



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBRC Announces Combined \$24 Million in Fall 2024 Awards Through Catalyst, Forest Economy, and Timber for Transit Programs

CONCORD, N.H. (January 23, 2025) – Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced just over **\$24 million** in new awards as part of the Commission's Fall 2024 round of funding across all three of its competitive programs. The 37 new awards will benefit communities throughout the Commission's member states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Awards made per program include the following:

- **\$20.6 million** awarded through the Catalyst Program, including 18 projects expanding the region's critical infrastructure and 15 projects building a diversified economy and competitive workforce.
- Two awards totaling **\$1.9 million** awarded through the Forest Economy Program (FEP) include expanding forestry workforce initiatives and support for an immersive high school forestry program.
- Two awards totaling **\$2.28 million** awarded in the Commission's new Timber for Transit (T4T) Program will support replacing deteriorated bridge materials with wood-based materials and composites, as well as the design and construction of an outdoor hybrid timber pavilion for year-round small business use.

"Community centered economic development is at the heart of NBRC's work. What's consistent about all the projects receiving funds from the Commission's fall competition is that they will create economic opportunity and improve day-to-day life for the people who call this region home," said **Chris Saunders, Federal Co-Chair of the NBRC**.

Forest Economy Program awards support workforce and education in Chittenden County, VT and Kennebeck County, ME:

"VYCC is excited to participate in the NBRC Forest Economy Program! These funds will increase the number of young adults working and learning in Vermont's forest over the next three years. With a broad array of partners, we can enhance training outcomes and connect our participants with employment opportunities. We look forward to increasing our collaboration with regional land managers and strengthening relationships with workforce partners in the forest products industry," said **Patrick Pfeifer, Conservation Program Director at Vermont Youth Conservation Corps**.

"The Forestry Immersion Program has quickly demonstrated its incredible value and ability to inspire the next generation of Maine's forest workforce. With funding from the Forest Economy Program, we will work with our partners to expand this initiative, offering students across the state the chance to immerse themselves in the forest and experience the immense potential for a fulfilling and vibrant career in Maine's forest sector," said **Logan Johnson, Executive Director, Maine TREE Foundation**.

Timber for Transit awards will support local road safety and economic development goals in Sullivan County, NY and Cheshire County, NH:

"Maintaining our roads and bridges increases in cost every year, so this funding announcement is welcome news," affirmed **Sullivan County Manager Joshua A. Potosek**. "Replacing the Flugertown Road bridge will not only make it safer and more durable but also ensure continued access to some of the wildest, most unspoiled landscapes in Sullivan County. We rely on the dollars generated by the thousands who come to enjoy our natural resources throughout the year, and thanks to NBRC and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, those resources will remain some of our star attractions."

"The Timber for Transit grant opportunity has so much potential for our region, and I am thrilled that Keene will have this opportunity to showcase that. One of our economic development goals is to activate areas such as Gilbo Avenue and help people take advantage of our recent land use code updates. The new pavilion is a perfect way to launch that effort that may not have otherwise been possible. In addition, the solar power being created will power our entire downtown project and move us one step closer to our energy goals," said **Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager**.

Catalyst Program awards include improvements to water and street infrastructure in New York's Lewis County, primary care support in Vermont's Windham County, and the construction of an anaerobic digester at a potato chip production plant Maine's Aroostook County:

"On behalf of the Village of Constableville, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for Senator Schumer's support in securing 2.776 million dollars in NBRC funding for our potable water system and safe streets infrastructure improvements. This generous funding will go a long way for decades to come, ensuring the health and safety of our community and enhancing the quality of life for all of our residents," said **Mayor Samantha Brown**.

"We are so pleased and excited about this \$1,000,000 Catalyst Program Grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission for construction of our new primary care practice building," said **Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital CEO Olivia Sweetnam**. "In granting us this award, NBRC is validating and supporting what our community knows – the 14 practitioners in our primary care clinic are providing over 30,000 patient visits per year in two homes built in the 1840's, and we're bursting at the seams! We have the architectural plans in place and fundraising is progressing quickly for a 23,000 sq-ft. building to ensure that people in our rural area will get the excellent care that they need and deserve, and which they have come to expect from Grace Cottage!"

