



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2020

To Determine Categories of Distress within the NBRC Service Area

Northern Border Regional Commission
A Federal-State Partnership for Economic Development in northern
Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York

JC Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 1201
55 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(603) 369-3001
www.nbrc.gov

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Acknowledgements

Data collection provided by contractor: Daniel Lee, Plymouth State University

Data organized by the Northern Border Regional Commission

1. About The NBRC

Created by the US Congress in 2008, the NBRC is a Federal-State partnership whose mission is to help alleviate economic distress in counties of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

The NBRC partnership is led of the governors of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York as well as a Federal Co-chair, who is appointed by the President. Local oversight is provided through multi-county local development districts.

While Congress allowed the NBRC considerable flexibility in the types of areas in which to focus, the NBRC has created a Five-Year Strategic Plan that emphasizes three goals related to Infrastructure; Business and Entrepreneurial growth; and Leadership and Community Capacity.

More information on the NBRC can be found at www.nbrc.gov.

2. Overview

By statute, the NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress within its region:

- To have reliable and timely data that can inform NBRC leadership as they create new- and perfect existing- economic and infrastructure funding programs,
- To create a benchmark in which annual compilations of economic and demographic data can be compared to the NBRC's Five Year Plan goals,
- To identify whether or not the NBRC can provide grants to projects within a county,
- What level of match is required by grant applicants for projects?
- To assist States as they develop their own economic and community development programs, and
- To provide publicly available information so local decision makers can prioritize their economic and community development strategies.

Federal law (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 economic distressed and underdeveloped." The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total appropriations to projects in counties falling within this designation. The maximum percent of a "distressed" 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 maximum percent of a "transitional" project that can be funded by the NBRC is **50%**.

'**Attainment**' counties are those that are neither 'distressed' nor 'transitional' The NBRC is not allowed to fund projects within an attainment county unless the project is within an 'isolated area of distress,' or have been granted a waiver. Isolated areas of distress are "areas [municipalities] 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” provide 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. These include: Educational Attainment (bachelor’s degree or higher), Household Income, and Seasonal Home Ownership.

3. Geographies

NBRC Counties: On December 20, 2018 President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which included the reauthorization of the Northern Border Regional Commission for the next 5 years. As part of the reauthorizing language the NBRC region was expanded to include new counties in New York, New Hampshire and Vermont. The NBRC region now includes the following counties.

NBRC Region:

- **Maine:** The counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington
- **New Hampshire:** The counties of Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan
- **Vermont:** All counties within Vermont
- **New York:** The counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne and Yates

4. Data Collected

Data that is collected and priorities given to the data

1. “Primary” Distress Categories:
 - a) Percent of population below the poverty level
 - b) Unemployment rate
 - c) Percent change in population
2. “Secondary” Distress Categories:
 - a) Percent of population with a bachelor’s degree or higher
 - b) Median household income
 - c) Percent of secondary and/or seasonal homes

Maine

5. Assessment of Distress in Maine for FY 2020

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox,
Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

