



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

NBRC Annual Economic & Demographic Research for Fiscal Year 2019

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

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Table 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

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 2019

Distressed Counties

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

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%
Hancock

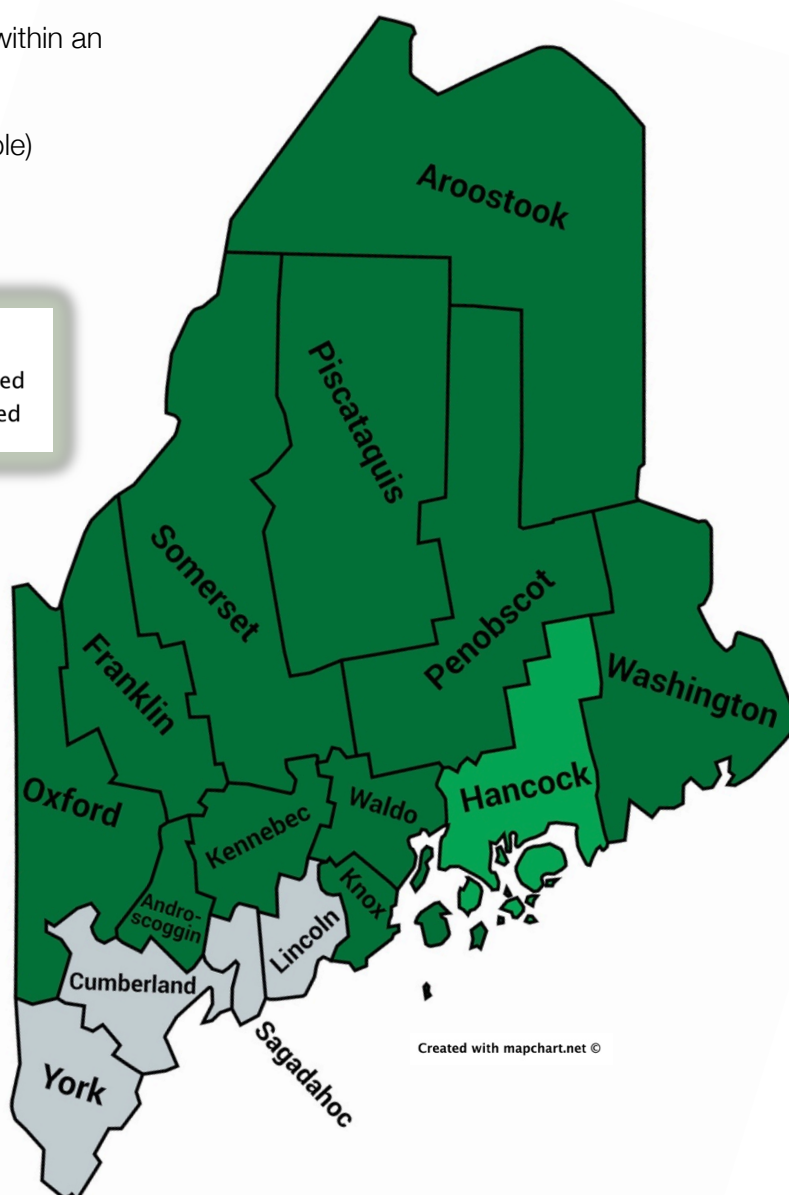
Attainment Counties

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

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)

Maine Distress Criteria

- "Distressed" 20% Minimum Match Required
- "Transition" 50% Minimum Match Required



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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 bachelor's degree or higher (2)	Median household income (2)	2010 Seasonal Home % (4)	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)
United States	15.1	7.4	3.2	30.3	\$55,322	3.5			
NBRC Region	14.9	7.0	-0.80	23.6		16.5			
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region			
Maine									
Androscoggin County, Maine	14.8	5.8	-0.3	20.7	\$48,728	2.9	✓		
Aroostook County, Maine	17.7	6.2	-3.4	18.1	\$38,087	13.7	✓		
Franklin County, Maine	14.1	6.9	-1.6	25.8	\$43,007	33.1	✓		
Hancock County, Maine	12.1	6.4	0.1	32.5	\$50,037	32.7		✓	
Kennebec County, Maine	14.6	7	-1.0	25.3	\$48,570	10.1	✓		
Knox County, Maine	11.9	5.6	0.0	30.2	\$52,239	20.3	✓		
Oxford County, Maine	16.7	7.4	-0.9	18.2	\$42,197	25.3	✓		
Piscataquis County, Maine	20.6	10	-2.8	16.3	\$36,938	41.7	✓		
Somerset County, Maine	18	9.2	-1.7	15.8	\$40,484	21.4	✓		
Waldo County, Maine	16	7.2	0.7	29.2	\$45,480	17.0	✓		
Washington County, Maine	18	8.6	-2.8	20.1	\$39,469	27.5	✓		

