



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBRC Awards \$37.2 Million to Drive Rural Economic Development

CONCORD, N.H. – Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced **\$37.2 million** in new awards as part of the Commission's fall round competition across its Catalyst, Forest Economy, and Timber for Transit programs. The 59 new awards will benefit communities throughout the Commission's member states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Awards made per program include the following:

- **\$31.1 million** awarded through the Catalyst Program:
 - 24 infrastructure projects support proposals for the construction of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems; road and sidewalk infrastructure; childcare, healthcare, and community center facilities; and outdoor recreation infrastructure.
 - 29 non-infrastructure projects fall within tourism and recreation, healthcare, business and workforce development categories. Eleven projects were awarded through a feasibility category, for planning and design initiatives that will result in deliverables supporting the implementation of an infrastructure project.
- **\$2.99 million** awarded through the Forest Economy Program will help transform a rail facility into a small-scale transload hub for forest products, launch a Troops to Timber program to train veterans for careers in forestry and logging, and support advanced wood heating systems and develop a fuel price comparison platform to promote low-grade wood use.
- **\$3 million** awarded through the Timber for Transit Program will support a bridge replacement and modernization project in New York, a multistate nanocellulose-enhanced concrete pilot program, and a feasibility study of a new Welcome Center at the Vermont-Canada border.

"NBRC is thrilled to announce these awards to rural communities across Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. NBRC funding will help unlock future private investment; grow the economy of the region, states and local communities; and importantly, improve the day-to-day lives of people that live in Northern New England and New York. The range of projects announced today highlight the flexible way NBRC can adapt to support the economic priorities of the region," said **NBRC Federal Co-Chair Chris Saunders**.

In New York, the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) will launch a nonprofit business acceleration program to benefit multiple counties:

"AEDC is delighted to receive Catalyst funding to allow us to launch a nonprofit accelerator for the Adirondacks. We know the critical role that the hundreds of nonprofits across our region play in driving the economy, workforce needs, jobs and quality of life within our communities and for its many visitors. External changes have presented increasing challenges to these

important businesses and this initiative will employ AEDC's skills to strategize for their stabilization and to maximize growth opportunities. We are so excited to see the catalytic impacts that this work brings across the region," said **Victoria Zinser Duley, Executive Director for the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)**.

In Plymouth, NH, a Catalyst award will support a renovation project, turning a hospital-owned building into three transitional housing units for healthcare staff:

"This NBRC grant represents a critical investment in addressing our healthcare workforce challenges by providing quality transitional housing that will help us attract and retain the skilled professionals our community needs. By converting underutilized office space into residential units, we're creating practical solutions that support both our healthcare system and broader community housing efforts," said **Michelle L. McEwen, President/CEO of Speare Memorial Hospital**.

In Vermont, a Catalyst project supports access to shared public space and a strong local economy through the acquisition and renovation of the Cambridge Community Center in Jeffersonville:

"This NBRC award will allow Cambridge 360 to acquire and renovate the Cambridge Community Center - a critical community and economic asset that directly supports regional economic activity, community connections, and quality of life. The CCC hosts fitness and youth programs, tournaments, and community events that generate local spending while providing equitable access to health and recreation for residents of all ages. The project will directly benefit small businesses and over 1,100 households in the region around Cambridge. We are honored to receive this award and excited to see its impact on our town!" said **Sharon Laidlaw, Interim President of Cambridge 360**.

A multistate project supported through the Timber for Transit program aims to catalyze commercialization of nanocellulose, support regional forestry jobs, and reduce the carbon footprint of infrastructure projects:

"We are thrilled to receive this award in partnership with New Hampshire, New York, and Maine. Demonstrating nanocellulose-enhanced concrete in real community projects will help us build stronger, longer-lasting infrastructure, reduce climate impacts, and open new markets for lower market value wood products across the Northern Border region. This work supports rural jobs, drives innovation in forest products, and reinforces the value of keeping working forests working," said **Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation**.

