



Northern Border Regional Commission

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Regional Forest Economy Partnership Launched

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) has embarked on a unique collaboration to assist the northern forest region in the northeastern United States. They aim to assist both the communities affected by past mill closures and the forest industry while discovering new ways to employ the resources and industry infrastructure that shaped the region for generations.

With the divestiture of timberland in the late 1980s and closing of the majority of pulp and paper mills between 10 and 30 years later, there emerged a shared struggle in what has become known as the Northern Forest region. Rural areas in northern New York and New England were negatively impacted by the global economy and the resulting out-migration. This has left many communities searching for new identities and struggling to make the transition to more diverse and sustainable economies.

To address these challenges, in 2008 Congress created the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) to promote economic growth in a region that holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans. The region is located within an eight-hour drive from nearly 70 million people, is one of the most forested lands in the country and holds potential for both entrepreneurial excellence and authentic outdoor recreation and exploration.

Recognizing these challenges and reachable opportunities, Congress directed NBRC to use portions of appropriations from 2018 and 2019 to enable communities once dependent on a single industry, to diversify and cultivate new opportunities. The total amount of funding available through this program is currently \$7M. Applications will be sought that increase the ability of the four-state region to attract new opportunities, that are highly leveraged, transformational investments that have a fundamental impact on community economic revitalization. Applicants will need to state the problems or barriers the project seeks to address; describe the regional significance of the project, whether it is a part of a comprehensive regional plan, and its collaboration with other entities. Successful applicants will demonstrate how their project aides in addressing restructuring of the economic landscape.

Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership led by a Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President along with the four Governors of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont.

To learn more about the NBRC grant program and to access grant materials, interested applicants should access NBRC's website www.nbrc.gov.