



Northern Border Regional Commission



Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request

As Submitted to the House & Senate Appropriations Committees

February 8, 2016

Mark Scarano, Federal Co-Chair
Northern Border Regional Commission
J.C. Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 3602
53 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301
(202) 590-6650 | mscarano@nbrc.gov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the NBRC -----	1
Commission Members -----	2
The NBRC Service Area -----	3
impact-----	4
Distressed, Transitional, and Attainment Counties -----	5
Areas of Investment -----	7
FY 2015 Grants -----	9
FY 2017 areas of focus -----	12
FY 2017 Proposed Budget -----	14

APPENDIX

Detail: Operating Expenses

2016 Annual Distress Listing

Information Briefs for 2016 Grant Round (customized for each State)

NBRC Organizational Chart

NBRC Enabling Legislation

ABOUT THE NBRC

“A Federal-State partnership that provides federal grants for economic development and infrastructure projects in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York”

Authorized by Congress in 2008 (PUB.L. 110–246, Sec. 14217) and first appropriated by Congress in 2010, the Northern Border Regional Commission (“NBRC”) was organized on the the Appalachian Regional Commission federal-state partnership model. Like the Appalachian Regional Commission, the NBRC is developed to provide infrastructure and economic development grants to projects in select counties that have various degrees of economic and demographic distress. While NBRC grant funds originate from the Federal Government, final approval for grants are made by the Federal Government’s NBRC representative (Federal Co-Chair) and the collective vote of the Governors of the four States.

The NBRC is led by its Federal Co-Chair, Mark Scarano, who was nominated by President Obama on January 7, 2015, and was confirmed by the Senate on May 21, 2015. Reflective of its small size, the NBRC has only one other employee, a Program Specialist, who manages the NBRC’s grant program. The NBRC has built a strong network of state, local, and 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 a select number of recognized Local Development Districts that assist in grant technical assistance, provide information on complementary grants for projects, and ensure applications are complete before being considered.

The NBRC is currently inspired by a 2008 strategic plan for the region¹ but will be completing a more formal plan with considerable input from state, local, and economic development partners throughout the NBRC’s service area. This plan will be finalized after public hearings in April, 2016.

Finally, the NBRC offers a wide ranging and popular grant program: the Economic & Infrastructure Development grant. Per the NBRC’s enabling legislation, each year the NBRC records the economic and demographic data of the counties within the Commission’s service area and uses the resulting statistics to classify the level of distress in each county.

¹ Northern Forest Center (2008). “Economic Resurgence in the Northern Forest: Regional Strategy and Recommendations of the Sustainable Economy Initiative”

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Programmatic and project funding decisions by the Commission are made by the Federal Co-Chair and a majority of governors from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

THE GOVERNORS



Maine Governor
Paul LePage



New Hampshire Governor
Maggie Hassan



Vermont Governor
Peter Shumlin



New York Governor
Andrew Cuomo

THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIR



Federal Co-Chair
Mark Scarano

Mark Scarano was unanimously confirmed as Federal Co-Chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission on May 21st, 2015.

Scarano cut his economic development teeth as Community Development Director in Millinocket before being hired by the Piscataquis County (Maine) Economic Development Council as their Business Development Director and, subsequently, Executive Director. In that position, he led successful efforts to attract job creating manufacturers to Piscataquis County as well as support workforce, tourism, and community development initiatives that helped sustain the region's economy.

During his eight years leading the Grafton County (New Hampshire) Economic Development Council, Scarano expanded the economic development programs offered by the Council to include workforce development and entrepreneurship promotion. Successes included funding an innovative program that provides high school students with real world, technical internships at local businesses as well as fundraising and constructing a \$2.3 million business incubator in Plymouth in partnership with Plymouth State University.

Scarano was raised in Ludlow, Maine, and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Maine and a master's degree from the Iowa State University of Science and Technology.

THE NBRC SERVICE AREA

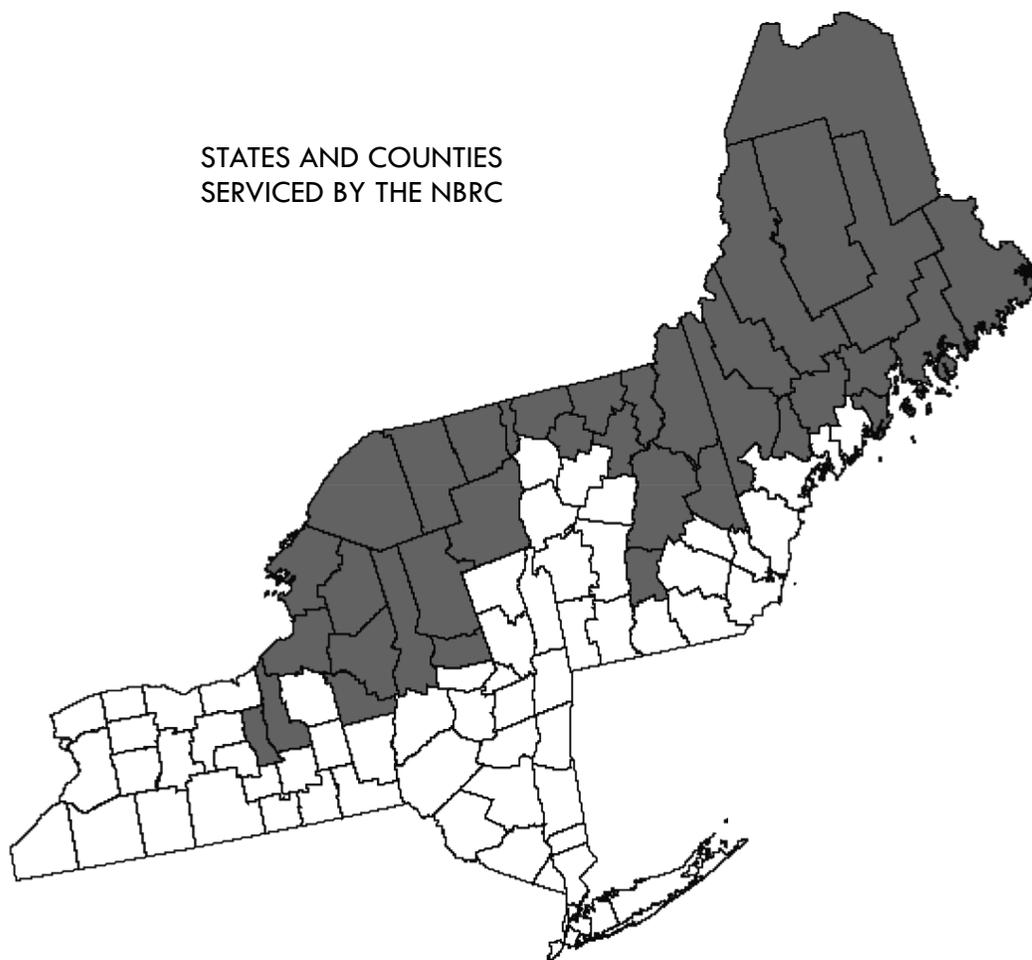
Recognizing similar economic and demographic challenges facing the northern parts of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, Congress delineated the NBRC's service area in the 2008 enabling legislation and only projects within the service area are allowed funding. The thirty-six counties within this service area include:

In New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence counties

In Vermont: Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans counties

In New Hampshire: Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan counties

In Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties



IMPACT

Now in its sixth year of funding projects throughout its service area, the NBRC has supported some notable economic development projects in each State.

New York: Thanks to a \$250,000 NBRC grant, the Village of Clayton, NY was able to construct a wastewater pumping station in their downtown waterfront area. The infrastructure leveraged over \$20MM in private development for the 1,000 Islands Harbor Hotel that has hired over 80 full time employees.



Vermont: The NBRC provided the State of Vermont with a \$250,000 grant to upgrade wastewater capacity at the Northeast Kingdom International Airport in Coventry, VT. Related upgrades include an expanded runway, a new terminal, warehouses for import-export businesses, and an assembly plant for small aircraft. Expected new jobs: 94

New Hampshire: Twin State Makerspace in downtown Claremont, NH was granted \$250,000 by the NBRC to aid in the construction of its 10,000 s/f of shared space. Twin State assists new manufacturing, arts, and technology companies to start and grow successfully until they find new, permanent space.



Maine: The City of Presque Isle, ME was granted \$250,000 to help fit up new space in a city owned property for the expanding Acme-Monaco Corporation. The new space will allow the company to stay in Presque Isle, retain its existing 72 employees and create 23 new jobs.

DISTRESSED, TRANSITIONAL, AND ATTAINMENT COUNTIES

Per its 2008 enabling legislation, the NBRC is required to annually survey the economic and demographic data of the counties within its service area and to classify these counties in a manner that reflects historic or new levels of distress. The NBRC uses six criteria to develop this classification and then compares the results to national averages to define four levels of distress. The criteria used includes:

1. Poverty Level
2. Unemployment Rate
3. Change in Population (outmigration)
4. Educational Attainment (bachelor's degree or higher)
5. Household Income
6. Seasonal Home Ownership

Counties classified as "***Distressed***" are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped of the NBRC's 36 county service area. Compared to national averages, these counties have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

Accordingly, the following 29 counties are designated as "Distressed" for the purposes of prioritization and matching funds required in 2016:

In New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence, and Seneca counties.

In Vermont: Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties.

In New Hampshire: Coos County.

In Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties

The percent of qualified project grant costs matched by NBRC funds in distressed counties is up to 80%. Federal law requires the NBRC to provide 50% of appropriations to projects within distressed counties.

Counties classified as "***Transitional***" are economically distressed and underdeveloped or have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration. Transitional counties have at least one of the classification criteria listed above.

As such, the following 6 counties are designated as "Transitional" for the purposes of prioritization and match in 2016:

In New York: Seneca County.

In Vermont: Franklin and Lamoille counties.

In New Hampshire: Carroll and Sullivan counties.

In Maine: Kennebec County.

The percent of qualified project grant costs matched by NBRC funds in transitional counties is up to 50%.

Counties classified as “*Attainment*” score better than the national average and projects within these counties are not eligible for NBRC funding. This year, there are two counties that have Attainment status. They are:

In New Hampshire, Grafton County.

In Vermont, Grand Isle County.

Note that some municipalities within Attainment Counties that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration are classified as “*Isolated Areas of Distress*” and projects within those municipalities be funded by the NBRC. The percent of qualified project grant costs matched by NBRC funds in Isolated Areas of Distress is up to 50%.

Isolated Areas of Distress in New Hampshire include the Grafton County towns of: Alexandria, Ashland, Bath, Benton, Campton, Canaan, Dorchester, Easton, Enfield, Groton, Haverhill, Hebron, Holderness, Lincoln, Lisbon, Lyme, Monroe, Piermont, Plymouth, Rumney, Warren, Wentworth, and Woodstock.

Isolated Areas of Distress in Vermont include the Grand Isle towns of: Alburgh, Isle La Motte, and South Hero.

AREAS OF INVESTMENT

The following investment categories, as found in USC 40, Subtitle V – Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development, represent the allowed areas of focus for NBRC grant funds.

1. To develop the transportation infrastructure of its region;
2. To develop the basic public infrastructure of its region;
3. To develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region;
4. To assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development, and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;
5. To provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services;
6. To promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals;
7. To promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Federal law mandates that 40% of NBRC grants be utilized for infrastructure projects (1, 2, and 3 above) while 50% of NBRC appropriations shall be dedicated for distressed counties.

