



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**



Reflecting Back, Focusing Forward

LDD PP Quarter 4 Training: November 2025

www.nbrc.gov



Northern Border Regional Commission

Agenda

Welcome!

- LDD Partnership Program Updates
- Reflecting Back: 2025 Accomplishments
 - Grant and Partnership Programs
 - NBRC Organizational Update
 - LDD Listening Session: Feedback on 2025
- Focusing Forward on 2026
 - NEPA
 - 2026 Distress Criteria and Match tools
 - Cyber Security
 - LDD Listening Session: Focusing Forward 2026
- GMS Corner with Casey!

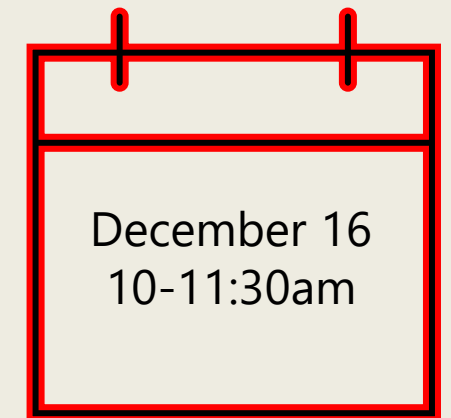


LDD Partnership Program Updates



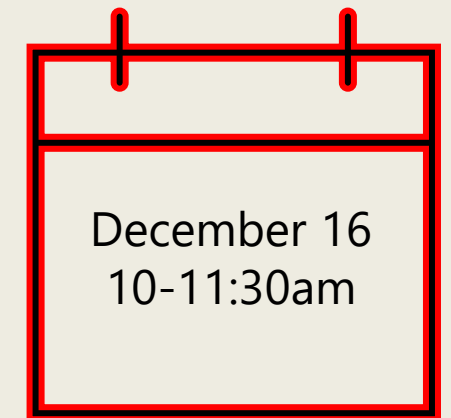
LDD Partnership Program Updates

-  **TAKE THE SURVEY**- Help NBRC host trainings with timing that work best for you!
 - Responses Due 12/31/2025
- FALL 2025 NEW GRANTEE TRAINING- NBRC **highly recommends** attending the new grantee training
 - **Save the Date: December 16, 2025 10-11:30am**
 - **Registration will be available early December**
- Additional Resources to Consider:
 - [New Grantee Training slides](#)
 - [Close outs](#)
- Reminder: *Project Kickoff Meeting Guidance Document* is available in the [LDD Resource Library](#)
 - Once fall awards are announced, start planning on when you will host your project kick off meetings with any new grantees



LDD Partnership Program Updates

- Launch of **feedback survey** on LDD-Grantee partnership
 - At NBRC, our goal is to ensure that projects can be smooth and successful. One of the ways we do that is to provide 'built-in' technical assistance for grant administration, through a Local Development District (LDD) partner. To date, we have not had a way to track how successful this required partnership has been.
 - Surveys sent to all LDDs and all grantees in early 2026
 - Note: Because the surveys will be distributed at the start of our 2026 program year, any feedback received may not be implemented until the following program year.



LDD Opt In/Opt Out 2026

Opt In/Opt Out form will be sent to the main contact at each LDD next week

- Please have ONE staff per LDD fill out the form
- Opt In/Opt Out decisions due by **December 19, 2025**

As an **opted-in LDD** you agree to the following:

1. Attend required trainings hosted or co-hosted by NBRC (typically about 4 a calendar year)
2. Continue to be listed as a resource, available for grant administration
3. Maintain internal capacity to administer NBRC grants for one year

PLEASE NOTE: The opt in process applies to providing grant administration help to any potential new grantees for that year's grant awards. If you are currently under contract with projects awarded in past years, you are not opting out of those contracts. Opting out is signaling to NBRC that you do not have the capacity to take on any NEW grantees. Opted out LDDs can always opt in for future years.

GMS: LDD Support Toolkit vs Grantee Toolkit



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GMS Support Toolkit for LDDs

For NBRC applicants and awardees from 2024 onward, all applications, record-keeping, and grants management and administration activities will occur within the Grants Management System (GMS).

Contents

- Navigating Records in the GMS1
- Standard Support Tasks.....2
 - View and Complete Pending Tasks2
 - Completed Tasks4
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 - Applicant/Grantee Organization's Account8
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 - Adding Files to the Grant Record9
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IMPORTANT NOTE BEFORE YOU START:

If assisting during the application phase: ensure the applicant has sent a request for review to you within the system. NBRC's application guidance includes instructions for completing this step.

If assisting after an award has been made: ensure the grantee has sent at least one request for review to you within the system—we suggest they request review of a progress report (can be done any time after their budget period has started). NBRC's GMS Grantee Toolkit has instructions for completing this step.

Initiating these requests is the mechanism that will ensure you have access to the broadest range of project and account information.

LDD Resource: SUPPORT

- [GMS Support Toolkit](#)
 - Found in the [LDD Resource Library](#)
 - Provides specific instructions on how to support a grantee in the GMS, what types of access to records you have, and how to review certain tasks
 - E.g. How to upload files to a project in the GMS
 - LDD support toolkit will give an explanation on how, as an LDD user, you are able to upload files to specific records on a project

Grantee Resource: HOW TO

- [GMS Toolkit](#)
 - Found on the [Grant Administration](#) page
 - Provides step by step instructions on how to complete actions in the GMS for their award
 - E.g. Uploading NTP Documentation
 - Grantee Toolkit will include how to navigate to the Grant record and then to the Files tab with instructions on how to upload files



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GovGrants Toolkit

Navigating NBRC's Online Grants Management System

As NBRC continues its transition to a comprehensive grants management system, we will update this supplemental document to assist with navigating and completing standard grant activities. Use the table of contents below or type CTRL + F to search for relevant keywords. It is highly recommended that you review and understand Section 1 "Basic Navigation" and reference later sections as-needed.

For programmatic and compliance requirements, see NBRC's Compliance Manual.

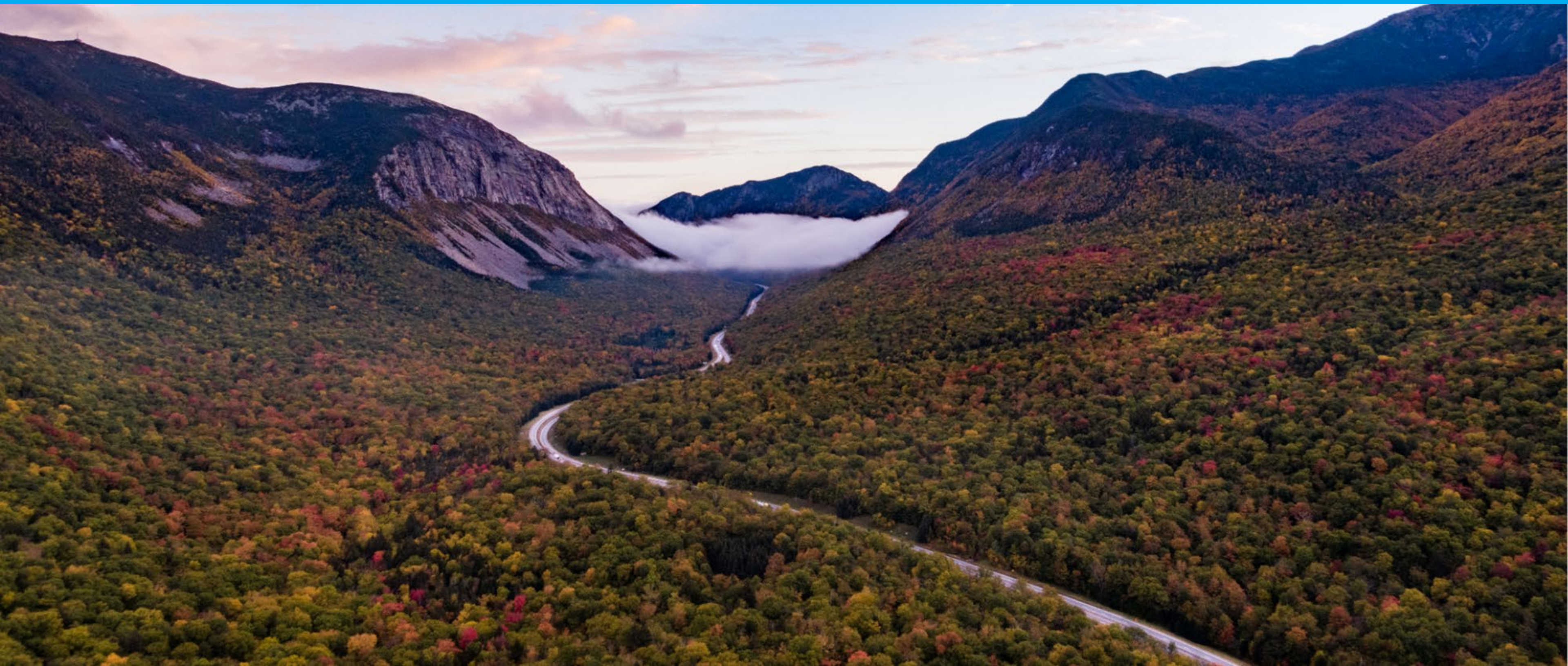
If you have questions or feedback, you can respond directly in the system (See "Using the Collab Tab") or email us at admin@nbrc.gov.

