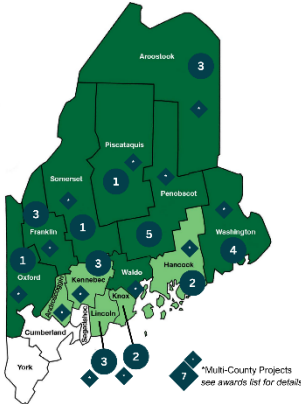




Northern Border Regional Commission

State of Maine 2025 Catalyst Program Awards



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2025 Applicant Summary		
	Spring Round	Fall Round
Total Number of Applicants	38	30
Total Funds Requested	\$ 21,900,355	\$16,645,993.18
Total Number of Awards	25	10
Total Funds Awarded	\$13,679,593	\$6,541,337

2025 Spring Awards

Aroostook County

Spring Award to: Presque Isle Utilities District

Project: NBRC funds will be used to replace approximately 4,500 linear feet of aging watermain, along with associated hydrants, valves, and street distribution connections, ensuring reliable service across the community. This project supports critical infrastructure needs for healthcare facilities, businesses, residences, and emergency services while enhancing water quality and fire protection capacity. With additional funding secured from the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, the initiative will help reduce financial burdens on ratepayers while maintaining long-term system sustainability.

Location of Project: Aroostook County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,233,000.00

Franklin County

Spring Award to: Arnold Trail Snowmobile Network

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a 3-bay Groomer Barn, ensuring proper storage and maintenance for its three Piston Bully 400 groomers and equipment. As a vital hub for snowmobiling in Northern Franklin County, ATSN maintains 170 miles of trails that drive regional tourism and economic activity. By securing this infrastructure investment, the club will sustain long-term trail maintenance, protect valuable equipment, and support local businesses that rely on winter recreation.

Location of Project: Franklin County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$403,409.00

Total Project Amount: \$504,137.00

Spring Award to: Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support the Welcome to Rangeley Lakes Region initiative to enhance tourism, workforce development, and community engagement in Franklin County, Maine. The initiative includes an Ambassador Program, marketing and outreach efforts, Visitor Center upgrades, and relocation resources to attract and retain residents. By promoting sustainable tourism, job creation, and economic growth, this initiative strengthens the region's long-term vitality and appeal.

Location of Project: Franklin County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$303,150.00

Total Project Amount: \$389,047.94

Hancock County

Spring Award to: Mount Desert Island Hospital

Project: NBRC funds will be used to modernize its Bar Harbor campus and renovate a newly acquired facility in Southwest Harbor, improving healthcare access for 25,000 patients annually. This project will expand the Emergency Department, upgrade surgical suites, enhance site infrastructure for stormwater management, and establish a community health hub, strengthening integrated care and workforce capacity. By improving healthcare facilities, MDIH aims to boost economic stability, support rural healthcare resilience, and advance regional public health priorities.

Location of Project: Hancock County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,853,777.00

Kennebec County

Spring Award to: City of Gardiner

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade aging infrastructure at the Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Facility and Maine Avenue Pump Station, ensuring public and environmental health while supporting economic growth. This project will enhance wastewater management, reduce combined sewer overflows, and create opportunities for housing development and business expansion in Gardiner and surrounding underserved communities. By increasing resiliency and aligning with Maine's Economic Development Strategies, the initiative will strengthen infrastructure, attract new talent, and foster long-term regional sustainability.

Location of Project: Kennebec County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,540,400.00

Spring Award to: Maine Department of Labor

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in construction and manufacturing across eight counties in Maine's Northern Border Region. This initiative will establish at least 15 new programs and enroll 375 apprentices, strengthening workforce development and connecting residents to high-wage,

high-skill careers. Funding will support Apprenticeship Technical Representatives to engage employers, register apprentices, and provide technical assistance, advancing Maine's economic strategy to grow its labor force.