Considering the wide ranging nature of these categories and limited funding for grants, and in respect to the NBRC's enabling legislation that requires a five year investment plan, the NBRC has begun a process of prioritizing these categories in order to maximize its investments on local economies. For example, during its FY 2014 grant round, the NBRC provided a grant to the Northern Forest Center with a mandate to update, through stakeholder input, the original regional economic development strategy document.² The Northern Forest Center is an economic and community development organization that shares the same service area as the NBRC.

The update includes the following activities:

1. Identify needs in coordination with key advisors, including local development districts
2. Identify potential members of state-state advisory groups; seek opportunities to align/inform/be informed by state and local-level strategies (e.g. EDA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies)
3. Assess the Strategic Economy Initiative framework, goals and work plan; make adjustments as necessary
4. Engage and convene four-state advisory groups over 12 month period

² Northern Forest Center (2008). "Economic Resurgence in the Northern Forest: Regional Strategy and Recommendations of the Sustainable Economy Initiative"

5. Engage consultants to produce an updated social and economic assessment of the Northern Border Commission counties
6. Secure support from Governors and members of the congressional delegation
7. Publish and circulate strategy
8. Communicate with stakeholders throughout the strategy process, via web, social media and other means, to promote initiatives and success consistent with NBRC goals

This updated document will be used to prioritize grant applications and guide the Commission in moving forward with new programs and investment areas. It will be completed after public hearings in April, 2016.

FY 2015 GRANTS

On August 31st, 2015, the NBRC Members approved almost \$5MM in Economic & Infrastructure Development (EID) grants to projects in each of the four states that represent part or all of the seven legislatively mandated investment categories.

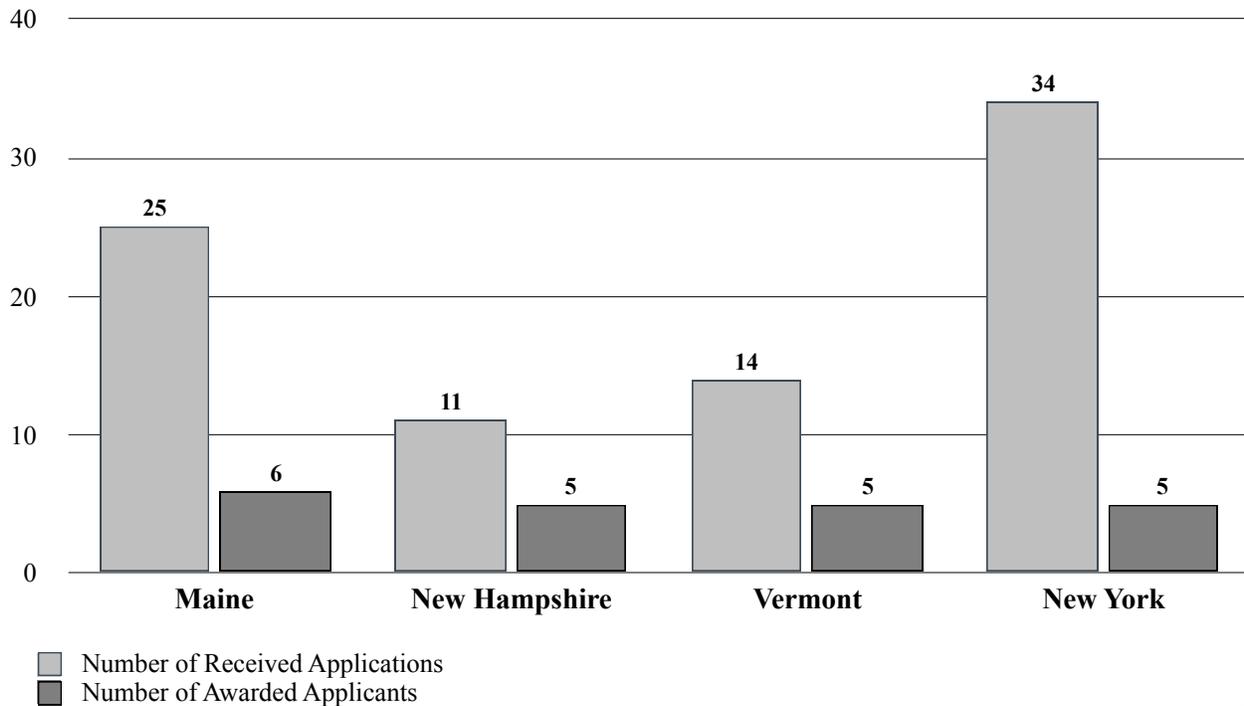
During this round, 69 EID applications were received from the NBRC's four state service area.

	Received Applications	Amounts Requested	Awarded Applicants	Amounts Awarded
Maine	15	\$3,065,350	6	\$1,355,936
New Hampshire	20	\$3,784,975	7	\$1,150,716
Vermont	14	\$2,701,138	6	\$1,221,259
New York	20	\$4,241,474	6	\$1,221,085
	69	\$13,792,937	25	\$4,948,996

The percentage of accepted EID awards compared to the number of applications was **19%** while the percentage of awarded funds compared to the amounts requested was **36%**.

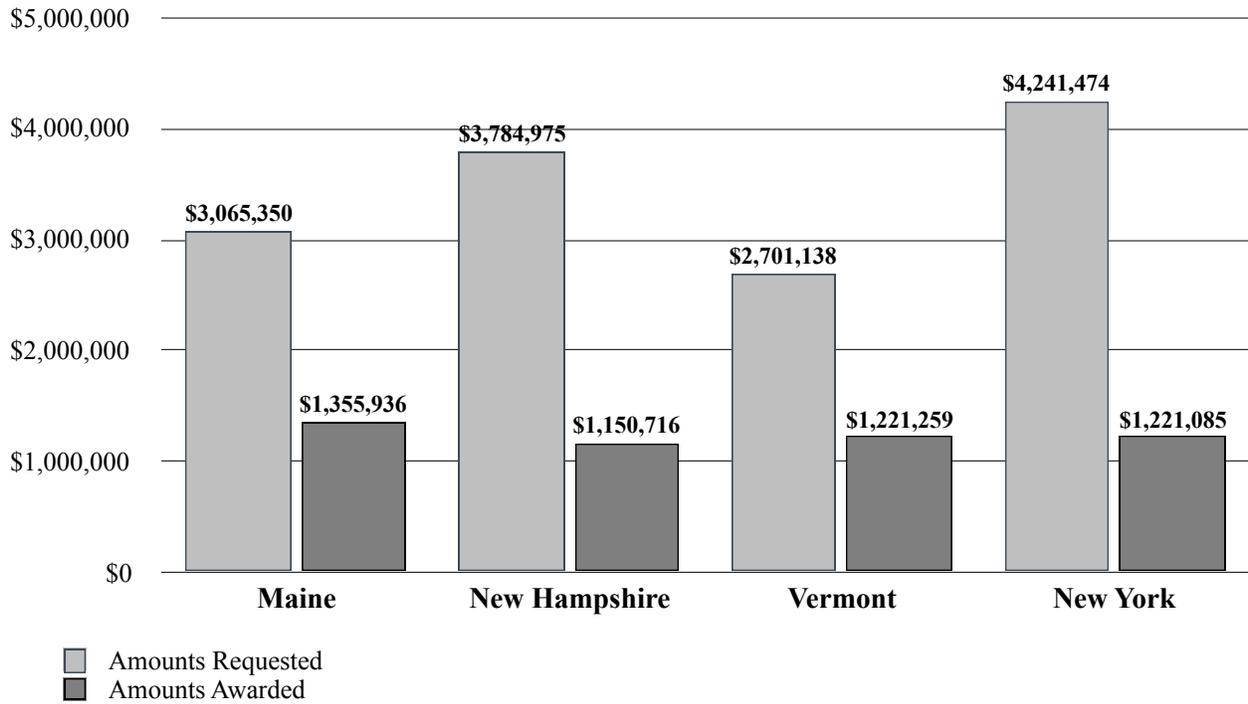
The chart below shows the number of received eligible EID applications compared to the number of awarded applicants.

FY 15 Economic & Infrastructure Development (EID) Grant Round: Applications Received Compared to Applications Awarded

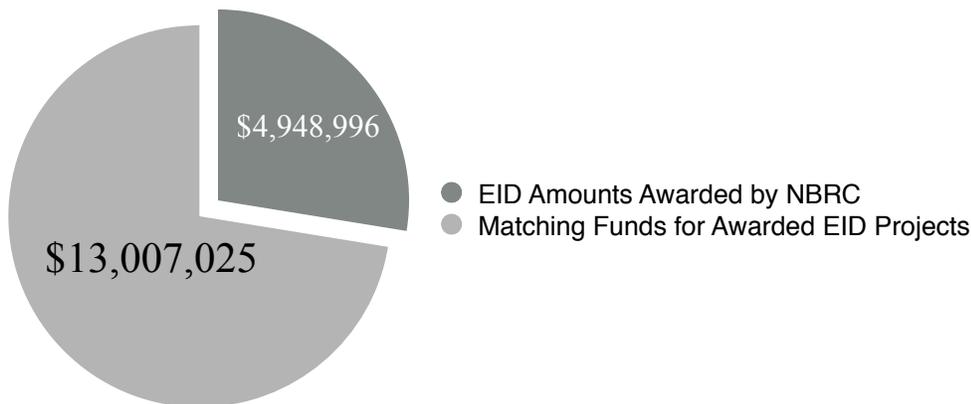


The following chart shows the amounts of Economic & Infrastructure Development (EID) requested funds by eligible applicants in the FY 2015 round compared to the amounts that were awarded by the Commission.

FY 15 Economic & Infrastructure Development (EID) Grant Round: Funds Requested Compared to Funds Awarded



During the 2015 round, the NBRC received EID applications that provided on average 2.6 dollars in matching funds for each NBRC grant dollar. This represents a number significantly higher than the regularly required match percentages (usually 20% to 50% of the project cost).



Applicants awarded Economic & Infrastructure Development (EID) grants also used vetted job creation and retention projections to meet the mission of the NBRC. Below is a full list with jobs information for the FY 15 grant round.

