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NBRC Awards \$45.4 Million in Support of State Economic Priorities, Forestry Economy, and Mass Timber Projects

CONCORD, N.H. – Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced **\$45.4 million** in new awards as part of the Commission’s Spring Round competition across its Catalyst, Forest Economy and Timber for Transit programs. The 56 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:

- **\$32.3 million awarded through the Catalyst Program** supports 45 projects directly addressing state economic priorities, including but not limited to; affordable childcare, critical water and sewer infrastructure upgrades, outdoor recreation projects, workforce training and retention initiatives, local food system support, healthcare access and employment, and multiple feasibility studies.
- **\$2.1 million awarded through the Forest Economy Program** across three projects, including the development of a modern forest-products manufacturing facility in Maine, a three-year forestry economy workforce and business capacity initiative spanning the entire NBRC service area in New Hampshire, and the expansion of precision forestry workforce training and technical assistance anchored in Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Vermont.
- **\$11 million awarded through the Timber for Transit Program** supports eight projects in all four states, including construction of a storm-resilient landing pier and timber-decked river promenade in Maine; a multistate feasibility project that aims to redesign up to 100 wooden trail bridges and related structures; multiple timber bridge construction projects in New York; and a timber-framed pavilion supporting year-round, non-motorized mobility and adaptive trail use along Vermont’s Velomont corridor.

“The Commission is proud to be a key partner in locally driven economic development across the Northern Border region, as is made clear with this latest slate of awards. These investments help improve the day-to-day lives of the people living in our communities and highlight the exciting opportunities in our regional forest economy,” said **Chris Saunders, Federal Co-Chair of NBRC**. “As a flexible federal funder, these projects demonstrate NBRC’s ability to fund everything from the basic building blocks of a healthy economy, such as public infrastructure and childcare, to advancements in the use of forest products such as mass timber.”

In Brooksville, Maine a Catalyst grant will help build the town’s first all-tide public pier, landing, and boat ramp at Betsy’s Cove in Buck’s Harbor.

“We have been working for 6 years to develop an all-tide accessible public pier and boat landing, and this grant will enable us to accomplish our goal. Our Town has 50 miles of coastline and currently no public access to the water at all tides. This project will benefit commercial and recreational users as well as contribute to public safety on the water. We expect the completed project to provide an economic boost to the community,” said **Mark Shaughnessy, Chair of Brooksville Harbor Committee**.

In Vermont, a Catalyst grant will replace undersized downtown water and sewer lines and implement multi-modal streetscape improvements, enabling planned housing and commercial growth in the City of Newport.

"The City of Newport views this award as the first, critical step toward preparing our downtown for long-term economic redevelopment. NBRC's support in addressing crucial infrastructure deficits on our Main Street is like laying the cornerstone on a new building. It is a statement of belief in our future to which our community intends to respond with high-level commitment to rebuild and revitalize our downtown," said **Rick Ufford-Chase, Mayor, City of Newport**.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Essex County in New York will use their Catalyst grant to elevate culinary tourism and local food systems through the Adirondack Cuisine Trails.

"With 12 million annual visitors to the Adirondacks, we cannot overstate the tremendous potential for tourism to positively impact our region's economy. To that end, these funds will provide unprecedented support for the ongoing development of the Adirondack Cuisine Trails in partnership with the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism. Visitors value the authenticity of the North Country, and we feel that the trails are well positioned to provide a meaningful agritourism experiences for our guests," said **Elizabeth Lee, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension**.

Through the Forest Economy Program, one award will support the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association's three-year workforce and business capacity initiative to strengthen recruitment, training, and retention across the forest economy.

"This project is a collaboration between the University of New Hampshire, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association seeking to address one of the largest challenges facing New Hampshire's forest industry – lack of workforce. This innovative project seeks to build workforce capacity through multiple means targeting traditional and non-traditional students and potential workers," said **Jasen Stock, Executive Director, New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association**.

A Timber for Transit grant in Rockland, Maine will help the waterfront withstand extreme storms while demonstrating the use of advanced, regionally sourced wood products in marine transportation infrastructure.

"This project will redevelop Rockland's Public Landing for resilience to storms and improved harbor access", said **Julie Hashem, Rockland's Community Development Director**. "And thanks to collaboration with UMaine's Advanced Structures & Composites Center, we will do it in a way that showcases regional wood products. Redevelopment of the Public Landing is an important part of Rockland's Downtown Waterfront vision, and we couldn't be more grateful for the Timber for Transit funding."

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 late July 2026. Please refer to NBRC's website, www.nbrc.gov, for important dates and announcements about current and future funding opportunities.