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

New Hampshire

6. Assessment of Distress in New Hampshire for FY 2019

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

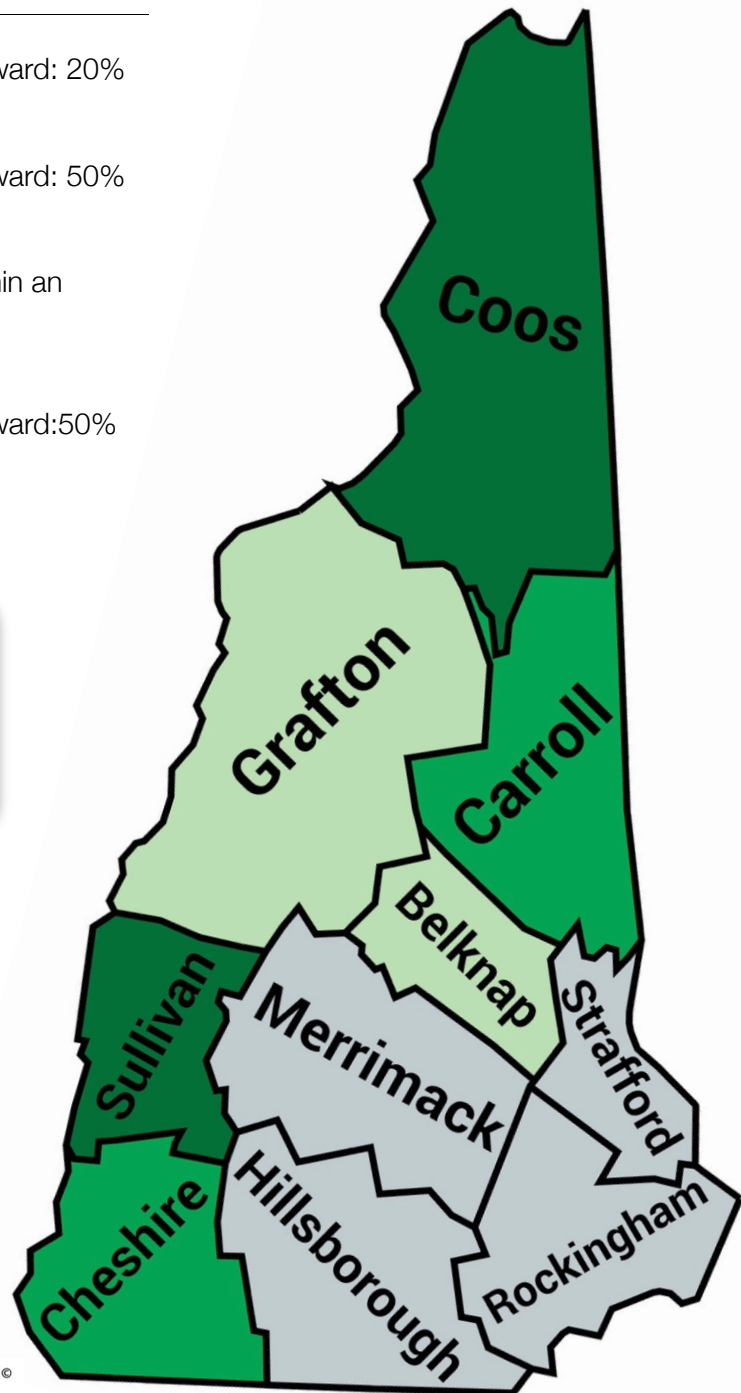
Isolated Areas of Distress (See Table 1)

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Many, listed in Table 1

New Hampshire Distress Criteria

- "Distressed" 20% Minimum Match Required
- "Transition" 50% Minimum Match Required
- "Attainment" Not an Eligible County (see "Isolated Areas of Distress")



Analysis: NH Counties -Levels of Distress

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

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

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)

United States	15.1	7.4	3.2	30.3	\$55,322	3.5
NBRC Region	14.9	7.0	-0.80	23.6		16.5
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region

