



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**



Timber for Transit and Forest Economy Program

LDD PP Quarter 1 Training: March 2026

www.nbrc.gov



Northern Border Regional Commission

Agenda

Welcome!

- **LDD Partnership Program Updates**
- **Pre Application Stats**
- **Differences between Competitive Programs**
- **Forest Economy Program (FEP)**
 - **Example Projects**
- **Timber for Transit Program (T4T)**
 - **Example Projects**
- **State Priorities: FEP and T4T**
- **Advisory Board**
- **Scoring**
- **LDDs- What to Focus On During Application Review**
- **GMS- Record Funnel and Application Review**



LDD Partnership Program Updates



LDD Partnership Program Updates

LDD Partnership Program Goals:

- Our goal is for grantee partners to learn from LDDs over the course of the performance period and develop a strong relationship with their regional partner.
- NBRC provides ongoing training and resources to support LDDs in their grant administration support role.
- NBRC provides additional resources when new tools (such as Community Distress and Match) are implemented.

 **NEW:** [Book a time with the Capacity Coordinator!](#) One hour time slots to help you work through navigating the GMS or problem solve with you and your grantee

- Mondays at 1 pm
- Wednesdays at 10 am
- Thursdays at 11 am

LDD Partnership Program Updates



Beginning in Cycle Year 2026, **NBRC will require all competitive programs (Catalyst, Forest Economy Program, Timber for Transit) to utilize an LDD for grant administration services.** While the content of projects under FEP and T4T are different, the administration of the awards are the same as Catalyst.



LDD Survey: Assessing Grantee Capacity: Due March 20



A **list of Pre Applications** with Project Name, Location, and Project Contact will be shared with LDDs by the end of March. Please **review the list and connect** with the projects in your service area about grant administration services. Lists are sent to the main contact listed in the LDD Contact Info spreadsheet [here](#). Please check with them if they are not shared with you.

LDD Partnership Program Updates

Q2 Training: NEPA and BABAA

May 19, 9-10 am

You'll get individualized attention from NBRC's new NEPA Advisor who will provide updates on our improved NEPA processes and tips and tricks to help educate your grantees.

"New to NBRC" Staff Training Add On

May 19, 10-11 am

Are you new to administering NBRC funds in the last 6 months? Stay on for the second half of the Q2 training for some NBRC basics and for staff to answer any of your burning questions!

Save
THE
Date



Spring 2026 Pre Applications

Catalyst

- 152 pre-applications submitted
- \$110,711,272 requested from NBRC
- ME – 42; NH – 31; NY – 52; VT – 27

Timber for Transit

- 15 pre-applications submitted
- \$23,321,801.03 requested from NBRC
- ME - 5; NH - 2; NY - 5; VT - 3

Forest Economy

- 7 pre-applications submitted
- \$6,142,576 requested from NBRC
- ME - 4; NH - 1; NY - 0; VT - 2



NBRC'S THREE CORE GRANT 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.

Forest Economy Program

The Forest Economy Program is designed ***to support the forest-based economy, and to assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models*** across the four-state NBRC region.