The funds for NBRC programs are available thanks to the support of the Congressional Delegations of all four NBRC states: Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The NBRC's grants management system will open for 2026 spring round pre-applications in February 2026. Please refer to NBRC's website, www.nbrc.gov, for important dates and announcements about current and future funding opportunities.

Fall 2025 Catalyst Program Awards

NBRC's Catalyst Program exists to stimulate economic growth and inspire partnerships that improve rural economic vitality across the four-state NBRC region.

Maine

Aroostook County

Organization: Outdoor Sport Institute

Project Summary: The Outdoor Sport Institute has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to complete three trail systems in the Katahdin Region of Maine, supporting the area's growing outdoor recreation economy. The project will create seasonal and full-time jobs, attract private investment, and enhance tourism infrastructure. It builds on extensive planning and community engagement to position the region as a premier trail destination.

Location of Project: ME – Aroostook

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,276,480.00

Organization: Caribou Utilities District

Project Summary: The Caribou Utilities District has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a second water main crossing the Aroostook River, eliminating a single point of failure in the city's water system. This project will ensure reliable service, improve fire protection, and support regional interconnection with the Loring Commerce Centre. It enhances infrastructure resilience and supports economic development in northern Maine.

Location of Project: ME – Aroostook

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,555,745.00

Franklin County

Organization: Center for Entrepreneurial Studies

Project Summary: The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies in Farmington, Maine has been awarded \$499,869.76 to expand its Changemaker program, which provides youth with career training in agriculture, retail, and entrepreneurship. The project includes micro-credentials, mentorship, and business incubation to prepare high school students for employment or self-employment. It supports workforce development and economic opportunity for rural youth.

Location of Project: ME – Franklin

Grant Amount: \$499,869.76

Total Project Amount: \$624,869.76

Hancock County

Organization: Hancock County Planning Commission

Project Summary: The Hancock County Planning Commission has been awarded \$35,162.00 to conduct a feasibility study to improve public transportation access and infrastructure in Hancock County, Maine. The project will include community outreach, transit gap analysis, and architectural plans for ADA-compliant bus stops using local wood products. This initiative supports workforce transportation, rural mobility, and infrastructure planning.

Location of Project: ME – Hancock

Grant Amount: \$35,162.00

Total Project Amount: \$52,821.66

Kennebec County

Organization: Monmouth Water Association

Project Summary: The Monmouth Water Association has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to extend public water service to North Monmouth, where private wells are contaminated with PFAS. The project includes installing 14,700 feet of water main, service connections, and a new storage tank to ensure safe drinking water and fire protection. This infrastructure upgrade will protect public health and support future development in the area.

Location of Project: ME – Kennebec

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$10,154,999.00

Penobscot County

Organization: Bangor Young Mens Christian Association

Project Summary: The Bangor YMCA has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to support the construction of a new \$57.8 million facility. The project will double childcare capacity, expand health services, and provide free mental health and workforce programs for teens. It aims to improve regional health outcomes, support working families, and revitalize downtown Bangor.

Location of Project: ME – Penobscot

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,373,278.00

Organization: Friends of Veterans Memorial Library

Project Summary: Friends of Veterans Memorial Library has been awarded \$606,691.00 to construct a new 8,400-square-foot library and community center in Patten, Maine. The facility will serve 12 rural towns with broadband access, workforce training, and public programming. This project supports infrastructure, education, and rural revitalization.

Location of Project: ME – Penobscot

Grant Amount: \$606,691.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,376,208.00

Organization: Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

Project Summary: Northern Light Health has been awarded \$100,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study for a regional clinical training simulation center in Bangor or Brewer, Maine. The study will assess the viability, location, and economic impact of expanding simulation-based healthcare training for local providers, students, and emergency personnel. This project supports workforce development and healthcare infrastructure in underserved rural areas.

