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June 27, 2024

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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**.

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 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.