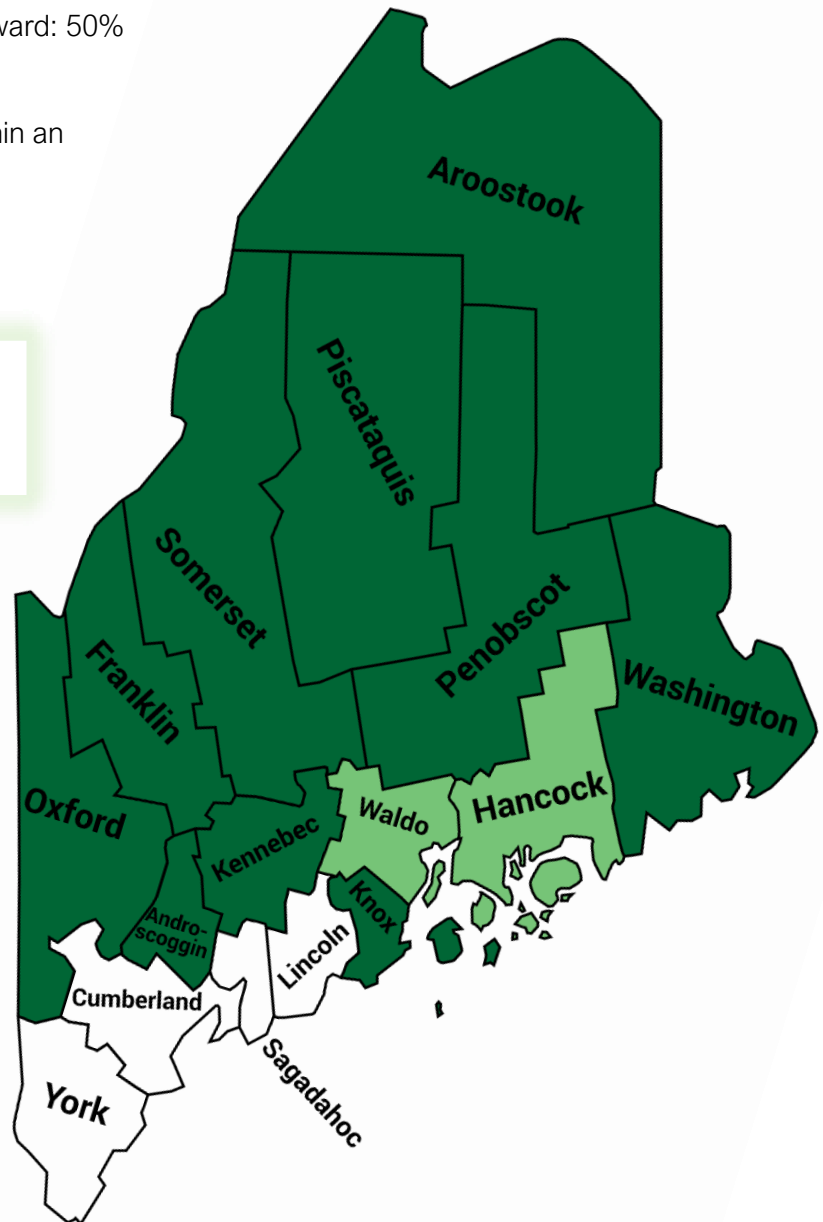
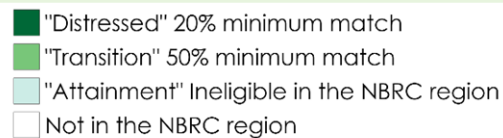
Hancock and Waldo