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Updated 10/10/2023

Programs and Partnerships Overview



Partnership Programs



Recreation Economy for Rural Communities: (RERC)

- 8 communities chosen in 4 states, [announced by EPA](#) on September 30, 2025
 - **Maine** – Town of Dover-Foxcroft and Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments
 - **New Hampshire** – Town of Newport
 - **New York** - City of Fulton, Hamilton County and Town of Jay
 - **Vermont** – Town of Johnson and Newport Downtown Development

www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/recreation-economy-rural-communities



Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities: (WORC)

- Not available in 2025 for competition

www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/dislocated-workers/grants/workforce-opportunity



Healthcare Programs:

- Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) www.hrsa.gov
- Rural Outreach Program www.hrsa.gov
- J1 Visa Waiver for Physicians serving rural areas

J1 Visa Program

Purpose: Reduces the healthcare provider shortage and promotes equitable healthcare access in Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont.

NBRC's Program: Modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission's successful J-1 Visa waiver programs. Requests for waivers must be sponsored by a state within the NBRC's region. NBRC collaborates closely with our state partners and complements each State's already existing Conrad 30 waiver Programs.

See www.nbrc.gov/content/J1Visa for more information.



J1 Visa Program

FY 2024 NBRC recommended waivers for **5** J1 physicians in New York and 4 of those physicians have begun their three-year employment commitment.

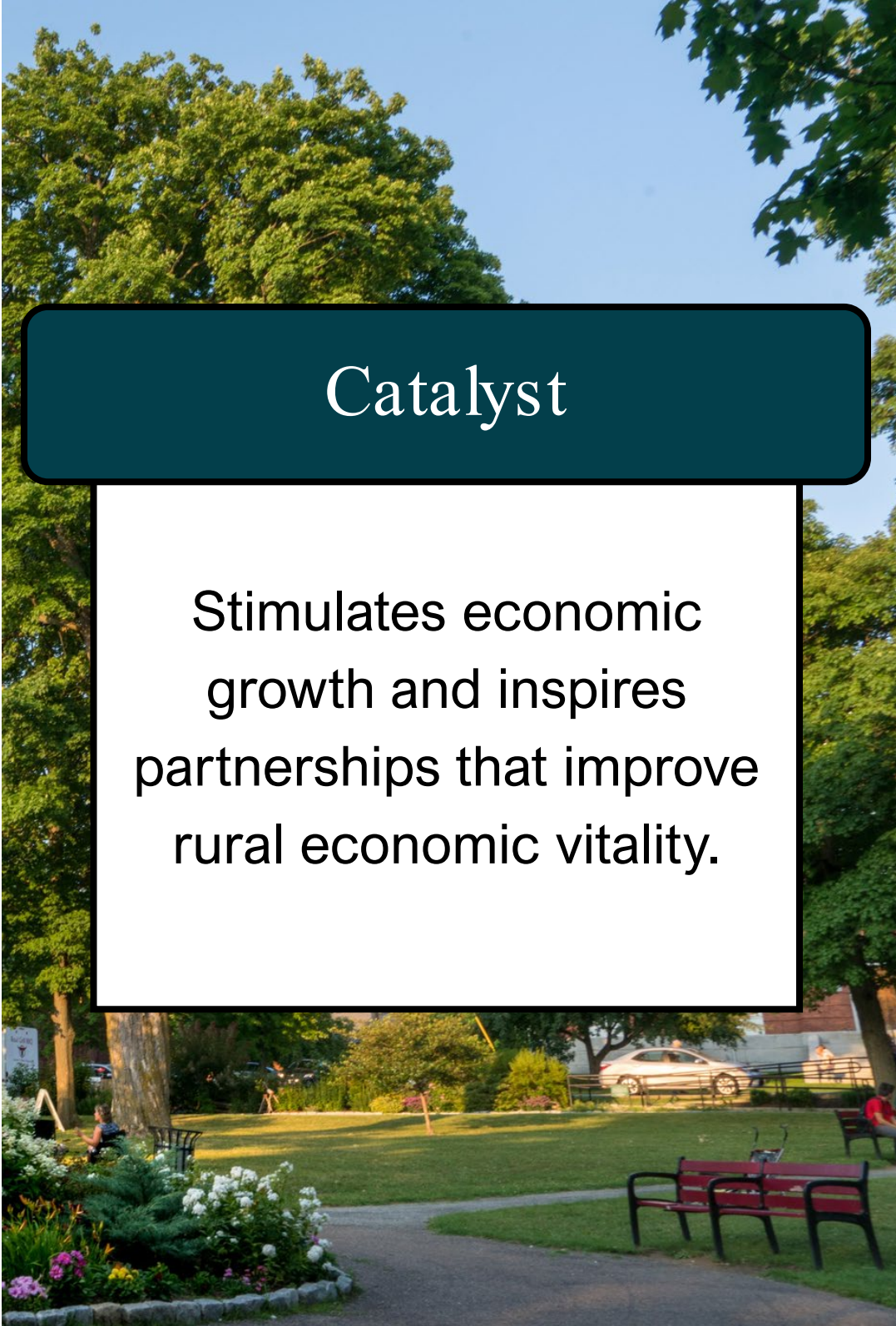
FY 2025 NBRC recommended waivers for **26** J1 physicians in New York, **5** in Maine. **19** have begun their three-year employment commitment. The remainder are pending with US Immigration Services.

Since October 1, 2025 (**FY 2026**) NBRC has recommended waivers for **2** J1 physicians in New York.

Competitive Programs Overview



NBRC'S THREE CORE COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS



Catalyst

Stimulates economic growth and inspires partnerships that improve rural economic vitality.



Forest Economy

Supports the forest-based economy and assists in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models.

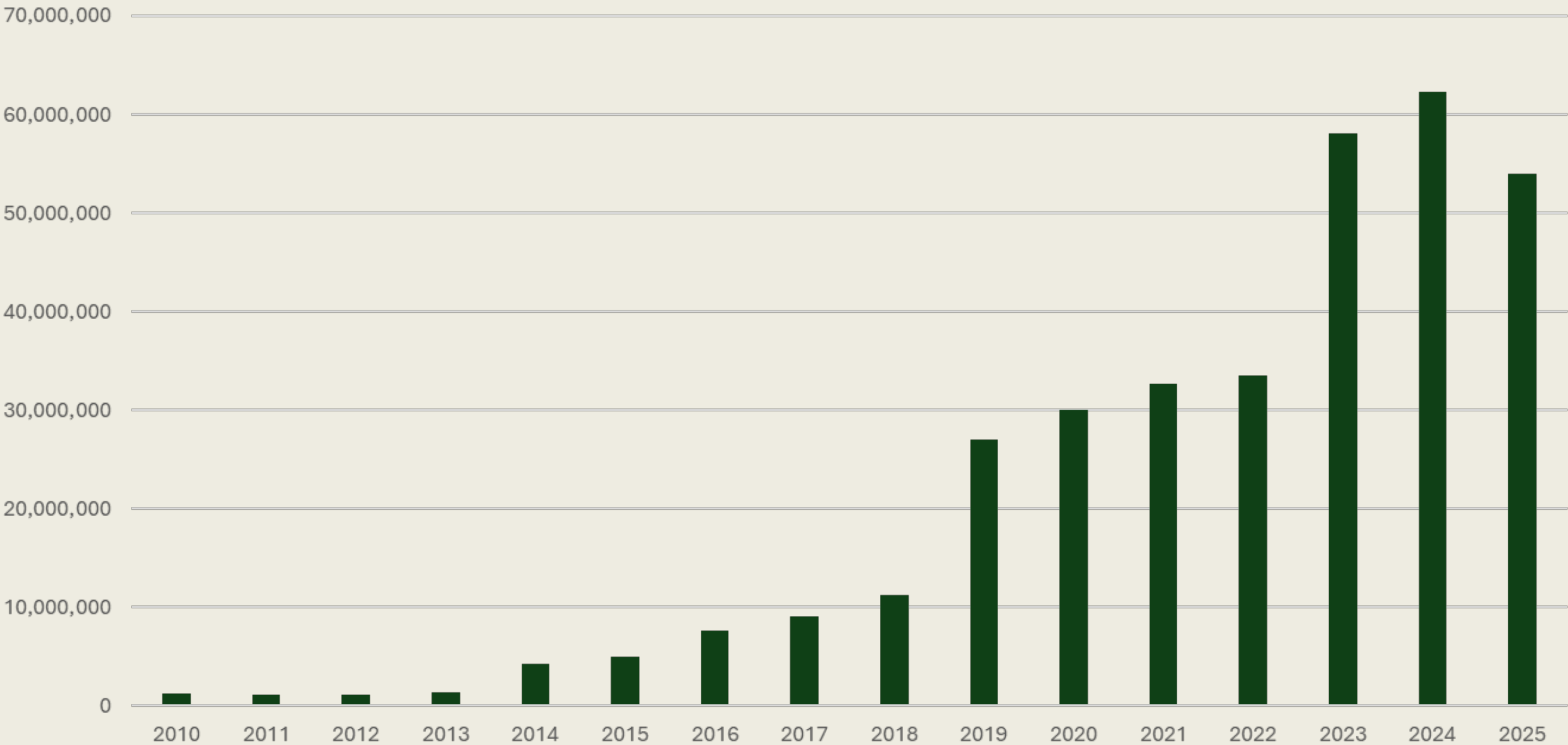


Timber for Transit

Advances the use of wood-based materials and composites for transportation and transportation adjacent infrastructure.