New Hampshire

Carroll County, New Hampshire	10.1	5.1	-0.8
Coos County, New Hampshire	13.3	6.7	-2.5
Grafton County, New Hampshire	11.7	4.6	0.1
Sullivan County, New Hampshire	9.0	4.5	-1.6
Belknap County, New Hampshire	10.3	5.1	0.5
Cheshire County, New Hampshire	10.9	5.0	-1.0

33.6	\$56,289	42.2
17.8	\$45,154	25.7
38.9	\$58,107	24.2
26.8	\$58,454	12.8
30.5	\$61,245	28.0
31.4	\$58,359	7.9

	✓	
✓		
		✓
✓		
		✓
	✓	

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

Isolated Area of Distress?

At least ONE factor from the
PRIMARY Distress
Category

Alton town, Belknap County,	5.8	4.3	0.7			
Barnstead town, Belknap County	5.1	6.2	0.8			
Belmont town, Belknap County	8.6	4.5	-1.0		✓	
Center Harbor town, Belknap County	7.8	5.1	-7.8		✓	
Gilford town, Belknap County	7.7	2	-0.3		✓	
Gilmanton town, Belknap County	9.6	4.2	-0.9		✓	
Laconia city, Belknap County	16.4	7.5	1.4		✓	
Meredith town, Belknap County	11.9	4.4	1.8			
New Hampton town, Belknap County	8.7	3.8	4.8			
Sanbornton town, Belknap County	2.9	4.4	0.3			
Tilton town, Belknap County	11.8	5	0.0			
Alexandria town, Grafton County	8.5	7.5	16.3		✓	
Ashland town, Grafton County	21.3	4.8	4.0		✓	
Bath town, Grafton County	9.1	10.8	-9.3		✓	
Benton town, Grafton County	5.5	7.4	28.8			
Bethlehem town, Grafton County	15.9	5	0.6		✓	
Bridgewater town, Grafton County	4.6	4.6	-8.9		✓	
Bristol town, Grafton County	10.6	2.5	-0.1		✓	
Campton town, Grafton County	2.6	2.2	-0.9		✓	
Canaan town, Grafton County	12.1	4.1	-0.1		✓	
Dorchester town, Grafton County	4.8	3.8	-5.9		✓	
Easton town, Grafton County	2.9	4.5	7.9			
Ellsworth town, Grafton County	5.6	3.3	28.9			
Enfield town, Grafton County	4.7	3.4	-0.5		✓	
Franconia town, Grafton County	4.9	3.2	-5.9		✓	
Grafton town, Grafton County	12.2	10.5	-4.8		✓	
Groton town, Grafton County	18	6.2	3.4		✓	
Hanover town, Grafton County	11.3	2.1	1.0			
Haverhill town, Grafton County	9.2	7.9	-1.7		✓	
Hebron town, Grafton County	5.2	6.3	-3.3		✓	
Holderness town, Grafton County	6.6	1.3	13.6			
Landaff town, Grafton County	6.6	5	2.2			
Lebanon city, Grafton County	13.6	3.4	2.9			
Lincoln town, Grafton County	25.5	12.4	-19.6		✓	
Lisbon town, Grafton County	18.6	6.5	8.0		✓	
Littleton town, Grafton County	18.1	6	-0.2		✓	
Livermore town, Grafton County	NA	NA	NA		✓	
Lyman town, Grafton County	4.8	3.7	16.9			
Lyme town, Grafton County	3.9	3.7	2.2			
Monroe town, Grafton County	4.3	5.8	26.3			
Orange town, Grafton County	8.7	1.5	-30.5		✓	
Orford town, Grafton County	8.8	5.4	21.6			
Piermont town, Grafton County	4.8	2.1	6.3			
Plymouth town, Grafton County	20.5	7.2	-4.7		✓	
Rumney town, Grafton County	19.2	3.7	11.1		✓	
Sugar Hill town, Grafton County	3.6	3.7	23.3			
Thornton town, Grafton County	2.2	2.9	-19.4		✓	
Warren town, Grafton County	19	9.5	-3.9		✓	
Waterville Valley town, Grafton County	2.2	1.1	-24.7		✓	
Wentworth town, Grafton County	10.8	5.9	-13.0		✓	
Woodstock town, Grafton County	9.6	5.9	-26.9		✓	

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

7. Assessment of Distress in New York for FY'19

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, Seneca, Sullivan, Washington, Wayne, and Yates

Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady and Warren

Attainment Counties

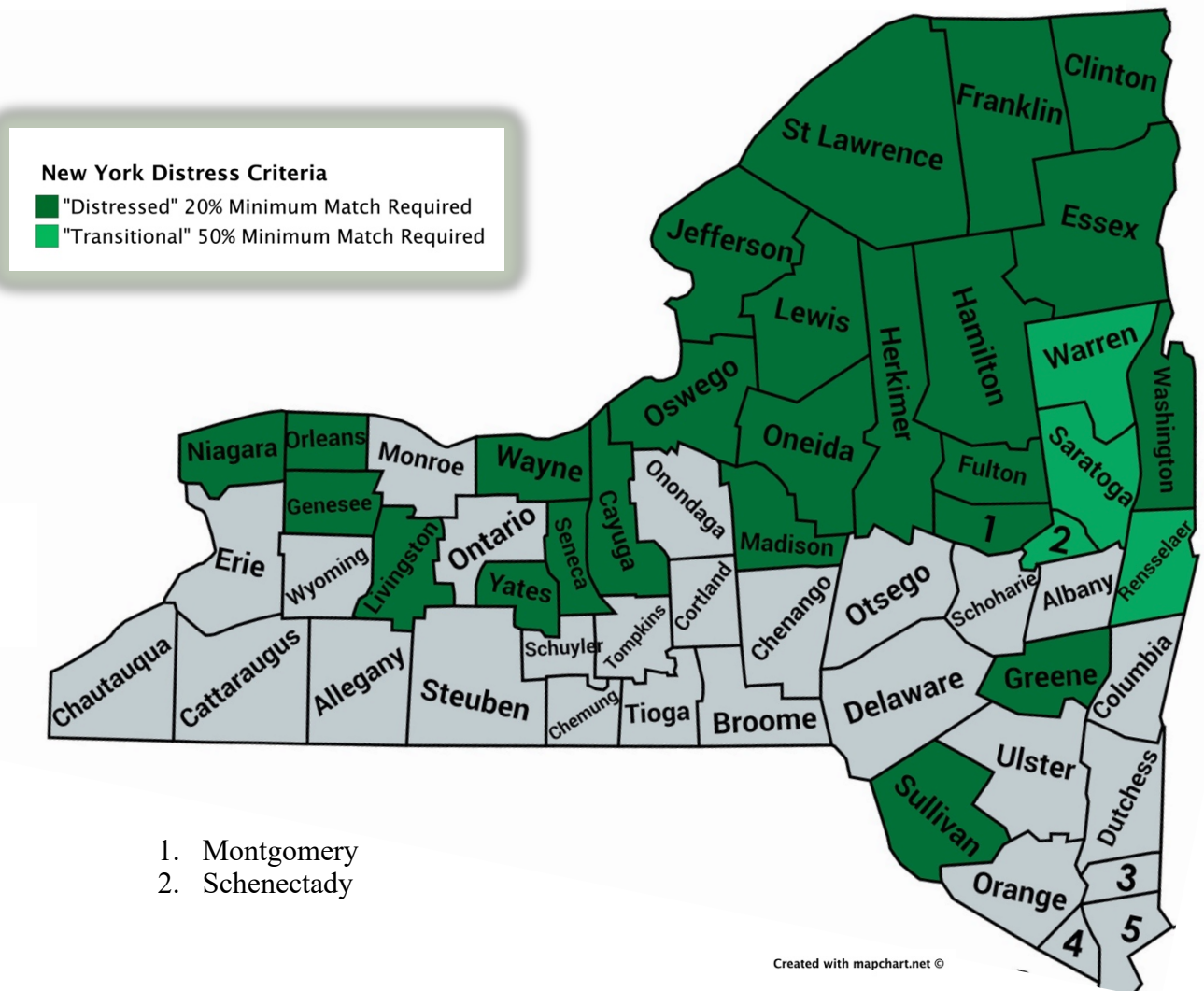
Cannot award unless the project is within an Isolated Area of Distress

None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

None



Analysis:

New York Counties - □ Levels of Distress

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)	Unemplo y. Rate (2)	Percent Change in Populatio n (3)	Percent bachelor' s degree or higher (2)	Median househol d income (2)	2010 Seasonal Home % (4)	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)
United States	15.1	7.4	3.2	30.3	\$55,322	3.5			
NBRC Region	14.9	7.0	-0.80	23.6		16.5			
Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region			