FY 15 EID Grant Round: Awarded Grants, Matching Amounts and Jobs

Recipient Organization		NBRC Grant Amount	Matching Amount	Jobs to be CREATED as a result of funding	Jobs to be RETAINED as a result of funding
St. Lawrence County IDA	NY	\$234,155	\$78,345	185	95
Village of Massena	NY	\$111,318	\$47,638	N/A	N/A
Essex County	NY	\$234,153	\$329,759	315	0
Fulton County	NY	\$184,153	\$65,487	100	0
Empire Forest Association	NY	\$223,153	\$99,847	100	200
Clarkson University	NY	\$234,153	\$78,347	15	0
Fairbanks Museum	VT	\$250,000	\$971,000	15	0
VT Dept of Forests Parks & Rec	VT	\$200,000	\$200,000	N/A	N/A
VT Sustainable Jobs Fund	VT	\$153,098	\$290,000	0	250
VT Agency of Transportation	VT	\$250,000	\$500,000	94	0
Franklin Co IDC	VT	\$246,580	\$334,621	500	1,000
Village of Enosburg	VT	\$121,581	\$377,594	N/A	N/A
Franconia Ski Club & NH	NH	\$150,716	\$150,716	N/A	N/A
Town of Northumberland	NH	\$250,000	\$1,135,000	85	0
NHDOT	NH	\$250,000	\$735,150	1,700	7
Twin State Maker Space	NH	\$250,000	\$558,000	35	0
River Valley CC	NH	\$150,000	\$350,000	N/A	N/A
Grafton Co EDC	NH	\$45,000	\$137,056	13	12
Plymouth State University	NH	\$55,000	\$45,000	N/A	N/A
Town of Jay	ME	\$250,000	\$90,000	20	0
Old Town-Orono Fiber	ME	\$250,000	\$286,175	198	0
Lincolnvile Sewer District	ME	\$250,000	\$2,615,071	28	102
Town of Kingfield	ME	\$247,000	\$574,000	14	92
City of Presque Isle	ME	\$250,000	\$2,868,297	23	72
Town of Greenville	ME	\$108,936	\$89,922	5	11
		\$4,948,996	\$13,007,025	3,445	1,841

FY 2017 AREAS OF FOCUS

In an effort to become a more impactful organization throughout its four state region, the NBRC staff and management aim to improve its programmatic and administrative capacity. As such, the NBRC will:

- Based on the NBRC's Strategic Plan, the organization will focus its marketing and outreach to sectors, geographies, and organizations that are identified as need based and applicable for assistance.
- Develop rules and procedures for the NBRC's \$100,000 Discretionary Fund that can provide funding for NBRC eligible projects in a timely manner.
- Develop a consensus with the four state Members of the Commission on roles and responsibilities for grant programs as well as program management.
- Continue to build on the NBRC's nascent general outreach efforts by creating new informative content for its website and updating marketing materials.
- Move into the NBRC's new headquarters; to be located within New Hampshire's Upper Valley region (the municipalities of Hanover or Lebanon).
- Develop partnerships with applicable State agencies in Maine and New Hampshire with the goal of helping them build state comprehensive development and infrastructure plans. Both New York and Vermont have robust State recognized plans that comply with the NBRC legislative mandate.
- Organize at least one one grant technical assistance certification session within each State for the newly created Local Development Districts so that they can be qualified sources of information for prospective applicants within their respective regions.
- Engage contract expertise for in-depth economic and demographic statistical data on the NBRC's service area with the goal of: classifying 2016 distressed and transitional counties; identifying distressed municipalities in attainment counties; and creating a base set of statistics for which future programmatic goals can be compared and future progress can be quantified.
- Develop new policies and procedures pertaining to oversight of ongoing grants and ensure that all grantees meet existing grant requirements for reports and documentation of results. Create new databases of reports so as to identify programmatic success or need for changes.
- Continue to research best organizational and grant practices with sister agencies such as the Delta Regional Authority and Appalachian Regional Commission.
- Engage stakeholders throughout the four state NBRC service area through in person visitations and higher profile meeting attendance. Organize at least one information session for prospective grant applicants for the 2016 Economic & Infrastructure Development grant round.

- Hire a planning specialist who will: research demographic and economic data of the counties in the NBRC's service area, identify counties and isolated areas of distress annually for the NBRC, develop enhanced analysis of impact of NBRC programs and report on them annually, work with the program specialist in developing grant programs that encourage private sector investment and job creation.

FY 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed Commission Budget for FY 17 is **\$5,000,000**, a 33% decrease of \$2,500,000 from the FY 16 Enacted level.

Below is a summary of the FY 17 Commission budget request.

TABLE 1.
Sources and Uses of Funds for Fiscal Years 2016 to 2017 Appropriations

	FY 2016 Enacted		FY 2017 Commission Request		Net Change from 2016	
Sources (Appropriations)	\$7,500,000		\$5,000,000		-\$2,500,000	
<i>Uses (NBRC Programmatic & Operating Expenditures)</i>						
Programmatic Expenditures	\$6,970,396	93%	\$4,378,797	88%	-\$2,591,599	-37%
Operating Expenditures	\$529,604	7%	\$621,203	12%	\$91,599	17%
	\$7,500,000	100%	\$5,000,000	100%	-\$2,500,000	-33%

TABLE 2.
Programmatic Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2016 to 2017 Appropriations

	FY 2016 Enacted		FY 2017 Commission Request		Net Change from 2016	
Econ/Infrastructure Grants	\$6,970,396	100%	\$4,278,797	98%	-\$2,691,599	-39%
LDD Grant Program	\$0	0%	\$100,000	2%	\$100,000	100%
	\$6,970,396	100%	\$4,378,797	100%	-\$2,591,599	-37%

TABLE 3.
Operating Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2016 to 2017 Appropriations (summary)

	FY 2016 Enacted		FY 2017 Commission Request		Net Change from 2016	
Salaries & Benefits	\$414,061	78%	\$500,588	81%	\$86,527	21%
GSA Accounting, Legal, and Procurement Mgmt services	\$56,200	11%	\$56,200	9%	\$0	0%
Occupancy Expense(s)	\$20,265	4%	\$25,823	4%	\$5,558	27%
Travel	\$13,467	3%	\$16,020	3%	\$2,553	19%
Dues & Memberships	\$700	0%	\$700	0%	\$0	0%
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$3,500	1%	\$5,460	1%	\$1,960	56%
Purchased Services	\$13,911	3%	\$7,911	1%	-\$6,000	-43%
Phone	\$2,500	0%	\$3,500	1%	\$1,000	40%
Printing & Publications	\$5,000	1%	\$5,000	1%	\$0	0%
	\$529,604	100%	\$621,203	100%	\$91,599	17%

More detail on the FY 17 proposed operating expenses can be found within the Appendix.

APPENDIX: DETAIL, OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits

	Office of Federal Co-Chair		Shared expense with States		Year Total
	Federal Co-Chair	Program Specialist	Planning Specialist	Exec Assistant	
base	\$168,700	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$65,000	\$403,700
benefits @ 24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	
benefits	\$40,488	\$21,600	\$19,200	\$15,600	\$96,888
total	\$209,188	\$111,600	\$99,200	\$80,600	\$500,588

Purchased Services

Email (Capital Computer Exchange, Inc)	\$500
Website (Canton Group)	\$6,000
Internet Service (GSA, Bangor)	\$480
Adobe Creative Suite	\$600
USPS, Bangor (GSA)	\$123
USPS, Plymouth	\$88
Shared cloud service (box.com)	\$120
total	\$7,911

Contracted Services

HR, Legal, & Acquisition Services (GSA)	\$34,000
Payroll Service (GSA)	\$200
Accounting & Budget Support Services (DOAg)	\$22,000
total	\$56,200

Occupancy Expenses

Bangor, Maine (GSA)	\$13,610
Plymouth, NH	\$10,000
Parking, Town of Plymouth	\$1,845
Expensed Office Furnishings (GSA)	
DHS Security Payment	\$368
total	\$25,823

Travel

US Gov't vehicle (sedan, compact) Scarano	\$1,200 annual base rate 1,300 miles per month \$0.134 rate per mile \$2,090 annual mileage	\$3,290
Program Specialist	250 miles per month \$0.575 rate per mile	\$1,725
Planning Specialist	250 miles per month \$0.575 rate per mile	\$1,725
Lodging	3 hotel stays per mo 130 price per stay	\$4,680
Meals	\$40 per diem 40 days used	\$1,600
Flights	\$600 per trip 5 trips	\$3,000
total		\$16,020

Dues & Memberships

Northeast Economic Developers Association	\$500
Economic Development Council of Maine	\$100
New Hampshire Economic Developers Association	\$50
NHCF Annual Mtg	\$50
total	\$700

Supplies & Equipment

Office Supplies	\$1,500
Photocopier lease	\$960
Computer (Planning Specialist)	\$3,000
total	\$5,460

Printing & Publications

total	\$5,000
--------------	----------------

Phone

total	\$3,500
--------------	----------------

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$500,588
Purchased Services	\$7,911
Contracted Services	\$56,200
Occupancy Expenses	\$25,823
Travel	\$16,020
Dues & Memberships	\$700
Supplies & Equipment	\$5,460
Printing & Publications	\$5,000
Phone	\$3,500
Total	\$621,203



Northern Border Regional Commission

2016 Annual Distress Listing

By statute, the NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress among the counties in its service area.

Counties are designated as either

- Distressed,
- Transitional, or
- Attainment

Assessing distress is important as the resulting designations reflect whether or not the NBRC can provide grants within a county as well as what level of match is required of NBRC funded projects.

40 U.S.C., Subtitle V states that “distressed” counties are those that “have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration” and “are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped.” The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total appropriations to projects in counties falling within this designation. The percent of a project that can be funded by the NBRC is 80%.

“Transitional” counties “have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration” or “are economically distressed and underdeveloped.” The percent of a project that can be funded by the NBRC is 50%.

Finally, “attainment” counties are those that are neither “distressed” or “transitional.” The NBRC is not allowed to fund projects within an attainment county unless the project is within an “isolated area of distress.” Isolated areas of distress are “areas that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.”

Because poverty, unemployment, and outmigration are only parts of an economic situation, the NBRC has adopted categories above and beyond those directed by statute. These “Secondary Distress Categories” provides a more in-depth survey of the NBRC’s service area as well as greater opportunities to gauge the success of the NBRC’s programs over time.

Research provided by:
NH Center for Public Policy Studies, Concord, NH
For further information, please contact
Christine Frost, NBRC Program Director
cfrost@nbroc.gov or (202) 590-0807

DISTRESSED COUNTIES

These counties “have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration” and “are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped”
In Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, Washington
In New Hampshire: Coos

In Vermont: Caledonia, Essex, Orleans

In New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence

Percent of project matched by NBRC: 80%

TRANSITIONAL COUNTIES

These counties “have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration” or “are economically distressed and underdeveloped”
In Maine: Hancock

In New Hampshire: Carroll, Sullivan

In Vermont: Franklin, Lamoille

In New York: Seneca

Percent of project matched by NBRC: 50%

ATTAINMENT COUNTIES

These counties that are “not designated as distressed or transitional counties”