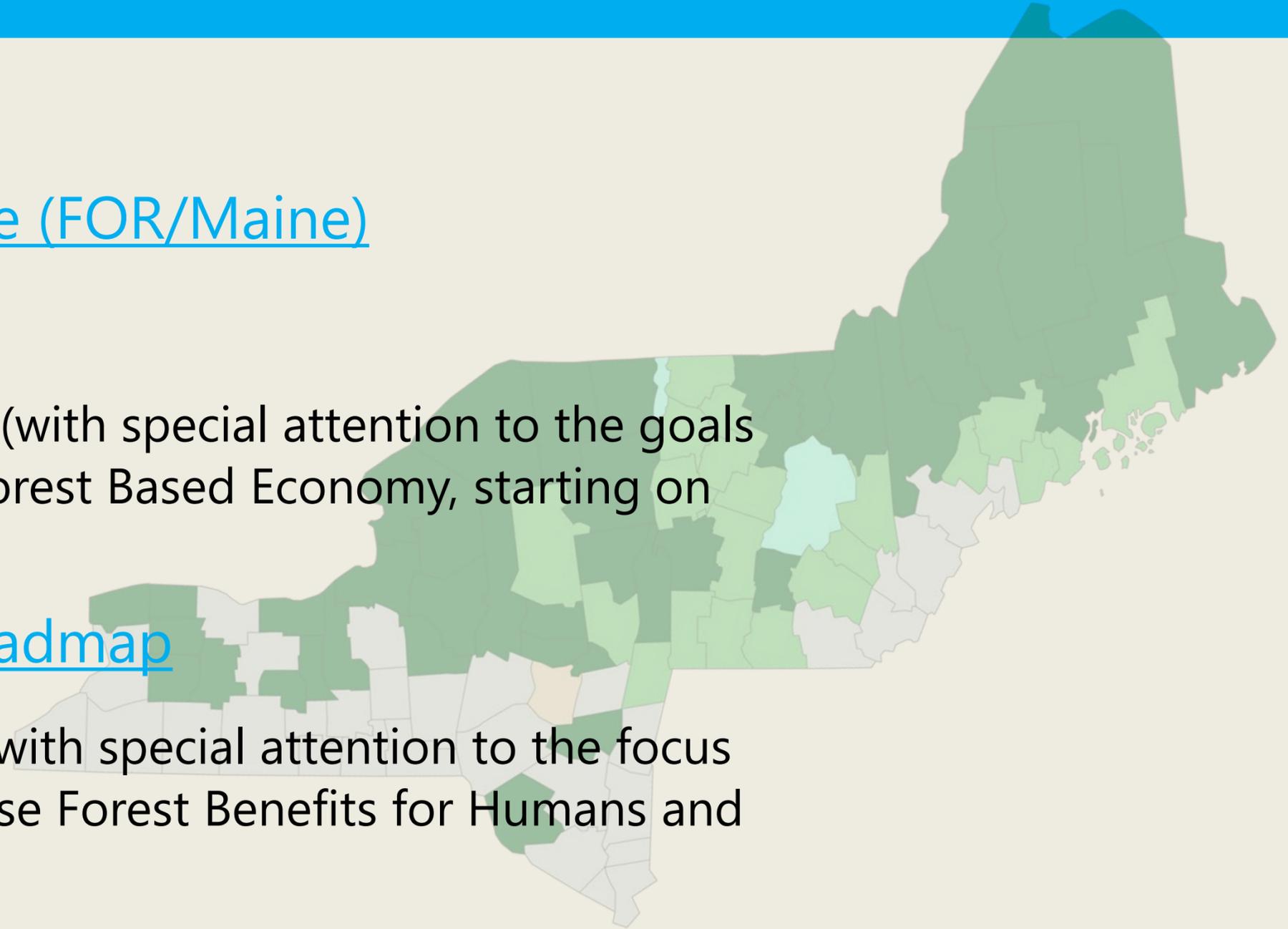
Forest Economy Program Purpose



- Invest in the development and commercialization of technologies that create and grow needed markets
- Invest in workforce recruitment, development, and training
- Help to sustain and grow existing forest industry businesses
- Aid in the revitalization of rural communities through the diversified use of northern border forests for economic activity to include wood products and advanced materials manufacturing
- Leverage existing (or, in some cases, new) partnerships

Forest Economy - State Goals and Priorities

- [Forest Opportunity Roadmap Maine \(FOR/Maine\)](#)
- [Maine Tech Hub](#)
- [New Hampshire Forest Action Plan](#) (with special attention to the goals and strategies listed under Focus Area – Forest Based Economy, starting on page 149)
- [Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap](#)
- [New York State Forest Action Plan](#) (with special attention to the focus areas and strategies within Goal #3: Increase Forest Benefits for Humans and All Living Creatures)



FOREST ECONOMY PROGRAM (FEP)

Eligible project purposes include:

- **Community development projects** that support the diversified use of forest for economic activity
- **Workforce training and development projects** for the purpose of building the skills, recruiting, and retaining the workforce needed for forest businesses
- **Business planning and technical assistance projects** that enhance the viability and sustainability of new and existing forest businesses
- **Public infrastructure projects** that directly support the forest industry
- **Marketing, communication and education projects** that are paired with a public infrastructure, community development or workforce training or development project



**Basic research projects will not be considered*

Eligible Project Examples

Community Development

A project involving construction or renovation of a community gathering space or public building (town hall, public library, museum etc.) using mass timber, wood fiber insulation, and advanced wood heat.

Workforce Development

An initiative with connections to local businesses which addresses state-wide forest economy workforce needs, including careers in logging, forestry, and related fields.

Eligible Project Examples

Business Planning and TA

An accelerator and technical assistance program designed to support forest product companies—from emerging entrepreneurs to long-established firms—in achieving their growth goals. The project provides tailored guidance to help businesses scale operations, improve efficiency, strengthen competitiveness, and prepare for long-term succession and sustainability.