Programs and Partnerships Accomplishments Historically

Competitive and SCG Grant Programs: Awards by Year



*2025 is **Spring Round** only. **Fall Round** awards will be made in December.

*Indicates only Catalyst, FEP, T4T and SCG

Spring Grant Round Review

State/Congressional District/Org Name	# of Pre-Apps Submitted	Pre-App NBRC \$ Requested	# of Apps Submitted	App NBRC \$ Requested	App Total Project Amount
ME	60	\$54,321,507	42	\$28,808,836	\$99,053,041
NH	31	\$18,127,930	16	\$7,855,582	\$20,789,047
NY	59	\$63,338,935	49	\$44,495,602	\$257,436,087
VT	37	\$38,785,929	16	\$17,890,392	\$96,919,702
Grand Total	187	\$174,574,300	123	\$99,050,412	\$474,197,878

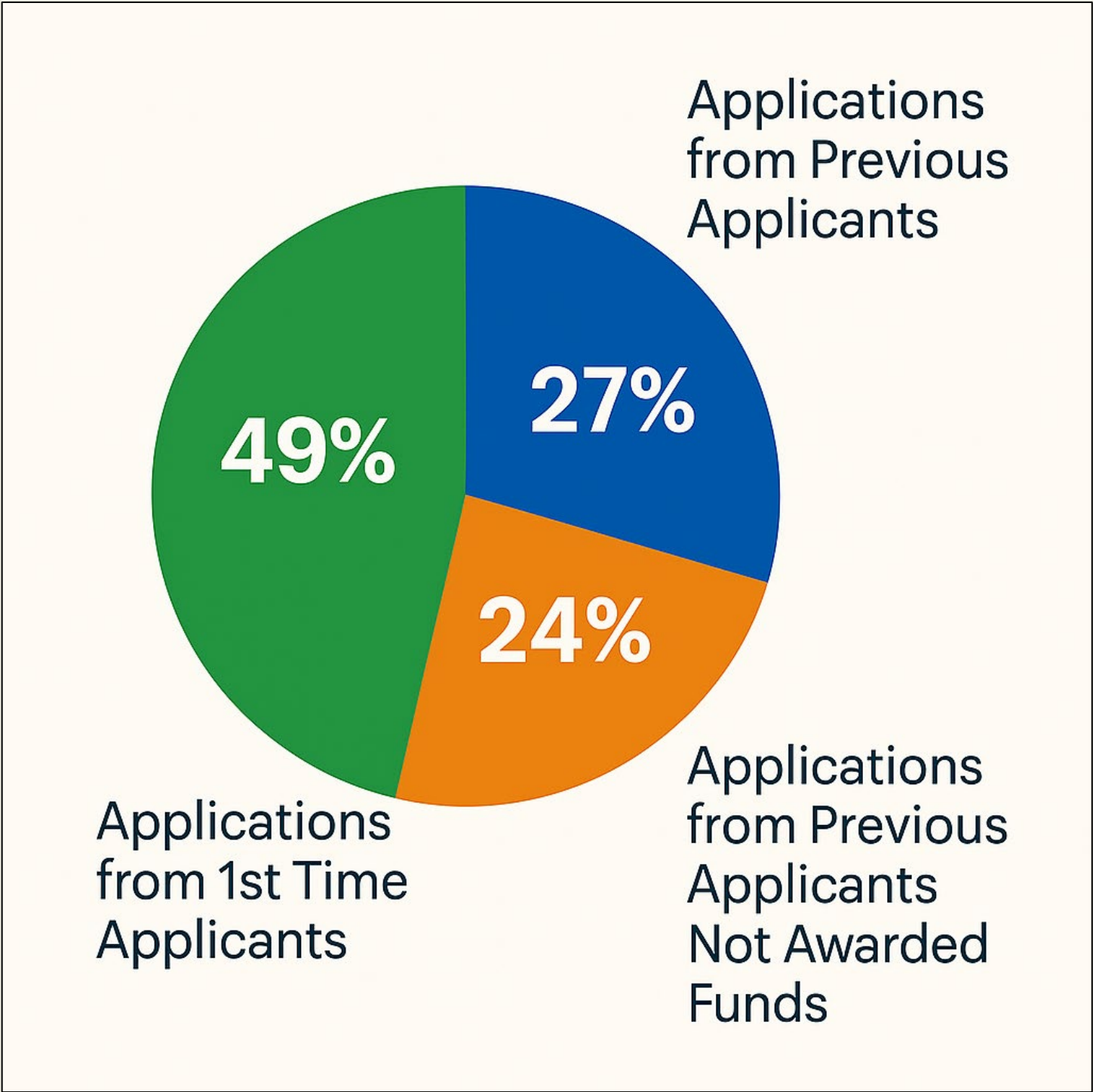
Catalyst Spring 2025: Applications

Application Stats

- **49%** 1st time applicants
- **51%** repeat applicants
- **72%** projects benefiting rural community (>5,000 population)

55 of 63 counties represented. All new counties submitted applications:

- 2 - Lincoln ME, 4 - Merrimack NH, 1 - Wyoming NY



Fall Grant Round Review

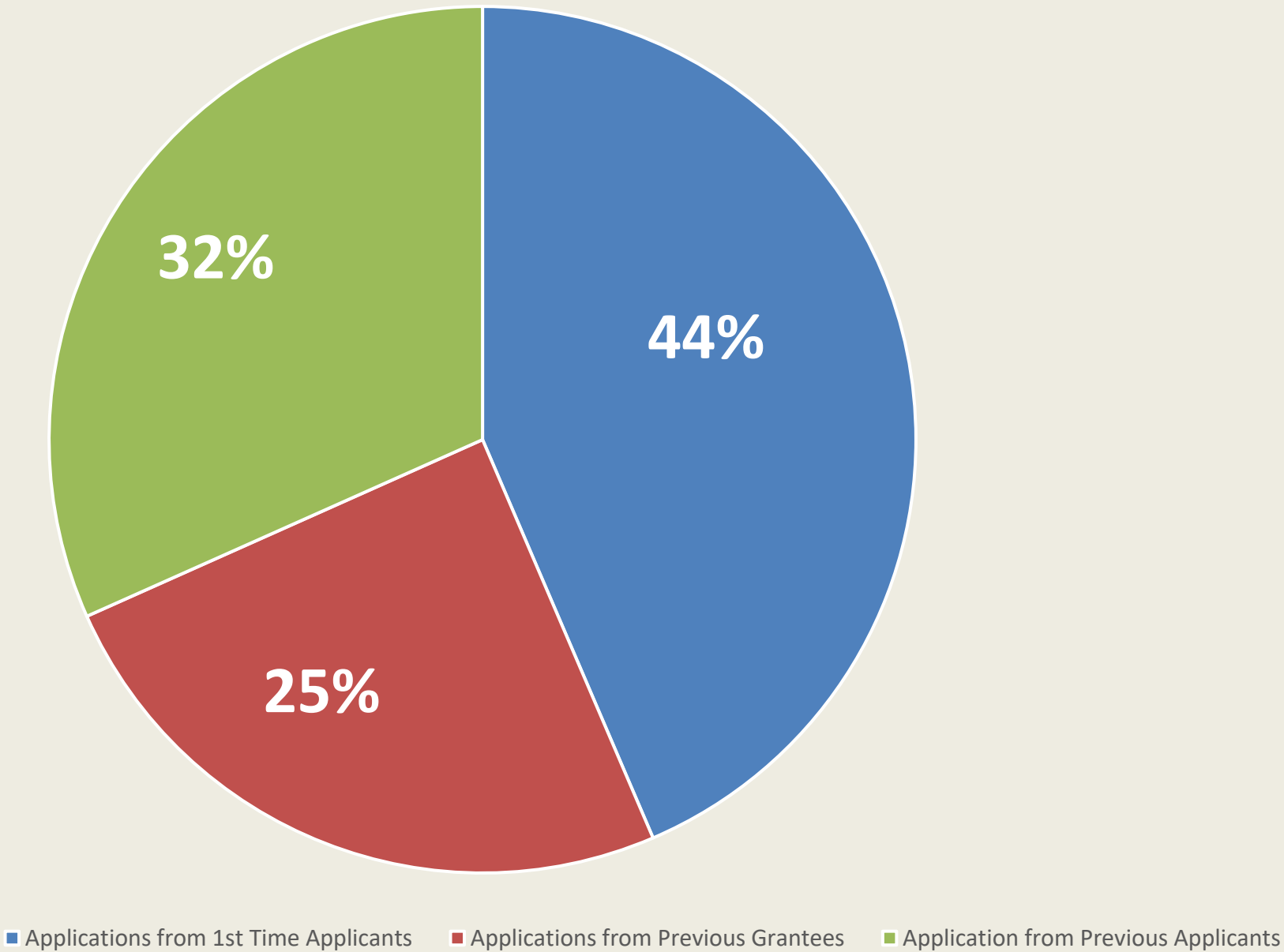
State/Congressional District/Org Name	# of Pre-Apps Submitted	Pre-App NBRC \$ Requested	# of Apps Submitted	App NBRC \$ Requested	App Total Project Amount
ME	60	\$37,217,263	30	\$16,645,993	\$46,359,237
NH	24	\$15,591,982	18	\$8,718,422	\$18,313,604
NY	58	\$56,630,493	50	\$41,493,699	\$345,105,554
VT	28	\$20,893,189	16	\$9,620,036	\$25,180,218
Grand Total	170	\$130,332,927	114	\$76,478,150	\$434,958,613

Catalyst Fall 2025: Applications

Application Stats

- 44% 1st time applicants
- 56% repeat applicants
- 71% projects benefiting rural community (>5,000 population)

55 counties represented, 87% of the NBRC service area.