Location of Project: Kennebec County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$625,000.00

Knox County

Spring Award to: Town of North Haven

Project: NBRC funds will be used to design critical upgrades to its aging wastewater treatment system, ensuring compliance with EPA/DEP regulations and long-term sustainability. This project will develop engineering plans within twelve months to address system deficiencies, including undersized septic tanks, lack of sludge storage, and leaking sewers, benefiting 200 sewer users, businesses, and public facilities. By securing this funding, North Haven can position itself for future construction funding, preserving tourism-related jobs, stabilizing property values, and supporting economic resilience in this rural island community.

Location of Project: Knox County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$218,000.00

Spring Award to: Town of Thomaston

Project: NBRC funds will be used to modernize and preserve a cornerstone of Thomaston's downtown economy and community life. The initiative will implement energy-efficient climate control, safety and accessibility upgrades, and interior refinishing to maintain historic character while ensuring the building remains a competitive space for businesses, events, and civic engagement.

Location of Project: Knox County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$497,640.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,073,920.00

Lincoln County

Spring Award to: Town of Waldoboro

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a booster station and replace a resin filter, enhancing the safety, efficiency, and capacity of its municipal water system. This project will improve water pressure for current and future users, support affordable housing development, and ensure reliable access to clean drinking water and fire protection for nearly 500 residents, local businesses, and a new medical facility. By strengthening infrastructure, Waldoboro aims to attract economic investment, reduce long-term costs, and enhance community resilience.

Location of Project: Lincoln County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$3,802,600.00

Spring Award to: Boothbay Region Water District

Project: NBRC funds will be used to extend a water line along Barter's Island Road, ensuring safe and reliable drinking water for residents, businesses, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (CMBG), and Boothbay Region YMCA (BRYMCA). This project will replace low-quality bedrock wells, mitigate PFAS contamination, enhance fire protection, and support economic growth in the region.

Location of Project: Lincoln County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$5,824,775.00

Spring Award to: Midcoast Council of Governments

Project: NBRC funds will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund (RLF) that will support early-stage and growing businesses in Lincoln and Knox Counties, as well as select towns in Waldo County. This initiative will provide critical financial assistance to businesses in value-added food production, fishing, aquaculture, and the working waterfront, strengthening Maine's blue economy and rural economic resilience. By leveraging its decades of business lending experience, MCOG aims to foster sustainable industry growth, create jobs, and enhance long-term economic stability in the region.

Location of Project: Lincoln County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$600,000.00

Oxford County

Spring Award to: Paris Utility District

Project: NBRC funds will be used to upgrade critical infrastructure, enhancing the reliability and efficiency of its water and wastewater services for 1,200 customers. The project includes SCADA and telemetry upgrades, generator installation at the repeater site, and control building HVAC improvements, increasing safety, security, and resiliency. By modernizing these systems, the district aims to ensure high-quality service while supporting long-term sustainability for the community.

Location of Project: Oxford County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$850,000.00

Penobscot County

Spring Award to: Bangor Children's Home d.b.a. Hilltop School

Project: NBRC funds will be used to restore the roofing and dormers of its historic facility, ensuring the long-term safety and preservation of this vital community resource. As one of Bangor's longest-standing institutions, the building has served children and families for over 150 years, and renovations will protect its structural integrity while maintaining its architectural heritage. By securing these critical upgrades, the organization can continue providing high-quality early education and child-centered care for future generations.

Location of Project: Penobscot County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$227,735.01

Total Project Amount: \$473,704.51

Spring Award to: Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Project: NBRC funds will be used to establish the EMDC NBRC RLF Program, supporting small business growth in distressed counties of Eastern Maine. This initiative will provide loans ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000, helping businesses expand operations, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy. The program aims to foster long-term economic sustainability by revolving loan repayments into future lending opportunities.

Location of Project: Penobscot County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$640,000.00

Piscataquis County

Spring Award to: Friends of the Mountain

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support the purchase of the 1,700-acre Big Moose Mountain Ski Area, a key resource for economic revitalization in Piscataquis County, Maine. This project will create sustainable, year-round jobs, attract new residents, and strengthen rural tourism, benefiting multiple underserved communities. By securing this funding, Friends aims to restore and expand outdoor recreation infrastructure, fostering long-term economic growth and environmental conservation.