Spring 2026 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

Androscoggin County (CD-02)

Award to: Tree Street Youth

Project: Tree Street Youth has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct the 7,500-square-foot Canopy Center in Lewiston, offering affordable childcare, community meeting space, and youth workforce training. The project will create 120 new childcare slots and deliver career exploration for up to 100 youth, building on secured Congressionally Directed Spending and active fundraising. Construction is scheduled for July 2026–July 2027, positioning the center as a neighborhood anchor that expands economic mobility for working families.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$ \$2,097,755.49

Award to: Town of Livermore Falls

Project: The Town of Livermore Falls has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to rehabilitate 1.1 miles of failing sanitary sewer along Route 17, supporting downtown businesses, medical offices, municipal facilities, and multifamily housing. Objectives encompass relining mains, replacing 88 service connections, repairing deteriorated manholes, eliminating inflow, and coordinating with MaineDOT's roadway and drainage upgrades to avoid duplicate disruption and costs. With CWSRF financing secured and unanimous local approval, the project reduces failures and combined sewer overflows, stabilizes rates in a high-poverty area, and supports economic revitalization.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,351,000.00

Aroostook County (CD-02)

Award to: Ashland Water & Sewer District

Project: Ashland Water & Sewer District has been awarded \$680,000.00 to replace an approximately 1,000-foot essential water main that crosses the Aroostook River and serves 90% of the customer base. Objectives include installing a directional-drilled subsurface segment under the riverbed, upgrading valves, and completing open-trench installation for remaining sections to reduce wear, improve reliability, and enhance fire protection. With geotechnical analysis complete and construction targeted for late 2026, the project addresses a critical system vulnerability and strengthens service resilience for residents and businesses.

Grant Amount: \$680,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$926,550.00

Franklin County (CD-02)

Award to: Spruce Mountain Educational Fund

Project: Spruce Mountain Educational Fund has been awarded \$368,000.00 to implement outdoor recreation infrastructure upgrades at the municipally owned ski area in Jay, ME. Objectives include installing a sprinkler system to open the lodge's second floor, enhancing compressed air capacity for efficient snowmaking, and modernizing three rope-tow lift lines to improve reliability and safety. The project expands four-season operations, increases early-season terrain, promotes health and wellness, and sustains affordable access for underserved youth.

Grant Amount: \$368,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$460,000.00

Award to: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Project: The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a multi-use pedestrian and snowmobile bridge over the Sandy River, extending the 14-mile Whistle Stop Trail directly into downtown Farmington. The project's primary purpose is to improve safe, non-vehicular connectivity to employment centers, health services, education, and tourism assets, yielding documented annual economic impacts in jobs, wages, and tax revenue. With the majority of funding committed and construction planned for 2027–2028, the bridge advances outdoor recreation, workforce mobility, and regional resilience.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,222,000.00

Award to: Workforce Housing Coalition Western Maine Mountains

Project: Workforce Housing Coalition Western Maine Mountains has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct essential public sewer and roadway infrastructure enabling approximately 50 workforce housing units in Carrabassett Valley. The scope includes installation of sewer mains, treatment components, and a town-spec roadway, with operations transitioned to the Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District upon completion. By unlocking year-round housing for 75–100 workers, the project strengthens labor force stability and advances regional competitiveness.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,919,650.00

Hancock County (CD-02)

Award to: Brooksville Town House

Project: Brooksville Town House has been awarded \$902,938.00 (with matching funds secured) to build the town's first all-tide public pier, landing, and boat ramp at Betsy's Cove in Buck's Harbor. The project will dredge a channel and basin to six feet at MLLW, construct a 16-foot-wide, 120-foot-long pier with ADA-accessible ramp and floats, install a hoist, and replace the deteriorating launch. With all permits issued and engineering underway, the infrastructure supports commercial fisheries, recreation, emergency response, and maritime workforce retention on a defined 2026–2028 schedule.

Grant Amount: \$902,938.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,805,877.00

Kennebec County (CD-01)

Award to: Central Maine Growth Council

Project: Central Maine Growth Council has been awarded \$485,000.00 to scale its hub-and-spoke commercialization engine, incubating 83 high-growth enterprises and creating 57 jobs across Kennebec and Somerset Counties. The program delivers weekly-sprint cohorts, embedded mentorship, advanced financial modeling, and rapid-prototyping infrastructure, with a 33.63% non-federal match already secured. Over a 39-month timeline, projected outcomes include \$14.4 million in investment and \$11.3 million in sales, anchored at the Bricks Coworking & Innovation Space.

