



Northern Border
Regional Commission

NBRC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW 7-PART SERIES

Updated February 2025



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NBRC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW: PART 2

Eligibility & Waivers



Eligible Applicants & Co-Applicants

- **State governments:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont & New York
- **Local governments:** Village, town, city and county
- Other political **subdivisions of States:** regional planning commissions, authorities of the state
- **Federally recognized Indian Tribes** (2 CFR § 200.54 [Indian tribe](#)) See annually published [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#) list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services
- **Non-profit entities.** All 501(c) organizations

Ineligible Applicants & Co-Applicants:

- For-profit entities, LLCs and other entities that are not a 501(c) are **NOT** eligible to apply for NBRC funds.
- Applicants outside of the NBRC 4 member states are not eligible



Eligibility & Waivers

Determining Eligible Project Locations:

- NBRC Service Area
- Distress Criteria
 - ***Access NBRC's most up to date distress report by visiting <https://www.nbrc.gov/content/distressed-counties>***
- Determining Eligibility & Match/Reimbursement Ratios
- Significant Benefits Waiver

Eligible Applicants & Co-Applicants:

- 75% Expenditure Waiver
- LDD Waiver (Catalyst only)

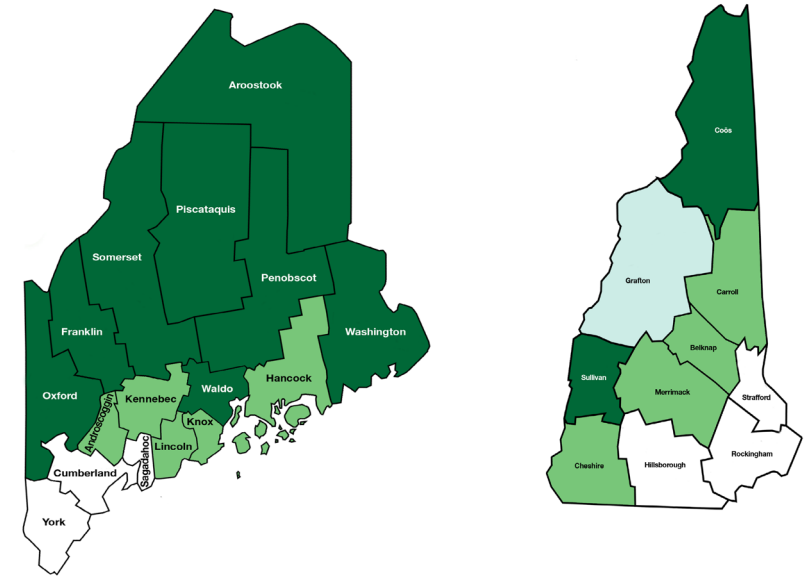


NBRC Service Area (2025)

Commission Service Area - *Only projects within the NBRC's service area are eligible for funding*

Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties.

New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coös, Grafton, Merrimack and Sullivan counties

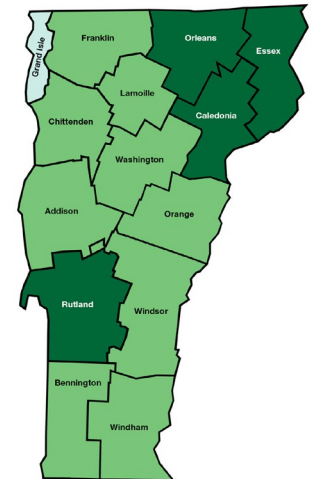
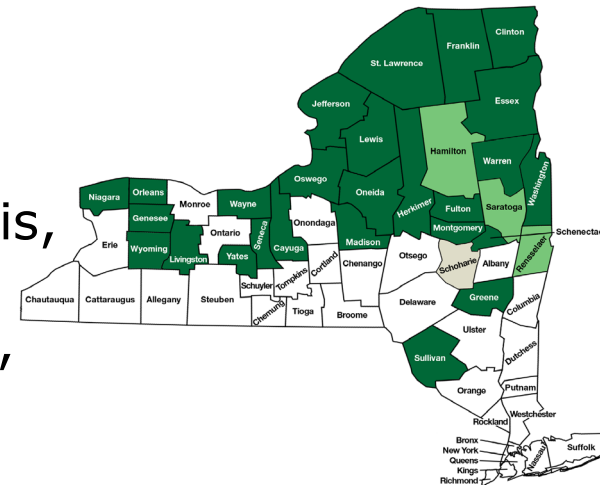




