



Northern Border  
Regional Commission

# **NBRC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW 7-PART SERIES**

**Updated July 2025**



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# **NBRC PROGRAM OVERVIEW: PART 6**

## **Forest Economy Program**



The flyer features a green background with a white maple leaf logo at the top left. The title 'FOREST ECONOMY' is in large white letters. A central image shows a forest landscape with a text box explaining the NBRC grant program. Below this, four small images represent different categories: Public Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Community Development, and Business Planning & T.A. A plus sign indicates more categories. The 'Eligible Applicants' section lists various entities, and the 'Investment Priorities' section lists specific areas of focus. A dark blue box highlights the '\$1MM' grant limit, and a green circle indicates a '20% to 50% match' requirement. At the bottom, a dark blue box provides the website 'www.nbrc.gov' for more information.

**FOREST ECONOMY**

NBRC grant program designed to support the regional forest economy and to assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models.

**Public Infrastructure**

**Workforce Development**

**Community Development**

**Business Planning & T.A.**

**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

**Infrastructure\* & Non-Infrastructure Grants**

*\*Must directly support the forest industry*

**≤ \$1MM**

**20% to 50% match**

**Investment Priorities\***

*\*Basic research projects will not be considered.*

- Development & Commercialization of technologies for forest harvest residuals
- Workforce Recruitment, Development, & Training
- Businesses Operations & TA
- Diversification of Northern Border Forest products & advanced materials manufacturing
- ME,NH,NY,VT state level priorities

**For more information**

**[www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)**

# Forest Economy Program

- Purpose
- Funds Available
- Program Eligible Purposes & Priorities
- Pre-Application Process & Evaluation
- Forest Economy Program Information Session



# Forest Economy Program Purpose

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.



# 2025 Funds Available

Fiscal Year 2025 federal appropriations have not been finalized. **An estimated \$5 million may be made available for awards under this Forest Economy Program subject to the availability of future appropriations.** Any selection and award under this Forest Economy Program are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

## **Forest Economy funding to be competitively awarded in two funding rounds**

- Forest Economy projects are eligible for an award up to \$1,000,000
- All awards are subject to availability of funds



# Program Eligible Purposes

**Proposed projects must address one or more of the following five project categories:**

- 1. Community development projects** that support the diversified use of forests within the Northern Border Regional Commission's service area for economic activity to include wood products and advanced materials manufacturing, as well as for other economic activity that utilizes northern border forests sustainably and demonstrates planning for climate resiliency.
- 2. Workforce [re] training and development projects** for the purpose of building the skills and recruiting and retaining the workforce needed for forest businesses.



# Program Eligible Purposes

**Proposed projects must address one or more of the following project categories:**

- 3. Business planning and technical assistance projects** that enhance the viability and sustainability of new and existing forest businesses
- 4. Marketing/communication and education work** must be paired with one or more of the other project priorities.
- 5. Public infrastructure projects** (defined by Congress in NBRC's authorizing language to be inclusive of transportation, water and wastewater, telecommunications, and energy)\* must directly support the forest industry, and/or demonstrate the use of wood products in public infrastructure



# Program Priorities

## Program Investment Priorities

- Invest in the development and commercialization of technologies that create and grow needed markets for low-grade forest harvest residuals.
- Invest in workforce recruitment, development, and training to increase job placement across the forest product continuum.
- Help to sustain and grow existing forest industry businesses and operations, such as through technical assistance.





# Program Priorities

## Program Investment Priorities

- 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, as well as for other economic activity that utilizes northern border forests sustainably for the production of wood products and advanced materials manufacturing.
- Leverage existing (or, in some cases, new) partnerships to impact multiple counties, states and/or the entire NBRC region, and/or have the potential to do so.



# Pre-Application Process & Evaluation

## Pre-application process

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

## Evaluation

- A 9-member Advisory Board will review applications and provide feedback to applicants and States. NBRC and States review and score all eligible applications received independently, utilizing the scoring criteria provided within the program manual and advisory board feedback.

***All pre-application details to be covered in information sessions!***



# Forest Economy Program Information Sessions

## Program Information Sessions:

- Pre-recorded – from February 11, 2025
- Live Sessions will be recorded and made available
- <https://www.nbrc.gov/content/events>



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**Thank you**