Public Infrastructure

A project to redevelop a shuttered paper mill site into a multi-industrial complex and prepare the site for industrial use by new businesses, including forest product companies.

Eligible Project Examples

Marketing, Communication, Education

MUST BE PAIRED with at least one other project category. E.g., Marketing to promote the environmental and climate benefits of forest management and forest products in ways that strengthen markets for wood products.



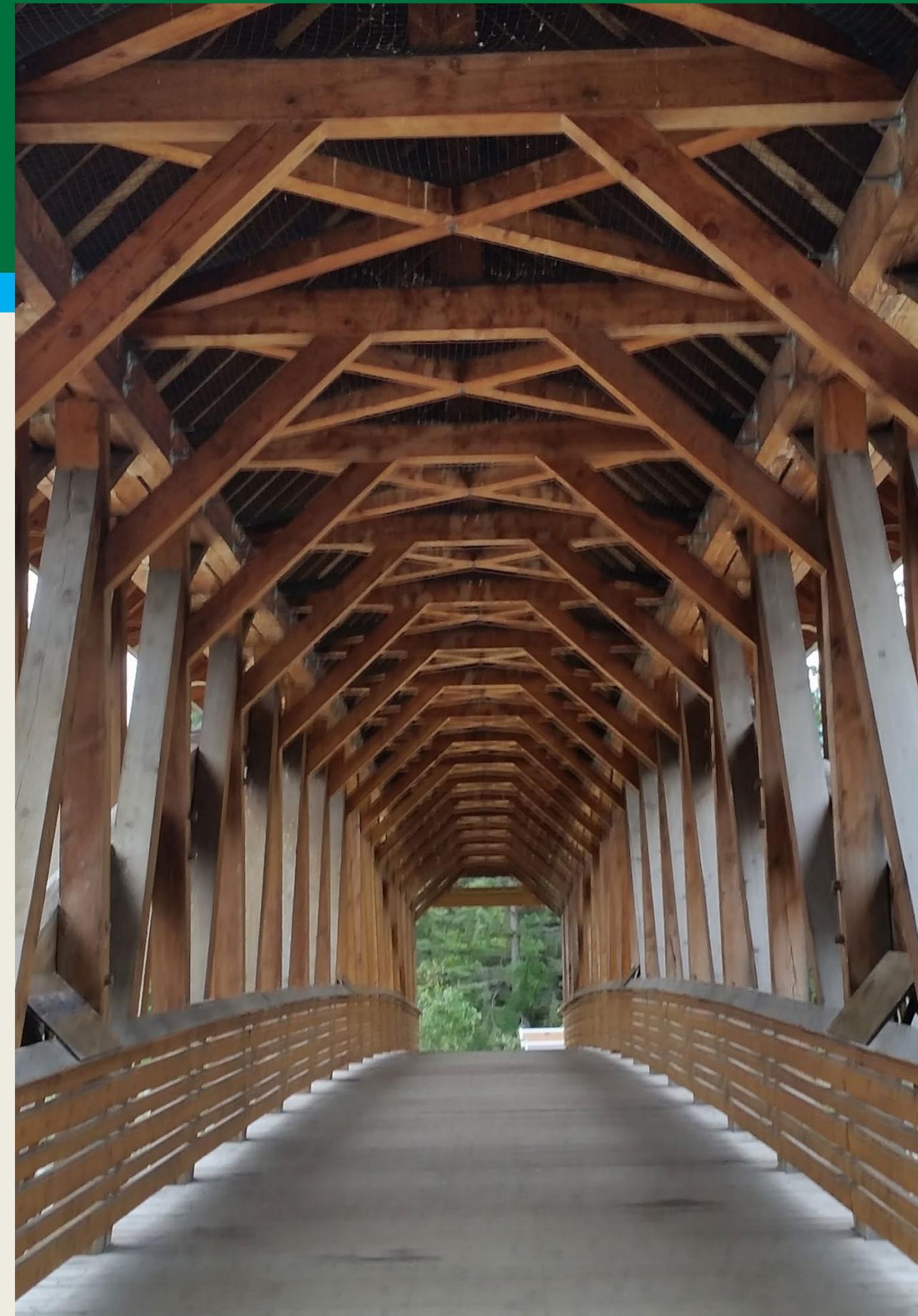
Timber for Transit Program

The Timber for Transit Program is designed *to advance the use of domestic forest products in transportation infrastructure projects across Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont to showcase the capabilities of wood in these applications.*

Note – NBRC has a goal to invest at least \$9M in the spring 2026 grant round.

