



Northern Border  
Regional Commission

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

**Updated January 2026**



# **NBRC GRANT PROGRAMS OVERVIEW: PART 2**

## **Eligibility, Waivers, and Match**



# Eligibility & Waivers for Applicants & Co-Applicants

## Eligible Applicants & Co-Applicants:

- ✓ Eligible Applicant Type
- Previous Award Recipients - if organization has open award less than 75% expended, requires 75% Expenditure Waiver to remain eligible
- Applicant & Co-Applicant organizations located **outside of NBRC member states service area** and applying to work within the NBRC region, **the application will need a Significant Benefits Waiver.**



# 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 located outside of the NBRC 4 member states are not eligible



# 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.



# Eligibility & Waivers for Project Location

## Eligible Project Locations:

- ✓ NBRC Member state
- ✓ Service area geographies designated as Distressed or Transitional
- Access NBRC's most up-to-date distress report
- Project locations **inside NBRC member state service area, but in an Attainment area**, rather than Distressed or Transitional area, **the application will need a Significant Benefits Waiver.**

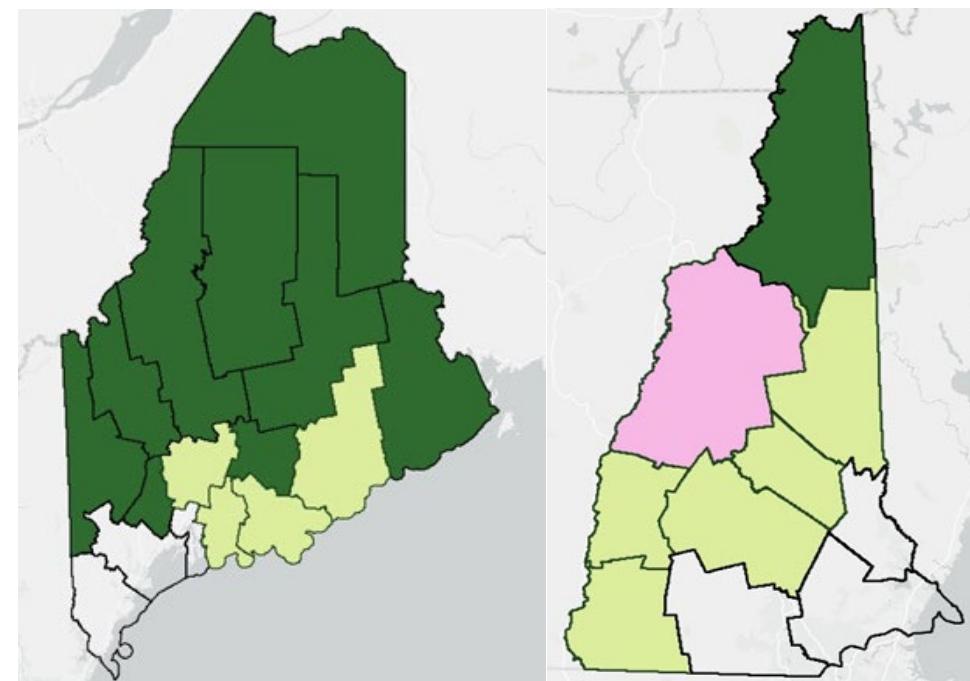


# NBRC Service Area (2026)

**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, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, and Sullivan counties