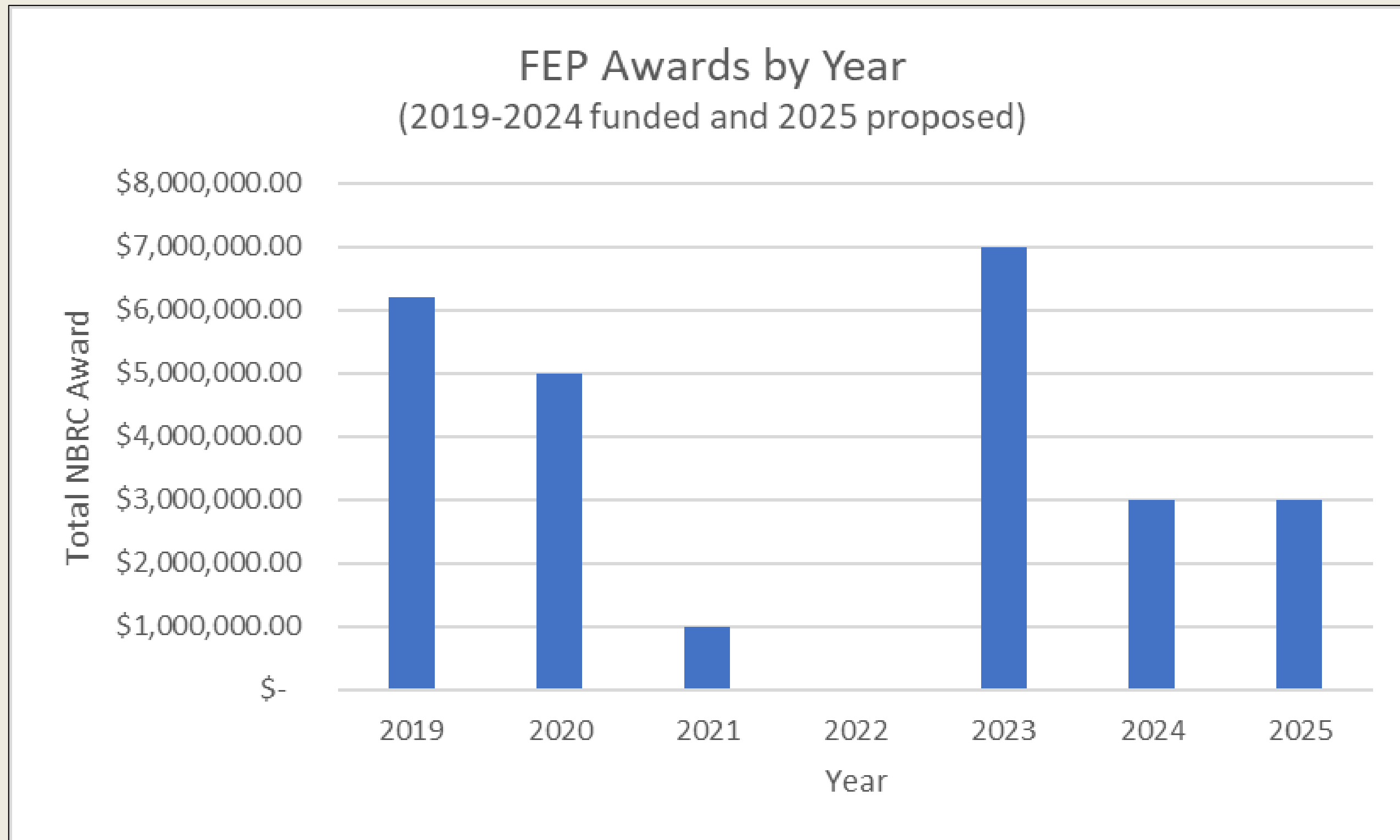
Forest Economy Program 2025

Summary

Spring Round Review	
Pre-Applications Received	3
Total Pre-app Request	\$1,879,522

Fall Round Review	
Pre-Applications Received	4
Applications Received	4
Total Application Request	\$3,899,991

Forest Economy Program Historic Funding by Year



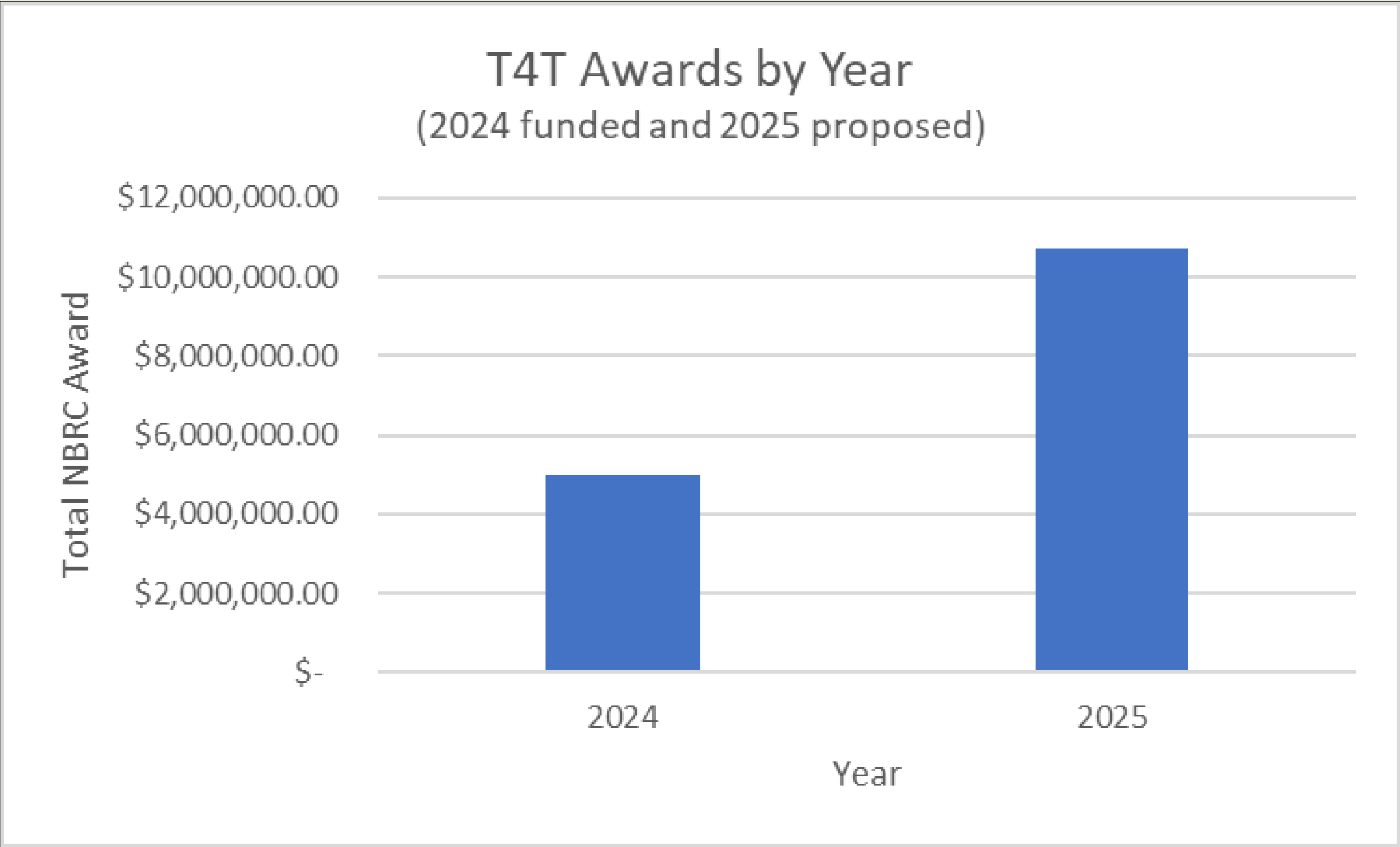
Timber for Transit Program 2025

Summary

 <i>Spring and Fall Round Review (Proposed Award Data)</i>	
Total Funding Availability	\$25,000,000
Pre-Applications Received	9
Total Request at Pre-App	\$18,197,647
Applications Received	8
Total Request at Application	\$10,714,195
Application Total Project Costs	\$14,310,136
Higher Maximum App Requests (>\$1M)	3



Timber for Transit Program Historic Funding by Year



Grant Administration Portfolio Overview



NBRC Grants Management Statistics

Number of Current Open Awards: approximately 400 (!!!)

Quarterly & Annual Reporting

**# of Reports processed as of
September 2024: 4780**

**# of Reports processed as of
October 2025: 5962**

Total for year: 1182 or ~20% of all
reporting processed by NBRC to date

Reimbursements

**# of Reimbursements processed as of
September 2024: 1927**

**# of Reimbursements processed as of
October 2025: 2279**

Total for year: 352 or ~15% of all
reimbursements processed by NBRC to date

Number of Closeouts in FY25: 52

NBRC Resources and Trainings 2025

Resources Created or Revised	Training Sessions for Grantees & LDDS	GMS Resources Created or Revised	Website Updates
Grant Administration & Compliance Manual	LDD specific trainings	GMS Grantee Toolkit	Creation of New Grantee support page
Reimbursement Tracker	New Grantee Training	New Grantee Support	NEPA dedicated page
Workplan Template	Pre-Application & Application Workshops	Creating & Submitting a Pre-Application	BABAA dedicated page
SF424cbw (Project budget)	Pre-Application & Application Office Hours	SF424cbw (Project budget) with GSM instructions	LDD dedicated Resource page, Resource Library
NEPA EA Guidance & other Templates	Program Overview Sessions	LDD GSM Support Toolkit	Competitive Program One Pagers (3)
LDD Project Kickoff Meeting Template	GSM Office Hours	Application Supporting Document Checklist	Events Page

Questions?

