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NBRC Announces \$27 Million in 2024 Catalyst Grant Awards for Economic Development

CONCORD, N.H. (June 27, 2024) – Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced **\$27 Million** in new awards as part of the Commission’s Catalyst Program spring competition. This includes \$15 million in funding made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Biden — a key part of his Investing in America agenda.

The 33 Catalyst Awards will go to communities in the Commission’s member states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont and include a broad range of economic development initiatives such as projects that will:

- modernize and expand water and wastewater systems;
- establish business and workforce development programs and facilities;
- grow outdoor recreation infrastructure and economies; and
- construct new childcare, healthcare and community center facilities.

These projects are matched by public and private investments, resulting in more than **\$124 Million** in total investment across the four-state NBRC region. The Commission increased accessibility to its Catalyst Program funds by establishing two funding rounds, resulting in flexibility for applicants and just-in-time funding for projects poised to get started. Funds provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law support the largest infrastructure investments, including foundational infrastructure for expanded housing developments and construction of childcare facilities. These projects will unfold over the next three years, and all of this year’s awardees are listed on the NBRC’s website, www.nbrc.gov.

The 2024 Catalyst Program spring grant round was highly competitive, with 110 Applications received and more than **\$106 Million** in funding requests. The Catalyst Program is designed to stimulate economic growth and inspire partnerships that improve rural economic vitality across the four-state NBRC region. The slate of selected projects advance NBRC investment priorities to reach underserved communities: 23 of the Commission’s awards are going to communities with less than 5,000 people, and 24 to communities and organizations who are receiving their first NBRC funding award.

“With these awards the Commission is making foundational investments that will help build more inclusive economies and address the central needs of small rural towns, such as additional housing and access to childcare,” said **NBRC Federal Co-Chair Chris Saunders**. “We have prioritized helping flood ravaged communities, closing gaps in rural health access and making awards to communities and places that are too often underrepresented in public grant making. NBRC investments often spark broader economic revitalization and I believe these awards will have a similar positive impact in the region.”

In Barre City, Vt., one award will address the region's housing crunch that has been exacerbated by recent flooding:

"This transformative project will create over 125 mixed income housing units in Barre City, and not only provide new places to live for those impacted by last year's floods, but also grow our tax base and create much-needed workforce housing for teachers, nurses and other professionals being recruited to the area," said **Barre City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro**.

In Maine, the Mi'kmaq Nation will expand a brook trout hatchery operation, supporting the Tribe's mission of food sovereignty while also producing enough to market outside the community:

"This grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission and support from the Northern Maine Development Commission in the application process, not only ensures this project will move forward but also allows us to purchase the equipment needed to have the capacity to raise and process triple the amount of fish we currently are. This is a game changer for our fisheries program and the Mi'kmaq Nation's goal to provide healthy and culturally relevant food to our community and beyond," said **Shannon Hill, Environmental Health Director, Mi'kmaq Environmental Health Department**.

First-time applicants at The Walpole Foundation in New Hampshire will pursue work on building an improved space for structured childcare:

"The Walpole Village School, a fifty-year-old preschool, has always been housed in inadequate spaces. This grant enables the Walpole Foundation to move forward in building an energy efficient facility to meet the future needs of children 2-1/2 to 5 years of age," said **Peggy Pschirrer, President, The Walpole Foundation**

In New York's rural Lewis County, funds are being used for the crucial expansion of primary care services:

"This grant award will allow the Health Center to construct a 4-exam room primary care clinic with a lab, provider office, and reception area. This primary care suite will allow for two healthcare providers to care for patients while addressing their health and social needs - focusing on health inequalities, social determinants of health, nutrition/food security, and disease prevention and management," said **Joey Horton, CEO, North Country Family Health Center, Inc.**

The funds for this program, and all NBRC programs, are available thanks to the support of the Congressional Delegations of all four NBRC states: Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. An additional \$20M will be made available through the 2024 Catalyst Program fall funding round. Please refer to NBRC's website, www.nbrc.gov, for announcements about current and future Funding Opportunities.

NBRC Catalyst Program Awards by State

NBRC Catalyst Program Awards in the State of Maine

Awarded to: Town of Rockport

Project: Sewer expansion project for commercial zones parcel and additional sewer line to promote two income housing developments aimed at providing over fifty housing units.

Location of Project: Knox County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Awarded to: Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center

Project: Workforce development project to catalyze aquaculture section development in an area of Maine with distinct and disproportionate risks to communities related to climate change.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$484,447.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,359.00

Awarded to: Town of Grand Isle

Project: This project will upgrade the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant and four Wastewater Pump Stations, as well as construct new sludge drying beds in the Town.

Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00*

Total Project Amount: \$4,195,000.00

**This project has been put forth for EDA partnership funding consideration of \$750,000.00*

Awarded to: Aroostook Micmac Council

Project: This project will assist the Nation with expansion of its existing recirculating aquaculture fish hatchery, to create additional job opportunities and improve the long-term economic sustainability of the hatchery, and to create both economic and food resiliency within the community.

Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

Awarded to: Beth C. Wright Cancer Center

Project: Regional, collaborative, and transformative community approaches that alleviate the burden of treatment on cancer patients and their families while increasing educational opportunity for those in treatment as well as their care providers.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$335,327.80

Total Project Amount: \$504,927.29

Awarded to: Town of Fort Kent

Project: Expand and relocate the Town's outdoor skating rink and support Aroostook County's outdoor recreation industry.

Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Awarded to: Maine Audubon Society

Project: Facility renovations and additions at the Fields Pond Audubon Center (FPAC), located in Holden, Maine.

Location of Project: Penobscot County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$756,544.16

Total Project Amount: \$946,456.74

Awarded to: Town of Bethel
Project: Wastewater treatment system upgrades.
Location of Project: Oxford County (CD-02)
Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$3,063,664.00

Awarded to: City of Ellsworth
Project: Construction of a new water treatment plan on the site of the existing treatment plant adjacent to Branch Lake.
Location of Project: Hancock County (CD-02)
Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$3,063,664.00

Awarded to: Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund
Project: Construction of a nonprofit licensed childcare center in Rangeley, Maine with a capacity of up to 74 children.
Location of Project: Franklin County (CD-02)
Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$3,254,363.00

Awarded to: Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education, Inc.
Project: Renovation of four existing, unused seasonal cottages directly adjacent to the Downeast Institute's marine laboratories, intertidal field research site, education center and shellfish hatchery, for year-round use by science personnel and new employees.
Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)
Grant Amount: \$499,999.50
Total Project Amount: \$625,033.75

Awarded to: Washburn Trailrunners Snowmobile Club
Project: Renovation of the club house to include the construction of a fire-resistant wall to support Aroostook County's snowmobile and outdoor recreation industry.
Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)
Grant Amount: \$44,704.00
Total Project Amount: \$55,880.00

Catalyst Program Summary of Applicants in Maine:

Total Number of Applicants: 25
Total Amount of Funds Requested: \$19,457,059.04
Total Number of Awards: 12
Total Amount of Funds Awarded: \$ 7,371,022.46

NBRC Catalyst Program Awards in the State of New Hampshire

Awarded to: Medallion Opera House, Inc.
Project: Comprehensive upgrade to its sound and lighting infrastructure and systems that expand the range of performances the theater can host increasing its appeal to larger bands and groups and fulfilling its mission of cultural enrichment.
Location of Project: Coos County (CD-02)
Grant Amount: \$105,067.00
Total Project Amount: \$183,094.00

Awarded to: Antioch University

Project: Construction of a new 34,000 square foot, mass timber educational building and the rehabilitation of the historic Blake House. These new facilities will provide clinical mental health spaces as well as family and group counseling spaces which are widely utilized by residents of the greater Monadnock region.

Location of Project: Cheshire County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$36,500,000.00

Awarded to: The Walpole Foundation

Project: Construction of a 6,510 square foot facility that will serve as the new home of the Walpole Village School, a private nonprofit offering early preschool and preschool education for children ages two to five years. The facility will have a community room to host intergenerational programming and programming sponsored by other local agencies, nonprofits, and community groups.

Location of Project: Cheshire County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,642,300.00

Awarded to: Monadnock Conservancy

Project: Support staff expansion to increase the organization's conservation impact. These new positions will help the Conservancy continue to increase the pace of land protection, ensure adequate oversight and management of protected land, maintain and build trails, and other public access infrastructure, and expand community programs and partnerships.

Location of Project: Cheshire County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$954,368.00

Awarded to: Town of Waterville Valley

Project: Selection of an engineering firm to conduct the requisite inspections of the system and perform engineering services to develop plans to correct deficiencies for construction of the repairs. This work will prepare the Town for and equip it to develop a budget and seek financial resources for improvements to its wastewater system to meet new EPA standards.

Location of Project: Grafton County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$500,000.00

Awarded to: Affordable Housing, Education and Development (AHEAD) Inc.

Project: Rehabilitation of the interior and exterior of 12 King Square in Whitefield, a currently shuttered building. The rehabilitation will construct a new layout of the second and third stories creating four residential units and one commercial unit.

Location of Project: Coos County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$750,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,860,000.00

Awarded to: The Berlin and Coos County Historical Society (BCCHS)

Project: Funding will support technological and archival upgrades, such as new display cases, invest in strategic planning for the organization, and address the restoration of two buildings which house the majority of BCCHS's collections, including the installation of an accessibility elevator to its Berlin Falls House's (main exhibit building) second floor and the critical replacement of its roof.