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

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

None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



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New Hampshire

6. Assessment of Distress in New Hampshire for FY 2020

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Coos, Sullivan

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Carroll, Cheshire

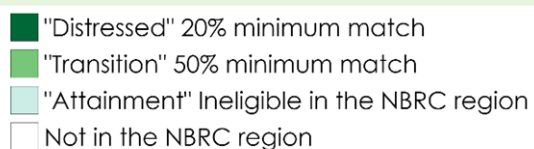
Attainment Counties

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

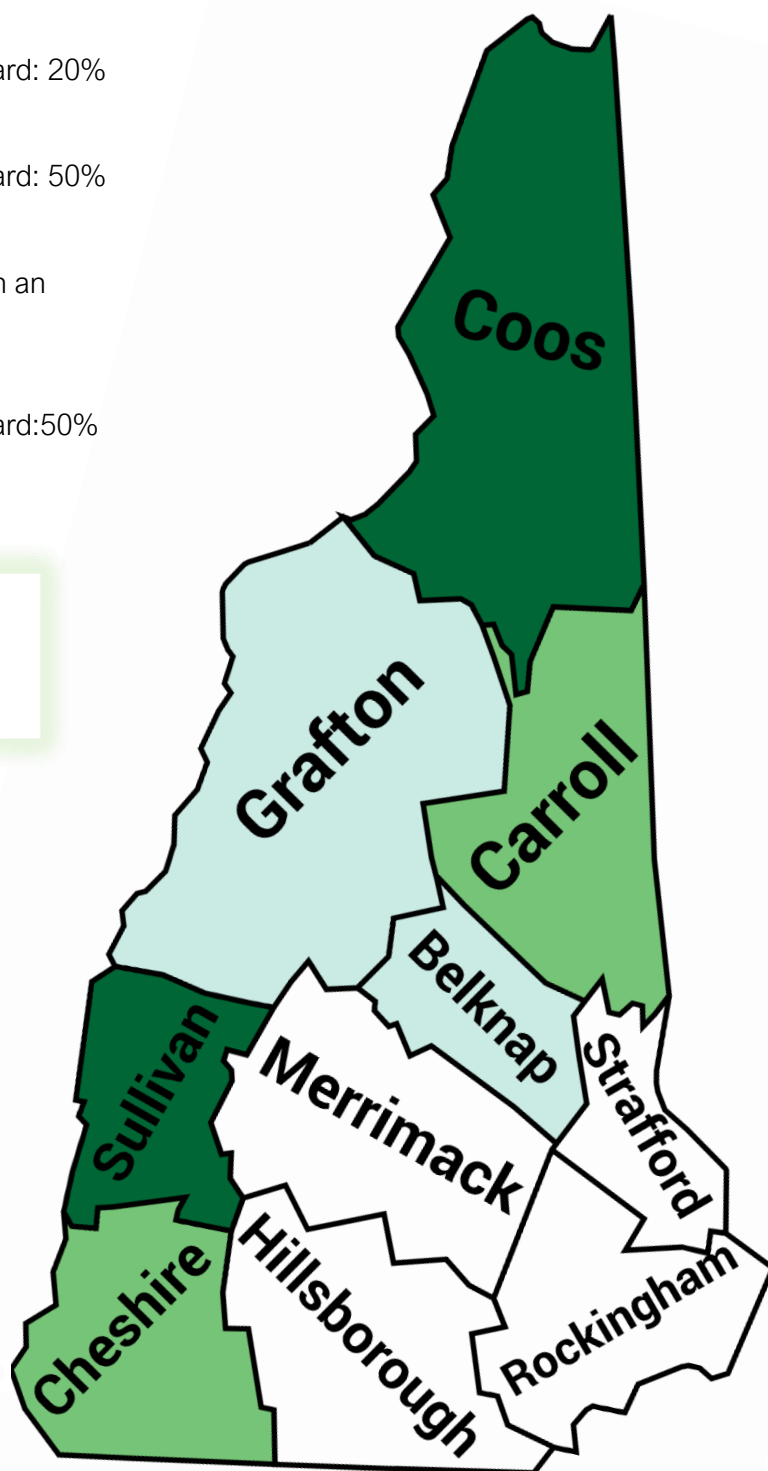
Grafton, Belknap

Isolated Areas of Distress (See Table 1)

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
listed in Table 1



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New York

7. Assessment of Distress in New York for FY 2020

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

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

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Warren

Attainment Counties (not applicable)

