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NBRC Awards \$53.9 Million in 2025 Spring Round Grants, Supporting Economic Development and Transportation Infrastructure Projects

CONCORD, N.H. – Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced **\$53.9 million** in new awards as part of the Commission's Spring Round competition across its Catalyst and Timber for Transit programs. The 69 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:

- **\$46.3 million** awarded through the Catalyst Program:
 - 36 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.
 - 28 non-infrastructure projects fall within tourism and recreation, healthcare, business and workforce development categories. Six projects were awarded through a new feasibility category, for planning and design initiatives that will result in deliverables supporting the implementation of an infrastructure project.
- **\$7.6 million** awarded through the Timber for Transit Program includes three transportation infrastructure projects involving rail, trail, or pedestrian bridges, one feasibility project focusing on maintaining road infrastructure across the NBRC region, and one transportation-adjacent infrastructure project involving the construction of a new passenger terminal.

"The slate of awards approved by the Commission represent a generational investment in local economies across Northern New England and New York. This public investment in infrastructure will directly lead to the creation of new jobs and businesses, housing construction and improved economic opportunity and vitality in rural communities," said **NBRC Federal Co-Chair Chris Saunders**.

A project in Aroostook County, Maine will use Timber for Transit funding to build a pedestrian bridge with laminated, local timber as part of a transformative community initiative:

"We are excited to see how the Island Bridge Project will help to transform our community—not just by providing a safe and scenic crossing to our namesake island, but by supporting ongoing downtown revitalization. The use of lumber harvested from town-owned property makes this project even more meaningful. It will strengthen connections between neighborhoods, trails, and local businesses, encourage more foot traffic and community activity. This project reflects our dedication to accessibility, vibrancy, and a walkable, welcoming town center," said **Jutta Beyer, Town Manager for the Town of Island Falls**.

In Chittenden County, Vermont, a Catalyst award will help replace aging wastewater plant infrastructure while setting the community up for extreme weather resilience and future development:

"This grant will have a huge impact on our community, and we are so grateful that this resource exists to make these improvements possible. With these funds, the Bolton Valley community will be able to move forward with a much-needed wastewater plant upgrade and set the stage for new residential development. These funds will move the needle on these projects. We truly cannot overstate the impact," said **Lindsay Deslauriers, President, CEO of Bolton Valley Water and Community Development Co.**

Catalyst grant funding in Coös County, New Hampshire will go towards the renovation and expansion of a dental clinic, doubling capacity to meet oral health needs:

"This important award from the Northern Border Regional Commission will support the expansion of dental services in the North Country," said **Ken Gordon, Chief Executive Officer at Coös County Family Health Services.** "Not only will local residents have expanded access to dental care, but the award will create the infrastructure needed to train a new generation of dentists and other oral health professionals."

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 Fall Round pre-applications in August 2025. Please refer to NBRC's website, www.nbrc.gov, for important dates and announcements about current and future funding opportunities.

Spring 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

Spring Award to: Presque Isle Utilities District

Project: NBRC funds will be used to replace approximately 4,500 linear feet of aging watermain, along with associated hydrants, valves, and street distribution connections, ensuring reliable service across the community. This project supports critical infrastructure needs for healthcare facilities, businesses, residences, and emergency services while enhancing water quality and fire protection capacity. With additional funding secured from the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, the initiative will help reduce financial burdens on ratepayers while maintaining long-term system sustainability.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,233,000.00

Franklin County

Spring Award to: Arnold Trail Snowmobile Network

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a 3-bay Groomer Barn, ensuring proper storage and maintenance for its three Piston Bully 400 groomers and equipment. As a vital hub for snowmobiling in Northern Franklin County, ATSN maintains 170 miles of trails that drive regional tourism and economic activity. By securing this infrastructure investment, the club will sustain long-term trail maintenance, protect valuable equipment, and support local businesses that rely on winter recreation.