New York

Cayuga County, New York	11.4	6.9	-1.6	21.6	\$53,114	7.9	✓		
Clinton County, New York	16.1	6.6	-0.8	22.2	\$50,502	6.2	✓		
Essex County, New York	10.1	7.5	-2.0	24.6	\$53,244	29.9	✓		
Franklin County, New York	19.2	8.5	-1.1	18.4	\$49,782	17.5	✓		
Fulton County, New York	16.7	8	-2.2	17.0	\$46,090	13.7	✓		
Genesee County, New York	12.5	5.4	-1.7	21.2	\$52,641	1.1	✓		
Greene County, New York	13	7.8	-2.3	20.3	\$51,013	23.2	✓		
Hamilton County, New York	11.3	9.2	-2.9	21.6	\$52,708	71.1	✓		
Herkimer County, New York	14	8.8	-1.5	21.5	\$48,893	14.1	✓		
Jefferson County, New York	14.6	9.4	1.5	20.8	\$49,911	18.7	✓		
Lewis County, New York	14	7.9	0.1	15.5	\$49,976	25.2	✓		
Livingston County, New York	14.9	5.1	-1.2	24.5	\$52,724	4.8	✓		
Madison County, New York	11.9	4.9	-1.8	26.7	\$55,858	6.8	✓		
Montgomery County, New York	20.6	8.4	-1.1	16.0	\$44,455	1.4	✓		
Niagara County, New York	13.6	7.1	-1.4	23.5	\$50,094	1.1	✓		
Oneida County, New York	16.7	6.9	-0.9	23.8	\$49,838	3.3	✓		
Orleans County, New York	15.6	7.4	-2.2	15.9	\$48,731	5.8	✓		
Oswego County, New York	18.3	9.1	-1.3	18.0	\$49,571	7.0	✓		
Rensselaer County, New York	12.4	6.8	0.3	29.3	\$61,754	2.1		✓	
St. Lawrence County, New York	19.2	10	-0.4	22.8	\$46,313	14.5	✓		
Saratoga County, New York	6.4	5.4	2.4	39.6	\$74,080	5.6		✓	
Schenectady County, New York	12	7.4	0.1	30.6	\$59,959	0.6		✓	
Seneca County, New York	12.4	5.3	-0.6	20.0	\$50,073	9.9	✓		
Sullivan County, New York	17.1	10.1	-2.2	22.4	\$52,027	29.2	✓		
Warren County, New York	11.1	6	-1.2	28.4	\$57,174	22.2		✓	
Washington County, New York	12.9	8.1	-1.2	20.2	\$51,449	10.0	✓		
Wayne County, New York	11.9	7	-2.0	21.2	\$51,627	4.5	✓		
Yates County, New York	13.9	7.2	-1.0	23.2	\$50,105	24.0	✓		