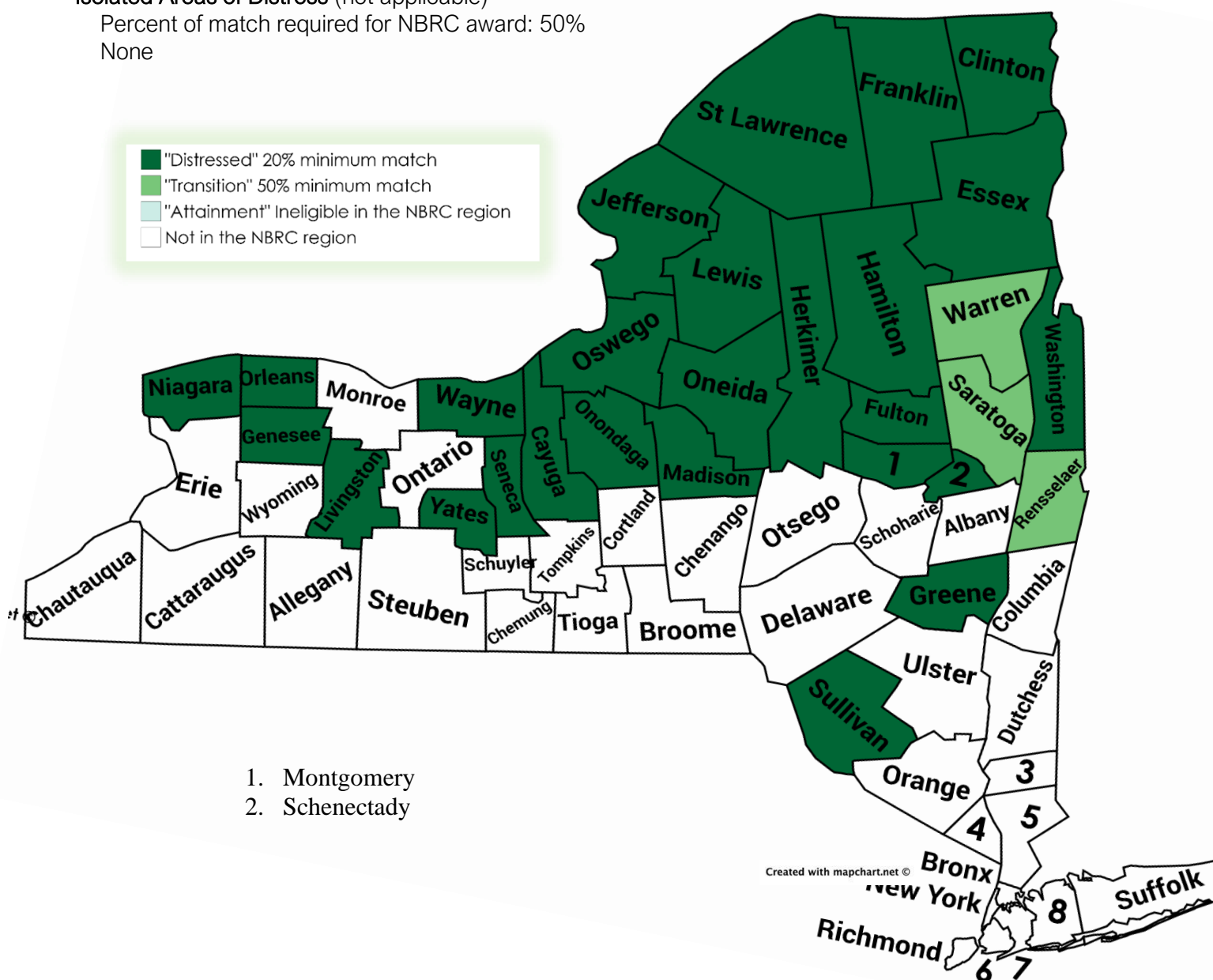
Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress

None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

None



Vermont

8. Assessment of Distress in Vermont for FY 2020

Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Orleans, and Rutland

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Washington, Windham and Windsor

