



Northern Border Regional Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Border Regional Commission Announces 2023 Catalyst Program

With Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, program will stimulate economic development and growth

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is pleased to announce the 2023 Catalyst Program grant application opportunity. The Catalyst Program is designed to stimulate economic growth and inspire partnerships that improve rural economic vitality across the four-state NBRC region. As part of the program the Commission expects to fund a wide variety of economic development projects in categories that include, but are not limited to infrastructure, workforce development, outdoor recreation, and childcare in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The Commission will make a historic level of funding available through the program, up to \$45 million in grants, including up to \$20 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

“The Catalyst Program represents a unique opportunity for rural communities to advance projects that improve the lives of local residents. The flexible nature of the Commission’s resources and the historic level of funding provided by Congress and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will allow the Commission to make a once in a generation investment in our rural economies,” said Chris Saunders, Federal Co-Chair of the NBRC. “The program also represents the Biden Administration’s commitment to ensure rural communities of all sizes have access to federal funds.”

Eligible organizations, which include nonprofit and governmental entities (state, local & tribal governments), will be able to access a program overview via NBRC’s website beginning Friday, March 17th. The Catalyst Program incorporates elements from the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) program as well as updated infrastructure priorities to reflect the infusion of funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The funds for this program, and all NBRC programs, are available thanks to the support of the Congressional Delegations of all four NBRC states: Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to help alleviate economic distress and encourage private sector job creation in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. Over its fifteen-year history the Commission has awarded 331 grants, amounting to more than \$90.6 million in direct investment and \$296 million in additional leveraged investments, across the four states through its primary State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program and other special initiatives.

Applicants are required to express interest through a Letter of Interest, which must be submitted to loi@nbrc.gov by April 21st at 5:00 PM. Initial inquiries concerning eligibility, suitability, and integration with

economic development priorities, should be directed to each NBRC State's Program Manager (contacts listed below). Questions about the letter of interest and application itself should be directed to the NBRC's Program Director, Andrea Smith, at asmith@nbc.gov or (603) 369-3001.

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