Grant Amount: \$403,409.00
Total Project Amount: \$504,137.00

Spring Award to: Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support the Welcome to Rangeley Lakes Region initiative to enhance tourism, workforce development, and community engagement in Franklin County, Maine. The initiative includes an Ambassador Program, marketing and outreach efforts, Visitor Center upgrades, and relocation resources to attract and retain residents. By promoting sustainable tourism, job creation, and economic growth, this initiative strengthens the region's long-term vitality and appeal.

Grant Amount: \$303,150.00
Total Project Amount: \$389,047.94

Hancock County

Spring Award to: Mount Desert Island Hospital

Project: NBRC funds will be used to modernize its Bar Harbor campus and renovate a newly acquired facility in Southwest Harbor, improving healthcare access for 25,000 patients annually. This project will expand the Emergency Department, upgrade surgical suites, enhance site infrastructure for stormwater management, and establish a community health hub, strengthening integrated care and workforce capacity. By improving healthcare facilities, MDIH aims to boost economic stability, support rural healthcare resilience, and advance regional public health priorities.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$6,853,777.00

Kennebec County

Spring Award to: City of Gardiner

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade aging infrastructure at the Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Facility and Maine Avenue Pump Station, ensuring public and environmental health while supporting economic growth. This project will enhance wastewater management, reduce combined sewer overflows, and create opportunities for housing development and business expansion in Gardiner and surrounding underserved communities. By increasing resiliency and aligning with Maine's Economic Development Strategies, the initiative will strengthen infrastructure, attract new talent, and foster long-term regional sustainability.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$3,540,400.00

Spring Award to: Maine Department of Labor

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in construction and manufacturing across eight counties in Maine's Northern Border Region. This initiative will establish at least 15 new programs and enroll 375 apprentices, strengthening workforce development and connecting residents to high-wage, high-skill careers. Funding will support Apprenticeship Technical Representatives to engage employers, register apprentices, and provide technical assistance, advancing Maine's economic strategy to grow its labor force.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

Knox County

Spring Award to: Town of North Haven

Project: NBRC funds will be used to design critical upgrades to its aging wastewater treatment system, ensuring compliance with EPA/DEP regulations and long-term sustainability. This project will develop engineering plans within twelve months to address system deficiencies, including undersized septic tanks, lack of sludge storage, and leaking sewers, benefiting 200 sewer users, businesses, and public facilities. By securing this funding, North Haven can position itself for future construction funding, preserving tourism-related jobs, stabilizing property values, and supporting economic resilience in this rural island community.

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$218,000.00

Spring Award to: Town of Thomaston

Project: NBRC funds will be used to modernize and preserve a cornerstone of Thomaston's downtown economy and community life. The initiative will implement energy-efficient climate control, safety and accessibility upgrades, and interior refinishing to maintain historic character while ensuring the building remains a competitive space for businesses, events, and civic engagement.

Grant Amount: \$497,640.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,073,920.00

Lincoln County**Spring Award to: Town of Waldoboro**

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a booster station and replace a resin filter, enhancing the safety, efficiency, and capacity of its municipal water system. This project will improve water pressure for current and future users, support affordable housing development, and ensure reliable access to clean drinking water and fire protection for nearly 500 residents, local businesses, and a new medical facility. By strengthening infrastructure, Waldoboro aims to attract economic investment, reduce long-term costs, and enhance community resilience.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,802,600.00

Spring Award to: Boothbay Region Water District

Project: NBRC funds will be used to extend a water line along Barter's Island Road, ensuring safe and reliable drinking water for residents, businesses, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (CMBG), and Boothbay Region YMCA (BRYMCA). This project will replace low-quality bedrock wells, mitigate PFAS contamination, enhance fire protection, and support economic growth in the region.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,824,775.00

Spring Award to: Midcoast Council of Governments

Project: NBRC funds will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund (RLF) that will support early-stage and growing businesses in Lincoln and Knox Counties, as well as select towns in Waldo County. This initiative will provide critical financial assistance to businesses in value-added food production, fishing, aquaculture, and the working waterfront, strengthening Maine's blue economy and rural economic resilience. By leveraging its decades of business lending experience, MCOG aims to foster sustainable industry growth, create jobs, and enhance long-term economic stability in the region.

Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$600,000.00

Oxford County**Spring Award to: Paris Utility District**

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade critical infrastructure, enhancing the reliability and efficiency of its water and wastewater services for 1,200 customers. The project includes SCADA and telemetry upgrades, generator installation at the repeater site, and control building HVAC improvements, increasing safety, security, and resiliency. By modernizing these systems, the district aims to ensure high-quality service while supporting long-term sustainability for the community.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$850,000.00

Penobscot County**Spring Award to: Bangor Children's Home d.b.a. Hilltop School**

Project: NBRC funds will be used to restore the roofing and dormers of its historic facility, ensuring the long-term safety and preservation of this vital community resource. As one of Bangor's longest-standing institutions, the building has served children and families for over 150 years, and renovations will protect its structural integrity while maintaining its architectural heritage. By securing these critical upgrades, the organization can continue providing high-quality early education and child-centered care for future generations.

Grant Amount: \$227,735.01
Total Project Amount: \$473,704.51

Spring Award to: Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Project: NBRC funds will be used to establish the EMDC NBRC RLF Program, supporting small business growth in distressed counties of Eastern Maine. This initiative will provide loans ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000, helping businesses expand operations, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy. The program aims to foster long-term economic sustainability by revolving loan repayments into future lending opportunities.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$640,000.00

Piscataquis County

Spring Award to: Friends of the Mountain

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support the purchase of the 1,700-acre Big Moose Mountain Ski Area, a key resource for economic revitalization in Piscataquis County, Maine. This project will create sustainable, year-round jobs, attract new residents, and strengthen rural tourism, benefiting multiple underserved communities. By securing this funding, Friends aims to restore and expand outdoor recreation infrastructure, fostering long-term economic growth and environmental conservation.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$6,050,000.00

Somerset County

Spring Award to: Main Street Skowhegan

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate a historic 6,000-square-foot building in downtown Skowhegan, transforming it into a shared commercial kitchen and food business incubator. This project will provide career training, entrepreneurship support, and business incubation for local food entrepreneurs, strengthening workforce development and economic growth in Somerset County. By fostering innovation, attracting new talent, and promoting locally sourced food production, The Kitchen will position Skowhegan as a hub for culinary entrepreneurship and regional food economy expansion.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$2,560,972.18

Washington County

Spring Award to: Town of Beals

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand and fortify the storm-vulnerable Beals Town Landing on Alley Bay Rd. This project will construct a reinforced concrete wall, add a 3,000-square-foot work area, install steel floats for vessel repairs, and extend power for lighting and new hoists, improving efficiency and resilience for 150 fishing and aquaculture jobs. By strengthening this critical working waterfront asset, the initiative enhances local businesses, sustains marine industries, and protects vital infrastructure from future extreme weather events.

Grant Amount: \$482,236.52
Total Project Amount: \$627,076.52

Spring Award to: Cherryfield Town Square

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate a deteriorating 10,000-square-foot building in the heart of its Historic District. This project will create a community gathering space supporting tourism and economic growth by celebrating the region's wild blueberry heritage, expanding retail space for local artisans, and developing a visitor center. By revitalizing Cherryfield Town Square, the initiative will enhance downtown vitality, attract new residents and businesses, and strengthen the local economy.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$706,904.00

Spring Award to: Regional Medical Center at Lubec

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a new 7,400-square-foot clinic in East Machias, expanding primary care, dental, and behavioral health services for Washington County residents. This initiative will alleviate provider shortages, enhance telemedicine capabilities, and create high-paying healthcare jobs, contributing to workforce development and economic growth. By modernizing infrastructure and improving access to essential medical services, RMCL aims to strengthen public health, attract skilled professionals, and serve as a model for rural healthcare excellence.

