



Northern Border  
Regional Commission

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

Updated January 2026



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# **NBRC GRANT PROGRAMS OVERVIEW: PART 6**

## **Forest Economy Program**



**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.

+

Infrastructure\* & Non-Infrastructure Grants

\*Must directly support the forest industry

≤ \$1MM

20% to 50% match

For more information

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

**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\***

*\*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

# Forest Economy Program

- Purpose
- Funds Available
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- Pre-Application Process & Evaluation
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# 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.



# Grant Funding Available

Federal appropriations have not been finalized. **An estimated \$4 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 will be competitively awarded in two funding rounds**

- Forest Economy projects are eligible for an award up to \$1,000,000



# Program Eligible Purposes

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

1. Community development projects
2. Workforce training and development projects
3. Business planning and technical assistance projects
4. Public infrastructure projects
5. Marketing/communication and education work (MUST BE PAIRED with at least one other project category)

*For additional information and examples of eligible activities that fit under each of the program eligible purposes, see the [Grant Program User Manual Part 2B](#)*



# Evaluation 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.

Resources: [Program User Manual Part 2B Forest Economy](#)



# Evaluation 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 positively impact either a portion or all of the NBRC region, and/or have the potential to do so.

*Resources: Program User Manual Part 2B Forest Economy*



# Pre-Application Process & Evaluation

## Pre-applications

- Required to apply
- Due before 5:00pm on due date. Program Timeline can be found [here](#)
- Must be submitted using NBRC's online Grants Management System (GMS)
- All waiver requests must be submitted with pre-applications

## Evaluation

- An Advisory Board will review applications and provide feedback to applicants and States. NBRC and States review and score all eligible applications received independently, utilizing advisory board feedback and guided by the scoring criteria provided Grant Programs User Manual.

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



# Forest Economy Program Information Sessions

## Program Information Sessions:

- See [NBRC Events page](#) for available Program Information Session dates and recordings
- Live Sessions will be recorded and made available on the [Pre-Application Support page](#).



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**Thank you**