Location of Project: Piscataquis County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$6,050,000.00

Somerset County

Spring Award to: Main Street Skowhegan

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate a historic 6,000-square-foot building in downtown Skowhegan, transforming it into a shared commercial kitchen and food business incubator. This project will provide career training, entrepreneurship support, and business incubation for local food entrepreneurs, strengthening workforce development and economic growth in Somerset County. By fostering innovation, attracting new talent, and promoting locally sourced food production, The Kitchen will position Skowhegan as a hub for culinary entrepreneurship and regional food economy expansion.

Location of Project: Somerset County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,560,972.18

Washington County

Spring Award to: Town of Beals

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand and fortify the storm-vulnerable Beals Town Landing on Alley Bay Rd. This project will construct a reinforced concrete wall, add a 3,000-square-foot work area, install steel floats for vessel repairs, and extend power for lighting and new hoists, improving efficiency and resilience for 150 fishing and aquaculture jobs. By strengthening this critical working waterfront asset, the initiative enhances local businesses, sustains marine industries, and protects vital infrastructure from future extreme weather events.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$482,236.52

Total Project Amount: \$627,076.52

Spring Award to: Cherryfield Town Square

Project: NBRC funds will be used to renovate a deteriorating 10,000-square-foot building in the heart of its Historic District. This project will create a community gathering space supporting tourism and economic growth by celebrating the region's wild blueberry heritage, expanding retail space for local artisans, and developing a visitor center. By revitalizing Cherryfield Town Square, the initiative will enhance downtown vitality, attract new residents and businesses, and strengthen the local economy.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$706,904.00

Spring Award to: Regional Medical Center at Lubec

Project: NBRC funds will be used to construct a new 7,400-square-foot clinic in East Machias, expanding primary care, dental, and behavioral health services for Washington County residents. This initiative will alleviate provider shortages, enhance telemedicine capabilities, and create high-paying healthcare jobs, contributing to workforce development and economic growth. By modernizing infrastructure and improving access to essential medical services, RMCL aims to strengthen public health, attract skilled professionals, and serve as a model for rural healthcare excellence.

Location of Project: Washington County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$800,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$7,254,000.00

Multiple Counties

Spring Award to: Associated General Contractors of Maine

Project: NBRC funds will be used to expand its Maine Construction Academy Immersion Program, providing workforce training for at-risk youth in rural counties. This 20-day paid initiative offers certifications, hands-on construction experience, and job placement support, addressing high youth unemployment and Maine's construction labor shortage. By strengthening workforce development, AGC Maine aims to create long-term economic

opportunities, reduce barriers to employment, and foster skilled labor growth in the region.

Location of Project: Aroostook County; Oxford County; Penobscot County; Piscataquis County; Somerset County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$497,961.00

Total Project Amount: \$664,106.00

Spring Award to: GrowSmart Maine

Project: NBRC funds will be used to support six economically distressed rural municipalities—Calais, Danforth, Houlton, Machias, Mexico, and Van Buren—in developing strategic economic growth plans. This initiative will provide expert technical assistance, create locally tailored Economic Development Plans, and establish collaborative platforms for regional partnerships and resource sharing. By fostering workforce development, improving economic KPIs, and supporting business expansion, the project will drive long-term prosperity and sustainability across these communities.

Location of Project: Aroostook County; Oxford County; Washington County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$388,700.00

Total Project Amount: \$485,875.00

Spring Award to: The Harry E. Davis Partnership for Children's Oral Health

Project: NBRC funds will be used to address workforce gaps in dental care across Maine's rural Northern Border Region counties. This initiative will develop and implement customized training for non-dental providers, enabling them to integrate essential oral health services into primary care and community paramedicine programs. By expanding access to preventive dental care and early intervention, SCOHR aims to improve health outcomes, support rural workforce retention, and enhance the sustainability of local healthcare organizations.