Grant Amount: \$485,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$744,395.05

Knox County (CD-01)

Award to: Matinicus Isle Plantation

Project: Matinicus Isle Plantation has been awarded \$70,400.00 to acquire approximately three acres comprising the island's only airstrip and associated easements, preserving a critical transportation lifeline for a remote, unbridged community. Funding covers land purchase, legal, and survey costs, with completion expected in 60–120 days of award. Securing long-term site control protects emergency access, mail and supply delivery, and resident travel essential to island sustainability.

Grant Amount: \$70,400.00

Total Project Amount: \$88,000.00

Penobscot County (CD-02)

Award to: IBEW Augusta Electrical JATC

Project: Augusta Electrical JATC has been awarded \$497,560.70 to upgrade industry-standard lab equipment, modernize training rooms, and reduce cost barriers for first-year apprentices across rural Maine. The program enhances hands-on training for 90–130 apprentices annually, improves safety, and supports an earn-while-you-learn pathway to middle-class electrical careers. Strengthening instructional capacity aligns training with today's jobsites and increases retention for partner contractors.

Grant Amount: \$497,560.70

Total Project Amount: \$626,030.00

Award to: Old Town Water District

Project: Old Town Water District has been awarded \$520,000.00 to construct approximately 11,563 linear feet of 12-inch HDPE transmission main to improve water service for Old Town and the University of Maine. The project is backed by \$3.56 million in Congressionally Directed Spending and completed engineering and permitting milestones, including NRPA authorization. Upgraded infrastructure will support fire protection, future development, and long-term system reliability.

Grant Amount: \$520,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,100,000.00

Washington County (CD-02)

Award to: City of Calais

Project: The City of Calais has been awarded \$590,580.00 to rebuild and extend the Calais Waterfront Walkway, connecting downtown to the Canadian border crossing and regional trail networks. The project adds wayfinding, interpretive art, ADA-accessible picnic tables, a bike repair station, and a new staircase, while replacing a failing retaining wall adapted for public art. By strengthening cross-border recreation, the walkway promotes economic development, public health, and a long-standing community vision for a riverfront gathering space.

Grant Amount: \$590,580.00

Total Project Amount: \$738,580.00

New Hampshire

Carroll County (CD-01)

Award to: Granite State Adaptive

Project: Granite State Adaptive has been awarded \$175,000.00 to complete Phase II infrastructure at its adaptive equestrian and recreation facility in Wolfeboro. The project funds a tractor, utility UTV, and specialized waterless arena footing to maintain ADA-accessible trails, enhance safety, and assure year-round operations with reduced environmental impact. These improvements expand capacity to serve youth, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and the broader community.

Grant Amount: \$175,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$350,000.00

Cheshire County (CD-02)

Award to: Town of Westmoreland

Project: The Town of Westmoreland has been awarded \$218,995.00 to transform Town Hall into a fully accessible, multi-use hub that supports small business activity, workforce training, and community events. Objectives include installing an ADA lift, accessible restroom, commercial kitchen, high-speed Wi-Fi, and stage

improvements to enable instructional programs and civic gatherings. Building on more than \$218,995.00 already invested, the project ensures a year-round anchor for economic and social participation.

Grant Amount: \$218,995.00

Total Project Amount: \$437,990.00

Award to: The Keene Downtown Group

Project: The Keene Downtown Group has been awarded \$499,749.73 for “Dig Into Keene,” a construction disruption mitigation initiative supporting 95 downtown businesses and approximately 825 jobs during a three-year, \$499,749.73.8 million infrastructure rebuild. Objectives include coordinated marketing and PR, wayfinding, business support services, a festival series to drive foot traffic, and a spending-data platform to track outcomes. The project stabilizes revenue and preserves small businesses throughout the multi-year construction period, building a replicable model for rural economic resilience.

Grant Amount: \$499,749.73

Total Project Amount: \$1,288,540.15

Coös County (CD-02)

Award to: North Country Community Recreation Center, Inc.

Project: North Country Community Recreation Center has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a pre-engineered metal roof over the outdoor rink and walking track, creating a versatile, all-weather community gathering space. Objectives include foundations, lighting, bleacher area, and utility integration to host large events and leverage proximity to ATV/snowmobile trails, the rail trail, and downtown amenities. The project transforms a shuttered facility into a multi-use recreation hub that drives tourism and strengthens local economic vitality.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Award to: Moreno Valley Cultural Arts Foundation

Project: The Coös Catalyst Center has been awarded \$273,696.40 to complete renovations, equip an Entrepreneur Resource Center and Small Business Incubator/Accelerator, and enhance outreach from its Northumberland location. The project delivers technology, office pods, 3D printing and scanning, a food prep station, and volunteer training leading to certifications that support logistics, agriculture, and small business careers. With the ERC operational since February 2026, these investments accelerate workforce re-engagement and entrepreneurial participation in a highly distressed rural area.