2025 Organizational Update

Congressional and Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2026

- Status of NBRC during a **Lapse in Fiscal Year** Appropriations:
[NBRC FY 2026 Lapse Plan](#) approved by OMB
- Current **Core Appropriations projection**
- NBRC Commission **Re-Organization**:
3 Team structure designed for grants portfolio management
- Focus on **Cyber-security**:
SAM.gov enabled banking as additional security measure

LDD Feedback: 2025

Poll Questions:

- Rank the 2025 trainings from most helpful to least helpful.
- Have you hosted any Project Kickoff Meetings with new grantees?
- How helpful have they been to getting everyone on the same page at the beginning of the project?
- Rank the following topics from the ones you know the most about to the ones you know the least about.



LDD Feedback: 2025



LIVE

Poll: Names not recorded | Results shared

Rank the 2025 trainings from most helpful to least helpful

Reviewing Reports and Forms for Pre and Post 2024 Projects (March 2025)

Option 3How to Assist a Grantee through the NTP Stage (August 2025)

NBRC/USDA Rural Development Partnership Program (May 2025)

32 responses

LIVE

Poll: Names not recorded | Results shared

How helpful has the Project Kickoff Meetings been in starting off on a good foot with the grantee?

3.8

0

0

35%

41%

23%

You voted Level 5

17 responses

LIVE

Poll: Names not recorded | Results shared

Have you hosted one or more Project Kickoff Meeting(s) with new grantees?

Yes

No

N/A- no new grantees in the past year or two

Your response

50%

25%

25%

24 responses

Rank the following topics from the ones you know the most about to the ones you know the least about. *

- Procurement
- NEPA process
- Funding stacks
- BABAA requirements
- NBRC Grant close out procedure and documentation
- NBRC compliance procedures
- Matching funds for projects
- State Historic Preservation (SHPO) and State Agency permitting

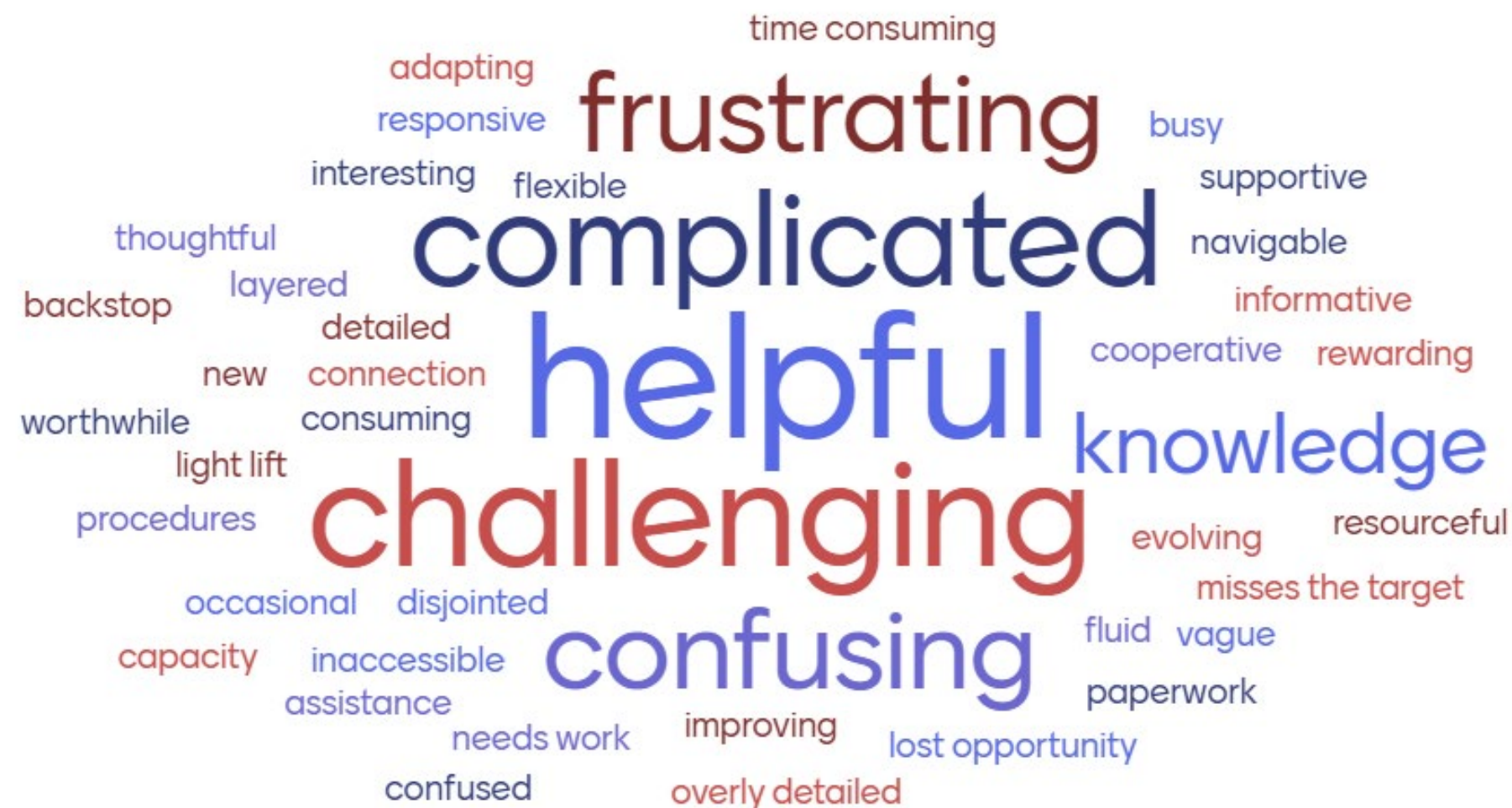
*Unfortunately, this poll malfunctioned so we didn't get any responses. If you'd like to reach out and provide your ranking to slang@nbrc.gov, we'd love to see it!



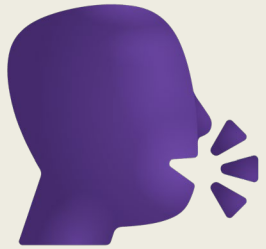
LDD Feedback: 2025

Word Cloud:

- What is one word that comes to mind when you think about the NBRC/LDD partnership this past year?
 - Comments during discussion differentiated that some of these words related to the NBRC/LDD relationship and some of them related to the GMS and its challenges



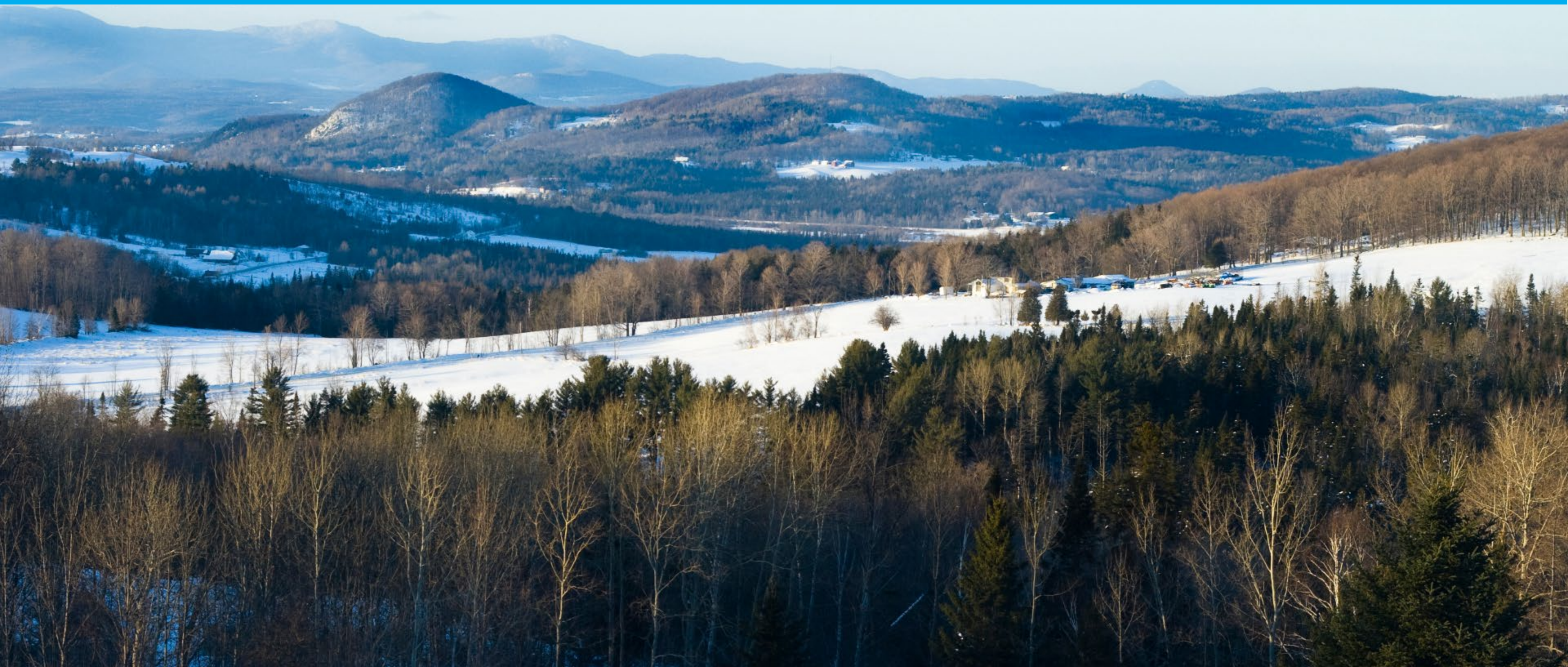
LDD Listening Session: Feedback on 2025



- Looking back at this year's LDD Partnership programming, what activities or initiatives felt most impactful or meaningful to your organization?
- Were there any unintended benefits or challenges that arose from our shared work?
- How would you describe our communication and coordination this past year?
- What aspects of our planning, reporting, or decision-making processes worked well for you?
- Were there tools, timelines, or systems that could be improved to better support your work?
- How might we better support your organization's goals while achieving shared outcomes?



