



# Northern Border Regional Commission

## 2020 Annual Report



A Federal-State partnership  
for economic development in Maine,  
New Hampshire, New York and Vermont

# A WORD FROM OUR FEDERAL CO-CHAIR

## Review of the Northern Border Regional Commission for 2020

Per 40 U.S.C. §15308, I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC).

In 2020, the NBRC continued to increase its impact on the region, through the deployment of an increased annual budget, the development of new programs, and the strengthening of multiple strategic partnerships. NBRC's budget increased to \$25MM in FY20, including the Regional Forest Economy grant program (RFEP), funded by \$4MM from our 2020 Congressional appropriations. We continued our partnerships with the United States Economic Development Administration (FY20, \$3MM), and the United States Department of Agriculture (FY20, \$3MM).

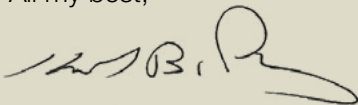
The COVID-19 pandemic meant multiple challenges for the NBRC this year, as it has also challenged so many of our partners, collaborators, and especially the communities we serve. During this difficult time, the NBRC staff remained focused, and seamlessly transitioned from an office-based work culture, to a remote one. Through this pandemic the staff managed our largest EID grant round to date, in addition to deploying the RFEP without any disruption to the citizens we serve. I'm proud of their dedication and professionalism, both to this region and this commission.

During 2020, the NBRC's Economic and Infrastructure Development grant program funds provided almost \$18 million in funding to some of the most distressed and rural areas in the northeastern United States. Within this region (and reflected in our grant scoring criteria), President Trump's Economic Opportunity Zone program continues to give distressed areas an extra funding tool to support economic development. The NBRC, along with colleagues at the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority, finished their work with the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, which advises the President on the Opportunity Zone program.

The year 2020 saw the States of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, along with the Federal Co-Chair, continue the strong working partnership that has been the hallmark of this agency. In that spirit, I would like to thank Governors Sununu, Scott, Mills, and Cuomo, and their representatives, for their dedication to the NBRC and its mission. I would also like to thank the congressional delegations of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and their staffs, for their continued strong working relationship with the NBRC.

Finally I would like to thank the staff of the NBRC: Rich Grogan, Jon O'Rourke, Alex Kramer, Bill Gallagher, Andrea Smith, Molly Taflas, and Marina Bowie, for their professionalism, dedication to the region and the NBRC, and all around, a great group of people to work with.

All my best,

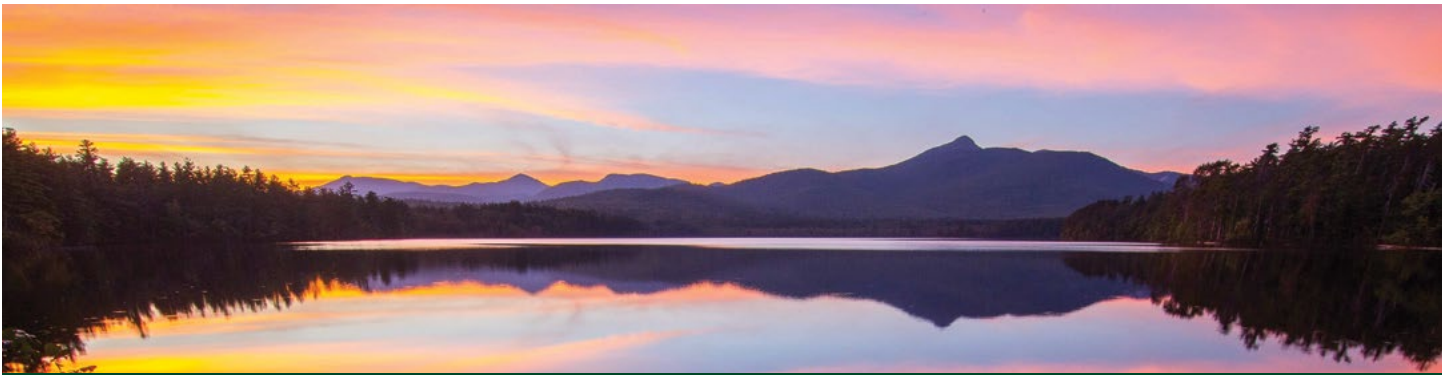


Harold B. Parker, Federal Co-Chair  
Northern Border Regional Commission

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#### COVER IMAGES:

MAINE: Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development, NEW YORK: Red Brick Café in Moriah – courtesy of Red Brick Café, VERMONT: Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont



## ABOUT THE NBRC

Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

### | Vision |

The Northern Border region is known for its vital regional economies and thriving communities that provide for the well-being of the region's residents and support the stewardship of the region's natural and cultural assets.

### | Mission |

The mission of the Northern Border Regional Commission is to catalyze regional, collaborative, and transformative community economic development approaches that alleviate economic distress and position the region for economic growth.

Authorized by Congress in 2008 (**40 U.S.C., Subtitle V**), and first appropriated by Congress in 2010, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a Federal-State partnership modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission. The NBRC was created to provide infrastructure and economic development assistance to projects in counties that have varying degrees of economic and demographic distress.

Authority and oversight functions of the NBRC are shared by five Members: The Federal Government, represented by the Federal Co-Chair, and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont, represented by the Governors of those States. NBRC investments and policies are approved by the vote of the Federal Co-Chair and the collective vote of the majority of State Governors.

As a Federal-State partnership, the NBRC enjoys a strong network of State 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 certified Local Development Districts, which serve multiple functions: Technical assistance to grantees; assistance with identifying sources of complementary funds; and administration of NBRC grant funds.

The staff of the NBRC are a permanent, non-partisan administrative structure, charged with implementation of the strategic vision of the Members, including NBRC's grant programs.