Grant Amount: \$273,696.40

Total Project Amount: \$342,121.40

Award to: Evergreen Start

Project: Evergreen Start has been awarded \$500,000.00 to deploy shared back-office infrastructure that stabilizes and expands licensed childcare capacity across Coös, Grafton, and Carroll counties. The three-year project onboards 2–4 providers in Year 1, scaling to 6–10 providers and supporting approximately 200–300 slots, with services including financial management, compliance tracking, cash-flow forecasting, and workforce-linked reporting. By reducing volatility and enabling measured expansion, the initiative protects workforce participation and strengthens employer retention in rural New Hampshire.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

Award to: North Country Education Services Agency

Project: North Country Education Services Agency has been awarded \$268,205.00 to launch TeachNorth, a two-year internship stipend program designed to reduce financial barriers for 25 preservice teachers completing full-time student teaching in northern New Hampshire. Objectives include cohort-based professional development, mentor networking, and retention supports to lower current internship attrition from 25–33% to below 5% and increase licensure completion. The project strengthens educator workforce pipelines and improves long-term regional economic stability by addressing shortages in distressed and rural districts.

Grant Amount: \$268,205.00

Total Project Amount: \$335,850.00

Award to: St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts

Project: St. Kieran Community Center has been awarded \$131,000.00 to install modern sound and lighting systems with staff and volunteer training in its main performance and gathering space. The upgrades ensure safe, reliable operations for arts, education, workforce events, civic forums, and community meetings. A one-time capital investment delivers long-term benefits and supports downtown Berlin's cultural and economic ecosystem.

Grant Amount: \$131,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$163,750.00

Award to: Milan and Dummer Ambulance Service

Project: The Milan & Dummer Ambulance Service has been awarded \$320,000.00 to launch the Coös County EMS Career Catalyst Initiative addressing severe provider shortages in New Hampshire's North Country. The project's objectives are to recruit unlicensed residents into emergency medicine and remove financial barriers by covering instruction, certification materials, and clinical supplies while embedding an "earn-while-you-learn" preceptorship for supervised, on-the-job training. By building local licensure pathways and real-world competencies, the initiative strengthens rural healthcare resilience and stabilizes the regional emergency response workforce.

Grant Amount: \$320,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$400,000.00

Grafton County (CD-02)**Award to: Upper Valley Snowsports Foundation**

Project: Upper Valley Snowsports Foundation has been awarded \$137,688.00 to replace the haul rope on Whaleback Mountain's chairlift, the sole lift serving the upper half of the ski area. The project's objectives are to ensure safe, reliable operations, preserve the nonprofit's financial viability, and retain local winter recreation employment. Completion before the 2026–27 season helps sustain a key community asset and supports workforce retention in the Upper Valley.

Grant Amount: \$137,688.00

Total Project Amount: \$177,110.00

Award to: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire

Project: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a 5,400-square-foot childcare facility in West Lebanon that creates 50 new slots for infants through pre-K. The center includes water/sewer connections, parking, and a playground adjacent to district offices, supporting families' workforce participation and employer retention. By addressing acute childcare shortages in the Upper Valley, the project strengthens economic vitality and public health.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,580,720.53

Merrimack County (CD-02)**Award to: LOCAL 490 JATC**

Project: IBEW Local 490 JATC has been awarded \$368,000.00 to upgrade training equipment and remove first-year financial barriers (standard toolkits and laptops) for New Hampshire's only registered union electrical apprenticeship program. The initiative enhances hands-on participation, aligns instruction with modern jobsite standards, and supports an earn-while-you-learn model that trains at least 102 apprentices annually statewide. By improving retention and readiness, the project expands the pipeline of skilled electricians for rural communities and high-growth projects.

Grant Amount: \$368,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$873,605.00

Award to: Franklin Opera House, Inc.

Project: Franklin Opera House has been awarded \$197,215.00 to install theatrical lighting, sound, and AV systems and to complete balcony seating as part of facility improvements coordinated with the City of Franklin. The upgrades professionalize performance capability, enhance accessibility, and support cultural programming that drives downtown visitation. By leveraging an established community arts asset, the project stimulates tourism and local business activity.

Grant Amount: \$197,215.00

Total Project Amount: \$394,430.00

Award to: Mill City Park at Franklin Falls

Project: Mill City Park at Franklin Falls has been awarded \$390,151.00 to construct a revenue-generating campground facility and improved recreational amenities that complement New England's only whitewater park on the Winnepesaukee River. The project includes an outdoor kitchen, bath/shower facility, lighting, access road, and 20 campsites, expanding lodging capacity near downtown Franklin. These improvements boost tourism, sustain park operations, and enhance the visitor experience tied to competition and daily whitewater use.