Grant Amount: \$800,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$7,254,000.00

Multiple Counties**Spring Award to: Associated General Contractors of Maine**

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand its Maine Construction Academy Immersion Program, providing workforce training for at-risk youth in rural counties. This 20-day paid initiative offers certifications, hands-on construction experience, and job placement support, addressing high youth unemployment and Maine's construction labor shortage. By strengthening workforce development, AGC Maine aims to create long-term economic opportunities, reduce barriers to employment, and foster skilled labor growth in the region.

Grant Amount: \$497,961.00

Total Project Amount: \$664,106.00

Spring Award to: GrowSmart Maine

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support six economically distressed rural municipalities—Calais, Danforth, Houlton, Machias, Mexico, and Van Buren—in developing strategic economic growth plans. This initiative will provide expert technical assistance, create locally tailored Economic Development Plans, and establish collaborative platforms for regional partnerships and resource sharing. By fostering workforce development, improving economic KPIs, and supporting business expansion, the project will drive long-term prosperity and sustainability across these communities.

Grant Amount: \$388,700.00

Total Project Amount: \$485,875.00

Spring Award to: The Harry E. Davis Partnership for Children's Oral Health

Project: NBRC funds will be used to address workforce gaps in dental care across Maine's rural Northern Border Region counties. This initiative will develop and implement customized training for non-dental providers, enabling them to integrate essential oral health services into primary care and community paramedicine programs. By expanding access to preventive dental care and early intervention, SCOHR aims to improve health outcomes, support rural workforce retention, and enhance the sustainability of local healthcare organizations.

Grant Amount: \$499,613.00

Total Project Amount: \$673,629.00

Spring Award to: Island Institute

Project: NBRC funds will be used to develop adaptation implementation plans for three working waterfront communities in Waldo, Washington, and Hancock counties. This project will create detailed strategies to address storm preparedness, safeguard infrastructure, and support long-term economic sustainability for over 635 fishing and tourism industry workers. By producing actionable plans and a best practice guide, the initiative will enhance resilience, protect local businesses, and serve as a model for other coastal communities in Maine.

Grant Amount: \$181,712.00

Total Project Amount: \$259,588.00

Spring Award to: Maine Community College System

Project: NBRC funds will be used to train 250 new healthcare professionals over three years through short-term programs at three community colleges. This initiative will prepare Certified Nursing Assistants, Medical Assistants, and Emergency Medical Technicians to address critical healthcare labor shortages in rural Maine. By strengthening the healthcare workforce and fostering industry partnerships, the project aims to boost economic mobility, improve healthcare accessibility, and ensure long-term workforce stability.

Grant Amount: \$497,537.00

Total Project Amount: \$792,531.00

Spring Award to: Maine Outdoor Brands

Project: NBRC funds will be used to strengthen Maine's outdoor recreation workforce by developing training programs, expanding career pathways, and increasing awareness of industry opportunities. This statewide initiative will produce a workforce report, enhance partnerships with educational institutions, support hands-on job training, and establish a centralized workforce hub. By attracting and retaining skilled workers, MOB aims to support industry growth, economic resilience, and workforce development in rural Maine.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,000,000.00

New Hampshire

Belknap County

Spring Award to: Partnership for Public Health, Inc.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate a community public health building in Laconia, NH, enhancing accessibility, safety, and energy efficiency. This project will install ADA-compliant features, upgrade building systems, and improve security to better serve older adults, individuals with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged residents of Belknap County. By modernizing critical infrastructure, PPH aims to strengthen healthcare access, promote workforce participation, and support long-term economic and community resilience.

Grant Amount: \$399,050.00

Total Project Amount: \$818,300.00

Carroll County

Spring Award to: New Hampshire Boat Museum

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support Phase 2 of its tourism and recreation project, enhancing community engagement and economic development in Carroll County. This initiative includes a 6,500-square-foot renovation of the museum's main floor, creating educational spaces, flexible exhibits, offices, and conference areas to strengthen tourism and workforce retention. By investing in this expansion, the project aligns with New Hampshire's Business and Economic Affairs goals, reinforcing the state's tourism brand and supporting local economic vitality.