In New Hampshire: Grafton

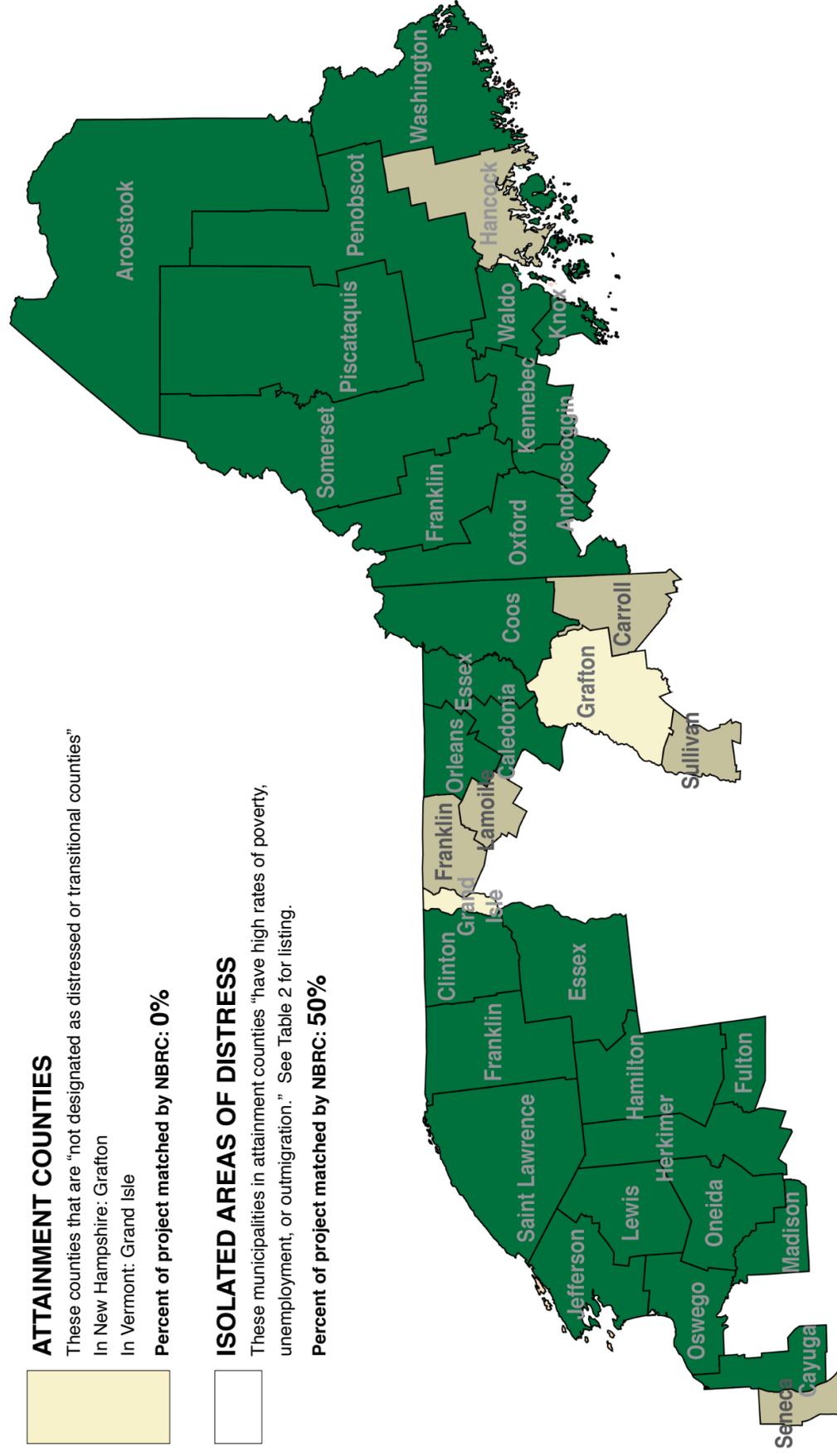
In Vermont: Grand Isle

Percent of project matched by NBRC: 0%

ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS

These municipalities in attainment counties “have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.” See Table 2 for listing.

Percent of project matched by NBRC: 50%



**TABLE 1:
County Levels of
Distress**

	Primary Distress Categories (1)		US	US	US	US	US	US	US
	Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemploy. Rate (2)							
United States	14.9	7.8	3.3%						
NBRC Region	14	7.7	-0.9%						
Criteria compared to is			< 0%						

	Secondary Distress Categories		US	US	US	US	US	US	US
	Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income in 2012 (2)							
United States	28.5	\$53,046	3.5						
NBRC Region	22.2	\$46,265	20.7						
Criteria compared to is			< 0%						

Distressed County?	Transitional County?	Attainment County?
At least THREE factors AND at least ONE from each category?	At least ONE factor from EITHER of the criteria categories?	(no measures of distress)

**TABLE 2:
Isolated Areas of
Distress**

	Primary Distress Categories (1)		US	US	US	US	US	US	US
	Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemploy. Rate (2)							
United States	14.9	7.8	3.3%						
NBRC Region	14	7.7	0.7%						
Criteria compared to is			< 0%						

Androscoggin County, Maine	14.8	9.4	-0.2%						
Aroostook County, Maine	15.9	7.4	-3.4%						
Franklin County, Maine	17.1	8.6	-1.5%						
Hancock County, Maine	12.7	8.2	0.5%						
Kennebec County, Maine	12.5	8.4	-0.9%						
Knox County, Maine	11.5	5.1	-0.2%						
Oxford County, Maine	14.5	10.3	-1.0%						
Penobscot County, Maine	17.1	8.2	-0.3%						
Piscataquis County, Maine	17.7	9	-2.9%						
Somerset County, Maine	18.2	9.2	-2.0%						
Waldo County, Maine	15.5	8.6	0.7%						
Washington County, Maine	19.8	11.2	-3.2%						

Carroll County, New Hampshire	10.3	6.5	-0.9%						
Coos County, New Hampshire	13.0	8.5	-4.2%						
Grafton County, New Hampshire	11.0	5.9	0.6%						
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	10.2	6.4	-1.5%						

Alexandria, Grafton Co, NH	7	8.5	1.0%						
Ashland, Grafton Co, NH	18.3	6.1	-0.05%						
Bath, Grafton Co, NH	10.1	13	1.3%						
Benton, Grafton Co, NH	12	16.4	2.2%						
Bethlehem, Grafton Co, NH	14.3	5.4	1.3%						
Bridgewater, Grafton Co, NH	4.2	1.8	0.6%						
Bristol, Grafton Co, NH	11.9	3	0.5%						
Campton, Grafton Co, NH	4.3	5.8	-0.2%						
Canaan, Grafton Co, NH	11.2	9.2	0.1%						
Dorchester, Grafton Co, NH	8	13.4	0.3%						
Easton, Grafton Co, NH	3.8	9.6	4.2%						
Elsworth, Grafton Co, NH	5.2	6.1	0.0%						
Enfield, Grafton Co, NH	3.1	2.3	-0.1%						
Franconia, Grafton Co, NH	3	4.3	1.6%						
Grafton, Grafton Co, NH	14.3	4.5	0.6%						
Groton, Grafton Co, NH	13.2	12.1	0.7%						
Hanover, Grafton Co, NH	11.3	3.6	1.0%						
Haverhill, Grafton Co, NH	17.8	10.6	-0.9%						
Hebron, Grafton Co, NH	21.4	5.5	2.6%						
Holderness, Grafton Co, NH	5.3	2.3	-0.05%						
Landaff, Grafton Co, NH	3.4	4.3	1.0%						
Lebanon, Grafton Co, NH	12	4.5	3.2%						
Lincoln, Grafton Co, NH	24.1	15.6	0.1%						
Lisbon, Grafton Co, NH	14	9	-0.5%						
Littleton, Grafton Co, NH	8.8	6.5	0.5%						
Lyman, Grafton Co, NH	9	6.5	0.6%						
Lyme, Grafton Co, NH	3.3	4.6	-1.1%						
Monroe, Grafton Co, NH	6.3	5.5	-0.5%						
Orange, Grafton Co, NH	7.5	1.4	0.3%						
Orford, Grafton Co, NH	5.9	2.4	0.8%						
Piermont, Grafton Co, NH	6	3.1	-1.0%						
Plymouth, Grafton Co, NH	22.5	7.4	-2.7%						
Rumney, Grafton Co, NH	19.9	6.8	0.9%						
Sugar Hill, Grafton Co, NH	8.8	5.3	1.6%						
Thornton, Grafton Co, NH	5.6	5.1	0.7%						
Warren, Grafton Co, NH	15.6	11.6	-0.9%						
Waterville Valley, Grafton Co, NH	4.2	0.9	0.4%						
Wentworth, Grafton Co, NH	15.1	14.7	1.1%						
Woodstock, Grafton Co, NH	3.5	8.3	0.9%						

Alburch, Grand Isle Co, VT	7.5	14	0.5%						
Grand Isle, Grand Isle Co, VT	8.2	4.3	0.7%						
Isle La Motte, Grand Isle Co, VT	8.2	15.2	0.4%						
North Hero, Grand Isle Co, VT	3.8	4.6	0.2%						
South Hero, Grand Isle Co, VT	5.5	5.9	-0.2%						

United States	14.9	7.8	3.3%						
NBRC Region	14	7.7	0.7%						
Criteria compared to is			< 0%						

Cayuga County, New York	12.2	8.3	-1.5%						
Clinton County, New York	14.3	8.1	-0.6%						
Essex County, New York	12.4	8.2	-1.8%						
Franklin County, New York	17.6	9.8	-0.6%						
Fulton County, New York	16.5	10.3	-2.6%						
Hamilton County, New York	8.8	6.5	-2.5%						
Herkimer County, New York	14.6	9.4	-1.2%						
Jefferson County, New York	15.1	11.6	2.5%						
Lewis County, New York	13.5	8.1	0.5%						
Madison County, New York	10.8	5.8	-1.5%						
Oneida County, New York	15.6	7.8	-0.9%						
Oswego County, New York	16.4	10.7	-1.0%						
St. Lawrence County, New York	18.5	11.2	-0.5%						
Seneca County, New York	11.9	6.7	-1.0%						

Carroll County, New Hampshire	29.9	\$50,865	42.2						
Coos County, New Hampshire	16.1	\$41,774	25.7						
Grafton County, New Hampshire	37.0	\$53,386	24.2						
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	25.7	\$53,821	12.8						

Alexandria, Grafton Co, NH	7	8.5	1.0%						
Ashland, Grafton Co, NH	18.3	6.1	-0.05%						
Bath, Grafton Co, NH	10.1	13	1.3%						
Benton, Grafton Co, NH	12	16.4	2.2%						
Bethlehem, Grafton Co, NH	14.3	5.4	1.3%						
Bridgewater, Grafton Co, NH	4.2	1.8	0.6%						
Bristol, Grafton Co, NH	11.9	3	0.5%						
Campton, Grafton Co, NH	4.3	5.8	-0.2%						
Canaan, Grafton Co, NH	11.2	9.2	0.1%						
Dorchester, Grafton Co, NH	8	13.4	0.3%						
Easton, Grafton Co, NH	3.8	9.6	4.2%						
Elsworth, Grafton Co, NH	5.2	6.1	0.0%						
Enfield, Grafton Co, NH	3.1	2.3	-0.1%						
Franconia, Grafton Co, NH	3	4.3	1.6%						
Grafton, Grafton Co, NH	14.3	4.5	0.6%						
Groton, Grafton Co, NH	13.2	12.1	0.7%						
Hanover, Grafton Co, NH	11.3	3.6	1.0%						
Haverhill, Grafton Co, NH	17.8	10.6	-0.9%						
Hebron, Grafton Co, NH	21.4	5.5	2.6%						
Holderness, Grafton Co, NH	5.3	2.3	-0.05%						
Landaff, Grafton Co, NH	3.4	4.3	1.0%						
Lebanon, Grafton Co, NH	12	4.5	3.2%						
Lincoln, Grafton Co, NH	24.1	15.6	0.1%						
Lisbon, Grafton Co, NH	14	9	-0.5%						
Littleton, Grafton Co, NH	8.8	6.5	0.5%						
Lyman, Grafton Co, NH	9	6.5	0.6%						
Lyme, Grafton Co, NH	3.3	4.6	-1.1%						
Monroe, Grafton Co, NH	6.3	5.5	-0.5%						
Orange, Grafton Co, NH	7.5	1.4	0.3%						
Orford, Grafton Co, NH	5.9	2.4	0.8%						
Piermont, Grafton Co, NH	6	3.1	-1.0%						
Plymouth, Grafton Co, NH	22.5	7.4	-2.7%						
Rumney, Grafton Co, NH	19.9	6.8	0.9%						
Sugar Hill, Grafton Co, NH	8.8	5.3	1.6%						
Thornton, Grafton Co, NH	5.6	5.1	0.7%						
Warren, Grafton Co, NH	15.6	11.6	-0.9%						
Waterville Valley, Grafton Co, NH	4.2	0.9	0.4%						
Wentworth, Grafton Co, NH	15.1	14.7	1.1%						
Woodstock, Grafton Co, NH	3.5	8.3	0.9%						

United States	14.9	7.8	3.3%						
NBRC Region	14	7.7	0.7%						
Criteria compared to is			< 0%						

Caledonia County, Vermont	13.8	8.3	-0.8%						
Essex County, Vermont	15.1	11.4	-2.9%						
Franklin County, Vermont	10.2	6.4	1.9%						
Grand Isle County, Vermont	7.6	7.7	0.3%						
Lamoille County, Vermont	12.5	4.5	2.5%						
Orleans County, Vermont	15.6	7.2	-0.5%						

Carroll County, New Hampshire	26.9	\$44,435	14.9						
Coos County, New Hampshire	15.5	\$37,214	38.4						
Grafton County, New Hampshire	22.3	\$55,051	9.4						
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	29.6	\$60,433	36.4						
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	35.3	\$54,064	17.3						
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	20.0	\$41,618	24.4						

Alburch, Grand Isle Co, VT	7.5	14	0.5%						
Grand Isle, Grand Isle Co, VT	8.2	4.3	0.7%						
Isle La Motte, Grand Isle Co, VT	8.2	15.2	0.4%						
North Hero, Grand Isle Co, VT	3.8	4.6	0.2%						
South Hero, Grand Isle Co, VT	5.5	5.9	-0.2%						

United States	14.9	7.8	3.3%						
NBRC Region	14	7.7	0.7%						
Criteria compared to is			< 0%						

(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V
(2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2009-2013)
(3) Source: USDA Economic Research Service, Percent Change in Population (County Level Data Sets, 2010-2014)
(4) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census



Northern Border Regional Commission



The NBRC is...

