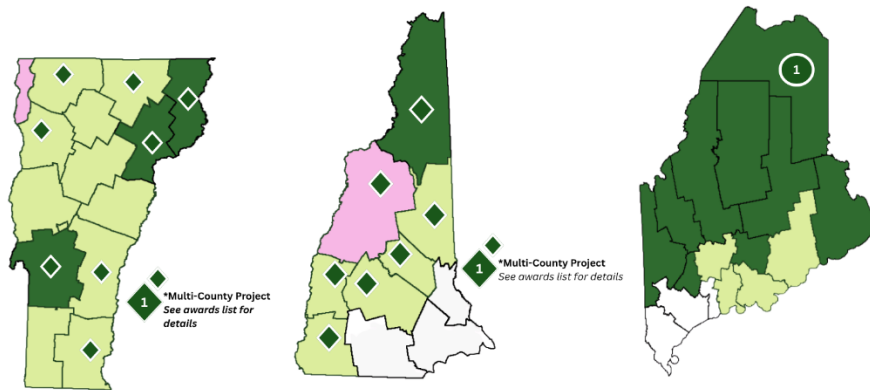




2026 Forest Economy Program Awards

2026 Applicant Summary		
	Spring Round	Fall Round
Total Number of Awards	3	
Total Funds Awarded	\$2,149,503.00	



Spring 2026 Award

Maine

Aroostook County (CD-02)

Award to: Southern Aroostook Development Corporation

Project: Southern Aroostook Development Corporation has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to develop a modern forest-products manufacturing facility in the Houlton Industrial Park and lease it long-term to Kearney Pallet. Consolidating operations in a centralized, efficient plant will increase material utilization, expand processing of low-grade lumber and harvest residuals, and reduce reliance on imported Canadian inputs by sourcing more Maine-harvested timber. The project improves energy and logistics costs, targets a roughly 45% production increase, retains existing jobs, creates new positions, and reinforces wood-packaging supply chains serving Maine agriculture.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,800,000.00

New Hampshire

Full New Hampshire Service Area (CD-01, CD-02)

Award to: NH Timberland Owners Association

Project: The New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association has been awarded \$454,441.00 for a three-year workforce and business capacity initiative that strengthens recruitment, training,

and retention across the forest economy. Activities include expanding the Professional Logging Program, developing employer-driven industry-recognized credentials and apprenticeships with UNH, building a statewide workforce hub (nhwoodjobs.com), and delivering employer HR support with the SBDC. By aligning credentials, modernizing training with forest technology and data-driven practices, and engaging youth and nontraditional talent pipelines, the project will reduce hiring risk, accelerate time-to-hire, and fortify forest-dependent rural communities.

Grant Amount: \$454,441.00

Total Project Amount: \$832,606.00

Vermont

Multiple Counties (CD-01)

Award to: University of Vermont & State Agricultural College

Project: UVM Extension has been awarded \$695,062.00 to expand precision forestry workforce training and technical assistance anchored in Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) for data-rich mapping, modeling, and monitoring. A maple-business cohort will demonstrate operational readiness, with statewide classroom and field instruction, 60+ demonstration flights, and 50+ individualized TA engagements that integrate business planning and precision data. The three-year program will produce curricula, protocols, and implementation guides, culminating in a job fair and “Precision Forestry Airshow” to accelerate practical technology adoption and measurable business outcomes.

Location(s): Franklin County; Orleans County; Chittenden County; Caledonia County; Essex County; Windham County; Rutland County; Windsor County

Grant Amount: \$695,062.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,144,904.00