Focusing Forward: 2026



NEPA Process for FY2026

NBRC will be adopting their own NEPA forms and procedures

- Currently finalizing documents in-house
- Requires posting in the Federal Register – 30-day comment period, likely to occur in early 2026
- Current process of submitting NEPA Intake Form at application will not change. Form will be revised for Program Year 2026.
- Goal of continuing to streamline our NEPA review process
 - Building internal capacity to process CATEx in-house
 - Utilize contracted environmental consultant for more complex projects that require EAs, etc.
 - Developing MOUs with state agencies/common funding partners

Determining Match Rate for Projects

2026: NEW Match Rate Determination

Purpose: *Match can be difficult for communities to secure stalling transformational projects.*

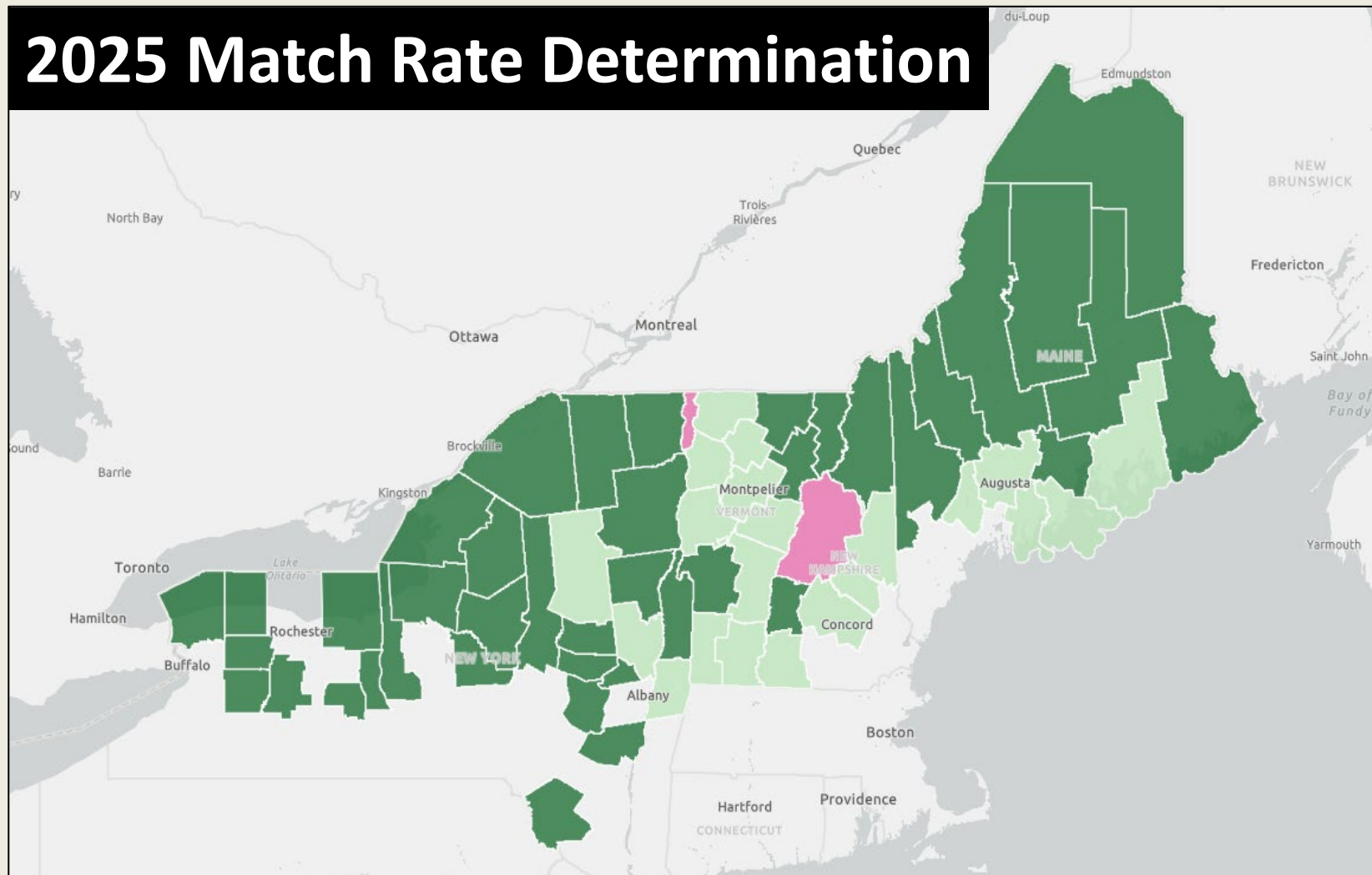
Background: Match rate (as mandated by Congress) is determined by the socio-economic indicators of your geography, which is the NBRC ***Distress Criteria***.

In 2026, NBRC has developed *new criteria*, so the match rate can be determined either at the county level *OR* community level! **The best rate applies.**

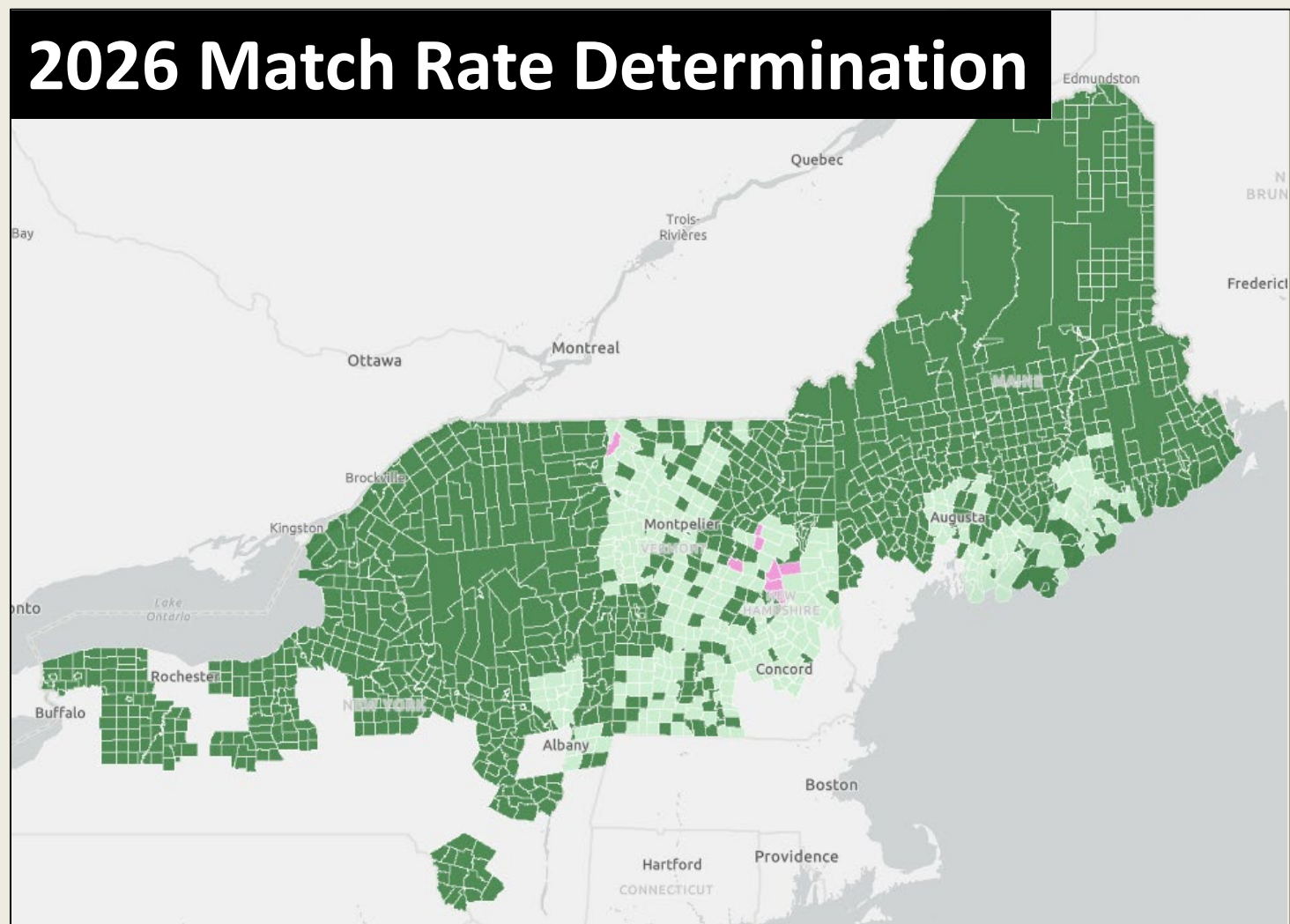
New Tools have been developed to assist applicants in identifying the new match rate!