Grant Amount: \$390,151.00

Total Project Amount: \$825,302.00

Penobscot County

Award to: Mountain Village Charter School

Project: Mountain Village Charter School has been awarded \$600,000.00 for the Mountain Village Community Commons, a dual-use outdoor recreation and education site along the Baker River in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The project delivers trails, river access, and shared gathering spaces designed for school-day programming and year-round public use, fostering tourism, health, and community connection. Shovel-ready site improvements advance NBRC priorities by strengthening local quality of life and rural economic resilience.

Grant Amount: \$600,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$750,000.00

Multi-County Project

Award to: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Project: The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has been awarded \$2,000,000.00 to rehabilitate and replace the deteriorated Belmont Forcemain, a 2.5-mile regional sewer pipeline experiencing corrosion-related failures and sanitary sewer overflows. The project will protect nearby drinking water sources, reduce disruptions to businesses and Route 140 traffic, and mitigate environmental and public-health risks. Modernizing this critical asset will restore resilience while helping avoid steep sewer-rate increases that could impede local growth in Belmont and Northfield.

Location(s): Belknap County (CD-01); Merrimack County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,646,000.00

New York

Cayuga County (CD-22)

Award to: Town of Sennett Town Hall

Project: The Town of Sennett has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to install 29,000 feet of 8- and 12-inch water mains, valves, hydrants, and appurtenances across several roads, including an emergency interconnection to the Town of Skaneateles. Objectives are to address well quantity/quality issues (including coliform and arsenic), reduce private treatment costs, improve fire protection, and enable hospitality district growth through public water infrastructure. With district formation, SEQR completion, and a bond resolution adopted, the project will move into NEPA, design, bidding, and construction targeting substantial completion in November 2027.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,909,000.00

Clinton County (CD-21)

Award to: TDC NNY, Inc.

Project: TDC NNY has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a 10,000-square-foot New York State-licensed childcare facility in Plattsburgh that creates 150+ slots, enabling working caregivers to participate in the regional economy. The project funds construction only, with an operator to be selected via competitive RFP and design prepared for a 2027 start. By expanding affordable childcare, the facility strengthens talent attraction and retention for employers across the North Country.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,875,985.86

Essex County (CD-21)

Award to: Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Essex County

Project: Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Essex County has been awarded \$499,918.74 to support the Adirondack Cuisine Trails through platform migration and a diverse promotional campaign. The initiative deploys digital storytelling, signage, and stakeholder partnerships to elevate culinary tourism and local food systems in a region visited by roughly 12 million people annually. Migrating to an interactive platform increases visibility, analytics, and year-round engagement for participating businesses.

Grant Amount: \$499,918.74

Total Project Amount: \$625,038.57

Genesee County (CD-24)

Award to: Village of Oakfield

Project: The Village of Oakfield has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to replace failing clay sewer mains, century-old waterlines, and reconstruct streets in a corridor that functions as a critical conveyance link to Genesee County's STAMP advanced manufacturing park. The project's objectives include increasing system capacity, improving fire protection, and unlocking 470 developable acres to accommodate workforce housing and local business growth. With \$1.8 million in local match secured, the investment directly supports a regional job pipeline and ensures the village can participate in one of New York's most significant manufacturing expansions.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,800,000.00

Herkimer County (CD-21)

Award to: Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency

Project: Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to install a 500,000-gallon, 210-foot elevated water storage tank—with transmission piping, valves, hydrants, and connections—at the Schuyler Business Park. The project ensures adequate pressure, service reliability, and fire suppression capacity to support expanding distribution and manufacturing tenants, including the Fountainhead Group, PepsiCo, and planned facilities. By modernizing foundational water infrastructure, the Park can retain jobs, attract investment, and sustain regional economic growth.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,104,420.00

Award to: Town of Herkimer Town Hall

Project: The Town of Herkimer has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct 9,800 feet of municipal sewer line connecting East Herkimer entities—including a major manufacturing campus, community center, BOCES, and health services facilities—to the Village of Herkimer's treatment plant. Objectives include eliminating failing septic systems, increasing capacity, and enabling economic development along designated collector and arterial roads in a targeted growth area. The shovel-ready project has final designs, permits, easements, and properties secured, and will be completed within three years of award.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,372,895.00

Jefferson County (CD-21)