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$500,000.00

Cheshire County

Spring Award to: Franklin Pierce University

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade the wastewater treatment system, ensuring compliance with new environmental regulations and supporting campus operations. The project will add a third Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) and related infrastructure improvements, enhancing water treatment capacity and sustainability. By securing this funding, FPU can continue expanding healthcare programs, strengthening workforce development, and contributing to the economic and environmental health of Cheshire and Sullivan counties.

Grant Amount: \$960,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,200,000.00

Coös County

Spring Award to: Coös County Family Health Services

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate and expand a dental clinic in downtown Berlin, NH, doubling capacity to meet growing oral health needs. The renovated facility will add four exam rooms, accommodate visiting specialists, and provide training space for allied dental professionals while integrating accessibility and modern ventilation improvements. This initiative aims to address increased demand following the expansion of the adult Medicaid dental benefit in New Hampshire, ensuring comprehensive care for local residents.

Grant Amount: \$222,437.00
Total Project Amount: \$278,047.00

Grafton County

Spring Award to: Franconia Children's Center

Project: NBRC funds will be used to purchase and upgrade its current facility, ensuring long-term sustainability and expanding childcare capacity by nearly 50%. These funds will support critical health and safety improvements, reduce operational costs, and enhance employee retention through increased wages and benefits. By securing the building and modernizing infrastructure, FCC aims to strengthen early childhood education, support working families, and promote economic stability in the region.

Grant Amount: \$428,629.72
Total Project Amount: \$857,259.44

Spring Award to: Town of Groton

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a salt and sand shed, ensuring the safe storage of road treatment materials in a secure, flood-free location. This project will enhance winter road safety, supporting economic stability by maintaining reliable access for residents, workers, and emergency services. By relocating these facilities out of a flood zone and protecting materials from weather damage, the initiative strengthens transportation infrastructure and long-term community resilience.

Grant Amount: \$125,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$250,000.00

Spring Award to: Littleton Community Center

Project: NBRC funds will be used to restore the historic Carriage Barn, expand business use of the Community House, and increase tourism through heritage experiences. This project will create a new meeting/performance space, remodel the third floor into rentable offices, and establish guided tours of the two National Register-listed buildings. By preserving these historic properties and enhancing community infrastructure, LCC aims to support economic development, cultural engagement, and long-term sustainability in Littleton.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$2,088,342.00

Spring Award to: Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a new, larger Low Service Zone water storage tank, ensuring reliable service for residents and businesses while supporting economic expansion. This project will enable new commercial connections, including Tenney Mountain Resort and Holderness School, while safeguarding existing users from disruptions due to aging infrastructure and drought conditions. By modernizing its water distribution system, Plymouth aims to enhance business retention, attract new development, and strengthen long-term sustainability.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$7,040,000.00

Merrimack County

Spring Award to: Town of Boscawen

Project: NBRC funds will be used to enhance accessibility and expand outdoor recreation opportunities, integrating park use with the Northern Rail Trail and the Merrimack River. The project includes planning and analysis for a timber-framed picnic pavilion, improved parking and access roads, a river overlook, and full ADA accessibility, supporting local businesses and quality of life in this fast-growing community. By investing in this infrastructure, Boscawen aims to strengthen regional tourism, foster economic development, and create a welcoming recreational space for residents and visitors alike.

Grant Amount: \$39,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$59,000.00

Spring Award to: Town of Bow

Project: NBRC funds will be used to conduct a feasibility study supporting municipal water line expansion and development in the 175-acre Bow Mills Mixed Use Zoning District. This initiative will engage the community, assess development potential, and identify barriers such as infrastructure limitations and transportation access. By guiding future investments and leveraging the redesign of I-89 Exit 1, the project aims to stimulate economic growth and improve long-term land use planning in Bow.

