



NBRC Match Rate FAQ

What is match?

Match is the minimum amount of funds or contributions required from sources **other than NBRC** to complete the project. Match may be additional public or private funds, as well as in-kind or volunteer cost share.

When submitting a pre-application, you must prove to NBRC that you can bring at least the minimum match amount to your total project cost. A project is eligible for either 50% match or 20% match – this is the minimum required match of non-NBRC funds you must demonstrate. This percentage is based on the socioeconomic ‘distress’ of your project service area. For the purposes of budgeting, match is determined based on your total project cost.

- *Example 1: If a project’s total project costs equal \$1,000,000, and the project is located in a ‘Transitional’ service area, the match rate is calculated at 50%. The project’s match amount is 50% of \$1,000,000, or \$500,000, and the project may also apply to NBRC for up to \$500,000.*
- *Example 2: If a project’s total project costs equal \$1,000,000, and the project is located in a ‘Distressed’ service area, the match rate is calculated at 20%. The project’s match amount is 20% of \$1,000,000, or \$200,000, and the project may apply to NBRC for up to \$800,000.*

*NBRC funding is reimbursement based – funds will be dispersed after you have completed an activity, and your submitted documentation has been approved for reimbursement of the activity.

How often do match rates change?

By statute, the Commission is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress among the counties in its service area. The result of this assessment is a [distress criteria report](#) that includes match rate information for locations within NBRC’s service area.

Is my project a community, county, or state project?

Your project’s location is determined based on who you are serving and where they live. NBRC uses the term ‘service area’ to describe this. Your project would be one of the following:

- **Community or Multi-Community Projects:** A project serving one community (town, village), or multiple communities (towns, villages) within NBRC’s service area.
- **County or Multi-County Projects:** A project serving an entire NBRC-eligible county, or multiple NBRC-eligible counties.
- **State or Multi-State Project:** A project serving every NBRC-eligible county within a member state (ME, NH, VT, NY).

What if I have a project that benefits more than one community?

Use the Match Rate Calculator's Community tab to enter each community involved with your project (10 communities max.). *Example: your organization provides community development planning services to six rural towns or is offering housing feasibility studies to four tribal communities.*

What if I have a project that benefits more than one county?

Use the Match Rate Calculator's County/State Service Area tab to enter each county involved with your project (10 max.). *Example: your university is designing a workforce development program for advanced precision forestry for three distressed counties.*

What if I have a project that benefits more than one state?

Use the Match Rate Calculator's County/State Service Area tab to enter each state service area involved with your project. *Example: your state is leading an effort to launch an interstate rail-trail system.*

If my project involves 10 or more communities, counties, or multiple state service areas, how do I proceed?

For complex projects, please contact the NBRC team at admin@nbrc.gov for further assistance with determining your project's best match rate.

Does my project need to apply for a Significant Benefit Waiver?

If your project is located in a Distressed or Transitional area within NBRC's four state jurisdiction, and you can find the match rate through our tools above, it is most likely you **do not need a waiver**. There are two exceptions to this general rule.

- If your organization itself is **outside of our jurisdiction** and you are applying to work within the NBRC region, you **will need a waiver**. (*Example: your organization is regional and your headquarters are in Portland, Maine. You will need a significant benefit waiver to prove the economic value of your project will go predominantly to distressed or transitional counties in ME or the 4-state region*).
- If your project location is **inside our territory, but in an Attainment area**, rather than Distressed or Transitional area, you **will need a waiver**. (*Example: your business incubator is in Campton NH, which is an Attainment community. You will need a significant benefit waiver to prove the economic value of your project will go predominantly to serve emerging businesses from distressed or transitional county or community locations.*)

NBRC requires a Significant Benefit Waiver at pre-application if the applicant and/or the project location:

- Are located within an Attainment County but not within a Distressed or Transitional community, or
- Are located outside of the NBRC region but within a member state.

The match rate for any project requiring a Significant Benefit Waiver is 50%.

I used the calculator to determine my match rate, what now?

Copy and paste the match rate percentage and GEOID into the Grants Management System's pre-application, in the Locations tab where requested. For step-by-step instructions, please view our [guidance for submitting your pre-application](#).