



Northern Border Regional Commission

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NBRC Announces \$43.6 Million in 2023 Catalyst Grant Awards

CONCORD, N.H. (August 23, 2023) – Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced **\$43.6 Million** in new awards, including nearly **\$20 Million** from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as part of the Commission's inaugural Catalyst Program competition. The 66 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; revitalize transportation infrastructure; establish workforce development programs and facilities; grow outdoor recreation infrastructure and economies; and construct new childcare and healthcare facilities. These projects are matched by public and private investments, resulting in **\$208.5 Million** in total investment across the four-state NBRC region. With the addition of funds provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Commission increased the scale of investments in infrastructure projects and funded the largest awards in its history. 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 2023 Catalyst Program grant round was highly competitive, with 187 Applications received and more than **\$151 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 and build a resilient region: 35 of the Commission's awards are going to communities with less than 5,000 people, and 30 to communities and organizations who are receiving their first NBRC funding award.

"A hallmark of the NBRC is its ability to flexibly support a broad range of needs in rural communities in our region. That quality is a common thread among the awards the Commission is announcing today. These awards include central components of infrastructure upon which successful economies are built, and range from pipes, roads and fiber lines, to childcare programs, outdoor recreation infrastructure, working waterfronts, and everything in between. The Commission's ability to incorporate that flexibility into grant making is directly attributable to the once in a generation support that came from President Biden and Congress working together to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the historic level of annual funding Congress included in last year's spending bills," said NBRC Federal Co-Chair Chris Saunders.

"The 1 million dollars in funding that we are receiving as part of the 2023 Catalyst Program managed by NBRC is a critical component in funding a 30-million-dollar passenger terminal project for the Presque Isle International Airport. This new terminal will replace an undersized building that was constructed in 1952 as an Air Force fire station. The new terminal will incorporate several conservation and alternative energy technologies," said City of Presque Isle Airport Director, Scott Wardwell.

“Thanks to this NRBC grant the restoration work by the Claremont Development Authority on the historic former National Bank on Opera House Square can continue. The project will bring a long vacant downtown building back to life and will be a welcome addition to the downtown music & cultural arts scene. Melissa Richmond, the Director of West Claremont Center for Music & the Arts has been intimately involved in the planning & implementation of the restoration project as its new tenant and looks forward to occupying the finished space. We appreciate the efforts by Rep Annie Kuster and her staff in securing this grant for this important project,” said Claremont Development Authority’s Chairman, Thomas Rock.

Advocacy and Resource Center is very pleased to be awarded this grant that will enable us to collaborate with Mountain Lake Services for recruitment and retention of professional staff in our region. Our industry provides over \$80 million in economic benefits to Clinton and Essex County New York. The investment in staff that this grant will provide will improve our efforts to achieve our combined missions of enhancing the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities,” said ARC’s Executive Director, Robin Pierce.

The Town of Killington is very excited to receive a Catalyst grant and would like to thank the Northern Border Regional Commission for this award. Your investment into our community will go toward the installation of a new municipal water system and the reconstruction of Killington Road, which are both critical for the development of Six Peaks Killington, and future affordable/workforce housing. We are building transformative, job-creating projects through this funding, and we couldn’t be more grateful for the support,” said Killington Town Manager, Michael Ramsey.

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. Depending on the availability of funds in 2024, the NBRC anticipates another round of Catalyst awards in 2024. Please refer to NBRC’s website, www.nbrc.gov, for announcements about current and future Funding Opportunities.