Location of Project: ME – Penobscot

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$164,568.22

Washington County

Organization: Town of Jonesport

Project Summary: The Town of Jonesport has been awarded \$799,615.00 to construct a commercial working waterfront facility at Henry Point, including a boat launch, parking, and floating docks. The project will support 250 fishers and 20–50 marine businesses, enhancing economic

resilience and access to deep water. This initiative supports infrastructure, fisheries, and rural economic development.

Location of Project: ME – Washington

Grant Amount: \$799,615.00

Total Project Amount: \$999,520.00

Multiple Counties

Organization: Maine Development Foundation

Project Summary: The Maine Development Foundation has been awarded \$500,000.00 to launch a three-year pilot program supporting economic revitalization in communities impacted by biomass mill closures. The initiative will provide technical assistance, community assessments, and direct investments to four rural towns, helping them diversify their economies and improve service delivery. This project aligns with NBRC priorities by addressing workforce development, business growth, and long-term resilience in distressed areas.

Location of Project: ME - Aroostook; ME - Franklin; ME - Oxford; ME - Penobscot; ME - Piscataquis; ME - Somerset; ME - Waldo; ME – Washington

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$651,449.00

New Hampshire

Carroll County

Organization: Continuum Foundation

Project Summary: Continuum Foundation has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a new assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing facility in North Conway, NH. The project will address the loss of long-term care beds in the region and create 89 healthcare jobs. This investment will expand rural healthcare access, support aging in place, and strengthen the local economy.

Location of Project: NH – Carroll

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Cheshire County

Organization: Rise for Baby and Family

Project Summary: Rise for Baby and Family has been awarded \$288,493.96 to expand its Complete Pathway to Career initiative, supporting early childhood educators in Cheshire County, NH. The project will provide credentialing support, career advising, and mentorship to address staffing shortages and improve childcare access. This initiative strengthens the childcare workforce and supports regional economic participation by working families.

Location of Project: NH – Cheshire

Grant Amount: \$288,493.96

Total Project Amount: \$448,267.96

Organization: Keene Day Care Center, Inc.

Project Summary: Keene Day Care Center has been awarded \$892,847.00 to create 20 new childcare slots and preserve 70 existing ones through facility improvements and staff training. The project includes HVAC upgrades, window replacements, and sprinkler installation to ensure a safe and energy-efficient environment. This initiative supports early childhood education, workforce participation, and community well-being.

Location of Project: NH – Cheshire

Grant Amount: \$892,847.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,819,447.00

Organization: Historic Harrisville Inc.

Project Summary: Historic Harrisville Inc. has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to upgrade the village's outdated wastewater system and redevelop a vacant mill building into new commercially viable and public meeting spaces. The project will create 25 new jobs, preserve historic infrastructure, and support tourism and business development in Cheshire County. It also ensures continued operation of essential services like childcare and the community center.

Location of Project: NH – Cheshire

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,500,000.00

Coös County

Organization: Appalachian Mountain Club

Project Summary: The Appalachian Mountain Club has been awarded \$440,360.43 to build two All Persons Trails at Pinkham Notch and Crawford Notch in New Hampshire. These ADA-compliant trails will provide improved access to outdoor recreation and serve as models for sustainable trail design and workforce training. The project supports tourism, health, and accessibility in the White Mountains region.

Location of Project: NH – Coös

Grant Amount: \$440,360.43

Total Project Amount: \$556,778.05

Grafton County

Organization: Speare Memorial Hospital

Project Summary: Speare Memorial Hospital has been awarded \$500,000.00 to renovate a hospital-owned building in Plymouth, NH, into three transitional housing units for healthcare staff. The project aims to address workforce housing shortages, support recruitment and retention, and ensure continuity of care. This initiative aligns with NBRC's goals for basic public infrastructure and workforce stabilization.

Location of Project: NH – Grafton

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,173,250.12

Organization: Cottage Hospital

Project Summary: Cottage Hospital has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to upgrade its operating room, post-anesthesia care unit, and telecommunications systems to improve healthcare delivery in rural New Hampshire. The project will enhance patient safety, support workforce recruitment, and increase access to healthcare. These improvements will position the hospital as a modern, resilient healthcare provider for the region.