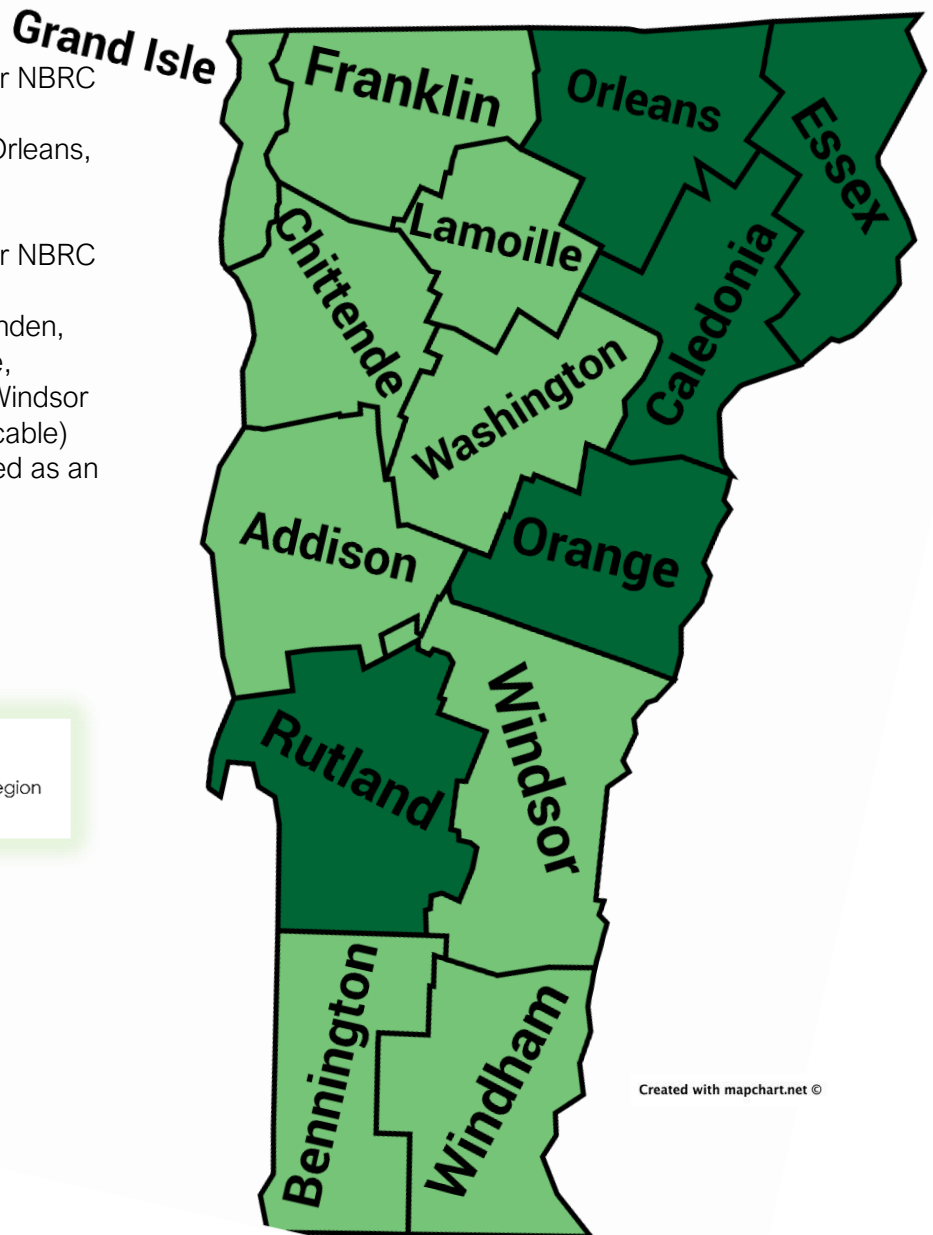
Attainment Counties (not applicable)

Not eligible, unless designated as an Isolated Area of Distress

None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)

- "Distressed" 20% minimum match
- "Transition" 50% minimum match
- "Attainment" Ineligible in the NBRC region
- Not in the NBRC region



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Analysis: Maine Counties Levels of Distress

	Primary Distress Categories (1)			Secondary Distress Categories			Distressed County?	Transitional County?	Attainment County?
	Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemploy. Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (3)	Percent bachelors degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	2010 Seasonal Home % (4)			
United States	14.9	6.6	4.0	30.9	\$57,652	3.5			
NBRC Region	13.3	5.9	-0.80	27.4	\$54,959	13.8			
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region			
Maine									
Androscoggin County, Maine	14.3	5.2	-0.4	22.1	\$49,538	2.9	✓		
Aroostook County, Maine	17.5	5.3	-4.2	18.5	\$39,021	13.7	✓		
Franklin County, Maine	12.40	6.1	-1.9	28.1	\$45,541	33.1	✓		
Hancock County, Maine	11.6	5.7	0.1	32.4	\$51,438	32.7		✓	
Kennebec County, Maine	14.1	5.7	-0.7	26.7	\$50,116	10.1	✓		
Knox County, Maine	11.6	4.7	-0.1	30.5	\$53,117	20.3	✓		
Oxford County, Maine	15.2	6.3	-1.0	18.8	\$44,582	25.3	✓		
Penobscot, Maine	15.9	6.5	-1.1	26.2	\$47,886	8.4	✓		
Piscataquis County, Maine	18.7	7.8	-3.3	17.8	\$3,877	41.7	✓		
Somerset County, Maine	17.8	8.8	-2.4	16.6	\$41,549	21.4	✓		
Waldo County, Maine	14.3	6.5	1.3	30.3	\$50,162	17.0		✓	
Washington County, Maine	18.2	7.9	-3.1	20.9	\$40,328	27.5	✓		

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

Analysis: NH Counties Levels of Distress

Primary Distress Categories ⁽¹⁾		
Percent below poverty level ⁽²⁾	Unemploy. Rate ⁽²⁾	Percent Change in Population ⁽²⁾