Location of Project: Coos County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$496,709.00

Total Project Amount: \$620,987.00

Catalyst Program Summary of Applicants in New Hampshire:

Total Number of Applicants: 15
Total Amount of Funds Requested: \$7,127,788.40
Total Number of Awards: 7
Total Amount of Funds Awarded: \$4,101,776.00

NBRC Catalyst Program Awards in the State of New York

Awarded to: Better Community Neighborhoods, Inc.
Project: Address food access and insecurity as part of a large effort to revitalize a distressed submarket in Schenectady, by introducing a standalone full-service grocery store.
Location of Project: Schenectady County (CD-20)
Grant Amount: \$249,999.00
Total Project Amount: \$10,550,000.00

Awarded to: Adirondack Land Trust
Project: Provide Adirondack wildland experiences to underserved residents and visitors with disability by building universal access trails and amenities at two nature preserves spanning 425 acres close to the population centers and visitor hubs of Saranac Lake/Paul Smiths and Lake Placid.
Location of Project: Essex and Franklin Counties (CD-21)
Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$4,437,647.50

Awarded to: North Country Family Health Center, Inc.
Project: Expansion of rural primary health care in Lewis County by constructing a new primary care suite at the Community Health Center location. The Community Health Center serves all patients, regardless of ability to pay, and is the only provider in the County dedicated to low-income, under-served population actively addressing health inequities and social determinants of health.
Location of Project: Lewis County (CD-21)
Grant Amount: \$549,500.00
Total Project Amount: \$701,800.00

Awarded to: Town of Lyons
Project: Construction of road, water, and sewer infrastructure improvements, a transformational project that will work in conjunction with recent Restore NY and NY Main Street awards.
Location of Project: Wayne County (CD-24)
Grant Amount: \$2,973,600.00
Total Project Amount: \$3,848,200.00

Awarded to: Village of Granville
Project: Extension of an existing 20-inch water main to serve the community's commercial corridor. These sites include many multi-use buildings that have the potential to provide much needed residential units for the community.
Location of Project: Washington County (CD-21)
Grant Amount: \$350,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$437,500.00

Awarded to: Essex Food Hub, Inc.
Project: Renovate an idle Main Street building in the rural town of Westport, for use by the Essex Food Hub (EFH), a vital institution providing business development support for burgeoning small farm businesses and food entrepreneurs in New York's North Country region.
Location of Project: Essex County (CD-21)
Grant Amount: \$500,000.00
Total Project Amount: \$698,570.74

Catalyst Program Summary of Applicants in New York:

Total Number of Applicants: 53

Total Amount of Funds Requested: \$63,233,840.75

Total Number of Awards: 6

Total Amount of Funds Awarded: \$7,623,099.00

NBRC Catalyst Program Awards in the State of Vermont

Awarded to: The Otter Creek Child Center, Inc.

Project: Construction of a 13,000 square foot childcare center. In a partnership with College Street Children's Center this facility in Middlebury will accommodate 139 children aged six weeks to five years.

Location of Project: Addison County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$397,806.16

Total Project Amount: \$795,612.32

Awarded to: City of Barre

Project: Complete engineering, permitting and infrastructure of a residential development for a range of housing from affordable to market rate. Anticipated up to 128 units could be developed.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$2,875,870.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,375,870.00

Awarded to: Paramount Center, Inc.

Project: The Richardson Building's top two floors will be totally renovated into two, 4,000 square foot multi-use venues with ancillary support spaces.

Location of Project: Rutland County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,340,945.00

Awarded to: Town of South Hero

Project: Restore and renovate South Hero's historic 1816 Old White Meeting House as a multi-purpose community center for year-round community use.

Location of Project: Grand Isle County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,276,500.00

Awarded to: Alburgh Family Clubhouse

Project: Construction and operation of a non-profit, full year, early care and education program in a new, state-of-the-art childcare facility with space for 62 children from birth to Grade 5.

Location of Project: Grand Isle County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$166,505.96

Total Project Amount: \$335,809.66

Awarded to: Town of Bennington

Project: Redevelopment of a former high school to bring 100,000 square feet into use with a mix of housing, commercial space, and community recreation facilities.

Location of Project: Bennington County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,333,558.00

Awarded to: Craftsbury Saplings

Project: Construction of a new 7,000 square foot childcare center that will allow them to increase capacity from 19 to 54 children.

Location of Project: Orleans County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,262,642.00

Awarded to: Town of Middlebury

Project: Construction of an additional water storage tank to meet the demands of a growing population and fire flow capabilities.

Location of Project: Addison County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,750,000.00

Catalyst Program Summary of Applicants in Vermont:

Total Number of Applicants: 17

Total Amount of Funds Requested: \$15,486,088.18

Total Number of Awards: 8

Total Amount of Funds Awarded: \$7,940,182.12

Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to catalyze community vitality and economic prosperity in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont through flexible funding and strategic support.