

State Economic & Infrastructure Development Investment Program

Established by Congress in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a partnership between the federal government and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The mission of the NBRC is to fund economic development and infrastructure projects throughout designated counties in its four-state service area. The governance of the NBRC is based on the Appalachian Regional Commission model created in the 1960s.

The NBRC partnership provides investments to job-creating projects that help reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. NBRC investment funds originate from the Federal Government but are approved by the Federal Government's NBRC representative (Federal Co-Chair) and the Governors of the four States.

The NBRC partnership is aided by recognized Local Development Districts (LDD) that assist with technical assistance, provide information on complimentary funding opportunities for projects, and ensure consistency with administration of projects that are funded.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The NBRC Economic and Infrastructure funding is available to:

- State governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York
- Local governments (village, town, city and county)
- Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state)
- Indian Tribes; § 200.54 [Indian tribe](#) (or "federally recognized Indian tribe"). Indian tribe means any [Indian tribe](#), band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native [Claims Settlement Act](#) ([43 U.S.C. Chapter 33](#)), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians ([25 U.S.C. 450b\(e\)](#)). See annually published Bureau of Indian Affairs list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services
- Non-profit entities. The term 'nonprofit entity' means any organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code. The non-profit entity must be able to demonstrate they have federal grant experience and organization capacity related to economic development.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Ineligible applicants include for-profit entities, LLCs and other entities that are not a 501(c), [40 U.S.C. §15101\(c\)](#). Ineligible entities are also those entities normally deemed eligible but, due to prior federal or state funding history have been identified as ineligible for future investments. Additionally, a non-profit identified by a state that does not have a federally recognized 501(c) status is not an eligible applicant.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair based on applications being prioritized by the States. State economic development plans influence decision-making as does the NBRC's [Five Year Strategic Plan](#).

COMMISSION SERVICE AREA (updated yearly)

Only projects within the NBRC's service area are eligible for funding under 40 U.S.C. §15733. For 2021, the NBRC service area is:

Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties.

New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coös, Grafton, and Sullivan counties

New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Yates counties.

Vermont: all counties within the State

MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT and AVAILABLE FUNDING (updated yearly)

The maximum grant amount for is \$1,000,000 for "infrastructure," defined below. For all other applications, the maximum amount is \$350,000.

The total amount of funds available for 2021 was approximately \$4.6MM /State. The Commission may, at its discretion, choose to make available an additional \$4.5MM in total funds (across all four NBRC states) via the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These will be made available dependent on the overall strength of project applications, and those applications' adherence to NBRC's strategic priorities as outlined in our strategic plan (available via NBRC's website).

ELIGIBLE PURPOSE

The following funding categories constitute eligible activities for NBRC investments. There are two categories of eligibility, infrastructure with a maximum award of \$1,000,000 and non-infrastructure with a maximum award of \$350,000.

Congress requires NBRC to award 40% of all funds to public infrastructure projects. Congress defines public infrastructure projects (in NBRC's authorizing language) as "transportation", "basic public," "telecommunications," and "energy". NBRC allows infrastructure projects a maximum grant amount of \$1M to ensure the 40% threshold is met.

INFRASTRUCTURE – MAXIMUM AWARD OF \$1,000,000

Transportation Infrastructure:

Transportation infrastructure shall include construction and alteration or repair, including fixed installations and rights of way necessary for transporting from one point to another and may include roads, railways, airways, waterways, canals and terminals such as airports, railway stations, bus stations, parking, terminals, refueling depots (including fueling docks and fuel stations) and seaports, sidewalks and trails when directly used for transportation purposes.

Basic Public Infrastructure:

Basic public infrastructure shall mean construction and alteration or repair, including those services that are generally necessary to conduct business and operate, and include waste, water, and energy. Specifically: The collection and distribution systems, treatment plants and other infrastructure that collects, treats and delivers drinking water and waste water-related services; electric power generation and transmission; solid waste to include, recycling, composting, disposal, and waste-to-energy via incineration; systems for heat distribution through sources such as co-generation, biomass, geothermal heating, heat pumps and central solar heating.

Telecommunications Infrastructure:

Physical infrastructure shall mean construction and alteration or repair, including the building of towers, antennas, etc., and/or cyber infrastructure (routing and switching software, operational support systems, etc.) necessary to transmit information from one location to another. Investments in telecommunications infrastructure support reliable and affordable broadband to provide local businesses access to the digital marketplace, facilitate online learning and workforce development, and connect communities.

Renewable and Alternative Energy:

Renewable energy shall mean construction and alteration or repair including what is generally defined as any naturally occurring, theoretically inexhaustible source of energy, such as biomass, solar, wind, tidal, wave, and hydroelectric power that is not derived from fossil or nuclear fuel. Publicly owned and non-profit entities are eligible. Facilities that are owned by a for profit entity or who will serve to benefit as a pass-through from an eligible entity will NOT be eligible.

NON-INFRASTRUCTURE – MAXIMUM AWARD OF \$350,000

Business and Workforce Development:

Business Development shall mean those areas of business development which include entrepreneurship, the creation of new businesses or the retention or expansion of existing businesses in the local communities and are deemed eligible. Projects shall document job-creation or job-retention. Funding of start-up projects, such as business incubators or industrial parks, must have committed business tenants. Expansion of existing business incubators and industrial parks are also allowed.

Business Incubation shall mean a business support process that accelerates the successful development of start-up and early-stage companies by providing entrepreneurs with an array of targeted resources and services.

Workforce Development shall mean job training or employment-related education for a specific employer to fill immediate job openings or retain current jobs which are documented as such by that specific employer. Delivery of such training shall be using existing public educational facilities (EPEFs) located in the region. However, if the applicant demonstrates (1) sufficient information demonstrating an EPEF's inability (e.g., insufficient capacity, curriculum, and/or accessibility) to satisfy the defined need, and the applicant (2) demonstrates a compelling need to use a non-EPEF for such training, then a project may be eligible.

Revolving loan funds may be used for the purpose of making loans to create and/or retain jobs. (Any applicant interested in applying for revolving loan funds should read Addendum I of this Program Manual to understand the uses and limitations of any revolving loan fund set up through NBRC.)

Basic Health Care:

The cost of basic health care facilities, such as clinics and including telemedicine; remote clinical services; telehealth services, such as clinical services, provider training, and health education services. Basic health care services shall also mean limited treatment of mental illness and substance abuse. Operating costs of facilities will NOT be deemed eligible.

Decision making process:

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair based on applications being prioritized by the States. State economic development plans influence decision-making as does the NBRC's Five Year Strategic Plan.

PROGRAMMATIC TIMELINE (Updated yearly)

SEID funding amount availability -	February (dependent on Congress)
SEID program materials available -	March
Letters of Interest -	March-April
Applications due -	May
NBRC Notification of awards & notice to unsuccessful applicants -	by August 31 st
NBRC Grant Agreement preparation & distribution -	September
LDD and Grant recipient training (required) -	October/November

Who has received SEID investment funds in the past? (Updated yearly)

You can find a listing of funding recipients by year on each State page: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.