"We express our sincere gratitude to the Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst Program for its investment in our Loring campus. We remain committed to collaborating with our partners, including the Taste of Maine team, the City of Limestone, the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC), and numerous community members who support our commercial enterprises and future developers," said **Jonathan Judkins, President/CEO of the Loring Development Authority of Maine**.

The funds for 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. Please refer to NBRC's website, www.nbrc.gov, for announcements about current and future Funding Opportunities.

Fall 2024 Catalyst Program Awards

NBRC's Catalyst Program exists to stimulate economic growth and inspire partnerships that improve rural economic vitality across the four-state NBRC region.

Maine

Awarded to: Loring Development Authority

Project: NBRC funds will be used for the construction of an anaerobic digester. This initiative aims to enhance the Loring Commerce Centre's appeal to a prospective \$60,000,000 potato chip production plant, earmarked for the site of the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine.

Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,604,505.00

Awarded to: City of Presque Isle

Project: NBRC funding will be used to upgrade the commercial kitchen at The Forum, a city-owned building which is an important year-round, multi-use large event venue. Upgrades to the kitchen will allow the city to expand the number and types of events held at The Forum, bringing in tourist and recreation opportunities. The building also serves as an emergency shelter for all of Central Aroostook due to its location and capacity to serve 5,000 individuals.

Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$240,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$300,000.00

Awarded to: RSU 38 – Maranacook Area Schools

Project: Development of a driving range for Commercial Driver Licensing will allow for two CDL vehicles to train students at the same time and provide a training location that is not shared with other school or public traffic. The CDL range expansion will train students faster and more efficiently, decreasing the current training cycle from four to three months. The added range size will also facilitate the eventual expansion into class A truck driver training.

Location of Project: Kennebec County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$50,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$100,000.00

Awarded to: City of Augusta

Project: Renovation of an HVAC system located in the Buker Community Center's Child Care Center will allow the center to avoid extreme indoor temperatures during the spring and summer months. This investment will alleviate extreme heat conditions that have previously forced the childcare center to scale back their hours of operation, impacting working families.

Location of Project: Kennebec County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$82,867.00

Total Project Amount: \$167,998.50

Awarded to: City of Bangor

Project: The "Central Kitchen" project, a shared-use commercial kitchen incubator, will benefit agricultural producers and processors in Maine as a strategy for business development and job creation in Maine's clusters of agriculture and food processing. The Central Kitchen will be available to start-up businesses to prepare, package and market locally produced merchandise, business start-up technical assistance as well as special events and retail space.

Location of Project: Penobscot County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,460,343.04

Awarded to: Town of Greenville

Project: The Town of Greenville will construct a new childcare center on the Greenville Consolidated School campus, along with public pre-K classrooms and a community recreation center. The childcare center will increase available licensed childcare slots from 40 to 72 to help meet the current and future need for additional infant and toddler care, as well as afterschool and summer care for school age children.

Location of Project: Piscataquis County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,245,000.00

Awarded to: Dover & Foxcroft Water District

Project: The drinking water distribution line to the community of Dover-Foxcroft is approximately 100 years old and travels through a remote area of town leaving a developing commercial area without access. In an effort to provide for the area's growing economy, the District will replace and relocate the water main to the right-of-way of US Rt. 15.

Location of Project: Piscataquis County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,605,000.00

Awarded to: Danforth Water District

Project: The Danforth Water District will replace a 4,500' failing, unlined iron water main, which serves households and businesses throughout the downtown. Along with 2 valves, 5 fire hydrants, and other appurtenances, the project will also provide approximately 17 new copper service connections in place of existing connections.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,500,559.00

Awarded to: Passamaquoddy Tribe

Project: This project will rehabilitate the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site and the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative site, and restore and rewild N'tolonapemk, an ancestral Passamaquoddy village on the shores of Meddybemps Lake to include improvements to fish passage and re-establishment of an alewife run at Meddybemps Lake.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$250,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

New Hampshire

Awarded to: Archways – Tilton

Project: Funding will be used to add a second floor to Archways' existing Tilton facility, doubling capacity on substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and two workforce pipelines for recovery coaching and family support specialists, two sectors with significant numbers of job openings in the state.