# MEMBERS' IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

For activities related to **Authority** and **Oversight** of the NBRC. It is up to each partner to decide on how much work they wish to dedicate to NBRC related activities. These in-kind activities are approved and appropriated by each Member government.

All **funding for grants** is provided by the Federal Government depending on appropriations.

## Federal In-Kind



### Federal Co-Chair

Salary and Benefits

### Alternate Federal Co-Chair

Salary and Benefits

### Inspector General

Salary and Benefits

### Operating

Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.

## Funding For Grants (100%)

## Maine In-Kind

### Governor's Alternate

Salary and Benefits

### NBRC State Program Manager

Salary and Benefits

### Others

Salary and Benefits

### Operating

Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



## New Hampshire In-Kind

### Governor's Alternate

Salary and Benefits

### NBRC State Program Manager

Salary and Benefits

### Others

Salary and Benefits

### Operating

Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



## Vermont In-Kind

### Governor's Alternate

Salary and Benefits

### NBRC State Program Manager

Salary and Benefits

### Others

Salary and Benefits

### Operating

Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



## New York In-Kind

### Governor's Alternate

Salary and Benefits

### NBRC State Program Manager

Salary and Benefits

### Others

Salary and Benefits

### Operating

Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



## MEMBERS' CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

For activities related to **Management** and **Operations**. These shared staff costs require a unanimous vote of all the States and the Federal Co-Chair. The Federal Co-Chair is not allowed to participate when the States deliberate the extent of their cash participation.

50%

50%



## Northern Border Regional Commission

### Executive Director

Salary and Benefits

### NBRC Staff

Salary and Benefits

### Operating

Travel, Rent, Phones, Etc.



## 2020 | A BRIEF REVIEW

Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

The NBRC spent much of 2020 listening, learning, and adapting to the impacts of the pandemic – and its resultant economic challenges – across communities in the NBRC region. The NBRC's staff continued to grow in 2020, and each new perspective has added depth and understanding not only to the region, but to the NBRC's operations and programs. 2020 was a growth year: new processes, systems, and a focus on agility amid rapidly changing conditions. Though much of this work was behind the scenes, the highlights below demonstrate that the NBRC's program menu and ability to fund numerous projects across a large and diverse region continued to grow in complexity and size.

### | Highlights |

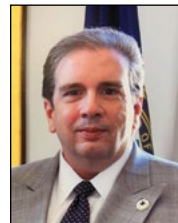
- The State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program – NBRC's largest – experienced an increase of 36% in requested funds in 2020 from 2019, following an increase of 46% in 2019 from 2018. Over \$67MM was requested in 2020.
- The NBRC furthered its partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in 2020, awarding nearly \$3MM to six economic development projects across the four NBRC states, and providing another year of funding for capacity building among each NBRC state's outdoor recreation economy functions.
- The NBRC's partnership also continued with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2020, awarding nearly \$3MM to five projects in NBRC states.
- NBRC added critical staff capacity in 2020, including a Program Director to oversee new program creation and continuous improvement of existing programs; and a Program Specialist to focus on grant reimbursement processing.
- Building upon the partnership created in 2019 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USDA, 2020 saw the implementation of the Forest Service Recreation Economy for Rural Communities project, which provides technical assistance for select communities' outdoor recreation economy capacity building efforts. Of the ten communities selected nationwide, four communities are in the NBRC region: Cambridge, New York; Fryeburg, Maine; Gorham, New Hampshire; and Poultney, Vermont.



## NBRC MEMBERS

Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

Policy and oversight decisions of the Commission are made by the Federal Co-Chair and a majority of Governors from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.



### Representing the Federal Government

**Member:** Harold B. Parker,  
Federal Co-Chair



### Representing the State of Maine

**Member:** The Honorable Janet Mills, Governor

**Governor's Alternate:** Heather Johnson,  
Commissioner, Dept. of Economic  
Community Development

**NBRC Program Manager:** Charlotte Mace,  
Director, Maine Office of Business Development



### Representing the State of New York

**Member:** The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor

**Governor's Alternate:** Deputy Secretary of State  
for Local Government, Mark Pattison

**NBRC State Program Manager:** Kyle Wilber,  
Local Government Specialist, NY Secretary  
of State



### Representing the State of New Hampshire

**Member:** The Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor

**Governor's Alternate:** Commissioner Taylor  
Caswell, Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

**NBRC State Program Manager:** Mollie Kaylor,  
Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs (*Note:*  
*Mollie held this role in 2020, but as of press time,*  
*this position is vacant*)



### Representing the State of Vermont

**Member:** The Honorable Phil Scott, Governor

**Governor's Alternate:** Deputy Secretary Ted  
Brady, Agency of Commerce and Community  
Development

**NBRC State Program Manager:** Kristie  
Farnham, Agency of Commerce and Community  
Development



## ANNUAL DISTRESS CRITERIA

Snowmobiling in Redfield, Oswego County, New York. Photo by Tony Machia, courtesy of the NYS Tug Hill Commission

By statute, the NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress within its region, and this information is typically released on NBRC's website ([nbrc.gov](http://nbrc.gov)) along with new guidance on the SEID program:

- To have reliable and timely data that can inform NBRC leadership as they create new – and improve 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,
- To determine the level of match required by grant applicants for projects,
- To assist States as they develop their own economic and community development programs.

Annually updated distress criteria are released each spring, along with each's year's SEID application materials, via the NBRC's website ([nbrc.gov](http://nbrc.gov)). The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total appropriations to projects in counties falling within the distressed designation. The maximum percent of a distressed project that can be funded by the NBRC is 80%.





## ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN MAINE FOR FY 2020

Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism

### 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%

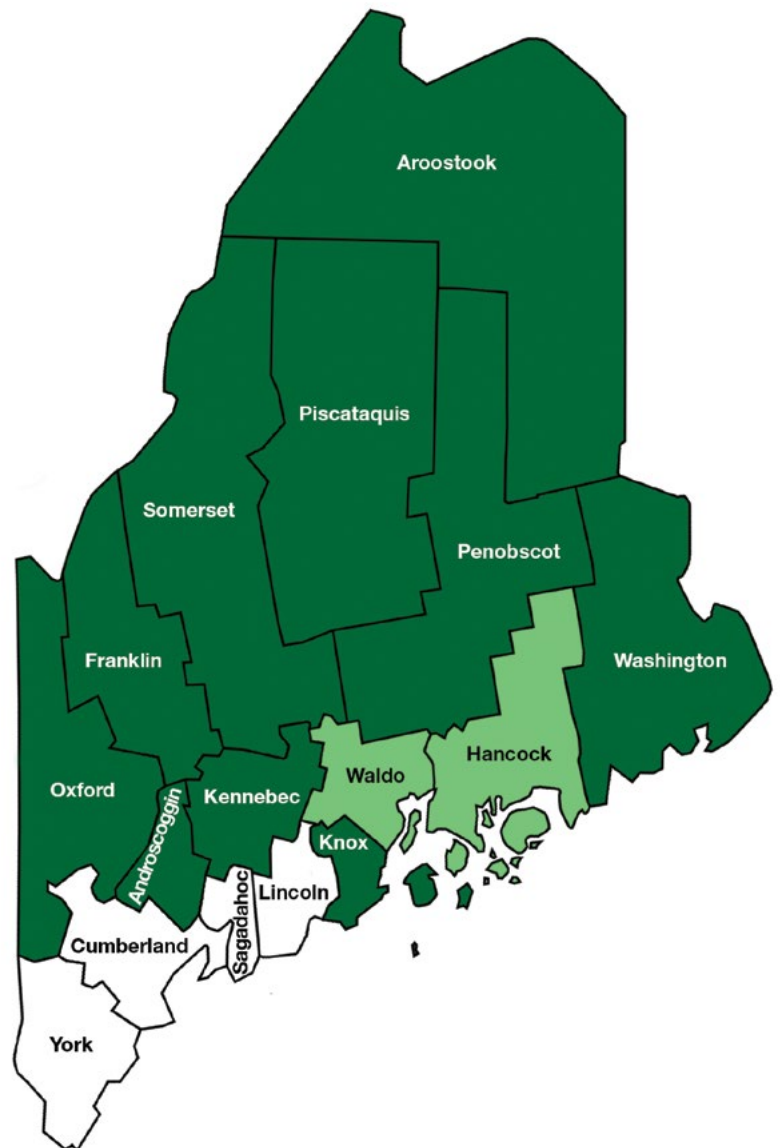
Hancock and Waldo

### Attainment Counties (not applicable)

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

None

### Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)



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





## ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FY 2020

Photo courtesy of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

### Distressed Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 20%

Coös, Sullivan

### Transitional Counties

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50%

Carroll, Cheshire

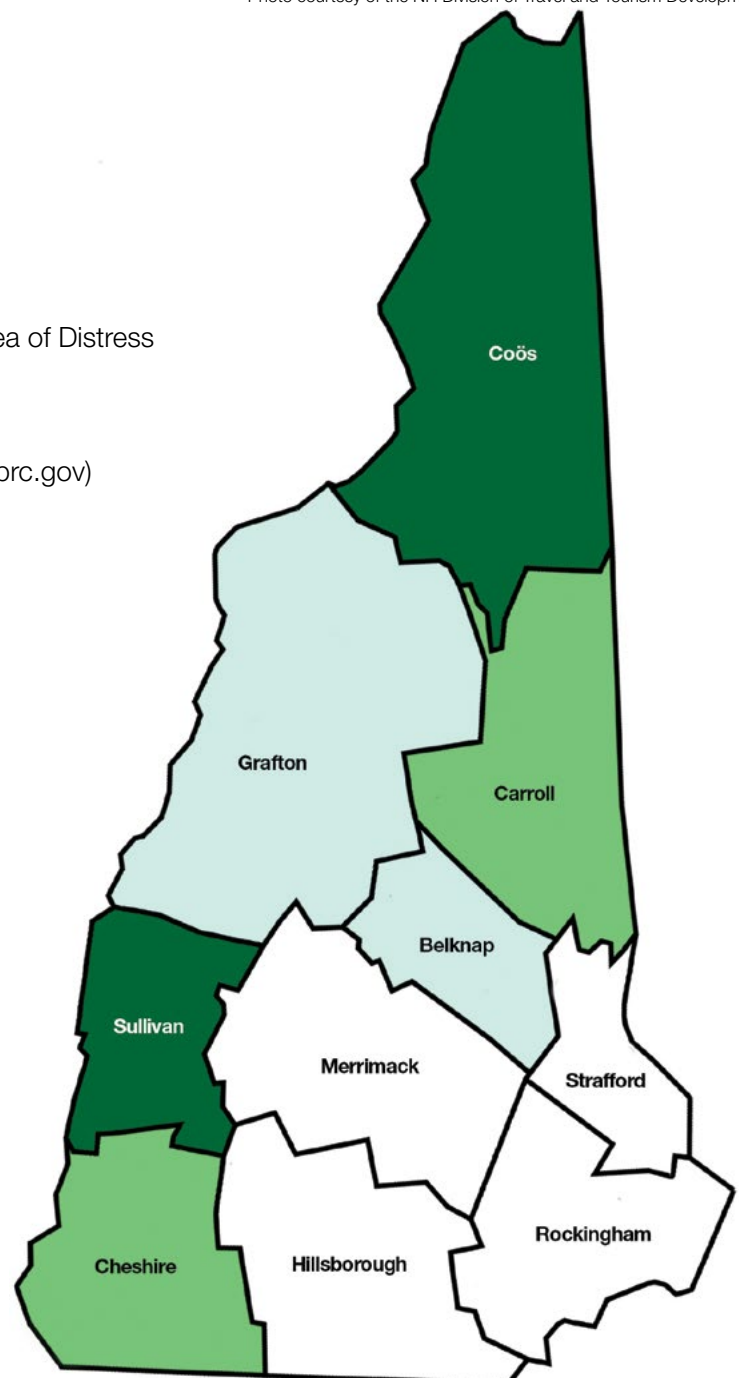
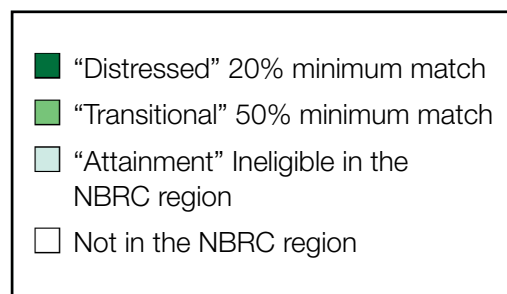
### Attainment Counties

