



Northern Border  
Regional Commission

# **NBRC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW: PART 5**

## **2025 Catalyst Program**

**Updated July 2025**

# 2025 Catalyst Program

## CATALYST

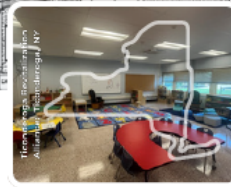
NBRC flagship grant program designed to support a broad range of economic development initiatives that will modernize and expand the region's basic infrastructure and revitalize communities to support and attract the region's workforce.



Basic Public Infrastructure



Outdoor Recreation



Child Care



Business & Workforce Development



### Infrastructure Grants

≤ \$1MM-\$3MM\*

20% to 50% match

### Non-Infrastructure Grants

≤ \$500,000

\*Projects requesting more than \$1MM must meet with the State Program Manager AND address criteria for higher maximum awards.

### Eligible Applicants\*

\*within the NBRC Service Area of ME, NH, NY, VT

- State and Local Governments
- Career Technical Centers & Universities
- Other Political Subdivisions
- Non-Profit Entities
- Federally Recognized Indian Tribes



### Investment Priorities

- Rural communities with populations less than 5,000 and underserved communities
- Address multiple needs and demonstrate efficiencies
- Climate resiliency
- ME, NH, NY, VT state level priorities

For more information → [www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)





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# Catalyst Program Overview

The purpose of this program is ***to stimulate economic growth and inspire partnerships that improve rural economic vitality*** across the four-state NBRC region.



# 2025 Funds Available

**NBRC anticipates making a minimum of \$87.5MM available**

- Distributed equally across 4 states

**Catalyst funding will be competitively awarded in two funding rounds**

- \$40MM available in Round 2/Fall funding round
- All awards are subject to availability of funds



# Eligible Purposes

**Proposed projects must fit one of 7 project categories:**

Infrastructure:

- Basic Public Infrastructure, Transportation, and Telecommunications

Non-Infrastructure:

- Feasibility Projects\*NEW, Business and Workforce Development, Basic Healthcare, and Resource Conservation, Recreation and Tourism

Resources: Catalyst Program User Manual





# Catalyst Project Classification

1. Identify project category as infrastructure or non-infrastructure
2. Determine if project is primarily construction or non-construction
3. Determine if special classifications apply
  - Expanded definition of basic infrastructure
  - Higher maximum infrastructure\***NEW** – consult with state program
1. Apply the appropriate maximum award size for your project
  - \$100,000 for feasibility projects
  - \$500,000 for non-infrastructure
  - \$1,000,000 for infrastructure
  - \$3,000,000 for higher maximum infrastructure

Resources: FAQ Project Classification Decision Tree



# Program Priorities

All projects must be consistent with the economic development goals of the region and advance a combination of NBRC and member state investment priorities.

## **Understanding State Program Priorities:**

- Review State Scoring Criteria in the Catalyst Program User Manual
- Self-evaluate proposed project against scoring criteria
- Discuss project with State Program Manager



# Program Priorities

## **Understanding NBRC Agency Investment Priorities:**

- Review NBRC Scoring Criteria in the Catalyst Program User Manual
  - Identify opportunities to address NBRC Agency Investment Priorities in project
1. Projects that directly benefit communities that have been underrepresented in past NBRC investments.
  2. Projects that demonstrate how they meet multiple needs within Catalyst project categories and are designed to create efficiencies will be prioritized.
  3. Projects that adapt to changing conditions and extreme weather events.





# Pre-Application Process & Evaluation

## Pre-application process

- Required to receive invitation to apply
- Due before 5:00pm on March 7 for spring round (August 29 for fall round)
- Must be submitted using NBRC's online grants management system
- All waiver requests must be submitted with pre-applications

## Evaluation

- Reviewed by NBRC for eligibility
- Reviewed by state programs for alignment with state priorities
- Invitations to apply are issued by the state programs

**All pre-application details will be covered in the program session!**



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# Catalyst Program Information Sessions

## **Program Information Session:**

- Pre-recorded – from February 10, 2025
- Live Sessions will be recorded and made available on program page



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**Thank you**