NBRC Service Area (2025)

Commission Service Area - *Only projects within the NBRC's service area are eligible for funding*

New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie*, Seneca, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties.



Vermont: all counties within the State

*With active awards in Schoharie County from another federal commission, the county is not currently eligible for NBRC funding in FY 2025 per NBRC's statute and has not been included in distress calculations.



NBRC Distress Criteria

NBRC is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress in its service area. The resulting designations reflect whether the NBRC can provide grants within a county.

Distressed: Eligible for 80% funding and require a 20% match

Transitional: Eligible for 50% funding and require a 50% match

Attainment: Ineligible for funding, unless exceptions apply:

- Isolated Areas of Distress: specific municipality designated distressed
- Significant Benefits: benefits to surrounding distressed and transitional counties, requires **Significant Benefit Waiver**
- Multi-county or multi-state project that includes at least one distressed or transitional county (match is calculated based on an average of county match rates).



Determining Eligibility & Match

1. Determine organization eligibility
2. Determine if project location and applicant/co-applicant are in NBRC Service Area. Determine if your project will require waiver submission at pre-application.
3. Identify reimbursement and match rate associated with location.

Resources:

- Program User Manual – [Catalyst](#), [FEP](#), [T4T](#)
- [Distress Criteria](#) on NBRC website
- Significant Benefit Waiver (Found in Appendix E of Program User Manuals)

The screenshot shows the Northern Border Regional Commission website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Northern Border Region, Program Areas, Impact & Reporting, and Resources. The main content area is titled "Assessing Distress in NBRC Counties" and contains the following text:

By statute, the Commission is required to annually assess the level of economic and demographic distress among the counties in its service area. Assessing distress is important as the resulting designations reflect whether or not the Commission can provide grants within a county as well as what level of match is required of Commission funded projects.

[Distress Criteria for 2024](#)

Counties are designated as Distressed, Transitional, or Attainment.

Distressed Counties

40 U.S.C., Subtitle V states that "distressed" counties are those that "have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration" and "are the most severely and persistently economic distressed and underdeveloped." The NBRC is required to allocate 50% of its total Appropriations to projects in counties falling within this designation. Commission grants within Distressed Counties only require a 20% match.

Transitional Counties

Counties that are "transitional" counties "have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration" or "are economically distressed and underdeveloped." Commission grants within Transitional Counties require a 50% match.

Attainment Counties

Finally, "attainment" counties are those that are neither "distressed" or "transitional." The Commission is not allowed to fund projects within an attainment county.

Exceptions to Attainment County Eligibility

In general, NBRC funds may not be provided to projects located within a designated "Attainment County." However, there are opportunities to provide funding to projects within these counties if any one of the following exceptions below is met.

- **Isolated Areas of Distress:** When a county is first designated as "Attainment" the Commission will automatically collect economic and demographic data within that county to identify "Isolated Areas of Distress." Isolated areas of distress are municipalities that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.



Previous Award Recipients

An eligible applicant with an open or active NBRC award cannot receive an additional NBRC investment until the current award has both

- submitted reimbursement requests totaling 75% or more of the project, and
- demonstrated that 75% of the cost share has been expended before the pre-application deadline

If the 75% expenditure requirement cannot be met, the applicant can apply for a waiver. The **75% Expenditure Waiver** must be submitted together with the pre-application.

Resources:

- Program User Manual
- 75% Expenditure Waiver