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

Grafton, Belknap

### Isolated Areas of Distress

Percent of match required for NBRC award: 50% (see nbrc.gov)





## Distressed Counties

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

Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Warren

**Attainment Counties (not applicable)**

None

**Isolated Areas of Distress (not applicable)**







## ASSESSMENT OF DISTRESS IN VERMONT FOR FY 2020

Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont

### 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%

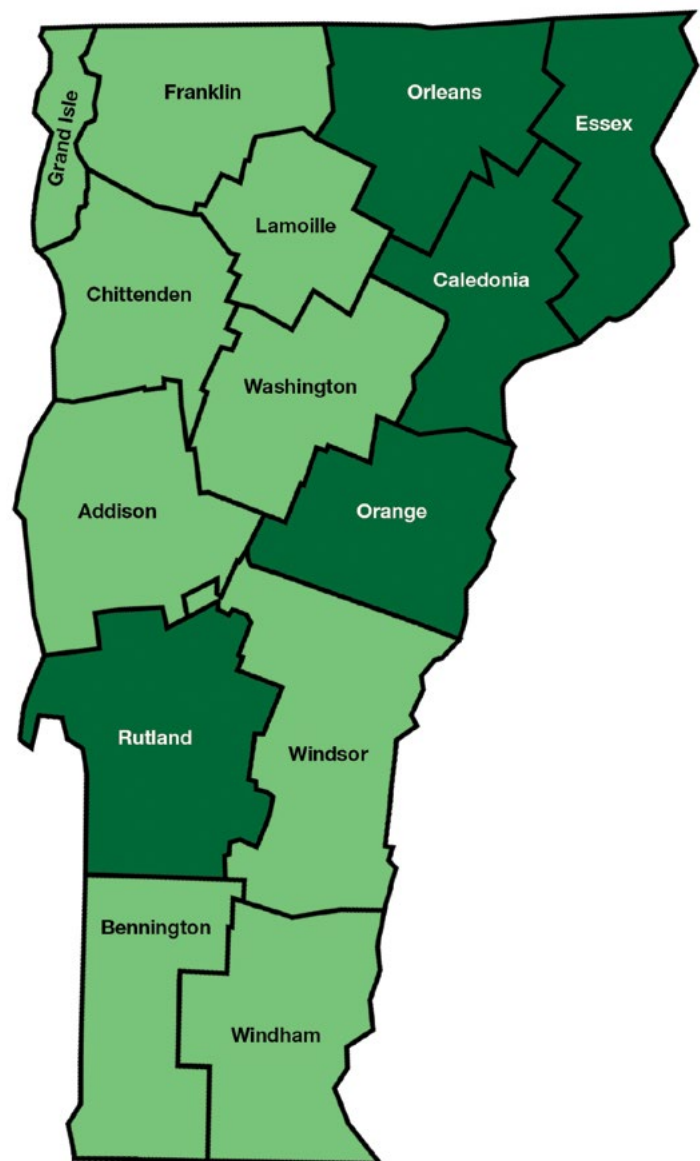
Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Washington, Windham and Windsor

### 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
- "Transitional" 50% minimum match
- "Attainment" Ineligible in the NBRC region
- Not in the NBRC region



## Northern Border Regional Commission

# 2020 STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM

**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** Approximately \$4,500,000 per State

**GOAL:** To provide Federal grants to employment generating projects that reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. The parameters of the NBRC's Investment are directed by enabling legislation, standard Federal grant requirements, the NBRC Strategic Plan, and State or regional economic development plans

### **PRIORITIZED GRANT PROJECTS:**

- Revitalize and modernize essential infrastructure in Northern Border region communities,
- Increase access, affordability, and use of high-speed telecommunications by Northern Border residents and businesses,
- Stabilize and reduce electric and thermal energy costs,
- Retain, expand and diversify business enterprise that capitalizes on the region's natural, cultural, and economic assets,
- Position the Northern Border region as an attractive and supportive place for creative and entrepreneurial people,
- Support and expand a highly productive workforce with skills suited to existing and future business needs,
- Foster entrepreneurial leadership and capacity for community economic development, and
- Inform and align local, state, and regional economic development decision making with regional data and perspectives.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

State and local governments, public bodies, IRS recognized 501(c) organizations, and Indian tribes.