Timber for Transit Program Purpose

- Commit to utilizing domestically sourced timber
- Demonstrate evidence of planning for extreme weather readiness
- Utilize projects as a tool for university and industry education and training
- Demonstrates alignment with state and community initiatives.
- Include promotion/publication/marketing as part of their project deliverables
- Support, benefit, or engage communities that are impacted by specific socio-economic indicators.



Timber for Transit Program Purpose

Feasibility

Early-stage activities—such as planning, inventory assessments, engineering, design, cost benefit analysis, permitting, site assessments, and environmental assessments are **eligible for up to \$1,000,000**

Implementation

Construction— such as assets and facilities that align with Timber for Transit program priorities are **eligible for up to \$5,000,000.**

(Projects in this category requesting more than \$1,000,000 must meet the program's higher maximum requirements.)

Timber in Transportation - State Goals and Priorities



For transportation infrastructure projects (bridges, rest areas, etc) the best place to find state priorities is in DOT Plans.

- [ME Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan \(STIP\)](#)
- [New Hampshire DOT Ten Year Plan](#)
- [New York State Transportation Master Plan 2050](#)
- [Vermont Long-Range Transportation Plan](#)



For outdoor recreation projects, the best place to find state priorities is in the relative State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs)

- [Maine SCORP](#)
- [New Hampshire SCORP](#)
- [Vermont SCORP](#)
- [New York SCORP](#)

FUNDED PROJECTS

VT Agency of Transportation

Franklin County, VT
(Feasibility)

Project Description

Feasibility study for a new Welcome Center near the Canadian border in Highgate. The study will evaluate site suitability, use of advanced wood products, and renewable heating options for the facility.

Town of Sand Lake

Rensselaer County, NY
(Implementation)

Project Description

Replace the Johnny Cake Lane bridge with a climate-resilient structure to improve hydraulic capacity, accommodate two-way traffic and pedestrians, and enhance safety and access for locals.

Town of Island Falls

Aroostook County, ME
(Implementation)

Project Description

Connects a community park to downtown via a Glue Laminated timber pedestrian bridge constructed using hemlock sourced from the town's 9,000-acre forest.

FEP/T4T Advisory Board

Roles and Responsibilities

- Market the Forest Economy and Timber for Transit programs and participate in project development
- Evaluate pre-applications
- Review proposals at pre-application and application, and provide NBRC and member states with feedback
- Generally, act as a resource to NBRC and SPMs.

Members

Representing the NBRC

- Joe Short -Vice President, The Northern Forest Center

National Representatives

- Matt Krumenauer- Vice President, Markets, U.S Endowment for Forestry and Communities
- Collin Buntrock - Wood Innovations Specialist, US Forest Service

State Representatives

- Amanda Egan - Executive Director, Maine Woodland Owners
- Andy Fast - Forest Industry State Specialist/Extension Professor, University of New Hampshire
- Katharine Servidio - County Forester/Forest Economy Program Manager, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
- Paul Crovella - Associate Professor of Construction Management, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Review and Scoring FEP and T4T Proposals

Advisory Board Review
and Feedback

Discussion

State and NBRC Scores

Project Selection

At Pre-Application:

- AB review and feedback. Review meeting includes advisory members
- States review all proposals. States decide which projects move to application.

At Application

- One set of scoring criteria per program
- States score all proposals, regardless of location
- SPMs are responsible for leading discussion of projects located within their state.

LDDs – Where to Focus During FEP/T4T Application review

- ✓ Confirm the applicant has addressed the specific feedback provided by NBRC (this includes State and Advisory Board feedback)
- ✓ Budget narrative – Especially for T4T, should include a detailed explanation of the wood materials that will be used
- ✓ Budget and timeline should account for NEPA where applicable
- ✓ Projects should demonstrate alignment with program priorities and state priorities.
- ✓ Proposals requesting “phase 2” funding should be distinct from original scope of work

Questions?