United States	14.6	6.6	4.0
NBRC Region	13.3	5.9	-0.80

Criteria compared to is

New Hampshire			
Belknap County, New Hampshire	9.1	4.9	0.5
Carroll County, New Hampshire	9.2	4.7	-0.6
Cheshire County, New Hampshire	10.2	4.5	-1.3
Cooks County, New Hampshire	13.3	6.1	-2.8
Grafton County, New Hampshire	10.9	4.0	0.2
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	9.4	3.7	-1.5

Secondary Distress Categories		
Percent bachelor's degree or higher ⁽²⁾	Median household income ⁽²⁾	2010 Seasonal Home % ⁽⁴⁾

30.9	\$57,652	3.5
27.4	\$54,959	13.8

< US < US < NBRC Region

31.5	\$65,834	28.0
34.0	\$58,139	42.2
32.6	\$60,148	7.9
18.3	\$45,386	25.7
39.3	\$61,036	24.2
25.9	\$59,419	12.8

Distressed County?	Transition al 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 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

Table 3.
New Hampshire, Isolated Areas of
Distress

Municipality	% below poverty	Unemployment rate	% change in population
Belmont town, Belknap County	7.5	5.6	-1.1
Center Harbor town, Belknap County,	6.9	3.1	-8.8
Gilford town, Belknap County	7.9	1.9	-0.2
Gilmanton town, Belknap County	6	5.9	-1.0
Tilton town, Belknap County	10.5	3	-0.3
Ashland town, Grafton County	21.5	4.9	8.0
Bath town, Grafton County	7.1	4.4	-15.5
Bridgewater town, Grafton County	9.4	5	-5.2
Bristol town, Grafton County	11.1	5.1	-0.2
Campton town, Grafton County	5.7	2.6	-1.1
Canaan town, Grafton County	10.6	2	-0.3
Dorchester town, Grafton County	7.5	3.1	-2.3
Ellsworth town, Grafton County	1.6	0	-25.3
Enfield town, Grafton County	4.4	2.8	-0.9
Franconia town, Grafton County	4.4	5.2	-2.1
Grafton town, Grafton County	9.2	7.4	-12.2
Groton town, Grafton County	17.3	5	-4.7
Haverhill town, Grafton County	7.6	3.9	-1.9
Hebron town, Grafton County	8.5	7	-3.7
Landaff town, Grafton County	19	14.3	9.2
Lincoln town, Grafton County	15.4	6	-22.8
Lisbon town, Grafton County	13.2	8	4.2
Littleton town, Grafton County	15.6	5.4	-0.3
Livermore town, Grafton County	NA	NA	NA
Lyme town, Grafton County	2.5	3	-1.2
Orange town, Grafton County	8	2.8	-39.9
Plymouth town, Grafton County	20	6.5	-4.3
Thornton town, Grafton County	3	4.1	-18.4
Warren town, Grafton County	19.5	10.1	-8.1
Waterville Valley town, Grafton County	0	1	-22.7
Wentworth town, Grafton County	10.3	1.8	-9.1
Woodstock town, Grafton County	6.6	6.2	-11.5