### **2020 EID SUMMARY:**

119 applications received totaling \$67,111,836 in requests

38 awards made (8 projects in ME, NH, and NY; 15 in VT) totaling \$17,873,441

**Total amount of Matching Funds (from awarded projects):** \$109,825,978

Cost Share Ratio of 6:1 (Strategic Plan Goal 3:1) Awards to Distressed areas: 60% (required minimum of 50%); Awards to infrastructure: 68% (required minimum of 40%)

## Northern Border Regional Commission

# 2020 REGIONAL FOREST ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** \$5,000,000

**GOAL:** Fund projects that, when completed, increase the ability of the four-state region to attract new opportunities that leverage significant additional investments, and that over time have a potentially transformational impact on community economic revitalization.

### **FUNDING AREAS:**

1. New technology and innovations that seek to find new uses for forest products and evolve traditional forest economy business models into those that can create sustainable future commercial markets and opportunities.
2. Workforce re-training and development for the purpose of building the skills needed for forest products businesses.
3. New industries, or the expansion of current industries (e.g., outdoor recreation), that can provide employment and economic growth opportunities in formerly forest industry-dependent communities.
4. COVID-19 Impacts: Collaborative, multi-state projects designed to address innovative solutions to structural weaknesses highlighted by the pandemic, and community efforts to recover economically.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

State and local governments, public bodies, IRS recognized 501(c) organizations, and Indian tribes.

### **2020 RFEP SUMMARY:**

There were 20 Letters of Interest received, totaling over \$13,000,000 in dollars requested. 11 projects were invited to submit full applications by the October 30th deadline, based on the review of the Letters of Interest. These projects have funding requests of over \$8,000,000, with matching funds of over \$48,000,000. RFEP award decisions will be made at the December NBRC Commission Meeting. Award announcements and information on the funded projects will be available on NBRC's website in January 2021.

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MAINE

**Applications Received: 23**

**Total Funds Requested: \$16,325,436.50**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$4,499,626.00**

**Percent of Applications Awarded: 34.8%**

**Number of Opportunity Zones: 2**

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:** There were 8 awards made from the 23 applications submitted.

**DISTRESSED COUNTIES:** Maine awarded 98% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Maine awarded 92% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

**MATCHING FUNDS:** Maine's projects leverage \$35,437,575.17 in other funds.

### **Greater Franklin Development Council:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$9,494,880**

**Location: CD-2 (Franklin County)**

The Project will provide high-speed fiber optic Internet for the Towns of Carthage, Perkins, Temple, Washington, Weld and Wilton improving the ability of residents to diversify the economy, work and learn from home, establish home-based businesses, reverse out-migration and attract new residents.

### **Anson Madison Sanitary District:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$1,340,000**

**Location: CD-2 (Somerset County)**

Replace floating surface aerators with diffused air membrane system to improve treatment and reduce energy cost while maintaining affordable sewer rates and support business development at the former paper mill site. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

### **Fort Fairfield Utilities District:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$11,172,200**

**Location: CD-2 (Aroostook County)**

The project is to construct a new wastewater treatment facility, including upgrades to two pump stations, access roads, and other associated improvements. The new facility replaces an aging and a severely malfunctioning system constructed in the 1960s.

### **Ashland Water and Sewer District:**

**NBRC Award: \$505,100, Matching Funds: \$1,005,000**

**Location: CD-2 (Aroostook County)**

The project will replace a 70-year-old welded steel water storage tank with a new 400,000-gallon concrete tank and include other associated costs. This will improve drinking water quality, eliminate safety hazards, and comply with OSHA requirements.

### **Town of East Millinocket:**

**NBRC Award: \$516,116, Matching Funds: \$686,209.50**

**Location: CD-2 (Penobscot County)**

This project will repair and renovate the Recycle and Paper Warehouses, Train Shed, driveway, parking and truck turnaround for each building. This project will collaborate with Canadian Pacific Railways who will bring their rail lines up to specifications, enhancing the ability to ship via rail.

**Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

### **Community Concepts Finance Corporation:**

**NBRC Award: \$44,600, Matching Funds: \$29,914.67**

**Location: CD-2 (Oxford County)**

The Maine West Hotspot project will expand public internet access through installation of 10 Wi-Fi hotspots in 6-8 rural communities. Annually, these installations will improve economic opportunities for 30 businesses and expand internet connectivity for 8,000 residents and visitors.

### **Sunrise County Economic Council:**

**NBRC Award: \$345,000, Matching Funds: \$538,181**

**Location: CD-2 (Washington County)**

To replace a blighted building in Downtown Machias and construct Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship to provide Washington County small businesses with open coworking, office/desk space, meeting rooms, training, programming, and technical assistance.

### **Town of Searsport: NBRC Award: \$88,810,**

**Matching Funds: \$11,171,190**

**Location: CD-2 (Waldo County)**

This project will upgrade the wastewater treatment facility to improve primary treatment and provide new secondary and tertiary treatment. The WWTF is located on Searsport Harbor and is permitted to discharge treated effluent into the tidal waters of Penobscot Bay. These improvements will increase the quality of water discharged, ultimately decreasing the risk of causing impairments to the areas of shell fishing and recreation in the Bay.



## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Applications Received: 27**

**Total Funds Requested: \$12,558,779.77**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$4,443,428.00**

**Percent of Applications Awarded: 30%**

**Number of Opportunity Zones: 2**

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:** There were 8 awards made from the 27 applications submitted.

**DISTRESSED COUNTIES:** New Hampshire awarded 24% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** New Hampshire awarded 45% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

**MATCHING FUNDS:** New Hampshire's projects leverage \$22,130,061.00 in other funds.

### **FIRST New Hampshire:**

**NBRC Award: \$113,130, Matching Funds: \$147,918.00**

**Location: CD-1 and CD-2 (Coös County and Grafton County)**

FIRST New Hampshire will work with North Country schools and businesses to start robotics programs that will help students develop STEM skills, contributing to a high-quality workforce that meets industry needs and supports the regional growth of companies needing a mid-tech or high-tech workforce.