A Federal-State partnership for economic and community development that was created by Congress in 2008 and has been Federally funded since since 2010. The NBRC supports projects in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

About the NBRC's 2016 Economic & Infrastructure Development Grant Program

- Depending on appropriations, \$1.7MM for projects in each of the four States;
- \$250,000 maximum grants to eligible projects in eligible counties;
- Projects are eligible for a 50% matching grant in Hancock County and 80% matching grant in the rest of Maine's eligible counties (below);
- All grants are in the form of reimbursement for previously paid and eligible expenses.
- Applications will be available in March 2016 at the NBRC's website (www.nbrc.gov) and due by mid June.

Supports eligible projects...

In Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties.

Eligible grant projects include...

- To develop the transportation, telecommunication, and basic public infrastructure within the region;
- Assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development;
- Provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped;
- Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and
- To promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Eligible applicants are...

Municipalities, counties, non profits, Native American tribes, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Decision making process is...

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair. State economic development plans and strategies are prioritized.

PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RESULT IN JOB CREATION AND/OR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT ARE ENCOURAGED.

Potential applicants are strongly urged to contact:

Christine Frost, NBRC Program Director
cfrost@nbrc.gov
 (202) 590-0807

OR

John Butera, Sr. Economic Advisor, Gov. Paul LePage
john.butera@maine.gov
 (207) 287-3531



Northern Border Regional Commission



The NBRC is...

A Federal-State partnership for economic and community development that was created by Congress in 2008 and has been Federally funded since since 2010. The NBRC supports projects in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

About the NBRC's 2016 Economic & Infrastructure Development Grant Program

- Depending on appropriations, \$1.7MM for projects in each of the four States;
- \$250,000 maximum grants to eligible projects in eligible counties;
- Projects are eligible for a 50% matching grant in Carroll and Sullivan counties as well as an 80% matching grant in Coos County. Projects in Grafton County are generally not eligible unless they are in a designated "isolated area of distress"* in which they are eligible for a 50% matching grant;
- All grants are in the form of reimbursement for previously paid and eligible expenses.
- Applications will be available in March 2016 at the NBRC's website (www.nbrc.gov) and due by mid June.

Supports eligible projects...

In Coos, Carroll, and Sullivan counties as well as isolated areas of distress in Grafton County.

Eligible grant projects include...

- To develop the transportation, telecommunication, and basic public infrastructure within the region;
- Assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development;
- Provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped;
- Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and
- To promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Eligible applicants are...

Municipalities, counties, non profits, Native American tribes, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Decision making process is...

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair. State economic development plans and strategies are prioritized.

PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RESULT IN JOB CREATION AND/OR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT ARE ENCOURAGED.

Potential applicants are strongly urged to contact either:

Christine Frost, NBRC Program Director
cfrost@nbrc.gov
 (202) 590-0807

OR

Christopher Way, NH Div. of Economic Development
christopher.way@dred.nh.gov
 (603) 271-2591

* including: Alexandria, Ashland, Bath, Benton, Campton, Canaan, Dorchester, Easton, Enfield, Groton, Haverhill, Hebron, Holderness, Lincoln, Lisbon, Lyme, Monroe, Piermont, Plymouth, Rumney, Warren, Wentworth, and Woodstock.



Northern Border Regional Commission



The NBRC is...

A Federal-State partnership for economic and community development that was created by Congress in 2008 and has been Federally funded since 2010. The NBRC supports projects in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

About the NBRC's 2016 Economic & Infrastructure Development Grant Program

- Depending on appropriations, \$1.7MM for projects in each of the four States;
- \$250,000 maximum grants to eligible projects in eligible counties;
- Projects are eligible for a 50% matching grant in Seneca County as well as an 80% matching grant in Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence counties;
- All grants are in the form of reimbursement for previously paid and eligible expenses.
- Applications will be available in March 2016 at the NBRC's website (www.nbrc.gov) and due by mid June.

Supports eligible projects...

In Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence counties;

Eligible grant projects include...

- To develop the transportation, telecommunication, and basic public infrastructure within the region;
- Assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development;
- Provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped;
- Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and
- To promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Eligible applicants are...

Municipalities, counties, non profits, Native American tribes, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Decision making process is...

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair. State economic development plans and strategies are prioritized.

PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RESULT IN JOB CREATION AND/OR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT ARE ENCOURAGED.

Potential applicants are strongly urged to contact either:

Christine Frost, NBRC Program Director
cfrost@nbrc.gov
 (202) 590-0807

OR

Kyle Wilber, Program Mgr., New York Dept. of State
kyle.wilber@dos.ny.gov
 (518) 473-3694



Northern Border Regional Commission



The NBRC is...

A Federal-State partnership for economic and community development that was created by Congress in 2008 and has been Federally funded since 2010. The NBRC supports projects in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

About the NBRC's 2016 Economic & Infrastructure Development Grant Program

- Depending on appropriations, \$1.7MM for projects in each of the four States;
- \$250,000 maximum grants to eligible projects in eligible counties;
- Projects are eligible for a 50% matching grant in Franklin and Lamoille counties as well as an 80% matching grant in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties. Projects in Grand Isle County are generally not eligible unless they are in the Towns of Alburgh, Isle La Motte, or South Hero;
- All grants are in the form of reimbursement for previously paid and eligible expenses;
- Applications will be available in March 2016 at the NBRC's website (www.nbrc.gov) and due by mid June.

Supports eligible projects...

In Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille and Orleans counties as well as isolated areas of distress in Grand Isle County including the Towns of Alburgh, Isle La Motte, and South Hero.

Eligible grant projects include...

- To develop the transportation, telecommunication, and basic public infrastructure within the region;
- Assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development;
- Provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped;
- Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and
- To promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Eligible applicants are...

Municipalities, counties, non profits, Native American tribes, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Decision making process is...

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair. State economic development plans and strategies are prioritized.

PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RESULT IN JOB CREATION AND/OR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT ARE ENCOURAGED.

Potential applicants are strongly urged to contact either:

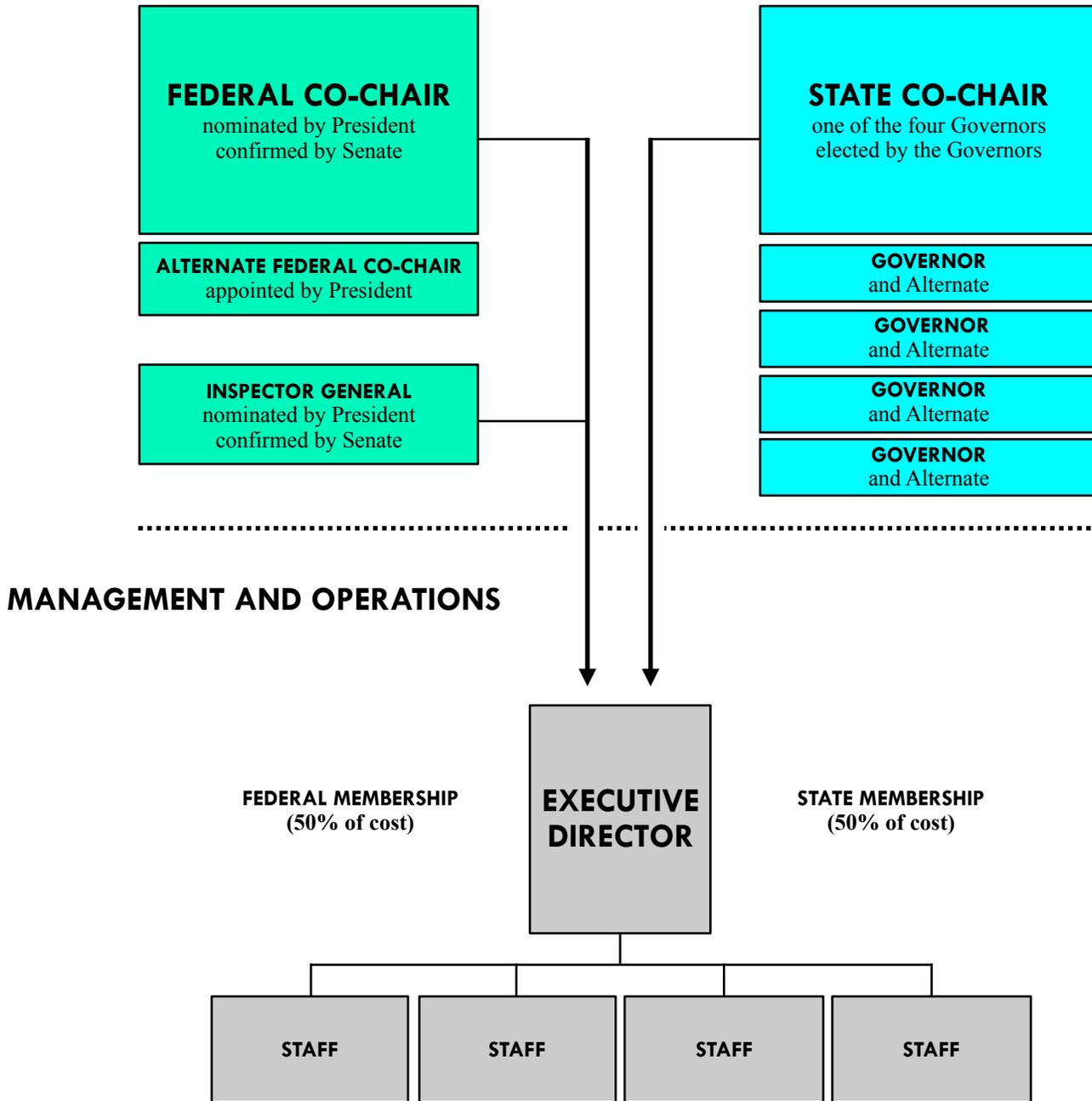
Christine Frost, NBRC Program Director
cfrost@nbrc.gov
 (202) 590-0807

OR

Jared Duval, VT Dept. of Economic Development
jared.duval@vermont.gov
 (802) 272-2461

