



Northern Border
Regional Commission

Spring 2026

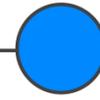
*Pre-application Review
& Office Hours*



FOSTERING VIBRANT FUTURES FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES



AGENDA



This webinar will cover:

-  Timeline for 2026 funding programs
-  How to register and access NBRC's Grants Management System (GMS), and how to start your pre-application
-  Waivers you may submit with your pre-application
-  Resources available to help you prepare and submit your pre-application
-  A live question-and-answer session

Key Dates

Spring Round

- Pre-applications AND Waivers Due: **February 27, 2026 (before 5:00pm EST)**
- Full Applications Due: **April 17, 2026 (before 5:00pm EST)**
- Grant Awards Announced: **June 2026**

Fall Round

- Pre-applications & Waivers Due: **August 28, 2026 (before 5:00pm EST)**
- Full Applications Due: **October 16, 2026 (before 5:00pm EST)**
- Grant Awards Announced: **December 2026**

*Key Dates are further explained in the **Program Timeline**.*

STARTING YOUR PREAPPLICATION

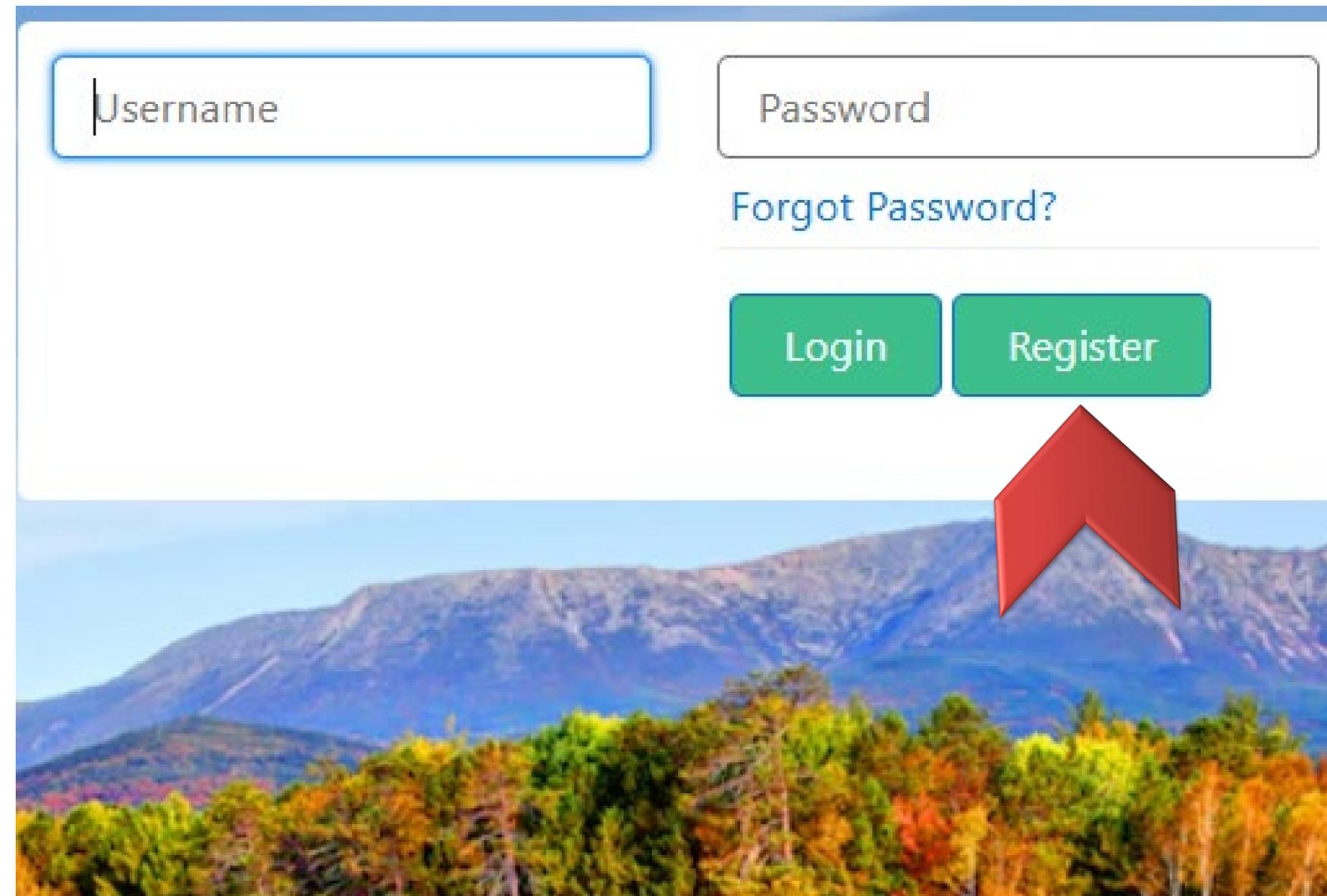
1. Complete registration
2. Login to the GMS
3. View available funding opportunities
4. Qualify for the appropriate program announcement (Catalyst, FEP, T4T)
5. Create the pre-application
6. Open the [NBRC Grant Programs User Manual](#) and [pre-application narrative guidance](#) to complete pre-app questions and waivers
7. Confirm match rate and justification
8. Associate contacts, including your LDD partner
9. Save often, submit early!