Location of Project: NH – Grafton

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,217,000.00

Organization: Town of Ashland

Project Summary: The Town of Ashland has been awarded \$50,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study for redeveloping its beachfront on Little Squam Lake to boost tourism and economic activity. The study will assess recreational enhancements, business opportunities, and infrastructure needs, including an environmental assessment. This project supports outdoor recreation, community development, and aligns with New Hampshire's tourism strategy.

Location of Project: NH – Grafton

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$100,000.00

Organization: Mascoma Valley Preservation

Project Summary: Mascoma Valley Preservation has been awarded \$400,000.00 to complete rehabilitation of two historic properties in Grafton, NH, for small business incubation and outdoor recreation. The project includes a general store, community center, and trail access improvements to support tourism and economic activity. This initiative blends historic preservation with rural revitalization and workforce development.

Location of Project: NH – Grafton

Grant Amount: \$400,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$800,000.00

Organization: Tritown Bike Friendly Community

Project Summary: The Tritown Bike Friendly Community has been awarded \$624,000.00 to build the Profile Community Trail, connecting Bethlehem, Franconia, and Littleton with year-round, off-road access. The trail will support cyclo-tourism and enhance health and economic development in the North Country. It will also link existing mountain biking networks and regional trails into a comprehensive system.

Location of Project: NH – Grafton

Grant Amount: \$624,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,199,000.00

Organization: Town of Plymouth

Project Summary: The Town of Plymouth has been awarded \$28,702.57 to conduct a feasibility study for energy-efficient downtown lighting and wayfinding improvements along Main Street. The study will assess safety, energy savings, and economic impacts while developing a detailed implementation plan. This project supports infrastructure planning and downtown revitalization in a rural, distressed community.

Location of Project: NH – Grafton

Grant Amount: \$28,702.57

Total Project Amount: \$57,405.14

Sullivan County

Organization: Sullivan County Conservation District

Project Summary: The Sullivan County Conservation District has been awarded \$250,000.00 to establish a shared-use food processing hub in Unity, NH, to support farmers and food entrepreneurs. The facility will include a commercial kitchen, training programs, and equipment to expand market access and value-added production. This project supports workforce development, small business growth, and regional food system resilience.

Location of Project: NH – Sullivan

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$319,200.96

Organization: The Well Collaborative NH

Project Summary: The Well Collaborative NH has been awarded \$821,353.60 to repurpose a historic church in Claremont, NH into a community hub offering childcare, a commercial kitchen, and public meeting space. The project addresses local economic needs by supporting working families, food-based entrepreneurs, and community programming. It revitalizes a key downtown property and strengthens the social and economic fabric of the region.

Location of Project: NH – Sullivan

Grant Amount: \$821,353.60

Total Project Amount: \$1,033,650.00

Organization: City of Claremont

Project Summary: The City of Claremont has been awarded \$430,000.00 to advance the Sugar River Revitalization and Brownfields Redevelopment Project by improving pedestrian access and preparing sites for community and commercial use. The project will transform a remediated brownfield into a riverwalk and public gathering space. This initiative supports outdoor recreation, tourism, and economic development in Sullivan County.

Location of Project: NH – Sullivan

Grant Amount: \$430,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,602,876.48

Organization: Acworth Historical Society, Inc.

Project Summary: The Acworth Historical Society has been awarded \$268,311.00 to modernize and expand the Acworth Village Store, a historic general store and community hub. The project will improve flood resilience, energy efficiency, and ADA accessibility, supporting local farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs. It aims to preserve a vital economic and social institution in rural New Hampshire.

Location of Project: NH - Sullivan

Grant Amount: \$268,311.00

Total Project Amount: \$349,811.00

New York

Cayuga County

Organization: Cayuga County

Project Summary: Cayuga County has been awarded \$100,000.00 to conduct a comprehensive housing market study to identify needs, trends, and development opportunities across the county. The study will guide future housing investments, partnerships, and funding strategies to support workforce and community growth. It aims to address housing shortages and affordability in rural and underserved areas.