Grant Amount: \$52,265.00

Total Project Amount: \$104,530.00

Spring Award to: HealthFirst Family Care Center, Inc.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand a health center in Franklin, NH, improving access to primary care, behavioral health, and medication-assisted treatment for underserved populations. The project includes renovating the existing facility, integrating an adjoining Annex, and installing battery storage to enhance sustainability. By increasing healthcare capacity, fostering job creation, and strengthening community infrastructure, this initiative will support long-term economic and public health resilience in the region.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,811,169.00

Spring Award to: John Hay Estate at The Fells

Project: NBRC funds will be used to re-shingle the Main House roof, ensuring the preservation of this nationally recognized historic site on Lake Sunapee. The project will replace aging asphalt and wood shingles, with a preference for historically accurate materials, protecting the integrity of the building and enhancing visitor experience. This funding will support long-term conservation efforts and maintain The Fells as a vital cultural and educational resource.

Grant Amount: \$127,200.00

Total Project Amount: \$254,400.00

Sullivan County**Spring Award to: Town of Newport**

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade its aging water distribution system, ensuring reliable access to clean water for over 1,600 homes and local businesses. This project will replace nearly 4,000 feet of deteriorating water mains, improve fire suppression capabilities and support economic growth. With final engineering and regulatory approvals completed, securing this funding is essential to proceed with construction and safeguard long-term infrastructure resilience in the community.

Grant Amount: \$512,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$640,000.00

Spring Award to: Newport Chamber of Commerce

Project: The Newport Chamber of Commerce is requesting \$500,000 in NBRC funding to renovate the historic railroad depot, transforming it into the Newport Welcome Center with a public Wi-Fi hotspot. This project will restore architectural features, create a community meeting space with an ADA-compliant restroom, and provide rental opportunities to support ongoing operations. By repurposing the building, the initiative aims to enhance economic and tourism activity, strengthen local engagement, and integrate with surrounding public amenities.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$963,000.00

Vermont**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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Grant Amount: \$868,858.52
Total Project Amount: \$1,755,094.22

New York

Cayuga County

Spring Award to: East Hill Family Medical, Inc

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support Phase I of its expansion, transforming a newly acquired 7.4-acre site in Sennett, NY into a state-of-the-art healthcare facility. The project includes renovating a 20,364-square-foot building to improve access to primary care, behavioral health, and dental services, serving an estimated 4,500 additional patients and addressing regional provider shortages. By modernizing infrastructure and expanding healthcare capacity, EHMC aims to enhance equitable access to medical services, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth in Cayuga County.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$6,856,301.00

Clinton County

Spring Award to: City of Plattsburgh

Project: NBRC funds will be used to conduct a feasibility study of its wastewater system in the Rugar Street corridor, ensuring capacity for future development. This study will assess infrastructure needs to support 150 new workforce housing units, additional commercial growth, and industrial expansion at the former Clinton County airport. By identifying necessary system upgrades, the project will enhance regional wastewater resiliency, foster multi-jurisdictional collaboration, and unlock economic growth opportunities for the Town and City of Plattsburgh.

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$125,000.00

Essex County

Spring Award to: Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board

Project: NBRC funds will be used to identify development sites, conduct buildout analyses, and complete pre-development work for workforce housing in four Essex County communities. This initiative will address housing shortages by determining priority parcels, assessing zoning and infrastructure, and preparing shovel-ready sites for future development. By advancing strategic planning and site readiness, the project supports workforce growth, economic stability, and community sustainability in the region.

Grant Amount: \$240,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$300,000.00

Spring Award to: Lake Placid Association for Music, Drama and Art

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate and modernize a 52-year-old theatre, enhancing accessibility, energy efficiency, and performance capabilities. This revitalization will transform the auditorium, expand stage space, upgrade theatre technology, and improve visitor experience, ensuring the venue remains a vital hub for cultural tourism and community engagement. By strengthening LPCA's capacity to host world-class performances and educational programs, the project will spur economic growth, increase audience spending, and support job creation in the North Country region.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$3,725,000.00