Pre-Application Resources

- [Register Your Organization's Account](#) GMS guidance document is a step-by-step guide to complete your registration in the GMS.
- [Creating and submitting a pre-application](#) GMS guidance document is a step-by-step *technical* guide to completing and submitting the pre-application in the GMS.
- [Pre-Application Support page](#) (User Manual, Program Overview Series, Program Overviews, and more) contain guidance and resources for building a scope of work that responds to program priorities

REGISTRATION

- Navigate to the [NBRC Resources webpage](#) for GMS Resources, including a guide to [Register Your Organization's Account](#) and [Manage Your Organization's Account and Contacts](#).
- Your Organization's Authorized Representative will submit the registration to NBRC to be granted access to the GovGrants system.



Registration Requirements

Applicant Information

- Applicant Organization
- Organization Type (eligible applicant type)
- Address
- EIN
- Unique Entity ID (UEI #)
- SAM.gov account

This information will be requested as part of the registration process and transferred to the pre-application.

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PRE-APPLICATION WAIVERS

Projects may need to submit a waiver request at time of pre-application. There are three different types of waivers that may apply to a project:

- The **Significant Benefit Waiver** is required for eligible applicants whose primary place of business is located outside of the NBRC Service Area but within a member state. The applicant or co-applicant must be able to demonstrate their project will result in a direct investment of NBRC funds and have a significant economic benefit within NBRC's eligible geographies. *Supporting narrative required
- The **75% Prior Investment Waiver** is required for eligible applicants with an open NBRC award that is not 75% expended. *Supporting narrative required
- All Grant Program awardees are required to use an LDD for grant administration assistance unless they are an agency of State government or have requested and received **LDD Waiver** approval from NBRC prior to the submission of the application.

More details on waiver requirements can be found in the [Grant Programs User Manuals](#). Waiver templates are embedded in the Forms and Files tab of the Grants Management System pre-application record.

Pre-Application Requirements



Save
often!

Narrative Questions:

- Project Abstract
- Project Goals, Outcomes and Outputs
- Program Investment Priorities
- Project Beneficiaries and Community Context
- Statement of Need

- See [Pre-Application Narrative Guidance](#) document
- All narrative text boxes have a 5,000-character limit and formatting/editing capabilities.
- Applicants encouraged to have narrative responses available in a word processing document to easily copy and paste into the pre-application.

Step by step guidance for creating a pre-application is available on the Resources webpage.

TIPS FOR YOUR PREAPPLICATION

Use these Pro-Tips to craft your pre-application narrative and details.

- 1. Get early feedback.** Project development happens well before pre-applications open in the GMS. State Program Managers can provide critical feedback on how best to align a project concept with state economic development goals.
- 2. Demonstrate your project is ready for an investment.** Help reviewers understand why this project should be funded now.
- 3. Be clear and concise.** Develop an "elevator pitch" to include in the Project Abstract. It is not necessary to use the full 5,000 characters allowed in the system for each narrative response. Use the suggested length of responses listed in the Program User Manuals, generally 1-3 paragraphs in length.

TIPS FOR YOUR PREAPPLICATION

Use these Pro-Tips to craft your pre-application narrative and details.