Location of Project: NY – Cayuga

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$150,000.00

Essex County

Organization: Hudson Headwaters Health Network

Project Summary: Hudson Headwaters Health Network has been awarded \$856,724.00 to construct a new dental facility in Ticonderoga, NY, to serve 1,550 additional patients annually. The project addresses a critical shortage of dental care in rural areas and will create seven new healthcare jobs. This initiative supports healthcare access, workforce development, and regional vitality.

Location of Project: NY – Essex

Grant Amount: \$856,724.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,070,906.00

Organization: Town of Moriah

Project Summary: The Town of Moriah has been awarded \$66,940.00 to update its Economic Development Plan to guide revitalization and investment over the next five years. The plan will identify shovel-ready projects, infrastructure needs, and tourism opportunities to support long-term economic resilience. This initiative aligns with NBRC priorities in infrastructure, housing, and outdoor recreation.

Location of Project: NY – Essex

Grant Amount: \$66,940.00

Total Project Amount: \$83,800.00

Genesee County

Organization: Village of Bergen

Project Summary: The Village of Bergen has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to address inflow and infiltration issues in its sewer system, which limit wastewater treatment capacity and economic growth. The project will support expansion of the Apple Tree Acres Business Park and enable new residential development. These improvements will strengthen infrastructure, support job creation, and promote sustainable growth in Genesee County.

Location of Project: NY – Genesee

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Herkimer County

Organization: Village of Newport

Project Summary: The Village of Newport has been awarded \$100,000.00 to conduct a comprehensive engineering study for expanding its municipal wastewater system. The study will evaluate the feasibility of replacing aging septic systems with a village-wide sewer system to support public health and economic development. This planning effort will lay the groundwork for future infrastructure investment.

Location of Project: NY – Herkimer

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$125,000.00

Livingston County

Organization: Village of Avon

Project Summary: The Village of Avon has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to expand and modernize its water treatment plant, which serves multiple municipalities and major industrial users. The project will double treatment capacity, improve system reliability, and support future residential and commercial development. These upgrades will ensure compliance with water quality standards and

promote regional economic growth.

Location of Project: NY – Livingston

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,883,000.00

St. Lawrence County

Organization: St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency

Project Summary: The St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency has been awarded \$500,000.00 to establish a purification pilot facility for Empire State Mines' new graphite processing operation. The project will support the first fully integrated U.S. natural flake graphite production since 1956, advancing critical mineral supply chains. It will create jobs, attract investment, and position the region as a leader in domestic graphite production.

Location of Project: NY - St. Lawrence

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,513,000.00

Organization: State University of New York College of Technology at Canton

Project Summary: SUNY Canton has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a 15,000-square-foot childcare center offering affordable early education and intervention services for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. The facility will also serve as a training site for SUNY students in early childhood, psychology, and healthcare programs. This project addresses critical childcare shortages and supports workforce development in St. Lawrence County.

Location of Project: NY - St. Lawrence

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$18,732,952.00

Warren County

Organization: Warren County, New York

Project Summary: Warren County has been awarded \$231,680.00 to improve the fish rearing ponds and visitor center at its county-operated fish hatchery, a key asset in the region's outdoor recreation and tourism economy. The project includes reconstructing aging infrastructure, expanding educational facilities, and enhancing accessibility. These upgrades will support environmental education, youth engagement, and the \$100 million sportfishing economy in the region.

Location of Project: NY – Warren

Grant Amount: \$231,680.00

Total Project Amount: \$289,600.00

Multiple Counties

Organization: Saranac Central School District

Project Summary: Saranac Central School District has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to address urgent infrastructure issues at its new preschool facility, which serves children with disabilities. The project includes sewer system replacement, HVAC upgrades, and kitchen floor repairs to meet health and safety codes. These improvements will stabilize and expand early childhood education services across Clinton and Essex Counties.