Determining Match Rate for Projects

Drilling down to community level data **improves the match rate** for a number of communities.



New Tools to ID Project Match Rate:



1. PDF List with Match Rate
2. Match Rate Calculator
3. Interactive Map

Determining Match Rate: The TOOLS

Match Tool 1:
PDF List with
Match Rate

- Step 1: ID Project State
- Step 2: ID County
- Step 3: ID Community
- Step 4: Record Match Rate and GEOID
- Step 5: Enter Data into the GMS pre-application

State	County	Community	FY 2026 Distress	Match Rate (Copy and paste calculated match into GMS)	GEOID (Copy and paste GEOIDs into GMS)
Maine	Aroostook County	Chapman town	distressed	20%	2300312000
Maine	Aroostook County	Connor UT	distressed	20%	2300313900
Maine	Aroostook County	Crystal town	distressed	20%	2300315395
Maine	Aroostook County	Cyr plantation	distressed	20%	2300315990
Maine	Aroostook County	Dyer Brook town	distressed	20%	2300319210
Maine	Aroostook County	Eagle Lake town	distressed	20%	2300319420
Maine	Aroostook County	Easton town	distressed	20%	2300321380
Maine	Aroostook County	Fort Fairfield town	distressed	20%	2300325615
Maine	Aroostook County	Fort Kent town	distressed	20%	2300325755
Maine	Aroostook County	Frenchville town	distressed	20%	2300326735
Maine	Aroostook County	Garfield plantation	distressed	20%	2300327120
Maine	Aroostook County	Glenwood plantation	distressed	20%	2300327855
Maine	Aroostook County	Grand Isle town	distressed	20%	2300328590
Maine	Aroostook County	Hamlin town	distressed	20%	2300330690
Maine	Aroostook County	Hammond town	distressed	20%	2300330725
Maine	Aroostook County	Haynesville town	distressed	20%	2300332195
Maine	Aroostook County	Hersey town	distressed	20%	2300332685
Maine	Aroostook County	Hodgdon town	distressed	20%	2300333385
Maine	Aroostook County	Houlton town	distressed	20%	2300333980
Maine	Aroostook County	Island Falls town	distressed	20%	2300335065
Maine	Aroostook County	Limestone town	distressed	20%	2300339300
Maine	Aroostook County	Linneus town	distressed	20%	2300339965
Maine	Aroostook County	Littleton town	distressed	20%	2300340595
Maine	Aroostook County	Ludlow town	distressed	20%	2300341715
Maine	Aroostook County	Macwahoc plantation	distressed	20%	2300342450
Maine	Aroostook County	Madawaska town	distressed	20%	2300342520
Maine	Aroostook County	Mapleton town	distressed	20%	2300343255
Maine	Aroostook County	Mars Hill town	distressed	20%	2300343710
Maine	Aroostook County	Masardis town	distressed	20%	2300343990
Maine	Aroostook County	Merrill town	distressed	20%	2300345180
Maine	Aroostook County	Monticello town	distressed	20%	2300346685
Maine	Aroostook County	Moro plantation	distressed	20%	2300347175
Maine	Aroostook County	Nashville plantation	distressed	20%	2300348120
Maine	Aroostook County	New Canada town	distressed	20%	2300348575

State	County	Community	FY 2026 Distress	Match Rate (Copy and paste calculated match into GMS)	GEOID (Copy and paste GEOIDs into GMS)
New York	St. Lawrence County	Hopkinton town	distressed	20%	3608935595
New York	St. Lawrence County	Lawrence town	distressed	20%	3608941564
New York	St. Lawrence County	Lisbon town	distressed	20%	3608942631
New York	St. Lawrence County	Louisville town	distressed	20%	3608943588
New York	St. Lawrence County	Macomb town	distressed	20%	3608944391
New York	St. Lawrence County	Madrid town	distressed	20%	3608944490
New York	St. Lawrence County	Massena town	distressed	20%	3608946030
New York	St. Lawrence County	Morristown town	distressed	20%	3608948582
New York	St. Lawrence County	Norfolk town	distressed	20%	3608951330
New York	St. Lawrence County	Ogdensburg city	distressed	20%	3608954485
New York	St. Lawrence County	Oswegatchie town	distressed	20%	3608955563
New York	St. Lawrence County	Parishville town	distressed	20%	3608956374
New York	St. Lawrence County	Piercefield town	distressed	20%	3608957716
New York	St. Lawrence County	Pierrepont town	distressed	20%	3608957771
New York	St. Lawrence County	Pitcairn town	distressed	20%	3608958266
New York	St. Lawrence County	Potsdam town	distressed	20%	3608959575
New York	St. Lawrence County	Rossie town	distressed	20%	3608963858
New York	St. Lawrence County	Russell town	distressed	20%	3608964221
New York	St. Lawrence County	Stockholm town	distressed	20%	3608971410
New York	St. Lawrence County	Waddington town	distressed	20%	3608977739
New York	Saratoga County	Ballston town	transitional	50%	3609104220
New York	Saratoga County	Charlton town	transitional	50%	3609113926
New York	Saratoga County	Clifton Park town	transitional	50%	3609116353
New York	Saratoga County	Corinth town	distressed	20%	3609118223
New York	Saratoga County	Day town	distressed	20%	3609119807
New York	Saratoga County	Edinburg town	distressed	20%	3609123591
New York	Saratoga County	Galway town	transitional	50%	3609128112
New York	Saratoga County	Greenfield town	transitional	50%	3609130444
New York	Saratoga County	Hadley town	distressed	20%	3609131269
New York	Saratoga County	Halfmoon town	transitional	50%	3609131489
New York	Saratoga County	Malta town	transitional	50%	3609144743
New York	Saratoga County	Mechanicville city	distressed	20%	3609146360

Determining Match Rate: The TOOLS

Match Tool 2: Match Rate Calculator

- Step 1: Select Project State in Table (Section 1)
- Step 2: Select County in Table (Section 1)
- Step 3: Record Match Rate and GEOID (Section 2)
- Step 4: Enter data into the **GMS pre-application**

Optional Data: Use the match rate to determine project budget



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County or Statewide Locations And Match

Section 1: Identify the primary locations where your project will take place.

See Additional Guidance tab for more information.
Ensure to check warnings before the final calculation.

Select State (Press delete to reset)	Select County And GEOID (Press delete to reset)	GEOID
New Hampshire	33003, Carroll County, New Hampshire	33003
New Hampshire	33001, Belknap County, New Hampshire	33001
New York	36031, Essex County, New York	36031

If your project includes a county and a community with different distress levels please contact

A warning will appear if both county and state level service area are selected.
Okay, no combination errors.

A warning will appear if you have selected duplicate geographies.
Okay, no duplicates.

Section 2: Cut and paste Match % and GEOID.
Important: This information must be copied and pasted exactly the same in the GMS pre-application. You will see GMS fields that resemble the fields below. For additional information view the FAQ.

OverviewLocationsBudget...

Application Match

Match %
40%

GEOID
33003;33001;36031

Optional Section

Use your rate to understand the amount of your minimum matching contribution.
Enter your total project cost into the field below. We'll calculate an estimated NBRC grant request and amount of matching funds required for your project. See chart for program limits.

Total NBRC Funds Requested: \$0.00

Review your estimates:

	Amount	Percent
Estimated Match Requirement	\$0.00	40%
Estimated NBRC Amount*	\$0.00	60%
Total Project Cost**	\$0.00	100%

**If the total cost of your project is expected to be above this amount, any additional costs will be considered cost share.

Maximum NBRC Award*	Applicable Program(s)	Eligible Project Categories
\$1M to \$5M	T4T	Transportation Infrastructure Implementation
Up to \$3M	Catalyst	Multi-Jurisdiction or Multi-Infrastructure
Up to \$1M	Catalyst, FEP	Infrastructure (Catalyst), Various (FEP)
\$250K - \$1M	T4T	Transportation Feasibility
Up to \$500K	Catalyst	Non-Infrastructure
Up to \$100K	Catalyst	Feasibility and Planning

*Potential eligible programs based on NBRC amount are highlighted. See Additional Guidance tab for more information. Review Program User Manuals for full details.