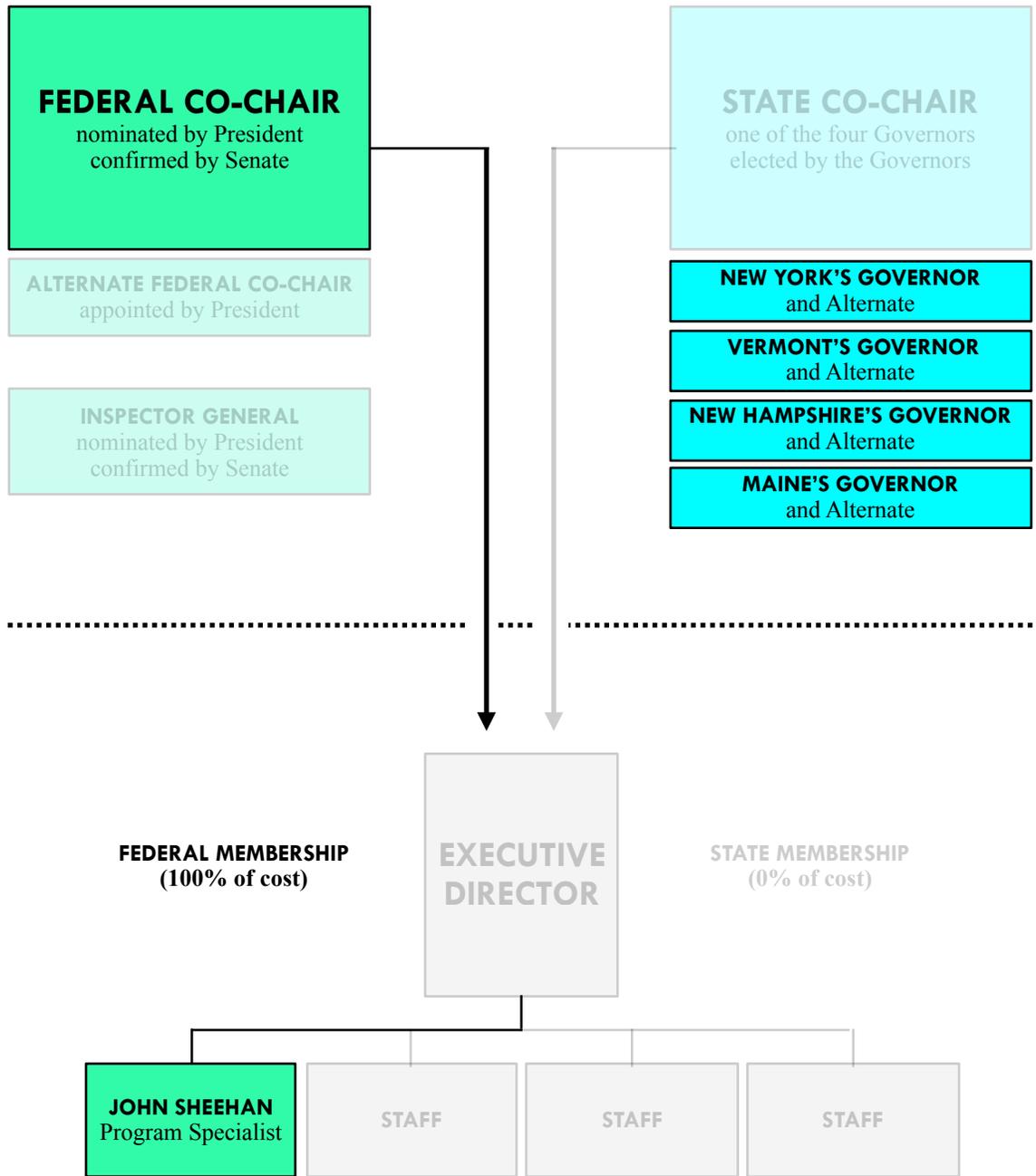
TYPICAL FEDERAL - STATE COMMISSION MODEL

OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORITY



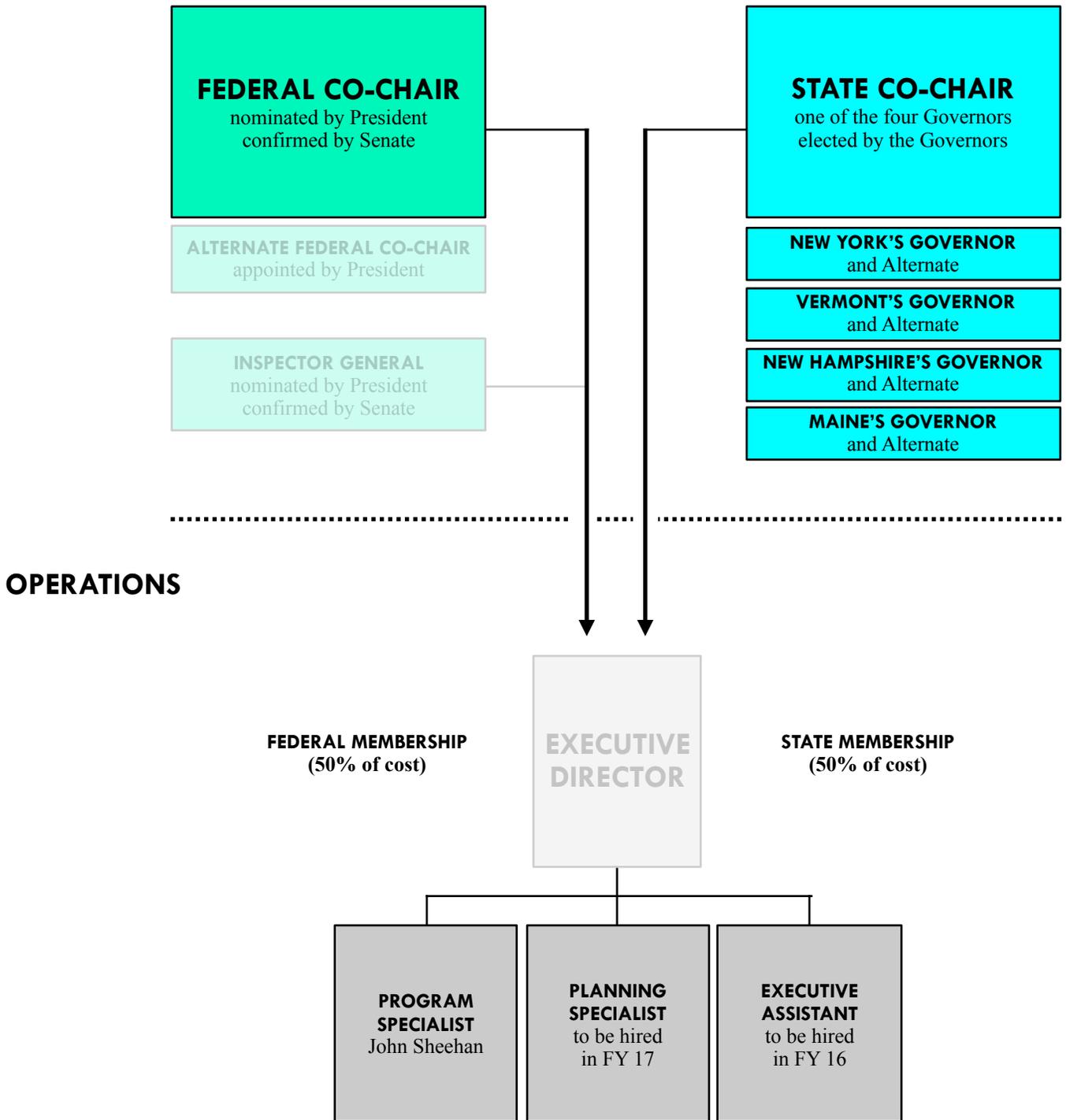
NBRC 2015 ORGANIZATION

OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS



PROPOSED NBRC COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORITY AND MANAGEMENT



(A) by striking “paragraph (C)” and inserting “subparagraph (C)”; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “except that—

“(i) the distribution of the portion of the master list may be in electronic, written, or printed form; and

“(ii) if social security or taxpayer identification numbers on the master list are encrypted, the Secretary of State may distribute the master list only—

“(I) by compact disc or other electronic media that contains—

“(aa) the recorded list of debtor names; and

“(bb) an encryption program that enables the buyer, commission merchant, and selling agent to enter a social security number for matching against the recorded list of encrypted social security or taxpayer identification numbers; and

“(II) on the written request of the buyer, commission merchant, or selling agent, by paper copy of the list to the requestor”.

SEC. 14216. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS OF STUDY ON USE OF CATS AND DOGS IN FEDERAL RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) review—

(A) any independent reviews conducted by a nationally recognized panel of experts of the use of Class B dogs and cats in federally supported research to determine how frequently such dogs and cats are used in research by the National Institutes of Health; and

(B) any recommendations proposed by such panel outlining the parameters of such use; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on how recommendations referred to in paragraph (1)(B) can be applied within the Department of Agriculture to ensure such dogs and cats are treated in accordance with regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

Reports.

(b) CLASS B DOGS AND CATS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Class B dogs and cats” means dogs and cats obtained from a Class “B” licensee, as such term is defined in section 1.1 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 14217. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle V as subtitle VI; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle IV the following:

“Subtitle V—Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development

“Chapter 15101
 “151. GENERAL PROVISIONS 15101
 “153. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS 15301
 “155. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 15501
 “157. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS 15701

“CHAPTER 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec.
 “15101. Definitions.

“§ 15101. Definitions

“In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:
 “(1) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means a Commission established under section 15301.
 “(2) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.—The term ‘local development district’ means an entity that—
 “(A)(i) is an economic development district that is—
 “(I) in existence on the date of the enactment of this chapter; and
 “(II) located in the region; or
 “(ii) if an entity described in clause (i) does not exist—
 “(I) is organized and operated in a manner that ensures broad-based community participation and an effective opportunity for local officials, community leaders, and the public to contribute to the development and implementation of programs in the region;
 “(II) is governed by a policy board with at least a simple majority of members consisting of—
 “(aa) elected officials; or
 “(bb) designees or employees of a general purpose unit of local government that have been appointed to represent the unit of local government; and
 “(III) is certified by the Governor or appropriate State officer as having a charter or authority that includes the economic development of counties, portions of counties, or other political subdivisions within the region; and
 “(B) has not, as certified by the Federal Cochairperson—
 “(i) inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source; or
 “(ii) appointed an officer who, during the period in which another entity inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source, was an officer of the other entity.
 “(3) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM.—The term ‘Federal grant program’ means a Federal grant program to provide assistance in carrying out economic and community development activities.
 “(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

“(5) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term ‘nonprofit entity’ means any organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code that has been formed for the purpose of economic development.

“(6) REGION.—The term ‘region’ means the area covered by a Commission as described in subchapter II of chapter 157.

“CHAPTER 2—REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

“Sec.

“15301. Establishment, membership, and employees.

“15302. Decisions.

“15303. Functions.

“15304. Administrative powers and expenses.

“15305. Meetings.

“15306. Personal financial interests.

“15307. Tribal participation.

“15308. Annual report.

“§ 15301. Establishment, membership, and employees

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established the following regional Commissions:

“(1) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

“(2) The Southwest Border Regional Commission.

“(3) The Northern Border Regional Commission.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) FEDERAL AND STATE MEMBERS.—Each Commission shall be composed of the following members:

“(A) A Federal Cochairperson, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(B) The Governor of each participating State in the region of the Commission.

“(2) ALTERNATE MEMBERS.—

“(A) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—The President shall appoint an alternate Federal Cochairperson for each Commission. The alternate Federal Cochairperson, when not actively serving as an alternate for the Federal Cochairperson, shall perform such functions and duties as are delegated by the Federal Cochairperson.

President.

“(B) STATE ALTERNATES.—The State member of a participating State may have a single alternate, who shall be appointed by the Governor of the State from among the members of the Governor’s cabinet or personal staff.

“(C) VOTING.—An alternate member shall vote in the case of the absence, death, disability, removal, or resignation of the Federal or State member for which the alternate member is an alternate.

“(3) COCHAIRPERSONS.—A Commission shall be headed by—

“(A) the Federal Cochairperson, who shall serve as a liaison between the Federal Government and the Commission; and

“(B) a State Cochairperson, who shall be a Governor of a participating State in the region and shall be elected by the State members for a term of not less than 1 year.