Grant Management System



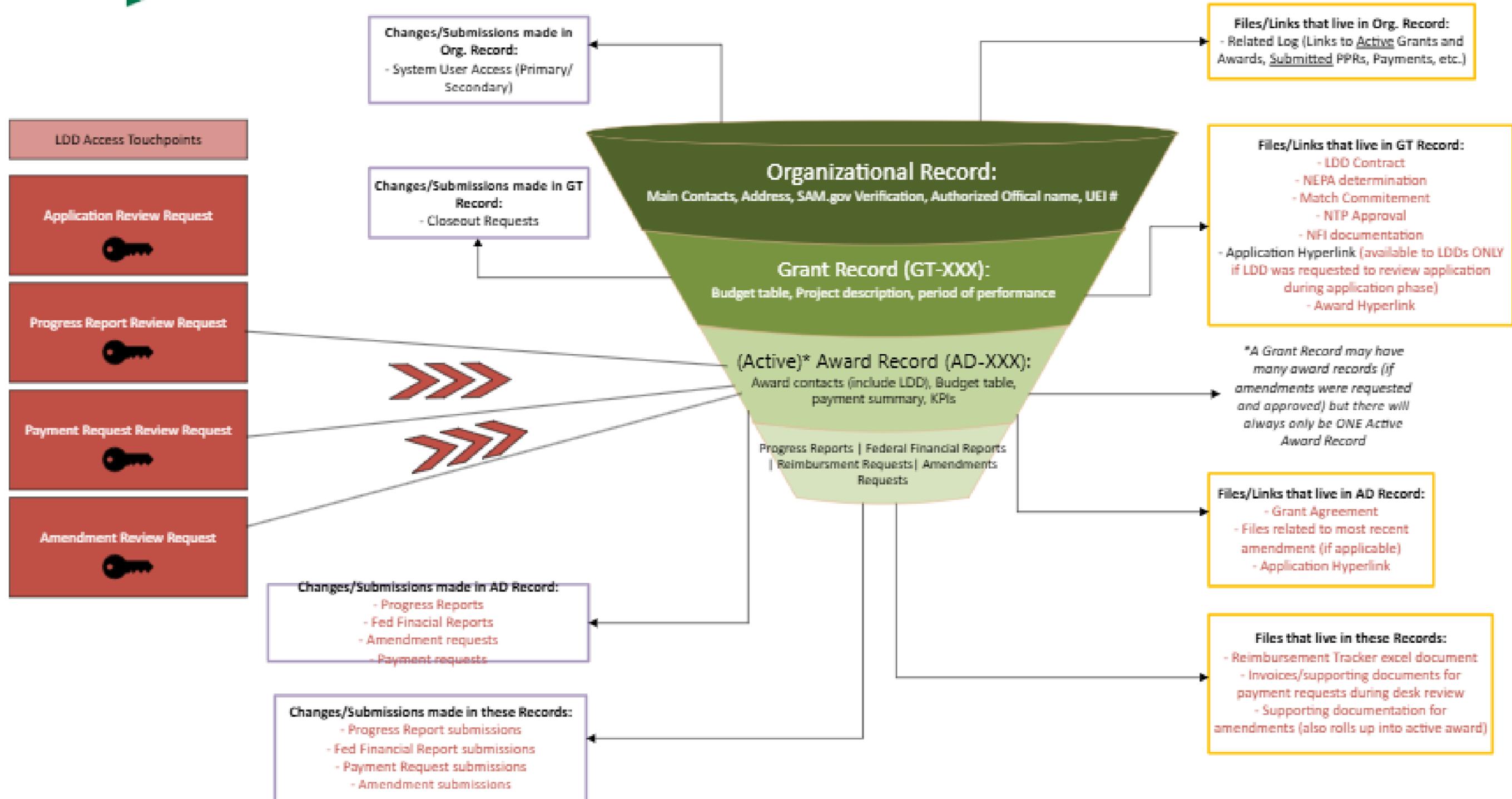


NBRC's GMS Record Funnel

This diagram shows how the GMS records are nested within each other and what information, files, changes, and submissions that occur in each record. Additionally, it shows how LDDs get access to what records. The Organizational Record is the largest bucket which holds all other nesting records. If an organization were to have more than one grant award, it would be an additional separate bucket with nesting records under the Organizational Record.

Key:

- Yellow Boxes** - indicates files and links that can be found in that record
- Purple Boxes** - indicates changes and submissions that occur in that record
- Red Boxes** - Touchpoints in the GMS where an LDD can access grantee records
- Red Text** - indicates files/records/information an LDD can see/access when entering through the LDD Access Touchpoints
- Key** - the actions within the GMS that give LDDs the "key" to get into grantee records.





Northern Border Regional Commission



**GMS
Corner
with Casey!**

GMS Application Reminders

- **LDD Resource Library: LDD Support Tab And LDD Review Guidance** - Optional for applicants to request a review, but helpful for allowing you to see application documents if awarded; gives you examples of successful proposals to refer back to later
- ✓ Quick Tips for reviewers
 - Check Overview > Contacts section
 - Check Locations > Application Match section (New GEOIDs)
 - For tech support: <https://www.nbrc.gov/content/administration> > Creating and Submitting an Application guide



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**Thank you
for all you
do!**