Location of Project: Belknap County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,283,539.00

Awarded to: Town of Wolfeboro

Project: Funds will be used to make necessary electrical grid upgrades to public infrastructure (Wolfeboro uses a municipally-owned utility), which will allow PSI Molded Plastics to add 4 new injection molding machines and 15-20 new jobs. PSI is contributing the local match for this project.

Location of Project: Carroll County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$117,749.82

Total Project Amount: \$218,190.82

Awarded to: Mt. Washington Valley Trails Association

Project: Funding will assist in the construction of accessible trails linking Cranmore Mountain Resort to Intervale Scenic Overlook. This addition will complete a network of trails stretching from North Conway's

downtown to the overlook, integrating many of the recreation and tourism assets of the town onto a single path.

Location of Project: Carroll County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,203,515.00

Awarded to: The Colonial Theatre – Keene

Project: Funding will be invested in an updated marketing research, development, and advertising campaign to reinvigorate this performing arts center and the surrounding area in Keene's downtown. Market research will be shared publicly to benefit other area businesses.

Project Location: Cheshire County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$476,309.00

Total Project Amount: \$601,309.00

Awarded to: Winchester Economic Development Corporation

Project: Winchester EDC will use funds to start a revolving loan fund (RLF), with goals of starting new businesses, creating and retaining jobs, and improving the financial stability or expansion of businesses receiving loans. As part of this project, start-ups will receive technical assistance as well as access to loans.

Project Location: Cheshire County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$630,500.00

Awarded to: YMCA Alliance of Northern New England

Project: Funding will be used to conduct a 4-county (Cheshire, Sullivan, Belknap, Carroll) childcare workforce recruitment campaign. In those 4 counties, only 12% of YMCA programs are fully staffed, while currently serving 24,000 children. This initiative is slated to produce a 50% increase to YMCA staffing in the affected counties.

Project Location: Cheshire, Sullivan, Belknap and Carroll Counties (CD-1 and CD-2)

Grant Amount: \$265,684.50

Total Project Amount: \$417,208.50

Awarded to: Whitefield's Official Library Friends

Project: Funding will fit up a recent addition to the library as a "Community & Rural Entrepreneurial Center". Upon completion, this center will feature hybrid space for large and small group meetings, a business center, a staffed information hub, kitchenette and water filling station, public bathrooms, Wi-Fi and computer access, and AC/heat. These improvements will assist the library in providing services to the surge of new library users they have seen since Covid (such as home-based and remote workers).

Location of Project: Coos County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$827,870.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,043,370.00

Awarded to: Gorham Community Learning Center

Project: Funds will assist in the renovation of a bank building into a childcare center, doubling GCLC's capacity for childcare while adding 5 full time positions. This project will materially improve the critical childcare need in the North Country.

Location of Project: Coos County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,985,995.00

Awarded to: Town of Whitefield

Project: Funding will assist in the replacement of an old clay water main that serves ~600 residents and most downtown businesses, including 4 medical/senior/assisted living facilities. Two breakages in the last year cut service for significant periods of time, making this repair necessary and critical to the economy of the town.

Project Location: Coos County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$250,000*

Total Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

**This project has been put forward for \$750,000 in funding through NBRC's partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA).*

Awarded to: Franconia Soaring Foundation

Project: Funding will complete work on the Soaring Foundation's training center at Franconia Airport. This training center will feature classroom space, four boarding rooms for seasonal workers and itinerant pilots. Upon completion the facility will be capable of hosting 24 people and flight simulators/ground support for gliders. These simulators are also intended to be used by local technical education centers.

Location of Project: Grafton County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$499,988.20

Total Project Amount: \$849,988.20

Awarded to: Families Flourish Northeast Inc

Project: Funding will assist in the construction of a 12-unit residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facility for women with children, with post-treatment case management and employment readiness services. This facility is located on the border of the Dartmouth medical campus in Lebanon and will develop with support from the hospital. The facility itself will host 25-30 new jobs and integrate with the Geisel School of Medicine and other local educational institutions to offer preceptorships.

Location of Project: Grafton County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Awarded to: Mid-State Health Center

Project: Funds will assist in the renovation of two suites at Mid-State's Boulder Point facility near Plymouth. One new suite will feature family health services, to include family-friendly exam rooms, group education spaces, and family support services. An existing clinic space will be redesigned for team-based care and include upgrades to vaccine storage and lab capacity. This project will expand critically needed medical services in a rural area.