Greene County

Spring Award to: Town of Hunter

Project: NBRC funds will be used to design, construct, and equip the Mountaintop Community Hall, a mixed-use facility supporting workforce development, business incubation, community programming, and emergency

preparedness. Serving Greene County and surrounding Mountaintop towns, the Hall will provide job training, meeting spaces, and a heating/cooling shelter, fostering economic growth and resilience. With a total project cost of \$2.155M and local funding commitments in place, this initiative strengthens infrastructure, attracts talent, and enhances community engagement.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,155,000.00

Herkimer County

Spring Award to: Town of Webb

Project: NBRC funds will be used to modernize its aging wastewater collection system, addressing critical infrastructure deficiencies and environmental risks. This project will rehabilitate high-risk sewer lines, improve wastewater conveyance, and enhance treatment facility operations, reducing contamination risks and costly repairs. By strengthening public infrastructure, Webb aims to safeguard water quality, support economic growth, and sustain its tourism-dependent community.

Grant Amount: \$485,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$970,000.00

Livingston County

Spring Award to: Village of Dansville

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a public sewer extension, pedestrian infrastructure, and ADA-accessible playground equipment, improving community health and economic development. This project will provide wastewater service to Noyes Memorial Hospital and the planned YMCA, facilitating expansion and workforce growth, while new sidewalks, a walking trail, and a pedestrian bridge will enhance accessibility and safety. By addressing critical infrastructure needs, the initiative supports local businesses, encourages economic activity, and strengthens Dansville's long-term sustainability. **Grant Amount:** \$1,979,586.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,474,483.00

Spring Award to: Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority

Project: NBRC funds will be used to implement the LCWSA/Geneseo Water Interconnection Project, enhancing water system capacity, resiliency, and regional connectivity across multiple municipalities in Livingston County, NY. This project will install over 30,000 linear feet of new water mains, increasing service reliability, supporting critical facilities, and enabling future development, including job creation at Livonia Gateway Park. By strengthening infrastructure, LCWSA aims to improve emergency preparedness, foster economic growth, and advance shared municipal services in the region.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$7,600,000.00

Oswego County

Spring Award to: Town of Schroepfel

Project: NBRC funds will be used to conduct a comprehensive water infrastructure feasibility study, ensuring long-term access to safe and reliable water for residents and businesses. This project will assess expansion strategies to support the town's growing population and prepare for economic development related to the nearby Micron facility. By identifying priority areas for new water districts, the study will lay the foundation for future infrastructure investments, improving public health and fostering sustainable growth.

Grant Amount: \$80,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$100,000.00

Seneca County

Spring Award to: Village of Waterloo

Project: NBRC funds will be used to improve storm sewer infrastructure, road drainage, sidewalks, and curbing, ensuring resilience against frequent flooding and supporting downtown revitalization efforts. These upgrades complement the Village's recent \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funding, enhancing economic stability, pedestrian safety, and stormwater management. By modernizing critical

infrastructure, this project will mitigate flood risks, protect local businesses and residents, and strengthen long-term sustainability in the community.

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,675,310.00

St. Lawrence County

Spring Award to: United Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country, Inc.

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand pediatric healthcare services at its Federally Qualified Health Centers in Canton and Ogdensburg, NY. This project will increase clinic capacity by constructing exam rooms, improving patient flow, and enhancing access to preventive care, vaccinations, and chronic disease management for children in medically underserved communities. By strengthening healthcare infrastructure, CHCNC aims to reduce emergency room visits, lower costs, and improve long-term health outcomes while supporting workforce development in rural New York.

Grant Amount: \$615,625.72

Total Project Amount: \$774,531.90

Spring Award to: Village of Waddington

Project: NBRC funds will be used to replace deteriorating water mains in its downtown district, ensuring reliable access for residents and businesses while preventing further economic decline. This project will install 4,800 linear feet of new water mains along Main Street and St. Lawrence Avenue, addressing frequent water breaks, contamination risks, and service disruptions. By modernizing essential infrastructure, Waddington aims to protect public health, sustain local businesses, and support future economic development in St. Lawrence County.