Award to: Village of Clayton

Project: The Village of Clayton has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to design and build water and wastewater extensions needed to enable new homes for middle-income essential workers. The infrastructure removes barriers to workforce housing production, stabilizes local employers, and supports expanded participation in the regional economy. Construction will occur within six to eight months of award, delivering near-term capacity for housing development.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,056,263.46

Seneca County (CD-24)

Award to: Town of Varick

Project: The Town of Varick has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to create Sanitary Sewer District No. 4 along Cayuga Lake, replacing aging septic systems suspected of leaching into the lake and burdening residents with inspection costs. The project installs an all-pressure collection system with 172 grinder pumps and 21,930 feet of force main, conveying flows through Fayette to the Seneca Falls WWTP. By improving water quality, supporting tourism and local wineries, and enabling business expansion, the district advances regional economic development with engineering, funding awards, and a detailed schedule in place.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$8,976,000.00

St. Lawrence County (CD-21)

Award to: Town of Colton, New York

Project: The Town of Colton has been awarded \$731,520.00 to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant by dividing an 88,000-gallon holding tank and installing automated headworks for continuous screening. The improvements enable proper cleaning and inspection, reduce damage from harmful solids, and maintain compliant operations in a climate-smart community. Sustaining reliable treatment preserves Raquette River water quality and supports Smart Growth placemaking.

Grant Amount: \$731,520.00

Total Project Amount: \$914,400.00

Multi-County Projects

Award to: Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (WSWHE BOCES)

Project: WSWHE BOCES has been awarded \$292,808.00 to integrate advanced simulators, virtual and augmented reality training, and AI-enabled tools into K-12 Career & Technical Education and Employment Training for Adults programs at a new regional CTE campus in Wilton, NY. Investments will include high-fidelity heavy equipment and automotive diagnostics simulators, VR welding, AR trade simulations for agriculture, mechanics, and precision forestry, clean-energy equipment, and collaborative makerspaces—creating flexible pathways that upskill learners for immediate employment and career transitions. Serving 31 school districts across five Adirondack counties, the initiative modernizes workforce training infrastructure, expands adult evening and night offerings in high-demand trades and healthcare, and delivers measurable resilience benefits across rural communities.

Location(s): Essex County (CD-21); Saratoga County (CD-21); Warren County (CD-21); Washington County (CD-21); Hamilton County (CD-21)

Grant Amount: \$292,808.00

Total Project Amount: \$430,600.00

Vermont

Caledonia County (CD-01)

Award to: Town of Danville Town Hall

Project: The Town of Danville has been awarded \$444,955.00 to construct a smart-growth municipal parking lot with 29 spaces, EV charging, transit access, and safe connections to the village business block. The lot complements a funded shared-use path and new sidewalk linking the renovated 1871 Train Depot, the LVRT crossing, and the Village Green. With 30% designs and cost estimates complete, the project will enhance trail connectivity, visitor accommodations, and economic vitality for a small rural community.

Grant Amount: \$444,955.00

Total Project Amount: \$556,194.00

Essex County (CD-01)

Award to: Canaan Fire District #2

Project: Canaan Fire District #2 has been awarded \$545,572.21 to replace failing asbestos cement and galvanized distribution mains along River Road, the system's primary transmission line. The project improves drinking water reliability, maintains adequate pressure and fire protection, and reduces costly leaks that threaten public health and local businesses. With Vermont Bond Bank design funding secured, construction will protect service for Beecher Falls and West Stewartstown customers while stabilizing future operations.

Grant Amount: \$545,572.21

Total Project Amount: \$689,117.26

Franklin County (CD-01)

Award to: Swanton Village

Project: Swanton Village has been awarded \$1,638,329.00 to advance a multi-category transportation and stormwater infrastructure transformation that calms traffic, improves multimodal access, and enhances downtown public space. The project addresses a High Crash Zone at the convergence of major routes, builds on completed studies and secured funding, and closes a critical shortfall to implement priority designs. Outcomes include safer circulation, better parking management, stormwater treatment, and stronger village-center placemaking.

Grant Amount: \$1,638,329.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,833,194.00

Orleans County (CD-01)

Award to: Vermont Agency of Transportation

Project: The Vermont Agency of Transportation has been awarded \$500,000.00 to acquire the Newport Railyard—approximately 52 acres with 11 sidings, mainline track, and multiple facilities—and designate freight operating rights. The project enables state investments to realize the yard's full economic potential at the junction of two short-line railroads, serving bulk shippers in rural Vermont. Acquisition is anticipated July 2026–June 2027, positioning the facility for expanded freight activity and regional job growth.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

Award to: City of Newport

Project: The City of Newport has been awarded \$3,000,000.00 for a \$3,750,000 project to replace undersized downtown water and sewer lines and implement multi-modal streetscape improvements enabling planned housing and commercial growth. Objectives include replacing 1,200 linear feet of mains, reconstructing the roadway, and adding bike lanes, shade trees, sidewalk upgrades, and outdoor community spaces to strengthen climate resilience and livability. The City will advance engineering, permitting, and phased construction with anticipated completion in 2027–2029 as part of a broader downtown redevelopment strategy.

