



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)

www.nbrc.gov

Andrea Smith, Program Director

asmith@nbrc.gov

603.369.3001 x 3



INTRODUCTION

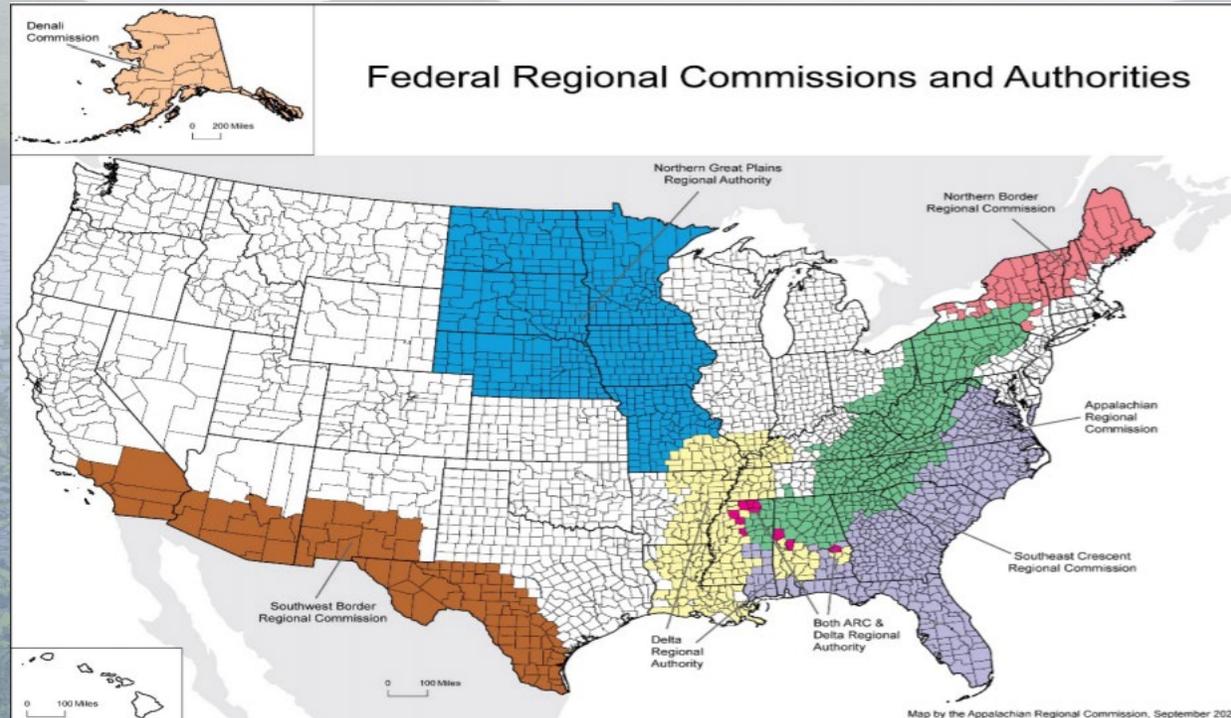
Established by Congress in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a partnership between the federal government and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The mission of the NBRC is to fund economic development and infrastructure projects throughout designated counties in its four-state service area. The governance of the NBRC is based on the Appalachian Regional Commission model created in the 1960s.

The NBRC partnership provides investments to job-creating projects that help reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. NBRC investment funds originate from the Federal Government but are approved by the Federal Government's NBRC representative (Federal Co-Chair) and the Governors of the four States.

The NBRC partnership is aided by recognized Local Development Districts (LDD) that assist with technical assistance, provide information on complimentary funding opportunities for projects, and ensure consistency with administration of projects that are funded.



Northern Border Regional Commission





COMMISSION SERVICE AREA

Only projects within the NBRC's service area are eligible for funding under [40 U.S.C. §15733](#). The NBRC service area is:

Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties.

New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coös, Grafton, and Sullivan counties

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

Vermont: all counties within the State



Who Represents the States on the Commission?

The Governors of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont have named Governor's alternates. The Governor's alternates, together with the Federal Co-Chair, approve NBRC funding requests.

For more information on serves as the Governor's Alternate in your state, please visit www.nbrc.gov



Who coordinates RFEP activities for the States?