### **Hannah Grimes Center, Inc:**

**NBRC Award: \$315,298, Matching Funds: \$427,143.00**

**Location: CD-2 (Cheshire County)**

Funding will support a full-time position for three years to build on the success of an existing set of entrepreneurial programs at Hannah Grimes and the up-and-coming Radically Rural Summit to shape and share ideas and tools that will benefit the region and rural communities throughout the country.

### **Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Inc. DBA Lakes Region Community Developers:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000.00, Matching Funds: \$1,388,500**

**Location: CD-1 (Belknap County)**

The Gale School Redevelopment Project will improve 7,000 square feet of vacant and dilapidated commercial space in Belmont Village, and will result in the addition of 60 childcare slots to the region and the creation of 11 permanent, full-time jobs.

### **Mascoma Valley Preservation:**

**NBRC Award: \$315,000, Matching Funds: \$315,000.00**

**Location: CD-2 (Grafton County)**

This project will convert the vacant and derelict Grafton Center Meetinghouse into a marketplace and event center by adding a rear addition with stairwell and lift, installing a septic system, and roughing in bathrooms and a commercial kitchen - providing jobs and tax revenue for a distressed town.

### **Monadnock Economic Development Corporation:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds:**

**\$14,764,000.00 Location: CD-2 (Cheshire County)**

This request partly funds building the Keene State College Business Partnership Hub, a 30,000 SF facility hosting advanced education, training and innovation, in collaboration with industry. The Hub will boost the competitiveness of the region's precision manufacturing workforce and industry cluster. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

### **New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services/Lakeshore Redevelopment Planning Commission:**

**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,**

**Matching Funds: \$1,000,000.00**

**Location: CD-1 (Belknap County)**

Completion of Phase I of the Redevelopment Master Plan involving 1,290 lf of road, 765 lf of water/sewer/energy lines to 5.4 acres to make it ready for the future development of up to 160 parking spots, 32,500 sq ft of commercial space with 152 jobs which will benefit the entire Lakes Region area. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

### **Sunapee Heritage Alliance:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$87,500**

**Location: CD-2 (Sullivan County)**

This grant will establish non-profit ownership for this 1892 "7 to Save" historic Livery building and bring it up to current structural codes. The resulting expansion of programming and community use will have a direct positive effect on the culture and economy of the surrounding communities.

### **Town of Jaffrey: NBRC Award: \$1,000,000,**

**Matching Funds: \$4,000,000**

**Location: CD-2 (Cheshire County)**

The project will construct 4,370 liner feet of water main to interconnect three wells, construct a water treatment facility and water distribution system and construction of a paved access road. This project addresses the need to accommodate an expected growth of average day demands through 2040.

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN NEW YORK

**Applications Received: 43**

**Total Funds Requested: \$28,675,246.47**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$4,499,626**

**Percent of Applications Awarded: 18.6%**

**Number of Opportunity Zones: 2**

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:** There were 8 awards made from the 43 applications submitted.

**DISTRESSED COUNTIES:** New York awarded 78% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** New York awarded 87% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

**MATCHING FUNDS:** New York's projects leverage \$27,658,254 in other funds.

**Troy Local Development Corporation:**  
**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$2,536,290**  
**Location: CD-20 (Rensselaer County)**

Project removes 375' water and CSO, adds 1,100' new sanitary, sewer, and water lines and reinforces retaining wall, enabling 250K new construction, diverting 460K gal/yr from CSO and preparing site for 100K sf building to allow future development, job creation and retention, and civic space on River St. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

**Development Authority of the North Country:**  
**NBRC Award: \$200,000, Matching Funds: \$80,000**  
**Location: CD-21 (Franklin County)**

The project will create a municipal broadband network in Tupper Lake. The network will install 5.5 miles of fiber for the business community; create 3 wireless hot-spots, provide broadband access to 125 unserved homes, offer affordable broadband, and position the town for enhanced services.

**Counties of Warren-Washington Industrial Development Agency: NBRC Award: \$600,000, Matching Funds: \$900,000**  
**Location: CD-21 (Washington County)**

Replacement of 96' temporary bridge on access road to industrial park. Engineering to expand municipal wastewater system to create 1 MDG capacity and improved park marketability. 80 acres of developable land opened, 2 miles of access road, 12-36 developable sites and \$18M in private investment.

**Sullivan County: NBRC Award: \$320,000, Matching Funds: \$80,000 Location: CD-19 (Sullivan County)**

This project will erect a 146' tall broadcast tower for LTE wireless broadband transmission to increase signal reach in the Village of Monticello, piloting a public broadband network to address service gaps countywide, supporting economic development, job creation, education and telehealth access.

**St. Lawrence CO. IDA Local Development Corporation: NBRC Award: \$500,359, Matching Funds: \$125,088**  
**Location: CD-21 (St. Lawrence County)**

The project will renovate a vacant 63,400 sf factory that was vacated in 2011. The building has experienced water damage. Electrical wiring, sprinkler systems and water and sewer lines must be replaced. Interior work must be done to install restroom facilities.

**North County Community College:**  
**NBRC Award: \$89,700.26, Matching Funds: \$28,436**  
**Location: CD-21 (Essex County and Franklin County)**

North County Community College will host Water and Wastewater Operation Certification Courses to create trained applicants needed to fulfill the surplus of available water and wastewater operator positions for the North Country region.

**Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency:**  
**NBRC Award: \$1,000,000, Matching Funds: \$20,720,300**  
**Location: CD-21 and CD-22 (Herkimer County)**

The project will facilitate construction and implementation of the Eastern Mohawk Valley Regional Water Transmission Main, serving 22,000 residents across several communities in Herkimer County along the Erie Canal, and serving as a sustainable source of high-quality drinking water.