Location of Project: NY - Clinton; NY – Essex

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,260,000.00

Organization: Adirondack Economic Development Corporation

Project Summary: The Adirondack Economic Development Corporation has been awarded \$197,192.00 to launch a nonprofit business acceleration program across 13 rural counties in

Northern New York. The initiative will provide business planning, consulting, and financial support to nonprofits, helping them grow revenue streams and expand services. This project supports economic development, workforce growth, and sustainability in underserved communities.

Location of Project: NY - Clinton; NY - Essex; NY - Franklin; NY - Fulton; NY - Hamilton; NY - Herkimer; NY - Jefferson; NY - Lewis; NY - Oneida; NY - Oswego; NY - St. Lawrence; NY - Warren; NY – Washington

Grant Amount: \$197,192.00

Total Project Amount: \$246,490.00

Organization: Adirondack Recreational Trail Advocates

Project Summary: The Adirondack Rail Trail Association has been awarded \$99,001.92 to develop a master plan for the 34-mile Adirondack Rail Trail connecting Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid. The plan will address community connections, visitor amenities, signage, and long-term maintenance to maximize the trail's economic and recreational potential. This project supports tourism, transportation, and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

Location of Project: NY - Essex; NY – Franklin

Grant Amount: \$99,001.92

Total Project Amount: \$129,547.41

Organization: North Country Community College

Project Summary: North Country Community College has been awarded \$52,750.00 to conduct a feasibility study for a new field station and art studio along the Adirondack Rail Trail. The facility would support environmental science, recreation, and arts programming for students and the community. This project promotes education, tourism, and economic development in the Adirondacks.

Location of Project: NY - Essex; NY – Franklin

Grant Amount: \$52,750.00

Total Project Amount: \$66,115.70

Organization: Carthage Area Hospital

Project Summary: Carthage Area Hospital has been awarded \$499,780.08 to implement a dual-track nursing initiative, including a graduate nurse residency program and a virtual nursing model. The project will improve nurse retention, expand clinical training, and enhance patient care across two hospital campuses in northern New York. This investment addresses workforce shortages and strengthens rural healthcare infrastructure.

Location of Project: NY - Jefferson; NY - St. Lawrence

Grant Amount: \$499,780.08

Total Project Amount: \$1,139,063.10

Organization: Oneida Health

Project Summary: Oneida Health has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to renovate and expand a primary care facility to meet growing demand in Madison and Oneida Counties. The project will improve access to healthcare services, support workforce development, and accommodate population growth tied to regional economic initiatives. This investment strengthens rural healthcare infrastructure and supports long-term community well-being.

Location of Project: NY - Madison; NY – Oneida

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,827,135.00

Vermont

Addison County

Organization: City Of Vergennes

Project Summary: The City of Vergennes has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a new 1,280-foot city street with sidewalks and utilities to support the Vergennes North workforce housing development. The project will enable construction of 130 housing units and expand the city's tax base while improving transportation and water infrastructure. This initiative supports housing, economic development, and regional workforce needs.

Location of Project: VT – Addison

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Chittenden County

Organization: Town of Shelburne

Project Summary: The Town of Shelburne has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to install an ultraviolet disinfection system as part of a larger wastewater treatment plant consolidation and upgrade. This project will improve water quality in Lake Champlain, reduce long-term operating costs, and support economic growth by ensuring reliable wastewater services for residents and businesses. It also enhances environmental resilience and public health infrastructure.

Location of Project: VT – Chittenden

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,440,000.00

Essex County

Organization: Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center

Project Summary: Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center has been awarded \$294,400.00 to establish a permanent farm, recreation, and education campus on 60 acres in Lunenburg, Vermont. The project includes land acquisition, trail access, and planning for a future education center to support agriculture, youth programs, and tourism. This initiative supports workforce development, conservation, and rural economic growth.