Analysis: New York Counties - Levels of Distress

	Primary Distress Categories (1)			Secondary Distress Categories			Distressed County?	Transition al County?	Attainment County?
	Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemploy Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (3)	Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	2010 Seasonal Home % (4)			
United States	14.6	6.6	4.0	30.9	\$57,652	3.5			
NBRC Region	13.3	5.9	-0.80	27.4	\$54,959	13.8			
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region			
New York									
Cayuga County, New York	11.6	5.9	-2.1	22.4	\$54,664	7.9	✓		
Clinton County, New York	15.7	5.8	-1.1	21.9	\$52,759	6.2	✓		
Essex County, New York	8.9	6.7	-2.9	26.7	\$55,294	29.9	✓		
Franklin County, New York	19.4	8.2	-1.1	18.7	\$50,733	17.5	✓		
Fulton County, New York	16	7.6	-2.8	17.7	\$48,033	13.7	✓		
Genesee County, New York	12.8	5.1	-2.6	21.4	\$54,033	1.1	✓		
Greene County, New York	12.4	6.2	-2.9	22.0	\$53,214	23.2	✓		
Hamilton County, New York	9.7	11.2	-3.9	20.0	\$55,587	71.1	✓		
Herkimer County, New York	14.9	8.2	-2.4	20.7	\$49,077	14.1	✓		
Jefferson County, New York	14.8	8	0.3	21.4	\$50,322	18.7	✓		
Lewis County, New York	14.2	7.6	-0.9	16.3	\$51,475	25.2	✓		
Livingston County, New York	14.6	4.8	-1.6	23.7	\$53,654	4.8	✓		
Madison County, New York	11.1	4.4	-2.3	27.0	\$58,365	6.8	✓		
Montgomery County, New York	19.6	7.3	-1.4	17.0	\$47,449	1.4	✓		
Niagara County, New York	13.4	6.2	-1.8	23.5	\$51,656	1.1	✓		
Oneida County, New York	16.6	6	-1.1	23.9	\$51,316	3.3	✓		
Orleans County, New York	15.9	6.5	-3.0	15.9	\$49,223	5.8	✓		
Oswego County, New York	16.1	8.6	-1.9	16.1	\$51,755	7.0	✓		
Rensselaer County, New York	12.6	5.8	0.2	29.8	\$63,166	2.1	✓	✓	
St. Lawrence County, New York	19.4	8.8	-1.0	23.1	\$48,330	14.5	✓	✓	
Saratoga County, New York	6.6	4.6	3.2	40.4	\$77,548	5.6			
Schenectady County, New York	12.4	7.3	0.3	30.8	\$61,315	0.6	✓		
Seneca County, New York	11.8	4.9	-1.2	20.5	\$51,601	9.9	✓		
Sullivan County, New York	15.9	9.3	-2.3	23.4	\$53,877	29.2	✓		
Warren County, New York	9.9	4.8	-1.5	29.3	\$60,222	22.2		✓	
Washington County, New York	12.8	6.6	-1.6	19.8	\$52,527	10.0	✓		
Wayne County, New York	11.7	6.4	-2.5	21.7	\$53,693	4.5	✓		
Yates County, New York	13.1	6	-1.0	23.9	\$51,758	24.0	✓		

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

Analysis: VT Counties Levels of Distress

	Primary Distress Categories (1)			Secondary Distress Categories			Distressed County?	Transition al County?	Attainment County?
	Percent below poverty level (2)	Unemploy. Rate (2)	Percent Change in Population (2)	Percent bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household Income (2)	2010 Seasonal Home % (4)			
United States	14.6	6.6	4.0	30.9	\$57,652	3.5			
NBRC Region	13.3	5.9	-0.80	27.4	\$54,959	13.8			
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region			
Vermont NBRC Counties									
Addison County, Vermont	7.8	4.4	0.0	36.7	\$61,875	10.9		✓	
Bennington County, Vermont	12.8	4.4	-2.9	34.3	\$52,251	20.5		✓	
Caledonia County, Vermont	12.3	4.9	-2.1	27.9	\$47,371	14.9	✓		
Chittenden County, Vermont	11.3	4.1	2.8	49.6	\$66,906	2.7		✓	
Essex County, Vermont	15.5	5.1	-1.6	14.7	\$38,767	38.4	✓		
Franklin County, Vermont	8.0	4.4	2.2	24.7	\$62,214	9.4		✓	
Grand Isle County, Vermont	7.5	4.9	-0.3	38.3	\$66,111	36.4		✓	
Lamoille County, Vermont	14.0	3.8	2.9	37.6	\$54,899	17.3		✓	
Orange County, Vermont	11.5	4.3	-0.1	30.0	\$56,584	14.5	✓		
Orleans County, Vermont	14.2	4.4	-1.0	22.0	\$45,664	24.4	✓		
Rutland County, Vermont	11.4	4.7	-3.2	30.0	\$52,635	17.1	✓		
Washington County, Vermont	11.8	3.9	-1.4	40.5	\$60,602	11.5		✓	
Windham County, Vermont	14.1	5.6	-2.7	37.0	\$50,831	30.7		✓	
Windsor County, Vermont	10.2	4.5	-2.1	36.0	\$56,828	21.7		✓	

(1) These categories are required under 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V

(2) Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (5 Year Average, 2012-2016)

(4) Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress