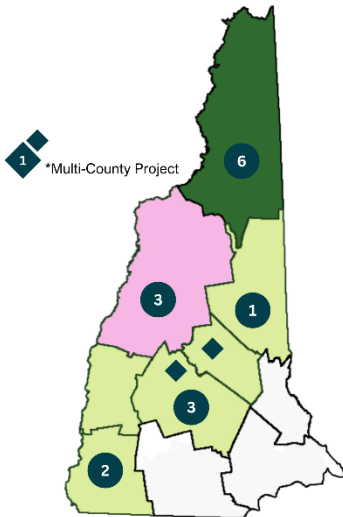




State of New Hampshire 2026 Catalyst Program Awards



2026 Applicant Summary		
	Spring Round	Fall Round
Total Number of Applicants	21	
Total Funds Requested	\$9,928,816.13	
Total Number of Awards	16	
Total Funds Awarded	\$8,079,700.13	

Spring 2026 Awards

Carroll County (CD-01)

Award to: Granite State Adaptive

Project: Granite State Adaptive has been awarded \$175,000.00 to complete Phase II infrastructure at its adaptive equestrian and recreation facility in Wolfeboro. The project funds a tractor, utility UTV, and specialized waterless arena footing to maintain ADA-accessible trails, enhance safety, and assure year-round operations with reduced environmental impact. These improvements expand capacity to serve youth, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and the broader community.

Grant Amount: \$175,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$350,000.00

Cheshire County (CD-02)

Award to: Town of Westmoreland

Project: The Town of Westmoreland has been awarded \$218,995.00 to transform Town Hall into a fully accessible, multi-use hub that supports small business activity, workforce training, and community events. Objectives include installing an ADA lift, accessible restroom, commercial kitchen, high-speed Wi-Fi, and stage improvements to enable instructional programs and civic gatherings. Building on more than \$218,995.00 already invested, the project ensures a year-round anchor for economic and social participation.

Grant Amount: \$218,995.00

Total Project Amount: \$437,990.00

Award to: The Keene Downtown Group

Project: The Keene Downtown Group has been awarded \$499,749.73 for “Dig Into Keene,” a construction disruption mitigation initiative supporting 95 downtown businesses and approximately 825 jobs during a three-year, \$499,749.73.8 million infrastructure rebuild. Objectives include coordinated marketing and PR, wayfinding, business support services, a festival series to drive foot traffic, and a spending-data platform to track outcomes. The project stabilizes revenue and preserves small businesses throughout the multi-year construction

period, building a replicable model for rural economic resilience.

Grant Amount: \$499,749.73

Total Project Amount: \$1,288,540.15

Coös County (CD-02)

Award to: North Country Community Recreation Center, Inc.

Project: North Country Community Recreation Center has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a pre-engineered metal roof over the outdoor rink and walking track, creating a versatile, all-weather community gathering space. Objectives include foundations, lighting, bleacher area, and utility integration to host large events and leverage proximity to ATV/snowmobile trails, the rail trail, and downtown amenities. The project transforms a shuttered facility into a multi-use recreation hub that drives tourism and strengthens local economic vitality.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Award to: Moreno Valley Cultural Arts Foundation

Project: The Coös Catalyst Center has been awarded \$273,696.40 to complete renovations, equip an Entrepreneur Resource Center and Small Business Incubator/Accelerator, and enhance outreach from its Northumberland location. The project delivers technology, office pods, 3D printing and scanning, a food prep station, and volunteer training leading to certifications that support logistics, agriculture, and small business careers. With the ERC operational since February 2026, these investments accelerate workforce re-engagement and entrepreneurial participation in a highly distressed rural area.

Grant Amount: \$273,696.40

Total Project Amount: \$342,121.40

Award to: Evergreen Start

Project: Evergreen Start has been awarded \$500,000.00 to deploy shared back-office infrastructure that stabilizes and expands licensed childcare capacity across Coös, Grafton, and Carroll counties. The three-year project onboards 2–4 providers in Year 1, scaling to 6–10 providers and supporting approximately 200–300 slots, with services including financial management, compliance tracking, cash-flow forecasting, and workforce-linked reporting. By reducing volatility and enabling measured expansion, the initiative protects workforce participation and strengthens employer retention in rural New Hampshire.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

Award to: North Country Education Services Agency

Project: North Country Education Services Agency has been awarded \$268,205.00 to launch TeachNorth, a two-year internship stipend program designed to reduce financial barriers for 25 preservice teachers completing full-time student teaching in northern New Hampshire. Objectives include cohort-based professional development, mentor networking, and retention supports to lower current internship attrition from 25–33% to below 5% and increase licensure completion. The project strengthens educator workforce pipelines and improves long-term regional economic stability by addressing shortages in distressed and rural districts.