Project Location: Grafton County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$600,000.00

Awarded to: Cornish Community Initiative

Project: Funds will assist in the renovation of a donated building into a community resource hub, featuring meeting spaces with bathrooms, computers, a maker space, and space for after-school programming. They will partner with SCORE (entrepreneurship advising), an existing maker space, Sullivan County Conservation District, Work Ready NH, and other local organizations to support programming in the new space.

Location of Project: Sullivan County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$727,456.00

Total Project Amount: \$909,320.00

Vermont

Awarded to: Town of Essex

Project: Planning and design to support the expansion of water and sewer infrastructure throughout the Essex Town Center area where proposed municipal facilities, fire station, library, and community space are planned.

Location of Project: Chittenden County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Total Project Amount: \$1,596,816.00

Awarded to: Northeast Kingdom Community Action

Project: Convert a vacant facility, previously utilized as a health clinic, into a childcare center providing 8-10 new early childhood education spots.

Location of Project: Essex County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$62,888.00

Total Project Amount: \$208,961.00

Awarded to: Salvation Farms

Project: Establish a 6,100 square foot Surplus Crop Processing Center & Food Hub.

Location of Project: Lamoille County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$469,621.30
Total Project Amount: \$1,007,412.85

Awarded to: Orange County Parent Child Center

Project: Funding for furniture, playground equipment, classroom supplies, as well as start-up operations costs towards launching the early childhood education program.

Location of Project: Orange County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$379,124.82

Total Project Amount: \$819,731.20

Awarded to: Carlos G. Otis Health Care Center

Project: Replace two aging, inefficient structures with a new energy-efficient facility that will increase patient privacy and enhance accessibility.

Location of Project: Windham County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$21,307,704.00

Awarded to: Vermont Council on Rural Development

Project: Provide nine rural communities with targeted, holistic capacity building services and support for long-term economic development success. This project will scale up services to meet the overwhelming demand for facilitated community-led prioritization, technical assistance, leadership coaching, and resource guiding.

Location of Project: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$472,192.28

Total Project Amount: \$774,085.71

New York

Awarded to: Town of Keene

Project: The Town of Keene will upgrade the municipal water system that services Water District #2 in the hamlet of Keene Valley. Water District #2 serves approximately 263 users, including many small businesses that support the tourism economy, as well as the Keene Central School District and the Neighborhood House, an assisted living facility which provides low-income housing for seniors. This project aligns with the North Country Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan goal of upgrading infrastructure to support economic development and will result in an improved municipal water system that meets state DOH and DEC regulatory compliance. Funding will also help increase the capacity of the water system to meet the needs of the existing district and support future growth within the hamlet, a gateway community to New York's High Peaks and Olympic Region.

Location of Project: Essex County (CD-21)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,029,607.00

Awarded to: Adirondack Medical Center

Project: The Adirondack Health Telecommunications Expansion Project will allow Adirondack Health, the largest private employer in the Adirondack Park to make cutting-edge upgrades and enhancements to critical security, networking, and telecommunications software and hardware which will enable the hospital's healthcare providers to reach rural residents throughout its vast service area. The project will take place at Adirondack Health's main hospital facility in Saranac Lake and provide benefits to at least five sites within their service area, including the communities of Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, Tupper Lake, St. Regis Falls, and Keene. The project will increase Adirondack Health's ability to see patients via telehealth and to treat in-person patients with improved efficiency and reliability.

Location of Project: Franklin County (CD-21)

Grant Amount: \$480,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$600,000.00

Awarded to: Village of Constableville

Project: The Village of Constableville will improve community connectivity and inclusivity through a two-stage

project that includes the repair of the aging water system, and implementation of the Village of Constableville's Complete Streets Plan. The water infrastructure project will include right sizing drains, expanding coverage zones, and replacing aging cast iron lines, much of which is over 100 years old. The implementation of the Complete Streets Plan, the second phase of the project, will improve access to key community assets such as public facilities and businesses by making pedestrian travel safer and more appealing for both residents and visitors, including the aging population, young children, and those with disabilities. The Complete Streets Plan is a result of longstanding community planning initiative and community input, including the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan prepared in 2009 and the Lewis County Complete Streets Plan prepared in 2023.

