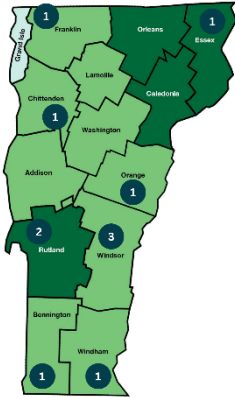




Northern Border Regional Commission

State of Vermont 2025 Catalyst Program Awards



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2025 Applicant Summary		
	Spring Round	Fall Round
Total Number of Applicants	16	
Total Funds Requested	\$ 17,890,392.00	
Total Number of Awards	11	
Total Funds Awarded	\$13,699,366.02	

2025 Spring Awards

Bennington County

Spring Award to: Bennington County Industrial Corporation

Project: NBRC funds will be used to develop essential transportation and water/wastewater infrastructure, supporting long-term economic revitalization in the Putnam Block of downtown Bennington. This initiative includes the construction of a two-level parking garage, surface parking, a new street, sidewalks, curbing, plantings, a bus shelter, and critical stormwater mitigation systems. By strengthening foundational infrastructure, the project aims to unlock further investment, enhance downtown accessibility, and drive sustainable regional growth.

Location of Project: Bennington County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$7,714,822.00

Chittenden County

Spring Award to: Bolton Valley Water and Community Development Co.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade the community wastewater plant and construct a new road to support housing and economic growth. The wastewater plant improvements will replace aging infrastructure, enhance resilience against severe storms, and expand capacity for future development, while the new road will facilitate a 32-unit subdivision and strengthen the village's long-term sustainability. By modernizing essential infrastructure, this initiative will catalyze \$20 million in real estate investment, create jobs, and bolster the region's outdoor recreation and tourism economy.

Location of Project: Chittenden County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$9,179,190.00

Essex County

Spring Award to: Canaan Naturally Connected, Inc.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate a historic Episcopal Church into the Canaan Community Center, a vital hub for economic and social engagement in rural Essex County, Vermont. This project will enhance workforce development, increase access to cultural and community programming, and preserve the historic integrity of the building while making it ADA accessible. By creating a sustainable gathering space, CNC aims to foster local connections, support underserved residents, and stimulate regional revitalization.

Location of Project: Essex County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$449,044.00

Total Project Amount: \$738,055.00

Franklin County

Spring Award to: Town of Highgate

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a community wastewater system, enhancing infrastructure for residents, businesses, and public spaces in Highgate Center. Designed to treat 20,000 gallons per day, this project will support economic growth by enabling senior housing, a new public library, and increased business capacity. With engineering phases nearing completion, funding will support construction of the wastewater disposal field, pump stations, and sewer connections, ensuring long-term sustainability and community development.

Location of Project: Franklin County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,839,130.00

Orange County

Spring Award to: Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary

Project: NBRC funds will be used to conduct a feasibility study for expanding childcare facilities and outdoor recreation infrastructure, addressing critical service gaps in rural Vermont. This initiative will enhance workforce participation by increasing licensed after-school care and boost local tourism through improved nature trails and eco-tourism programs. By integrating childcare with conservation education and outdoor recreation, SMBS aims to strengthen economic resilience, promote environmental sustainability, and support community well-being.

Location of Project: Orange County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$294,000.00

Rutland County

Spring Award to: Benson Village Trust, Inc.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to rebuild the Benson Village Store, restoring a vital economic and social hub for the rural community of Benson, Vermont. This project will construct a new 2.5-story general store with a deli, gas station, post office, and gathering spaces, providing essential services while fostering local engagement and economic growth. By revitalizing the village center, BVT aims to strengthen business activity, support tourism, and enhance quality of life in this historically significant town.

Location of Project: Rutland County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,309,000.00

Spring Award to: Rutland City

Project: NBRC funds will be used to modernize Downtown Rutland's infrastructure, enhancing economic growth and resilience. The initiative will replace aging water mains, improve stormwater management, upgrade wastewater systems, and redesign streetscapes to support accessibility and pedestrian safety. By revitalizing critical infrastructure and supporting downtown redevelopment, this project strengthens Rutland's long-term economic sustainability and public health.

Location of Project: Rutland County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,741,410.00

Windham County

Spring Award to: Food Connects

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand its storage and distribution infrastructure, increasing market access for Vermont food producers and supporting rural economic development. This initiative will enhance cold and frozen storage, improve transportation logistics, and add critical staff capacity to facilitate regional food distribution. By strengthening local food systems, creating jobs, and improving food security, the project aims to foster economic resilience and sustainability across New England.

Location of Project: Windham County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$499,385.50

Total Project Amount: \$998,771.00

Windsor County

Spring Award to: Town of Rochester

Project: NBRC funds will be used to re-purpose the former Rochester High School into a multi-use community hub. This project will provide early childhood education, senior services,

workforce development, arts programming, and business incubation, addressing critical infrastructure needs in a geographically isolated rural area. This initiative aims to strengthen economic resilience, expand public services, and foster social connectivity for residents.

Location of Project: Windsor County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,552,120.00

Spring Award to: Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to convert Springfield, Vermont's fixed-route bus system, into a free, on-demand micro transit service. This initiative will improve access to employment, healthcare, childcare, and local businesses, stimulating economic growth and mobility for residents. By funding scheduling software and three years of operations, SEVT aims to replicate its successful Windsor micro transit model, reducing unemployment, increasing business activity, and enhancing overall community connectivity.

Location of Project: Windsor County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$282,078.00

Total Project Amount: \$812,822.00

Spring Award to: Town of Woodstock

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade its municipal drinking water system, increasing pressure and capacity to support new housing and business development. This project will replace a municipal water supply well, install a new water main under Elm Street bridge, and improve infrastructure resilience against fire flow risks and future flood events. By modernizing the system, Woodstock aims to enhance public health and safety, facilitate economic growth, and strengthen the town's role as a regional tourism hub.

Location of Project: Windsor County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$868,858.52

Total Project Amount: \$1,755,094.22

2025 Fall Awards

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