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,750,000.00

Award to: Northeastern Vermont Development Association, Inc.

Project: Northeastern Vermont Development Association has been awarded \$500,000.00 to acquire the long-vacant “pit” on Main Street in Newport City, Vermont—an essential downtown parcel whose blighted condition has suppressed investment since EB-5-related projects failed to materialize. Securing site control enables pre-development planning, infrastructure staging, and private partnership solicitation to restore jobs, commerce, and tax base in the city’s core. This strategic acquisition advances basic public infrastructure goals by stabilizing a pivotal block and catalyzing subsequent construction.

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Windham County (CD-01)

Award to: Vernon Advent Christian Home, Inc.

Project: Vernon Advent Christian Homes has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to modernize capital facilities by replacing an aging skilled nursing building and rehabilitating assisted living capacity on a multi-building campus. The objectives are to reduce structural cost pressures, improve operational efficiency under current regulatory and reimbursement conditions, and preserve 104 licensed elder-care units that anchor approximately 100 year-round jobs. By stabilizing a tri-state service hub along the Connecticut River corridor, the project sustains critical healthcare employment and long-term access to care.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,594,663.00

Spring 2026 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.

Maine

Aroostook County (CD-02)

Award to: Southern Aroostook Development Corporation

Project: Southern Aroostook Development Corporation has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to develop a modern forest-products manufacturing facility in the Houlton Industrial Park and lease it long-term to Kearney Pallet. Consolidating operations in a centralized, efficient plant will increase material utilization, expand processing of low-grade lumber and harvest residuals, and reduce reliance on imported Canadian inputs by sourcing more Maine-harvested timber. The project improves energy and logistics costs, targets a roughly 45% production increase, retains existing jobs, creates new positions, and reinforces wood-packaging supply chains serving Maine agriculture.

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,800,000.00

New Hampshire

Full New Hampshire Service Area (CD-01, CD-02)

Award to: NH Timberland Owners Association

Project: The New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association has been awarded \$454,441.00 for a three-year workforce and business capacity initiative that strengthens recruitment, training, and retention across the forest economy. Activities include expanding the Professional Logging Program, developing employer-driven

industry-recognized credentials and apprenticeships with UNH, building a statewide workforce hub (nhwoodjobs.com), and delivering employer HR support with the SBDC. By aligning credentials, modernizing training with forest technology and data-driven practices, and engaging youth and nontraditional talent pipelines, the project will reduce hiring risk, accelerate time-to-hire, and fortify forest-dependent rural communities.

Grant Amount: \$454,441.00

Total Project Amount: \$832,606.00

Vermont

Multiple Counties (CD-01)

Award to: University of Vermont & State Agricultural College

Project: UVM Extension has been awarded \$695,062.00 to expand precision forestry workforce training and technical assistance anchored in Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) for data-rich mapping, modeling, and monitoring. A maple-business cohort will demonstrate operational readiness, with statewide classroom and field instruction, 60+ demonstration flights, and 50+ individualized TA engagements that integrate business planning and precision data. The three-year program will produce curricula, protocols, and implementation guides, culminating in a job fair and “Precision Forestry Airshow” to accelerate practical technology adoption and measurable business outcomes.

Location(s): Franklin County; Orleans County; Chittenden County; Caledonia County; Essex County; Windham County; Rutland County; Windsor County

Grant Amount: \$695,062.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,144,904.00

Spring 2026 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

Knox County (CD-01)

Award to: City of Rockland

Project: The City of Rockland has been awarded \$4,000,000 to rebuild its Public Landing pier as a storm-resilient demonstration of advanced, regionally sourced wood products in marine transportation infrastructure. This critical multimodal hub serves hundreds of mooring holders from throughout the region, thousands of passengers from transient vessels and cruises who visit the region by sea, islanders, and major festivals that drive significant regional spending. Current structures are vulnerable to storm surges and related damage. With engineering and key permits in hand, the project’s flexible resilience design will elevate the deck and showcase timber solutions recognized as a high-priority regional investment.