**Town of Essex:**  
**NBRC Award: \$789,567, Matching Funds: \$3,188,140**  
**Location: CD-21 (Essex County)**

The project will implement upgrades to an existing municipal water treatment plant to comply with NYSDOH AT10 and US EPA A. O. by resolving water quality violations, and will include the addition of a new filtration system to adequately meet seasonal water demands and drinking water standards. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN VERMONT

**Applications Received: 27**

**Total Funds Requested: \$10,052,732.61**

**Total Funds Awarded: \$4,430,761**

**Percent of Grants Awarded: 55%**

**Number of Opportunity Zones: 4**

**NUMBER OF AWARDS:** There were 15 awards made from the 27 applications submitted.

**DISTRESSED COUNTIES:** Vermont awarded 39% of its funds to counties designated as distressed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Vermont awarded 45% of its funds to infrastructure projects, including water/sewer, broadband and transportation.

**MATCHING FUNDS:** Vermont's projects leverage \$24,600,087.68 in other funds.

**Randolph Area Community Development Corporation: NBRC Award: \$475,000, Matching Funds: \$525,000 Location: CD-1 (Orange County)**

The infrastructure developed by this project will enable the development of 21 permitted lots in downtown Randolph targeted to median income households, by funding infrastructure development including roads, utilities, water/sewer, sidewalks, lighting, etc. that will be eased and maintained by the Town. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

**East Calais Community Trust: NBRC Award: \$105,000, Matching Funds: \$76,700 Location: CD-1 (Washington County)**

The Project will restore the East Calais General Store on Route 14 as an essential community resource for locals and travelers alike. The store will create 2 full-time and 4 part-time jobs, and the upper floors will be renovated to provide decent, energy efficient affordable housing for 2-3 families.

**Food Connects: NBRC Award: \$184,250, Matching Funds: \$184,250 Location: CD-1 (Addison VT, Bennington VT, Caledonia VT, Chittenden VT, Lamoille VT, Orange VT, Orleans VT, Rutland VT, Washington VT, Windam VT, Windsor VT) (Cheshire NH, Grafton NH, Sullivan NH)**

The project will add 1,000 sq ft of cold storage, pallet lift, refrigerated vehicle and a salesperson. This infrastructure is essential to food security and will increase capacity of 80 farms and food producers to reach new markets in and out of Vermont, increasing production and creating jobs.

**Vermont Foodbank:**

**NBRC Award: \$250,000, Matching Funds: \$5,488,654**

**Location: CD-1 (Washington County)**

The Vermont Foodbank is renovating its Barre facility, which serves Vermont's food insecure population. The project will significantly increase this facility's fresh food storage capacity and improve its warehouse racking layout, office, and volunteer space. The project will cost \$5.7 million.

**Catamount Film and Arts:**

**NBRC Award: \$250,000, Matching Funds: \$72,500**

**Location: CD-1 (Caledonia VT, Essex VT and Orleans VT)**

Place-based creative programming/events will leverage unique community assets to respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19 in the Northeast Kingdom in compliance with prevailing public health guidelines and then boost recovery efforts by revitalizing rural communities once the pandemic has passed. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

**Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium:**

**NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$1,278,670**

**Location: CD-1 (Caledonia County)**

The Fairbanks Museum proposes to construct Vermont's demonstration mass timber building. The project will provide workforce development in order to stimulate the demand for mass timber products from the Northern Forest and develop a mass timber-trained workforce in Vermont. **Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

**South Hero Fire District #4:**

**NBRC Award: \$110,000, Matching Funds: \$120,060**

**Location: CD-1 (Grand Isle County)**

The project will install 1500 ft of village center water main along Route 2 from Hill Rd to Carter Lane. This will improve reliability and allow continued economic growth, including proposed development projects of an affordable senior housing facility and a new childcare facility.

**Richford Health Center, Inc. dba Northern Tier Center for Health: NBRC Award: \$175,000, Matching Funds: \$175,000**

**Location: CD-1 (Franklin County)**

This project will complete acquisition of a grocery store for ownership and operation as the first VT non-profit social grocery, resulting in the retention of 17 jobs, saving a critical Main Street business and increasing food security to vulnerable populations in Richford, VT.



## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN VERMONT (CONTINUED)

**Vermont Council on Rural Development:**  
**NBRC Award: \$286,000, Matching Funds: \$190,200.68**  
**Location: CD-1 (All Counties)**

This initiative will bring facilitation, technical assistance, and resource connection to build long-term recovery and economic resiliency projects in Vermont communities, share recovery best practices, and connect projects with state, federal and public/private recovery assistance.

**Vermont Housing and Conservation Board:**  
**NBRC Award: \$256,907, Matching Funds: \$172,667**  
**Location: CD-1 (All Counties)**

The Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program will provide 90 working lands businesses with coaching to help them recover from COVID-19 disruptions, resulting in 75 jobs retained, 7 jobs created, a 10% increase in average sales, 50% of clients increasing profitability, and 76 remaining in business.

**Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Inc.:**  
**NBRC Award: \$210,000, Matching Funds: \$140,000**  
**Location: CD-1 (All Counties)**

This project will improve forest economy workforce and entrepreneurial development; develop a business plan for a future forest economy business accelerator; develop supply chain opportunities for mass timber businesses in VT, and strengthen existing or new market opportunities for forest businesses in VT.

**Town of Fletcher:**  
**NBRC Award: \$439,443, Matching Funds: \$584,047**  
**Location: CD-1 (Franklin County)**

The project will build a fiber-to-the-home telecom network to the 34 miles of residences and businesses that do

not currently have access to broadband in the Town of Fletcher, to create new economic opportunities, access to online education, and a bridge to essential services in the wake of COVID-19.