TABLE 1: NBRC Counties - Levels of Distress

Vermont

8. Assessment of Distress in Vermont for FY 2019

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%

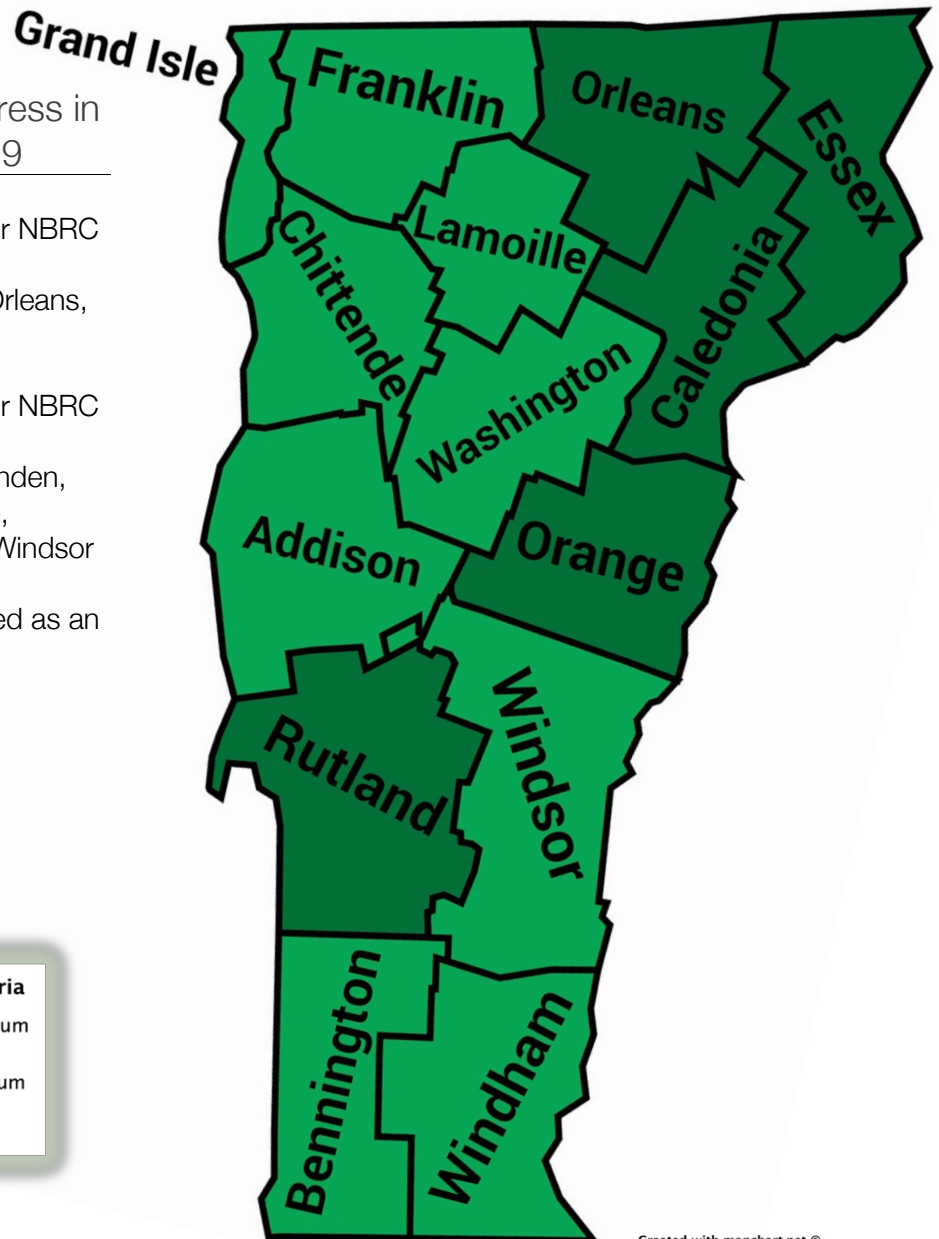
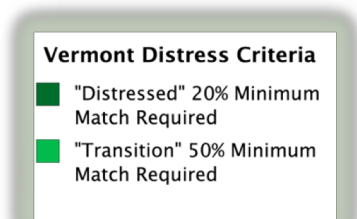
Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Washington, Windham and Windsor

Attainment Counties

Not eligible, unless designated as an Isolated Area of Distress

None

Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



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Analysis: VT Counties - Levels of Distress

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

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

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)

United States	15.1	7.4	3.2
NBRC Region	14.9	7.0	-0.80

30.3	\$55,322	3.5
23.6		16.5

Criteria compared to is	> US	> US	< 0%	< US	< US	< NBRC Region
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Vermont NBRC Counties

Addison County, Vermont	8.7	5.0	0.3
Bennington County, Vermont	13.4	5.4	-1.7
Caledonia County, Vermont	12.4	6.3	-1.2
Chittenden County, Vermont	11.5	4.5	2.5
Essex County, Vermont	14.8	7.1	-2.1
Franklin County, Vermont	8.6	5.0	1.8

Grand Isle County, Vermont	7.5	6.1	-0.4
Lamoille County, Vermont	12.8	3.9	2.7
Orange County, Vermont	12.3	4.3	-0.1
Orleans County, Vermont	14.6	5.2	-0.6
Rutland County, Vermont	12.3	5.5	-2.4
Washington County, Vermont	11.4	4.6	-1.0
Windham County, Vermont	14.0	6.0	-2.0
Windsor County, Vermont	10.0	4.5	-1.4

35.8	\$61,020	10.9
33.6	\$51,489	20.5
27.7	\$46,931	14.9
49.4	\$66,414	2.7
15.9	\$39,467	38.4
23.5	\$58,884	9.4

34.9	\$64,295	36.4
36.4	\$53,316	17.3
30.2	\$54,263	14.5
22.1	\$43,959	24.4
29.2	\$50,029	17.1
40.5	\$58,171	11.5
35.3	\$50,917	30.7
35.2	\$54,763	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