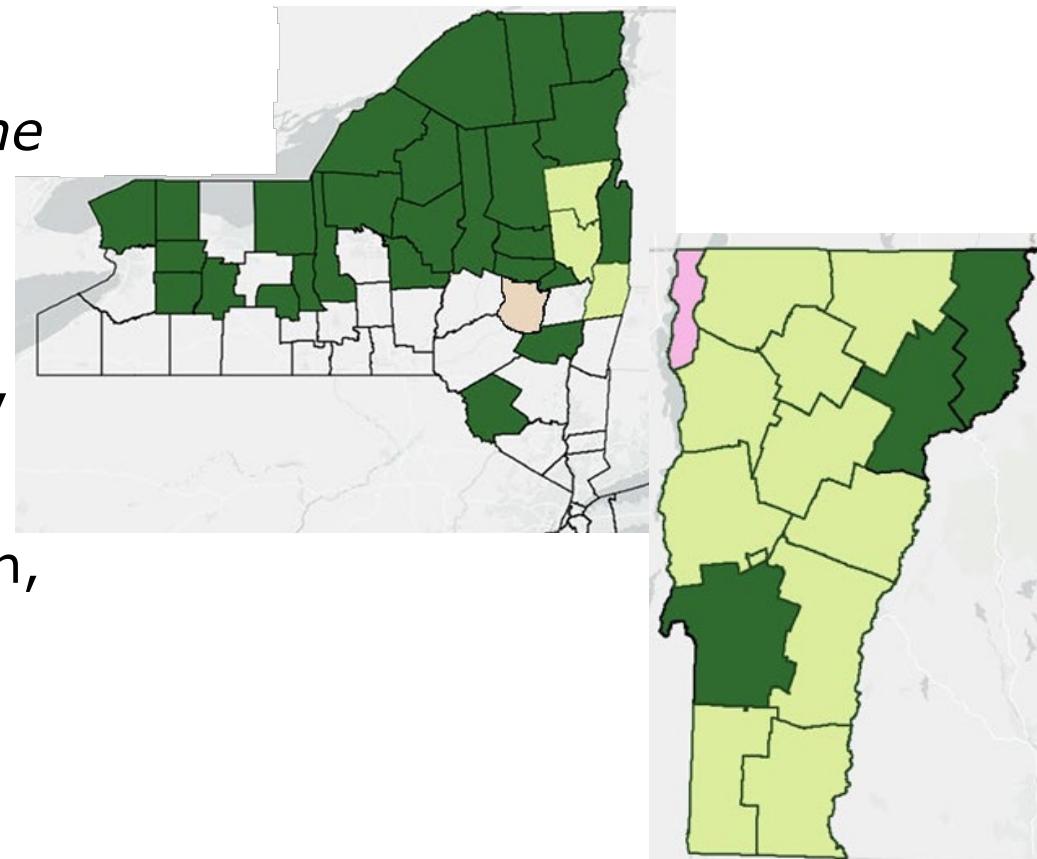


# NBRC Service Area (2026)

**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, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie\*, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, Wyoming, 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 2026 per NBRC's statute and has not been included in distress calculations.



# NBRC Distress Criteria

NBRC is required by statute to annually assess the socioeconomic distress of the region. Distress is evaluated on a community and county level within the NBRC's service area. Levels of distress are categorized as follows:

- **Distressed:** Eligible for 80% funding and requires a 20% match
- **Transitional:** Eligible for 50% funding and requires a 50% match
- **Attainment:** The NBRC does not fund projects within an attainment location unless the project is in an **Isolated Area of Distress** or has been granted a **Significant Benefit Waiver** (for projects that benefit at least one surrounding distressed or transitional county or communities).



# Determining Match Rate

- All NBRC pre-applications and applications require matching funds (funds contributed by the applicant and/or outside sources)
- Match rate is determined by Distress Criteria:
  - **Distressed** geographies have match rate of **20%**
  - **Transitional** geographies have match rate of **50%**
  - **Isolated Area of Distress** geographies have match rate of **50%**
  - **Multiple** geographies have an **averaged match rate**
- Identify reimbursement and match rate associated with project location using NBRC's match rate tools: [Project Eligibility and Match Determination](#)



# Significant Benefits Waiver

There are two conditions when a Significant Benefits Waiver is required:

1. If the organization itself is **outside of NBRC member states service area** and applying to work within the NBRC region, the application **will need a waiver**.
2. If the project location is **inside NBRC member states service area, but in an Attainment area**, rather than Distressed or Transitional area, the application **will need a waiver**.

The waiver is available to complete in the GMS.



# Resources

- Grant [Programs User Manual](#), which covers [Catalyst](#), [FEP](#), [T4T](#)
  - Appendix B. Previous Award Recipient Policy and Waiver
  - Appendix C. Significant Benefits Policy and Waiver
  - Appendix D. LDD Policy and Waiver
- [Project Eligibility and Match Determination](#) webpage
- Categories of Distress Annual Report