**City of Rutland: NBRC Award: \$350,000, Matching Funds: \$1,457,500 Location: CD-1 (Rutland County)**  
Acquisition of the athletic facility (20.4 acres of the 116-acre former College of St. Joseph campus) for use as a recreational/community facility for Rutland County.  
**Located in an Opportunity Zone.**

**Town of Montgomery:**  
**NBRC Award: \$507,107.76, Matching Funds: \$11,216,892.24 Location: CD-1 (Franklin County)**  
Small lot sizes and existing old malfunctioning septic systems are an economic limitation to Montgomery. The proposed new centralized wastewater project serving the Village Center supports retainage and development of jobs within the Town and new development of affordable housing.

**Town of Highgate: NBRC Award: \$482,053.24, Matching Funds: \$2,917,946.76 Location: CD-1 (Franklin County)**  
This project will create 6,300' extension of water and sewer infrastructure from the entrance of MVU High School along US Route 78 to Airport Road and continuing to the Franklin County Airport area within Highgate's Commercial/ Industrial Zoning District to support new business development.

## STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY GRANTS

**Northern Tier Center for Health:**  
**NBRC Award: \$35,000, Matching Funds, \$35,000 Location: CD-1 (Franklin County)**  
This project will complete a store assessment, transitional operations planning, non-profit grocery feasibility, market analysis and equipment upgrades needed to prevent closure of the Vista Grocery Store in Richford, Vermont. The project will allow for seamless operations through a change in ownership and maintain 17 jobs in the community.

## U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) COLLABORATIVE AWARDS

Projects are funded under the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the NBRC and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to amplify both agencies' economic development impact in Northern Border communities. The NBRC has received a special appropriation since 2018 for these awards, which has resulted in working closely with the EDA to award funds to projects that meet the strategic objectives of both agencies.

The awards made in 2020 total **\$2,838,810** for the following projects:

- **Town of Searsport (Waldo County, ME) - \$911,190:** This project will upgrade a wastewater treatment facility to improve primary treatment and provide new secondary and tertiary treatment. These improvements will increase the quality of water discharged into nearby Penobscot Bay, ultimately decreasing the risk of negative impacts to the shell fishing and recreation industries that rely on the Bay.
- **Sanbornville Precinct (Carroll County, NH) - \$1,000,000:** This project will replace 2.44 miles of watermain with 8" main to reduce re-occurring breaks. Additionally, the funds will support improvements to the pump station. The impact will be to reduce the number of temporary business closures due to a lack of water.
- **Village of Heuvelton (St. Lawrence County, NY) - \$376,190:** This project will decommission Heuvelton's existing Wastewater Treatment Plant, and construct 8.6 miles of sewer main to Ogdensburg's plant. Reducing treatment cost will allow for business and job retention, while creating an economic development corridor to catalyze commercial development.
- **Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (Addison, Rutland and Windsor Counties, VT) - \$526,375:** This project supports construction of key sections (10 mi) of the Velomont Trail in the Towns of Chittenden, Rochester, and Hancock, as well as a new year-round ADA accessible backcountry hut in Chittenden. The Velomont Trail and Hut Network will be a statewide, multi-use, non-motorized trail for mountain biking, hiking, and skiing.
- **Town of Highgate (Franklin County, VT) - \$25,055:** This project will support the creation of a 6,300' extension of water and sewer infrastructure along US Route 78, to Airport Road, and continuing to the Franklin County Airport area within Highgate's Commercial/Industrial Zoning District. The project will support new business development.



Village of Whitehall – courtesy of The Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP)



Photography courtesy of the State of Vermont

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT (USDA RD), COLLABORATIVE AWARDS

NBRC in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD), funded 5 projects, in addition to continuation of support for the NBRC Outdoor Economy Council, which serves all four NBRC States. Collectively, these awards amplify both agencies' economic development impact in Northern Border communities. The NBRC has received funding in 2019 and 2020 for these awards, which has resulted in working closely with USDA RD to award funds to projects that meet the strategic objectives of both agencies.

The awards made in 2020 total **\$2,675,742** for the following projects:

- **University of Maine (Oxford County, ME) - \$286,800:** The project delivers workforce training for the growing outdoor recreation and tourism sectors in western Maine. It provides technical and entrepreneurship skills, in addition to professional development opportunities
- **Appalachian Mountain Club (Coös County, NH) - \$290,056:** This project will deliver 20 trail building, stewardship and recreation management skills trainings annually at AMC's Camp Dodge Trails Center to approximately 200 individuals, equipping them to meet the workforce needs of the region's outdoor recreation economy.
- **Northern Forest Center (Carroll, Coös, Grafton, Sullivan Counties, NH and Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor Counties, VT) - \$177,354:** The project will provide technical and market development assistance to support wood products businesses in the NBRC region through the COVID pandemic and recovery. It will engage medium to large manufacturers in support of improved profitability to support growth in the wood heat market.
- **Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (Livingston County, NY) - \$168,204:** The project will assist Letchworth Gateway Villages in establishing a Trail Town destination program in Livingston County to position the Genesee Valley as a sustainable outdoor recreation and heritage tourism destination. The project will attract new businesses, create jobs, grow outdoor tourism, and support main street revitalization.
- **State University of New York (SUNY) – Geneseo (Livingston County, NY) - \$152,629:** The project will create a Rural Innovation Hub at SUNY Geneseo. The Hub will lead rural revitalization and economic development efforts through the development of Design Thinking and Problem-based Learning methodologies. These will lead to professional certificates that meet the needs of the rural workforce, thereby creating new jobs.
- **Outdoor Economy Council (ME, NH, NY, VT) - \$1,600,699:** The NBRC Outdoor Economy Council spans the collective efforts of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, to support growth in each State's outdoor recreation economy. Funding from the NBRC supports dedicated personnel and marketing efforts in this crucial economic sector.