“(4) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—A State member may not be elected to serve as State Cochairperson for more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(c) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSONS.—Each Federal Cochairperson shall be compensated by the Federal Government at level III of the Executive Schedule as set out in section 5314 of title 5.

“(2) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSONS.—Each Federal Cochairperson’s alternate shall be compensated by the Federal Government at level V of the Executive Schedule as set out in section 5316 of title 5.

“(3) STATE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES.—Each State member and alternate shall be compensated by the State that they represent at the rate established by the laws of that State.

“(d) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission shall appoint and fix the compensation of an executive director and such other personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties. Compensation under this paragraph may not exceed the maximum rate of basic pay established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

“(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The executive director shall be responsible for carrying out the administrative duties of the Commission, directing the Commission staff, and such other duties as the Commission may assign.

“(e) NO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.—No member, alternate, officer, or employee of a Commission (other than the Federal Cochairperson, the alternate Federal Cochairperson, staff of the Federal Cochairperson, and any Federal employee detailed to the Commission) shall be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose.

“§ 15302. Decisions

“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL.—Except as provided in section 15304(c)(3), decisions by the Commission shall require the affirmative vote of the Federal Cochairperson and a majority of the State members (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In matters coming before the Commission, the Federal Cochairperson shall, to the extent practicable, consult with the Federal departments and agencies having an interest in the subject matter.

“(c) QUORUMS.—A Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for Commission meetings; except that—

“(1) any quorum shall include the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

“(2) a State alternate member shall not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum.

“(d) PROJECTS AND GRANT PROPOSALS.—The approval of project and grant proposals shall be a responsibility of each Commission and shall be carried out in accordance with section 15503.

“§ 15303. Functions

“A Commission shall—

“(1) assess the needs and assets of its region based on available research, demonstration projects, investigations,

assessments, and evaluations of the region prepared by Federal, State, and local agencies, universities, local development districts, and other nonprofit groups;

“(2) develop, on a continuing basis, comprehensive and coordinated economic and infrastructure development strategies to establish priorities and approve grants for the economic development of its region, giving due consideration to other Federal, State, and local planning and development activities in the region;

“(3) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and after taking into account State plans developed under section 15502, establish priorities in an economic and infrastructure development plan for its region, including 5-year regional outcome targets;

Deadline.
Plans.

“(4)(A) enhance the capacity of, and provide support for, local development districts in its region; or

“(B) if no local development district exists in an area in a participating State in the region, foster the creation of a local development district;

“(5) encourage private investment in industrial, commercial, and other economic development projects in its region;

“(6) cooperate with and assist State governments with the preparation of economic and infrastructure development plans and programs for participating States;

“(7) formulate and recommend to the Governors and legislatures of States that participate in the Commission forms of interstate cooperation and, where appropriate, international cooperation; and

“(8) work with State and local agencies in developing appropriate model legislation to enhance local and regional economic development.

“§ 15304. Administrative powers and expenses

“(a) POWERS.—In carrying out its duties under this subtitle, a Commission may—

“(1) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and print or otherwise reproduce and distribute a description of the proceedings and reports on actions by the Commission as the Commission considers appropriate;

“(2) authorize, through the Federal or State Cochairperson or any other member of the Commission designated by the Commission, the administration of oaths if the Commission determines that testimony should be taken or evidence received under oath;

“(3) request from any Federal, State, or local agency such information as may be available to or procurable by the agency that may be of use to the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission;

“(4) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws and rules governing the conduct of business and the performance of duties by the Commission;

“(5) request the head of any Federal agency, State agency, or local government to detail to the Commission such personnel as the Commission requires to carry out its duties, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status;

“(6) provide for coverage of Commission employees in a suitable retirement and employee benefit system by making arrangements or entering into contracts with any participating State government or otherwise providing retirement and other employee coverage;

“(7) accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations or services or real, personal, tangible, or intangible property;

“(8) enter into and perform such contracts, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as are necessary to carry out Commission duties, including any contracts or cooperative agreements with a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, a State (including a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the State), or a person, firm, association, or corporation; and

“(9) maintain a government relations office in the District of Columbia and establish and maintain a central office at such location in its region as the Commission may select.

“(b) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION.—A Federal agency shall—

“(1) cooperate with a Commission; and

“(2) provide, to the extent practicable, on request of the Federal Cochairperson, appropriate assistance in carrying out this subtitle, in accordance with applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the administrative expenses of a Commission shall be paid—

“(A) by the Federal Government, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expenses of the Commission; and

“(B) by the States participating in the Commission, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expenses.

“(2) EXPENSES OF THE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—All expenses of the Federal Cochairperson, including expenses of the alternate and staff of the Federal Cochairperson, shall be paid by the Federal Government.

“(3) STATE SHARE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the share of administrative expenses of a Commission to be paid by each State of the Commission shall be determined by a unanimous vote of the State members of the Commission.

“(B) NO FEDERAL PARTICIPATION.—The Federal Cochairperson shall not participate or vote in any decision under subparagraph (A).

“(C) DELINQUENT STATES.—During any period in which a State is more than 1 year delinquent in payment of the State’s share of administrative expenses of the Commission under this subsection—

“(i) no assistance under this subtitle shall be provided to the State (including assistance to a political subdivision or a resident of the State) for any project not approved as of the date of the commencement of the delinquency; and

“(ii) no member of the Commission from the State shall participate or vote in any action by the Commission.

“(4) EFFECT ON ASSISTANCE.—A State’s share of administrative expenses of a Commission under this subsection shall not be taken into consideration when determining the amount of assistance provided to the State under this subtitle.

“§ 15305. Meetings

“(a) INITIAL MEETING.—Each Commission shall hold an initial meeting not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

Deadline.

“(b) ANNUAL MEETING.—Each Commission shall conduct at least 1 meeting each year with the Federal Cochairperson and at least a majority of the State members present.

“(c) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—Each Commission shall conduct additional meetings at such times as it determines and may conduct such meetings by electronic means.

“§ 15306. Personal financial interests

“(a) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

“(1) NO ROLE ALLOWED.—Except as permitted by paragraph (2), an individual who is a State member or alternate, or an officer or employee of a Commission, shall not participate personally and substantially as a member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Commission, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, request for a ruling, or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, or other matter in which, to the individual’s knowledge, any of the following has a financial interest:

“(A) The individual.

“(B) The individual’s spouse, minor child, or partner.

“(C) An organization (except a State or political subdivision of a State) in which the individual is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee.

“(D) Any person or organization with whom the individual is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the individual, in advance of the proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim controversy, or other particular matter presenting a potential conflict of interest—

“(A) advises the Commission of the nature and circumstances of the matter presenting the conflict of interest;

“(B) makes full disclosure of the financial interest;

and

“(C) receives a written decision of the Commission that the interest is not so substantial as to be considered likely to affect the integrity of the services that the Commission may expect from the individual.

“(3) VIOLATION.—An individual violating this subsection shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

“(b) STATE MEMBER OR ALTERNATE.—A State member or alternate member may not receive any salary, or any contribution to, or supplementation of, salary, for services on a Commission from a source other than the State of the member or alternate.

“(c) DETAILED EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No person detailed to serve a Commission shall receive any salary, or any contribution to, or supplementation of, salary, for services provided to the Commission from any source other than the State, local, or intergovernmental department or agency from which the person was detailed to the Commission.

“(2) VIOLATION.—Any person that violates this subsection shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(d) FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN, ALTERNATE TO FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The Federal Cochairman, the alternate to the Federal Cochairman, and any Federal officer or employee detailed to duty with the Commission are not subject to this section but remain subject to sections 202 through 209 of title 18.

“(e) RESCISSION.—A Commission may declare void any contract, loan, or grant of or by the Commission in relation to which the Commission determines that there has been a violation of any provision under subsection (a)(1), (b), or (c), or any of the provisions of sections 202 through 209 of title 18.

“§ 15307. Tribal participation

“Governments of Indian tribes in the region of the Southwest Border Regional Commission shall be allowed to participate in matters before that Commission in the same manner and to the same extent as State agencies and instrumentalities in the region.

“§ 15308. Annual report

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, each Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report on the activities carried out by the Commission under this subtitle in the fiscal year.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

“(1) a description of the criteria used by the Commission to designate counties under section 15702 and a list of the counties designated in each category;

“(2) an evaluation of the progress of the Commission in meeting the goals identified in the Commission’s economic and infrastructure development plan under section 15303 and State economic and infrastructure development plans under section 15502; and

“(3) any policy recommendations approved by the Commission.

“CHAPTER 3—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

“Sec.

“15501. Economic and infrastructure development grants.

“15502. Comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plans.

“15503. Approval of applications for assistance.

“15504. Program development criteria.

“15505. Local development districts and organizations.

“15506. Supplements to Federal grant programs.

“§ 15501. Economic and infrastructure development grants

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants to States and local governments, Indian tribes, and public and nonprofit organizations for projects, approved in accordance with section 15503—

“(1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of its region;

“(2) to develop the basic public infrastructure of its region;

“(3) to develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region;

“(4) to assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;

“(5) to provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services;

“(6) to promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals;

“(7) to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources; and

“(8) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

“(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—A Commission shall allocate at least 40 percent of any grant amounts provided by the Commission in a fiscal year for projects described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a).

“(c) SOURCES OF GRANTS.—Grant amounts may be provided entirely from appropriations to carry out this subtitle, in combination with amounts available under other Federal grant programs, or from any other source.

“(d) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Commission may contribute not more than 50 percent of a project or activity cost eligible for financial assistance under this section from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

“(2) DISTRESSED COUNTIES.—The maximum Commission contribution for a project or activity to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 15702 may be increased to 80 percent.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS.—A Commission may increase to 60 percent under paragraph (1) and 90 percent under paragraph (2) the maximum Commission contribution for a project or activity if—

“(A) the project or activity involves 3 or more counties or more than one State; and

“(B) the Commission determines in accordance with section 15302(a) that the project or activity will bring significant interstate or multicounty benefits to a region.

“(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds may be provided by a Commission for a program or project in a State under this section only if the Commission determines that the level of Federal or State financial assistance provided under a law other than this subtitle, for the same type of program or project in the same area of the State within region, will not be reduced as a result of funds made available by this subtitle.

“(f) NO RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance authorized by this section may not be used to assist a person or entity in relocating from one area to another.

“§ 15502. Comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plans

“(a) STATE PLANS.—In accordance with policies established by a Commission, each State member of the Commission shall submit a comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plan for the area of the region represented by the State member.

“(b) CONTENT OF PLAN.—A State economic and infrastructure development plan shall reflect the goals, objectives, and priorities identified in any applicable economic and infrastructure development plan developed by a Commission under section 15303.

“(c) CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED LOCAL PARTIES.—In carrying out the development planning process (including the selection of programs and projects for assistance), a State shall—

“(1) consult with local development districts, local units of government, and local colleges and universities; and

“(2) take into consideration the goals, objectives, priorities, and recommendations of the entities described in paragraph (1).

“(d) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission and applicable State and local development districts shall encourage and assist, to the maximum extent practicable, public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of all plans and programs under this subtitle.

“(2) GUIDELINES.—A Commission shall develop guidelines for providing public participation, including public hearings.

“§ 15503. Approval of applications for assistance

“(a) EVALUATION BY STATE MEMBER.—An application to a Commission for a grant or any other assistance for a project under this subtitle shall be made through, and evaluated for approval by, the State member of the Commission representing the applicant.