Each State has a State Program Manager. The SPM coordinates NBRC-related program activity for their state, such as organizing the review team and scoring of all program applications.

For contact information for the State Program Manager in your state, please visit NBRC's website at www.nbrc.gov.



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

2021 Regional Forest Economy Partnership Program (RFEP)

Program Overview

www.nbrc.gov



2021 RFEP PROGRAM TIMELINE

RFEP Timeline and Program Materials available	July 12 th
RFEP Information sessions	August
Letters of Interest Due (Required)	September 10 th
Notice to applicants re: full applications	October 1 st
Applications Due (by invitation only)	November 12 th
Commission meeting to vote on RFEP projects	January 2022
Notice to successful and unsuccessful applicants	January 2022



Eligible Applicants

- State governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York
- Local governments (village, town, city and county)
- Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state)
- Indian Tribes; § 200.54 [Indian tribe](#) (or “federally recognized Indian tribe”).
- Non-profit entities. An organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code.



2021 RFEP Process

Threshold Requirements.

- NBRC staff will review the LOIs to confirm eligibility of applicant. LOIs will then be shared with the RFEP Advisory Board.
- The Advisory Board, in coordination with the State Program Managers, will make the final determination of which projects will or will not be invited to submit an application.
- **NOTE: RFEP Letters of Interest are required. Please review the RFEP program manual for additional information on LOI submission requirements. All RFEP program materials are available on NBRC's website at www.nbrc.gov.**



RFEP Advisory Board

- Consists of one member representing Federal Co-Chair, two members from each of the four states
- Markets RFEP program
- Evaluates RFEP Letters of Interest
- Provides NBRC with feedback regarding LOI's and a list of projects invited to submit a full application
- Serves as a resource to projects invited to submit a full application
- See www.nbrc.gov for a list of 2021 RFEP Advisory Board members



RFEP PURPOSE

The purpose of the program is to assist rural communities, institutes of higher education and research, and economic development support organizations in their efforts to transition the forest-based industry and its workforce to a focus on new technologies and viable business models across the 4-state NBRC region.

NBRC's intention is to offer funding to rural communities through a competitive application process.



RFEP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

For those potential applicants familiar with the NBRC's core "Economic and Infrastructure Development" funding opportunity, the RFEP program is distinct in two important ways:

1. The RFEP program emphasizes the potential for impact across the entire NBRC region.
2. Infrastructure requests must directly support the forest industry, such as through research and development/innovation for new product development, harvesting, hauling/delivery wood (i.e., roads, rail), markets for mill residuals (i.e., biomass, softwood and hardwood pulp), and value-added processing.



RFEP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program will span two funding threads.

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. This category includes research and development at higher education institutions, and/or entities such as the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC), or State, Regional or municipal-based research divisions and departments.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Production of wood-based heating products
- Production of “Mass Timber” products (e.g., Cross-laminated timber)
- Existing industry upgrades or transitions to more innovative and sustainable forest products



RFEP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2. Workforce re-training and development for the purpose of building the skills needed for forest industry businesses.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Establish training and re-training programs to support workforce development
- Coordination of collaborative efforts to identify strategic opportunities for economic investment supporting the redevelopment for former mill sites and communities
- Development of targeted workforce programs to support identified employers' needs for a skilled workforce



RFEP INVESTMENT GOALS

1. Invest in the commercialization of new forest products and the development of new markets for forest product residuals.
2. Invest in new technology that seeks to find new uses for forest products.
3. Invest in workforce re-training for displaced forest economy workers in support of re-entry to the workforce in new industries, or in support of re-entry to new roles within legacy forest economy enterprises.
4. Encourage projects that leverage existing (or, in some cases, new) partnerships to effect multiple counties, states and/or the entire NBRC region, and/or have the potential to do so.
5. Invest in proposals focused on research and development within the forest products industry which demonstrate the potential to impact the entire NBRC region.
6. Support for pilot projects that may provide a foundation for future region-wide impact.



2021 RFEP HELPFUL HINTS

- **Review RFEP Program Materials, including the RFEP program timeline and a detailed program manual available at www.nbrc.gov**
- **Discuss your project specifics with your State Program Manager**
- **Utilize Advisory Board members as a resource**



QUESTIONS?