Grant Amount: \$4,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,540,000.00

Somerset County (CD-02)

Award to: Main Street Skowhegan

Project: Main Street Skowhegan has been awarded \$2,500,000.00 to build Phase 2 of a timber-decked riverfront promenade that connects downtown businesses and neighborhoods to the Kennebec River and the Skowhegan River Park. The project will demonstrate advanced, domestically sourced wood materials in a

high-traffic pedestrian environment while expanding access to whitewater viewing areas and regional trail networks. Together with Phase 1 now underway, the promenade and whitewater park are designed to catalyze sustainable rural vitality, draw responsible tourism and national competitions, and support local jobs and wages tied to outdoor recreation.

Grant Amount: \$2,500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,125,000.00

Multistate

Multi-State (NH: CD-01, CD-02; ME: CD-02, VT: At-large; NY: CD-21)

Award to: Northern Forest Center Inc

Project: The Northern Forest Center has been awarded \$227,638.00 for a feasibility project to redesign up to 100 wooden trail bridges and related structures—boardwalks and stairs—using mass timber where appropriate. Through a competitive process, up to 25 trail networks in distressed communities will receive site-specific redesigns, cost estimates, permitting needs, action plans, and technical assistance. The project will also deliver sourcing resources for domestic wood and train trail managers and designers, broadly publicizing climate-resilient planning and mass timber use in outdoor infrastructure.

Location(s): Caledonia County; Coos County; Aroostook County; Piscataquis County; Penobscot County; Essex County; Franklin County; Hamilton County; Merrimack County

Grant Amount: \$227,638.00

Total Project Amount: \$295,634.00

New York

Cayuga County (CD-22)

Award to: Cayuga County Mental Health Ct

Project: Cayuga County has been awarded \$3,146,642.98 to replace the uncertified bridge to Deauville Island at Emerson Park, ensuring safe access for construction vehicles and visitors to the county's most-visited destination. The new engineered bridge—using steel and timber—will unlock planned investments including a public amphitheater and destination playground, improve accessibility, and support underserved communities. With full construction documents in hand, the project safeguards a high-value waterfront asset that draws hundreds of thousands of annual visitors and fuels regional economic activity.

Grant Amount: \$3,146,642.98

Total Project Amount: \$3,933,303.73

Lewis County (CD-21)

Award to: County of Lewis

Project: Lewis County has been awarded \$476,287.00 for a Feasibility Award to design and permit the Moose River Road Extension Bridge Replacement in Lyonsdale, New York. A failing steel truss bridge with a three-ton load limit restricts access for logging and recreation to the extensive forests across the river and is nearing closure. The project will develop timber-forward bridge concepts, complete environmental and regulatory reviews, and produce an implementation pathway that unlocks safe access, supports the regional timber economy, and enhances Adirondack tourism.

Grant Amount: \$476,287.00

Total Project Amount: \$595,359.00

Rensselaer County (CD-20)

Award to: City of Rensselaer

Project: The City of Rensselaer has been awarded \$487,174.00 to design and construct a timber bridge over Quackenderry Creek, providing safe, permanent access into the City-owned property known as The Hollow. The span will link existing trails to underutilized natural assets, improving connectivity for residents, visitors, and nearby businesses while expanding recreation opportunities. Final design and permitting will be completed within months, advancing an implementation-ready, timber-for-transit project that elevates quality of life and supports local economic activity.

Grant Amount: \$487,174.00

Total Project Amount: \$623,955.00

Multiple Counties (CD-19, CD-20, CD-21)

Award to: Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Project: Capital District Regional Planning Commission has been awarded \$90,000.00 for a tri-county Timber Bridge Feasibility Initiative across Saratoga, Rensselaer, and Schenectady counties. The project will inventory timber-feasible short-span bridges, complete concept-level engineering for 15–20 priority structures, produce two grant-ready demonstration packages, and deliver a guidebook and outreach to municipal owners. By advancing glulam and mass timber solutions and planning for climate resilience, the initiative strengthens mobility, supports local forest-product markets, and prepares underserved rural municipalities for implementation funding.

Location(s): Saratoga County; Schenectady County; Rensselaer County

Grant Amount: \$90,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$150,000.00

Vermont

Windham County (CD-01)

Award to: Town of Stratton

Project: The Town of Stratton has been awarded \$110,000.00 to design and construct a timber-framed pavilion at the Stratton Recreation Area, creating transportation-adjacent infrastructure for year-round, non-motorized mobility. Integrating locally harvested heavy timbers with regionally manufactured glulam, the pavilion will anchor programming, wayfinding, and events while supporting adaptive trail use and the Velomont corridor. Implementation-ready pending final approvals, the project strengthens rural tourism and forest-products demand and completes a key phase in revitalizing a growing regional trailhead and civic space.

Grant Amount: \$110,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$221,320.00

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.