Grant Amount: \$793,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,543,000.00

Washington County

Spring Award to: Village of Whitehall

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade its water infrastructure following a State of Emergency due to water supply disruptions. This project will improve reliability, ensure compliance with Department of Health requirements, and safeguard drinking water for residents and businesses by enhancing the Pine Lake reservoir and Village Water Treatment Plant with modern monitoring and control systems. By securing these upgrades, the initiative will support public health, economic stability, and long-term resiliency in the community.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Wyoming County

Spring Award to: Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Commission

Project: NBRC funds will be used to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment and Market Analysis, evaluating demographic and economic trends to inform comprehensive housing strategies. This study will identify gaps in the housing market and guide planning for projects that address the needs of low-to-moderate-income households, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. By collaborating with regional planning experts and local stakeholders, the County aims to develop sustainable housing solutions that support long-term community growth.

Grant Amount: \$56,080.00

Total Project Amount: \$70,111.00

Spring 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.

Maine

Aroostook County

Awarded to: Town of Island Falls, Maine

Summary: NBRC funds will be used to support the creation of Island Bridge Community Park, a transformative initiative designed to enhance tourism, boost the local economy, and promote sustainable forestry. The project features a pedestrian bridge constructed using glue laminated timber made from spruce/fir and hemlock sourced from the town's 9,000-acre forest. The bridge will connect the downtown district to a new park and serve as an architectural showcase for modern wood engineering. This signature attraction will foster recreational opportunities, cultural events, and economic development, reinforcing the town's commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship.

Grant Amount: \$2,808,000

Total Project Amount: \$3,510,000

Awarded to: City of Presque Isle, Maine

Summary: NBRC funds will be used to support the interior construction of a new passenger terminal, replacing an outdated 10,500 sq. ft. facility with a modern 33,099 sq. ft. terminal. The project integrates domestically sourced mass timber for structural framing, roof decking, and a front canopy, improving the building's sustainability metrics. This investment will improve passenger capacity, accessibility, and airfield safety, support local workforce development, and generate new jobs, strengthening economic growth in Aroostook County.

Grant Amount: \$2,500,000

Total Project Amount: \$3,125,000

Oxford County

Awarded to: Inland Woods and Trails, Bethel, ME

Summary: NBRC funds will be used for the Maine West Timber Innovation for Recreation Project (MWTIRP) to enhance the Inland Woods + Trails network by developing innovative, resilient, and sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure in Oxford County. The project focuses on prototype trail bridges, boardwalks, and wood composite culverts to improve accessibility, durability, and resilience. By leveraging locally sourced timber and collaborating with research institutions, this project aims to support Maine's forest products industry, boost tourism, and strengthen year-round recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Grant Amount: \$600,480

Total Project Amount: \$750,600

Penobscot County

Awarded to: University of Maine-Orono

Summary: NBRC funds will be used by the Advanced Structures & Composites Center at the University of Maine to support innovative, cost-effective solutions for maintaining unimproved road infrastructure across the NBRC region. This feasibility project focuses on two objectives: developing trenchless slip-lining technology to extend culvert lifespan using 3D-printed wood fiber diffusers and designing low-cost glued-laminated timber bridge decking with advanced wear treatments for durability and ease of replacement. These efforts aim to mitigate rising infrastructure costs due to evolving weather patterns, enhance resilience, and empower local landowners with practical, sustainable solutions.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Total Project Amount: \$1,250,001

New Hampshire

Sullivan County

Awarded to: Town of Sunapee, New Hampshire

Summary: NBRC funds will be used to support the replacement of the Sargent Road Bridge with a sustainable timber structure. This project will enhance safety, connectivity, and economic activity by utilizing a longitudinal glued-laminated timber deck and bridge rail, aligning with the Timber for Transit Program's goals. Funding will cover final engineering design, environmental review, easement acquisition, and construction, ensuring a durable infrastructure solution that benefits local residents, businesses, and emergency services while promoting the use of timber in transportation applications.

Grant Amount: \$740,000

Total Project Amount: \$925,000

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.