Location of Project: VT – Essex

Grant Amount: \$294,400.00

Total Project Amount: \$368,000.00

Lamoille County

Organization: Cambridge 360 Inc

Project Summary: Cambridge 360 has been awarded \$489,020.08 to acquire and renovate the Cambridge Community Center in Jeffersonville, Vermont, preserving it as a vital hub for recreation, youth programs, and economic development. The project includes urgent repairs, site improvements, and expanded programming to support regional workforce and community resilience. This initiative ensures continued access to shared public space and strengthens the local economy.

Location of Project: VT – Lamoille

Grant Amount: \$489,020.08

Total Project Amount: \$978,040.16

Orleans County

Organization: Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc

Project Summary: Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc. has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to expand the Lakemont Family Resource Center in Newport, Vermont, by adding 16 childcare slots, constructing three classrooms, and purchasing the building. The project will also support mobile service delivery to rural areas and create six new jobs. This initiative addresses critical childcare needs and enhances family support infrastructure in the Northeast Kingdom.

Location of Project: VT – Orleans

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,763,906.00

Washington County

Organization: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Project Summary: The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has been awarded \$100,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study for redeveloping the 87 State Street Federal Building in downtown Montpelier. The study will explore flood-resilient, mixed-use redevelopment options that include housing, parking, and commercial space. This project supports economic recovery, community resilience, and revitalization of Vermont's capital city.

Location of Project: VT – Washington

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$288,000.00

Organization: City of Montpelier

Project Summary: The City of Montpelier has been awarded \$2,994,597.00 to replace aging water and sewer infrastructure and support redevelopment of the 133-acre Country Club Road site into a mixed-use neighborhood. The project includes a new pump station, utility upgrades, and road construction to enable 300 new housing units. This initiative supports housing, infrastructure, and community resilience.

Location of Project: VT – Washington

Grant Amount: \$2,994,597.00

Total Project Amount: \$11,091,098.00

Organization: Town of Waitsfield, Vermont

Project Summary: The Town of Waitsfield has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to connect Waitsfield School to a new municipal wastewater system as part of a broader infrastructure project. The connection will replace aging septic infrastructure, support school expansion, and enable future residential and commercial tie-ins. This project enhances public health, education, and long-term community development in the Mad River Valley.

Location of Project: VT – Washington

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,921,409.00

Windham County

Organization: The Hatch Inc.

Project Summary: HatchSpace has been awarded \$36,225.00 to conduct a feasibility study for acquiring and improving its current facility in downtown Brattleboro, Vermont. The study will assess building conditions, financial models, and acquisition strategies to support HatchSpace's mission of

advancing craft and technical education. The project aims to strengthen Vermont's creative, construction, and education sectors through infrastructure planning and community engagement.

Location of Project: VT – Windham

Grant Amount: \$36,225.00

Total Project Amount: \$72,450.00

Windsor County

Organization: Norwich Community Collaborative Inc.

Project Summary: Norwich Community Collaborative has been awarded \$390,000.00 to complete the third phase of restoring the historic Norwich Grange Hall into a multi-purpose community center. The project will add ADA-compliant facilities and infrastructure to support senior services, childcare, and community programming. This effort will enhance social connection and economic vitality in the village.

Location of Project: VT – Windsor

Grant Amount: \$390,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$848,554.00

Organization: The Southern Vermont Health and Recreation Center Foundation

Project Summary: The Southern Vermont Health and Recreation Center Foundation has been awarded \$100,000.00 to conduct pre-development planning for a new Connector building that will link its aquatic and fitness center with a historic facility. The project will include design work for a childcare center, wellness programming space, and public meeting areas. This initiative supports childcare access, workforce development, and community health in Springfield, Vermont.

Location of Project: VT – Windsor

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$200,000.00

Organization: Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission

Project Summary: Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission has been awarded \$35,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study for downtown White River Junction infrastructure improvements, including a public plaza, parking facility, and geothermal energy options. The study will support redevelopment of key sites into housing and commercial space while enhancing connectivity and sustainability. This project supports infrastructure planning, economic development, and community resilience.