Determining Match Rate: The TOOLS

Match Tool 3:

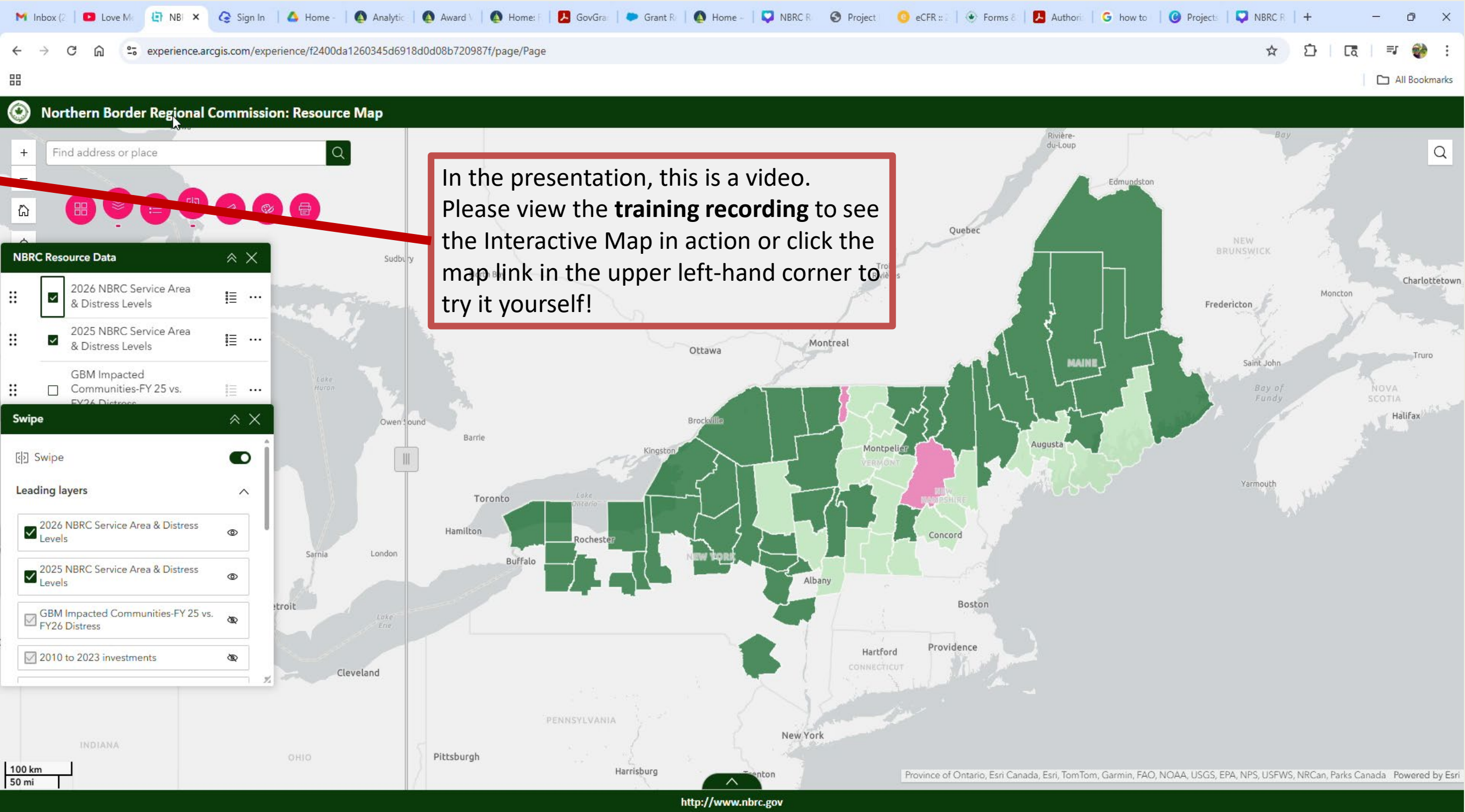
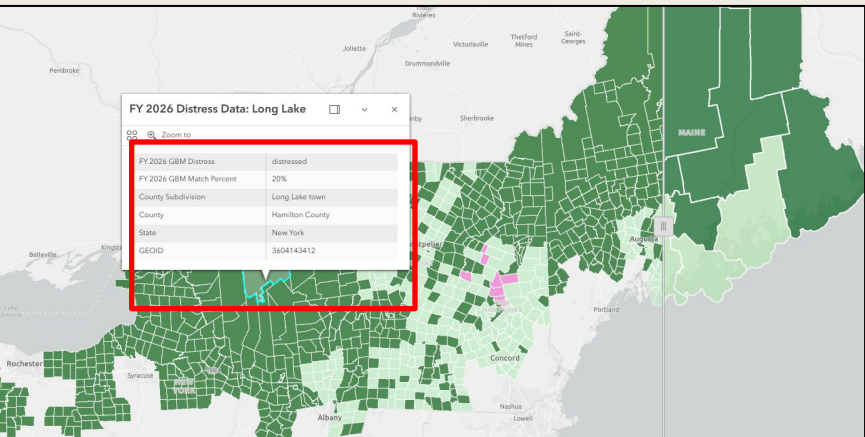
Interactive Map

Step 1: Select 2026 Match Rate Layer

Step 2: Select Project Community within map

Step 3: Record Match Rate and GEOID from pop up table

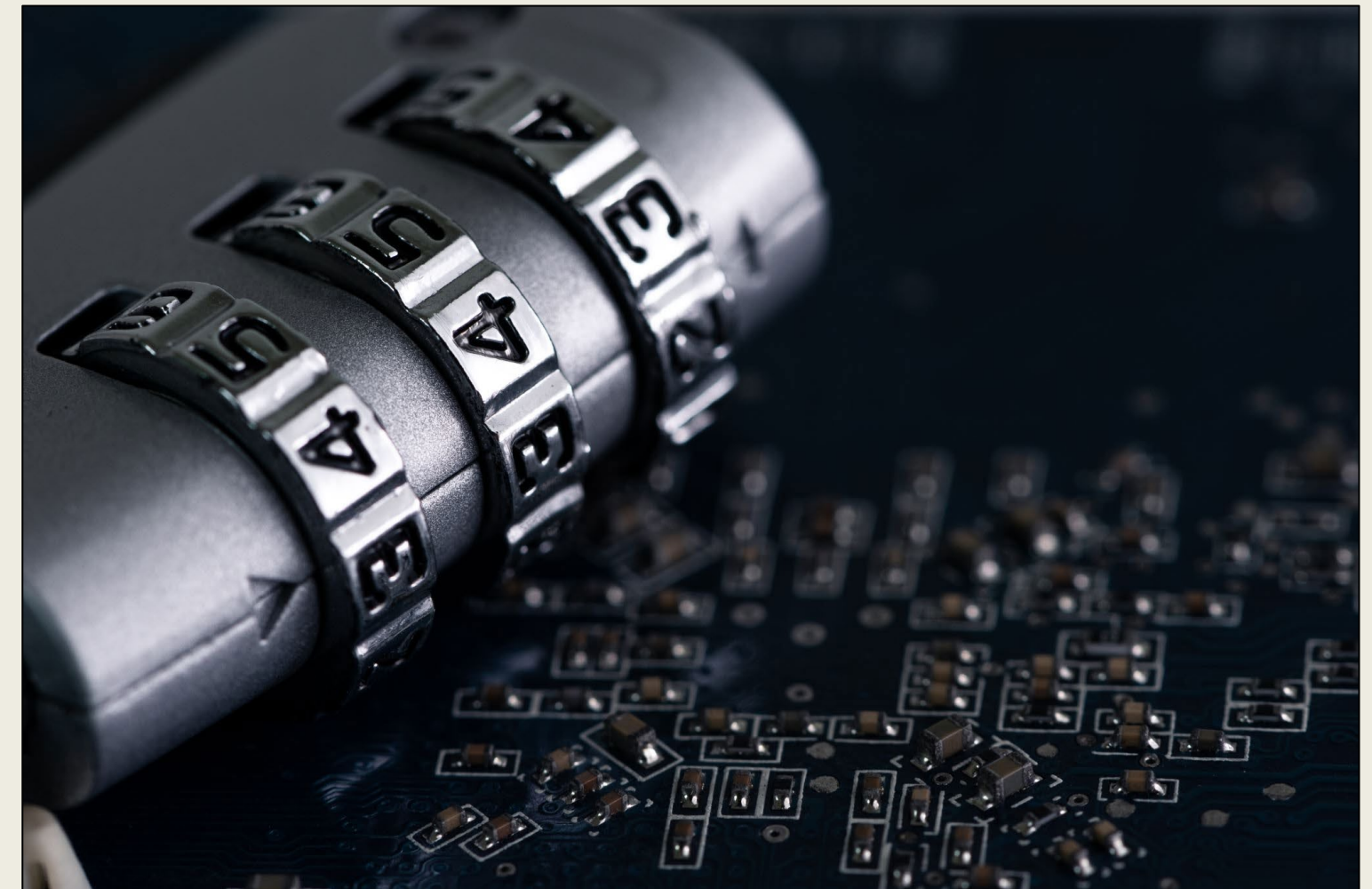
Step 4: Enter data into the GMS pre-application



Cyber Security as a Focus

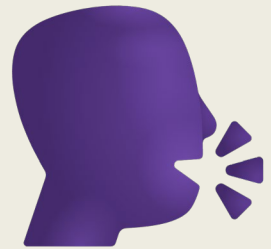
Updates:

1. Federal agencies move to **Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA)**
 - a. No 'implicit' trust/default 'trust' even in private or privileged networks
 - b. Strict identity authentication and authorization
2. Grants Management System (**GMS**)
3. SAM.gov enabled-banking
4. Focus on **internal trainings at NBRC and resources for grantees** in 2026



Questions?

LDD Listening Session: Focusing Forward 2026



- What opportunities or emerging needs do you see for our partnership in the coming year?
- Are there specific areas where you'd like deeper collaboration or capacity-building support?
- If you could change one thing about how we work together, what would it be?
- What's one thing you hope we continue doing next year?





**Northern Border
Regional Commission**



**GMS
Corner
with Casey!**



Northern Border Regional Commission

Thank you
for all you
do!