Grant Amount: \$268,205.00

Total Project Amount: \$335,850.00

Award to: St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts

Project: St. Kieran Community Center has been awarded \$131,000.00 to install modern sound and lighting systems with staff and volunteer training in its main performance and gathering space. The upgrades ensure safe, reliable operations for arts, education, workforce events, civic forums, and community meetings. A one-time capital investment delivers long-term

benefits and supports downtown Berlin's cultural and economic ecosystem.

Grant Amount: \$131,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$163,750.00

Award to: Milan and Dummer Ambulance Service

Project: The Milan & Dummer Ambulance Service has been awarded \$320,000.00 to launch the Coös County EMS Career Catalyst Initiative addressing severe provider shortages in New Hampshire's North Country. The project's objectives are to recruit unlicensed residents into emergency medicine and remove financial barriers by covering instruction, certification materials, and clinical supplies while embedding an "earn-while-you-learn" preceptorship for supervised, on-the-job training. By building local licensure pathways and real-world competencies, the initiative strengthens rural healthcare resilience and stabilizes the regional emergency response workforce.

Grant Amount: \$320,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$400,000.00

Grafton County (CD-02)

Award to: Upper Valley Snowsports Foundation

Project: Upper Valley Snowsports Foundation has been awarded \$137,688.00 to replace the haul rope on Whaleback Mountain's chairlift, the sole lift serving the upper half of the ski area. The project's objectives are to ensure safe, reliable operations, preserve the nonprofit's financial viability, and retain local winter recreation employment. Completion before the 2026–27 season helps sustain a key community asset and supports workforce retention in the Upper Valley.

Grant Amount: \$137,688.00

Total Project Amount: \$177,110.00

Award to: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire

Project: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a 5,400-square-foot childcare facility in West Lebanon that creates 50 new slots for infants through pre-K. The center includes water/sewer connections, parking, and a playground adjacent to district offices, supporting families' workforce participation and employer retention. By addressing acute childcare shortages in the Upper Valley, the project strengthens economic vitality and public health.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,580,720.53

Award to: Mountain Village Charter School

Project: Mountain Village Charter School has been awarded \$600,000.00 for the Mountain Village Community Commons, a dual-use outdoor recreation and education site along the Baker River in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The project delivers trails, river access, and shared gathering spaces designed for school-day programming and year-round public use, fostering tourism, health, and community connection. Shovel-ready site improvements advance NBRC priorities by strengthening local quality of life and rural economic resilience.

Grant Amount: \$600,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$750,000.00

Merrimack County (CD-02)

Award to: LOCAL 490 JATC

Project: IBEW Local 490 JATC has been awarded \$368,000.00 to upgrade training equipment and remove first-year financial barriers (standard toolkits and laptops) for New Hampshire's only

registered union electrical apprenticeship program. The initiative enhances hands-on participation, aligns instruction with modern jobsite standards, and supports an earn-while-you-learn model that trains at least 102 apprentices annually statewide. By improving retention and readiness, the project expands the pipeline of skilled electricians for rural communities and high-growth projects.

Grant Amount: \$368,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$873,605.00

Award to: Franklin Opera House, Inc.

Project: Franklin Opera House has been awarded \$197,215.00 to install theatrical lighting, sound, and AV systems and to complete balcony seating as part of facility improvements coordinated with the City of Franklin. The upgrades professionalize performance capability, enhance accessibility, and support cultural programming that drives downtown visitation. By leveraging an established community arts asset, the project stimulates tourism and local business activity.

Grant Amount: \$197,215.00

Total Project Amount: \$394,430.00

Award to: Mill City Park at Franklin Falls

Project: Mill City Park at Franklin Falls has been awarded \$390,151.00 to construct a revenue-generating campground facility and improved recreational amenities that complement New England's only whitewater park on the Winnepesaukee River. The project includes an outdoor kitchen, bath/shower facility, lighting, access road, and 20 campsites, expanding lodging capacity near downtown Franklin. These improvements boost tourism, sustain park operations, and enhance the visitor experience tied to competition and daily whitewater use.

Grant Amount: \$390,151.00

Total Project Amount: \$825,302.00

Multi-County Project

Award to: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Project: The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has been awarded \$2,000,000.00 to rehabilitate and replace the deteriorated Belmont Forcemain, a 2.5-mile regional sewer pipeline experiencing corrosion-related failures and sanitary sewer overflows. The project will protect nearby drinking water sources, reduce disruptions to businesses and Route 140 traffic, and mitigate environmental and public-health risks. Modernizing this critical asset will restore resilience while helping avoid steep sewer-rate increases that could impede local growth in Belmont and Northfield.

Location(s): Belknap County (CD-01); Merrimack County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,646,000.00