Location of Project: Lewis County (CD-21)

Grant Amount: \$2,776,261.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,470,327.90

Awarded to: Adirondack Community College

Project: The State University of New York (SUNY) Adirondack Community College will complete Phase 1 of a wastewater infrastructure improvement project on campus. The wastewater study will allow the college to identify a more efficient wastewater discharge route that reduces risk failure. Results of the wastewater study will inform the construction design and produce a scope of work and budget for a Phase 2 construction project.

Adirondack Community College (ADK) serves Warren and Washington counties in Upstate New York, an area that includes many low-income and rural communities. The project goal is to complete critical infrastructure improvements so that the college can continue to serve its communities and service area. With over 416 employees, ADK is one of Warren County's largest employers and contributes significantly to the local economy through its payroll and spending patterns. In addition, as the only open-access educational provider within a 55-mile radius, ADK is the primary vehicle for educational opportunity and economic mobility for many community members, especially those who are economically disadvantaged.

Location of Project: Warren County (CD-21)

Grant Amount: \$125,280.00

Total Project Amount: \$156,600.00

Awarded to: Northern Area Health Education Center

Project: The Northern Area Health Education Center (NAHEC) will improve access to quality health care by promoting improvements in the supply, training, development, and distribution of health professionals in a 5-county area. NAHEC's Institute for Career Advancement in Medicine (Institute) is an innovative initiative designed to tackle the acute shortage of healthcare workers in Northern New York, a region characterized by its rural landscapes, economic challenges, and limited access to healthcare services. In 2024, NAHEC completed the development of a digital platform, to serve as a hub for all training, resources, and community engagement activities. The platform is user-friendly and accessible, ensuring individuals from diverse backgrounds can navigate and utilize its features effectively.

The requested funding will provide the necessary resources to fully implement the Institute's plans, including the continued development and deployment of the digital platform, the creation of new career pathways, and the extensive outreach efforts required to engage the region's diverse population. Funding will support services to vulnerable populations, including those in the Mohawk Territory, where both healthcare access and economic opportunities have been persistently limited. The Institute aims to address current workforce shortages while also establishing a sustainable pipeline of healthcare professionals capable of meeting the region's needs for years to come.

Location of Project: Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties (CD-21)

Grant Amount: \$277,945.00

Total Project Amount: \$616,123.00

Fall 2024 Forest Economy Program Awards

NBRC's Forest Economy Program goal is to support the forest-based economy and assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models.

Maine

Awarded to: Maine Timber Research and Environmental Education (TREE) Foundation

Project: Maine TREE Foundation will utilize funding to scale the Forestry Immersion Program (FIP).

Location of Project: Kennebeck County, ME

Grant Amount: \$998,925.77

Total Project Amount: \$1,263,007.81

Vermont

Awarded to: Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

Project: VYCC is requesting funds to expand its forest initiative to address Vermont's forest economy workforce needs, and to increase the viability of long-term quality harvest in VT's forests.

Location of Project: Chittenden County, VT

Grant Amount: \$993,642.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,987,303.00

Fall 2024 Timber for Transit Program Awards

NBRC's Timber for Transit Program advances the use of domestic forest products in transportation infrastructure projects across the NBRC region to showcase the capabilities of wood in these applications.

New York

Awarded to: Sullivan County

Project: The purpose of this project is to replace a deteriorated bridge's old antiquated rough-cut timber beam construction, using wood-based materials and composites and where available advanced wood materials for the improvement of the Town of Neversink's transportation system. Specifically, the bridge superstructure would be replaced with an advanced Glue-Laminated Timber superstructure and the steel bridge railing system would be replaced with a crash tested timber railing system.

Location of Project: Sullivan County, NY

Grant Amount: \$ 524,800.00

Total Project Amount: \$ 656,000.00

New Hampshire

Awarded to: City of Keene

Project: The project provides for designing and constructing an outdoor hybrid timber pavilion structure to support the expansion of flexible Downtown small business uses year-round. Located on Gilbo Avenue in Downtown Keene, this hybrid timber structure will provide a hub for the Cheshire Rail Trail connection to downtown and serve as an economic catalyst for new business opportunities, new jobs, and private investment.

Location of Project: Cheshire County, NH

Grant Amount: \$ 1,756,800.00
Total Project Amount: \$ 2,196,000.00

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.