“(b) CERTIFICATION.—An application to a Commission for a grant or other assistance for a project under this subtitle shall be eligible for assistance only on certification by the State member of the Commission representing the applicant that the application for the project—

“(1) describes ways in which the project complies with any applicable State economic and infrastructure development plan;

“(2) meets applicable criteria under section 15504;

“(3) adequately ensures that the project will be properly administered, operated, and maintained; and

“(4) otherwise meets the requirements for assistance under this subtitle.

“(c) VOTES FOR DECISIONS.—On certification by a State member of a Commission of an application for a grant or other assistance for a specific project under this section, an affirmative vote of the Commission under section 15302 shall be required for approval of the application.

“§ 15504. Program development criteria

“In considering programs and projects to be provided assistance by a Commission under this subtitle, and in establishing a priority ranking of the requests for assistance provided to the Commission, the Commission shall follow procedures that ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, consideration of—

“(1) the relationship of the project or class of projects to overall regional development;

“(2) the per capita income and poverty and unemployment and outmigration rates in an area;

“(3) the financial resources available to the applicants for assistance seeking to carry out the project, with emphasis on ensuring that projects are adequately financed to maximize the probability of successful economic development;

“(4) the importance of the project or class of projects in relation to the other projects or classes of projects that may be in competition for the same funds;

“(5) the prospects that the project for which assistance is sought will improve, on a continuing rather than a temporary basis, the opportunities for employment, the average level of income, or the economic development of the area to be served by the project; and

“(6) the extent to which the project design provides for detailed outcome measurements by which grant expenditures and the results of the expenditures may be evaluated.

“§ 15505. Local development districts and organizations

“(a) GRANTS TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—Subject to the requirements of this section, a Commission may make grants to a local development district to assist in the payment of development planning and administrative expenses.

“(b) CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS.—

“(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not exceed 80 percent of the administrative and planning expenses of the local development district receiving the grant.

“(2) MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR STATE AGENCIES.—In the case of a State agency certified as a local development district, a grant may not be awarded to the agency under this section for more than 3 fiscal years.

“(3) LOCAL SHARE.—The contributions of a local development district for administrative expenses may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including space, equipment, and services.

“(c) DUTIES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—A local development district shall—

“(1) operate as a lead organization serving multicounty areas in the region at the local level;

“(2) assist the Commission in carrying out outreach activities for local governments, community development groups, the business community, and the public;

“(3) serve as a liaison between State and local governments, nonprofit organizations (including community-based groups and educational institutions), the business community, and citizens; and

“(4) assist the individuals and entities described in paragraph (3) in identifying, assessing, and facilitating projects and programs to promote the economic development of the region.

“§ 15506. Supplements to Federal grant programs

“(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that certain States and local communities of the region, including local development districts,

may be unable to take maximum advantage of Federal grant programs for which the States and communities are eligible because—

“(1) they lack the economic resources to provide the required matching share; or

“(2) there are insufficient funds available under the applicable Federal law with respect to a project to be carried out in the region.

“(b) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING.—A Commission, with the approval of the Federal Cochairperson, may use amounts made available to carry out this subtitle—

“(1) for any part of the basic Federal contribution to projects or activities under the Federal grant programs authorized by Federal laws; and

“(2) to increase the Federal contribution to projects and activities under the programs above the fixed maximum part of the cost of the projects or activities otherwise authorized by the applicable law.

“(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—For a program, project, or activity for which any part of the basic Federal contribution to the project or activity under a Federal grant program is proposed to be made under subsection (b), the Federal contribution shall not be made until the responsible Federal official administering the Federal law authorizing the Federal contribution certifies that the program, project, or activity meets the applicable requirements of the Federal law and could be approved for Federal contribution under that law if amounts were available under the law for the program, project, or activity.

“(d) LIMITATIONS IN OTHER LAWS INAPPLICABLE.—Amounts provided pursuant to this subtitle are available without regard to any limitations on areas eligible for assistance or authorizations for appropriation in any other law.

“(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a project or activity receiving assistance under this section shall not exceed 80 percent.

Applicability.

“(f) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—Section 15501(d), relating to limitations on Commission contributions, shall apply to a program, project, or activity receiving assistance under this section.

“CHAPTER 4—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 15701. Consent of States.

“Sec. 15702. Distressed counties and areas.

“Sec. 15703. Counties eligible for assistance in more than one region.

“Sec. 15704. Inspector General; records.

“Sec. 15705. Biannual meetings of representatives of all Commissions.

“SUBCHAPTER II—DESIGNATION OF REGIONS

“Sec. 15731. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

“Sec. 15732. Southwest Border Regional Commission.

“Sec. 15733. Northern Border Regional Commission.

“SUBCHAPTER III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“Sec. 15751. Authorization of appropriations.

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“§ 15701. Consent of States

“This subtitle does not require a State to engage in or accept a program under this subtitle without its consent.

“§ 15702. Distressed counties and areas

“(a) DESIGNATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, each Commission shall make the following designations: Deadlines.

“(1) DISTRESSED COUNTIES.—The Commission shall designate as distressed counties those counties in its region that are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped and have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

“(2) TRANSITIONAL COUNTIES.—The Commission shall designate as transitional counties those counties in its region that are economically distressed and underdeveloped or have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

“(3) ATTAINMENT COUNTIES.—The Commission shall designate as attainment counties, those counties in its region that are not designated as distressed or transitional counties under this subsection.

“(4) ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS.—The Commission shall designate as isolated areas of distress, areas located in counties designated as attainment counties under paragraph (3) that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

“(b) ALLOCATION.—A Commission shall allocate at least 50 percent of the appropriations made available to the Commission to carry out this subtitle for programs and projects designed to serve the needs of distressed counties and isolated areas of distress in the region.

“(c) ATTAINMENT COUNTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds may not be provided under this subtitle for a project located in a county designated as an attainment county under subsection (a).

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—The funding prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to grants to fund the administrative expenses of local development districts under section 15505.

“(B) MULTICOUNTY AND OTHER PROJECTS.—A Commission may waive the application of the funding prohibition under paragraph (1) with respect to—

“(i) a multicounty project that includes participation by an attainment county; and

“(ii) any other type of project, if a Commission determines that the project could bring significant benefits to areas of the region outside an attainment county.

“(3) ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS.—For a designation of an isolated area of distress to be effective, the designation shall be supported—

“(A) by the most recent Federal data available; or

“(B) if no recent Federal data are available, by the most recent data available through the government of the State in which the isolated area of distress is located.

“§ 15703. Counties eligible for assistance in more than one region

“(a) LIMITATION.—A political subdivision of a State may not receive assistance under this subtitle in a fiscal year from more than one Commission.

“(b) SELECTION OF COMMISSION.—A political subdivision included in the region of more than one Commission shall select the Commission with which it will participate by notifying, in writing, the Federal Cochairperson and the appropriate State member of that Commission.

Applicability.

“(c) CHANGES IN SELECTIONS.—The selection of a Commission by a political subdivision shall apply in the fiscal year in which the selection is made, and shall apply in each subsequent fiscal year unless the political subdivision, at least 90 days before the first day of the fiscal year, notifies the Cochairpersons of another Commission in writing that the political subdivision will participate in that Commission and also transmits a copy of such notification to the Cochairpersons of the Commission in which the political subdivision is currently participating.

“(d) INCLUSION OF APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.—In this section, the term ‘Commission’ includes the Appalachian Regional Commission established under chapter 143.

“§ 15704. Inspector General; records

“(a) APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There shall be an Inspector General for the Commissions appointed in accordance with section 3(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.). All of the Commissions shall be subject to a single Inspector General.

“(b) RECORDS OF A COMMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission shall maintain accurate and complete records of all its transactions and activities.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—All records of a Commission shall be available for audit and examination by the Inspector General (including authorized representatives of the Inspector General).

“(c) RECORDS OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMISSION ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of funds from a Commission under this subtitle shall maintain accurate and complete records of transactions and activities financed with the funds and report to the Commission on the transactions and activities.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—All records required under paragraph (1) shall be available for audit by the Commission and the Inspector General (including authorized representatives of the Commission and the Inspector General).

“(d) ANNUAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General shall audit the activities, transactions, and records of each Commission on an annual basis.

“§ 15705. Biannual meetings of representatives of all Commissions

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Representatives of each Commission, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Denali Commission shall meet biannually to discuss issues confronting regions suffering

from chronic and contiguous distress and successful strategies for promoting regional development.

“(b) CHAIR OF MEETINGS.—The chair of each meeting shall rotate among the Commissions, with the Appalachian Regional Commission to host the first meeting.

“SUBCHAPTER II—DESIGNATION OF REGIONS

“§ 15731. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

State listing.

“The region of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission shall consist of all counties of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission or the Delta Regional Authority.

“§ 15732. Southwest Border Regional Commission

“The region of the Southwest Border Regional Commission shall consist of the following political subdivisions:

“(1) ARIZONA.—The counties of Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma in the State of Arizona.

“(2) CALIFORNIA.—The counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura in the State of California.

“(3) NEW MEXICO.—The counties of Catron, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sierra, and Socorro in the State of New Mexico.

“(4) TEXAS.—The counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar, Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Coke, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Gillespie, Glasscock, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Nueces, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, San Patricio, Shleicher, Sutton, Starr, Sterling, Terrell, Tom Green Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Winkler, Zapata, and Zavala in the State of Texas.

“§ 15733. Northern Border Regional Commission

“The region of the Northern Border Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

“(1) MAINE.—The counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington in the State of Maine.

“(2) NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The counties of Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan in the State of New Hampshire.

“(3) NEW YORK.—The counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence in the State of New York.

“(4) VERMONT.—The counties of Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans in the State of Vermont.

“SUBCHAPTER III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“§ 15751. Authorization of appropriations

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds made available to a Commission in a fiscal year under this section may be used for administrative expenses.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF SUBTITLES.—The table of subtitles for chapter 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to subtitle V and inserting the following:

“V. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ...15101
“VI. MISCELLANEOUS17101”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT.—Section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the President of the Export-Import Bank;” and inserting “the President of the Export-Import Bank; or the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code;”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the Export-Import Bank,” and inserting “the Export-Import Bank, or the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,”.

40 USC 15101 note.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 USC 6941a.

SEC. 14218. COORDINATOR FOR CHRONICALLY UNDERSERVED RURAL AREAS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a Coordinator for Chronically Underserved Rural Areas (in this section referred to as the “Coordinator”), to be located in the Rural Development Mission Area.

(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Coordinator shall be to direct Department of Agriculture resources to high need, high poverty rural areas.

(c) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall consult with other offices in directing technical assistance, strategic regional planning, at the State and local level, for developing rural economic development that leverages the resources of State and local governments and non-profit and community development organizations.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as necessary to carry out this section for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 14219. ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO COLLECTION OF DEBT BY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET.

(a) ELIMINATION.—Section 3716(e) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulation, or administrative limitation, no limitation on the period within which an offset may be initiated or taken pursuant to this section shall be effective.

the meaning described in section 402(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1401a(b)).

Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Jon Tester

Acting President of the Senate pro tempore.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.

June 18, 2008.

The House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 6124) entitled “An Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes”, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

Lorraine C. Miller

Clerk.

I certify that this Act originated in the House of Representatives.

Lorraine C. Miller

Clerk.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

June 18, 2008.

The Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 6124) entitled “An Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.”, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, and passed by the House of Representatives on reconsideration of the same, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative.

Nancy Erickson

Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 6124 (S. 2302):

SENATE REPORTS: No. 110–220 accompanying S. 2302 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 154 (2008):

May 22, considered and passed House.

June 5, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 44 (2008):

June 18, Presidential veto message.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 154 (2008):

June 18, House and Senate override veto.



Northern Border Regional Commission
J.C. Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 3602
53 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301