Location of Project: VT – Windsor

Grant Amount: \$35,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$70,000.00

Multiple Counties

Organization: Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Project Summary: The Vermont League of Cities and Towns has been awarded \$500,000.00 to launch a technical assistance program building capacity for municipalities to access the state's new Community Housing & Infrastructure Program (CHIP). The initiative will provide training, resources, and consulting to support infrastructure investments that enable housing development. The project will ensure equitable access to CHIP funding across Vermont.

Location of Project: VT - Addison; VT - Bennington; VT - Caledonia; VT - Chittenden; VT - Essex; VT - Franklin; VT - Grand Isle; VT - Lamoille; VT - Orange; VT - Orleans; VT - Rutland; VT -

Washington; VT - Windham; VT – Windsor

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$710,000.36

Fall 2025 Forest Economy Program Awards

NBRC's Forest Economy Program supports state-identified development plans for the regional forest economy and assists in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will revitalize a state-owned rail facility in Whitefield, NH, transforming it into a small-scale transload hub for forest products. The project will reduce transportation costs, support supply chain resilience, and open new markets for the regional forest industry. It aligns with NBRC's Forest Economy Program by enhancing infrastructure critical to rural economic development.

Location of Project: NH - Coös

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,300,116.00

New York

Paul Smith's College of Arts and Sciences

Award Amount: \$999,991

Paul Smith's College will launch the Troops to Timber program, which will train veterans and transitioning service members for careers in forestry and logging. The program offers stackable credentials and hands-on training in collaboration with Fort Drum and regional employers. It addresses workforce shortages in the forest economy and supports veteran employment in rural communities.

Location of Project: NY - Franklin; NY – Jefferson

Grant Amount: \$999,991.01

Total Project Amount: \$1,261,229.32

Vermont

State of Vermont Public Service Department

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

The Vermont Public Service Department will support advanced wood heating systems and develop a fuel price comparison platform to promote low-grade wood use. The project will provide financial incentives for schools and municipalities and improve consumer access to wood fuel data. This initiative supports renewable energy, forest economy, and infrastructure development.

Location of Project: VT - Addison; VT - Bennington; VT - Caledonia; VT - Chittenden; VT - Essex; VT - Franklin; VT - Grand Isle; VT - Lamoille; VT - Orange; VT - Orleans; VT - Rutland; VT - Washington; VT - Windham; VT – Windsor

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,979,500.00

Fall 2025 Timber for Transit Program Awards

NBRC's Timber for Transit Program advances the use of domestic forest products in transportation infrastructure projects across the NBRC region to showcase the capabilities of wood in these applications.

New York

Town of Sand Lake

Award Amount: \$750,000

The Town of Sand Lake will replace the 1920s-era Johnny Cake Lane bridge over Wynantskill Creek with a modern, climate-resilient structure. The new bridge will improve hydraulic capacity, accommodate two-way traffic and pedestrians, and enhance safety and access for local residents.

Location of Project: NY – Rensselaer

Grant Amount: \$750,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,500,000.00

Vermont

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Award Amount: \$375,000

The Vermont Agency of Transportation will conduct a feasibility study for a new Welcome Center near the Canadian border in Highgate, VT. The study will evaluate site suitability, use of advanced wood products, and renewable heating options for the facility. This project supports transportation infrastructure, tourism, and the forest economy.

Location of Project: VT – Franklin

Grant Amount: \$375,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$750,000.00

Multistate

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Award Amount: \$1,940,715

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation will lead a multistate demonstration of nanocellulose-enhanced concrete in transportation infrastructure. The project will construct eight pilot installations across the Northern Border region, showcasing the environmental and economic benefits of using timber-derived materials. It aims to catalyze commercialization of nanocellulose, support regional forestry jobs, and reduce the carbon footprint of infrastructure projects.

Location of Project: ME - Penobscot; NH - Coös; NY - Essex; NY - St. Lawrence; VT – Rutland

Grant Amount: \$1,940,715.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,499,535.00

Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to catalyze community vitality and economic prosperity in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont through flexible funding and strategic support.