- 4. Describe how the requested NBRC funds will be used.** Will NBRC funds go towards construction costs, purchase of equipment, staff time, etc.?
- 5. Don't forget supporting narrative for waiver requests.** Follow the specific guidance for the waiver you are requesting including completing the requested supporting narrative. The 75% Expenditure Waiver and the Significant Benefit Waiver both require supporting narrative.
- 6. Submit early!** There are multiple validations performed by the GMS when you submit a pre-application. ***There is the potential for an error that must be corrected before the system will accept your pre-application.*** Common errors are addressed in the Creating and Submitting a Pre-Application document.

RESOURCES!

- [NBRC Pre-Application Support Webpage](#)
 - Events and office hours registrations, recorded info sessions, workshops, etc.
 - Grant Programs User Manual, Program One Pagers, Timeline, Project Interest Form
- [Project Eligibility and Match Determination Webpage](#)
 - Match tools
- [NBRC NEPA Webpage](#)
 - About NEPA, NEPA resources and trainings
- [NBRC BABAA Webpage](#)
 - About BABAA, Guidance, FAQs, Waivers, Trainings
- [NBRC Resources Webpage](#)
 - Standard Forms, Templates, Grants Management System technical resources: Registration, Pre-application and Application guidance, etc.



Admin@nbrc.gov

Program Overview Series

- **Part 1:** Funding Rounds, Timeline & Milestones, Next Steps and Contact information
- **Part 2:** Eligibility, Waivers and Match
- **Part 2A:** Determining Required Match
- **Part 3:** Funding Policies and Requirements
- **Part 4:** Local Development Districts
- **Part 5:** Catalyst Program Overview
- **Part 6:** Forest Economy Program Overview
- **Part 7:** Timber for Transit Program Overview



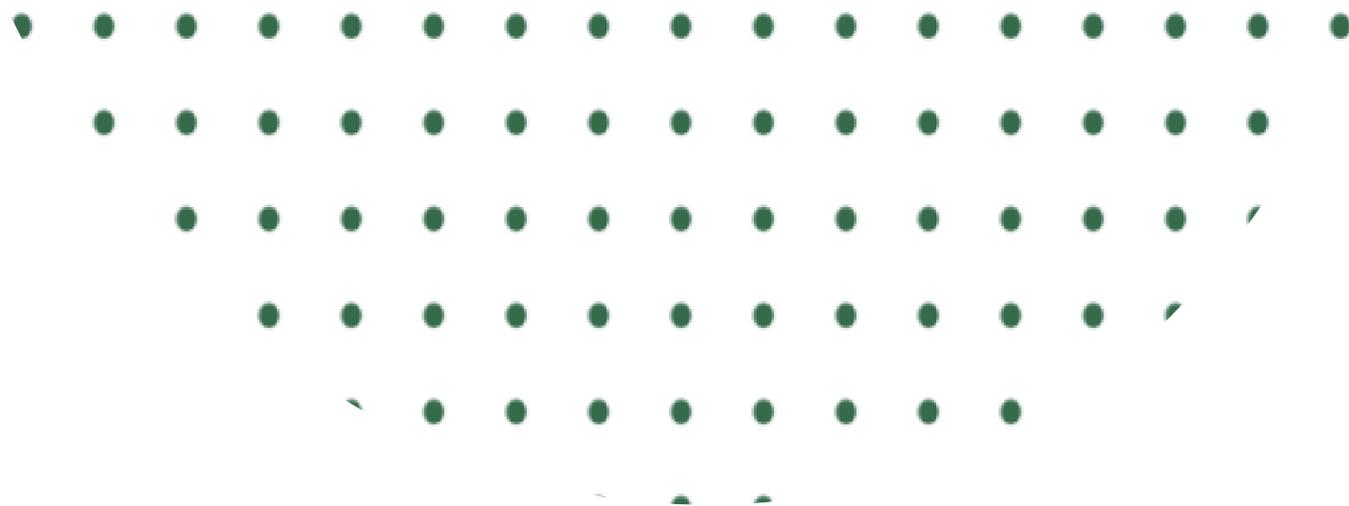
[Review the Program Overview Series!](#)

Resources: Pre-Application Support webpage



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QUESTIONS





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THANK YOU!

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