Location of Project: Androscoggin County; Oxford County; Somerset County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$499,613.00

Total Project Amount: \$673,629.00

Spring Award to: Island Institute

Project: NBRC funds will be used to develop adaptation implementation plans for three working waterfront communities in Waldo, Washington, and Hancock counties. This project will create detailed strategies to address storm preparedness, safeguard infrastructure, and support long-term economic sustainability for over 635 fishing and tourism industry workers. By producing actionable plans and a best practice guide, the initiative will enhance resilience, protect local businesses, and serve as a model for other coastal communities in Maine.

Location of Project: Hancock County; Waldo County; Washington County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$181,712.00

Total Project Amount: \$259,588.00

Spring Award to: Maine Community College System

Project: NBRC funds will be used to train 250 new healthcare professionals over three years through short-term programs at three community colleges. This initiative will prepare Certified Nursing Assistants, Medical Assistants, and Emergency Medical Technicians to address critical healthcare labor shortages in rural Maine. By strengthening the healthcare workforce and fostering industry partnerships, the project aims to boost economic mobility, improve

healthcare accessibility, and ensure long-term workforce stability.

Location of Project: Androscoggin County; Penobscot County; Somerset County (CD-02)

Grant Amount: \$497,537.00

Total Project Amount: \$792,531.00

Spring Award to: Maine Outdoor Brands

Project: NBRC funds will be used to strengthen Maine's outdoor recreation workforce by developing training programs, expanding career pathways, and increasing awareness of industry opportunities. This statewide initiative will produce a workforce report, enhance partnerships with educational institutions, support hands-on job training, and establish a centralized workforce hub. By attracting and retaining skilled workers, MOB aims to support industry growth, economic resilience, and workforce development in rural Maine.

Location of Project: Androscoggin County; Aroostook County; Franklin County; Hancock County; Kennebec County; Knox County; Lincoln County; Oxford County; Penobscot County; Piscataquis County; Somerset County; Waldo County; Washington County (CD-01)

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,000,000.00

2025 Fall Awards

Aroostook County

Organization: Outdoor Sport Institute

Project Summary: The Outdoor Sport Institute has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to complete three trail systems in the Katahdin Region of Maine, supporting the area's growing outdoor recreation economy. The project will create seasonal and full-time jobs, attract private investment, and enhance tourism infrastructure. It builds on extensive planning and community engagement to position the region as a premier trail destination.

Location of Project: ME – Aroostook

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,276,480.00

Organization: Caribou Utilities District

Project Summary: The Caribou Utilities District has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to construct a second water main crossing the Aroostook River, eliminating a single point of failure in the city's water system. This project will ensure reliable service, improve fire protection, and support regional interconnection with the Loring Commerce Centre. It enhances infrastructure resilience and supports economic development in northern Maine.

Location of Project: ME – Aroostook

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$2,555,745.00

Franklin County

Organization: Center for Entrepreneurial Studies

Project Summary: The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies in Farmington, Maine has been awarded \$499,869.76 to expand its Changemaker program, which provides youth with career

training in agriculture, retail, and entrepreneurship. The project includes micro-credentials, mentorship, and business incubation to prepare high school students for employment or self-employment. It supports workforce development and economic opportunity for rural youth.

Location of Project: ME – Franklin

Grant Amount: \$499,869.76

Total Project Amount: \$624,869.76

Hancock County

Organization: Hancock County Planning Commission

Project Summary: The Hancock County Planning Commission has been awarded \$35,162.00 to conduct a feasibility study to improve public transportation access and infrastructure in Hancock County, Maine. The project will include community outreach, transit gap analysis, and architectural plans for ADA-compliant bus stops using local wood products. This initiative supports workforce transportation, rural mobility, and infrastructure planning.

Location of Project: ME – Hancock

Grant Amount: \$35,162.00

Total Project Amount: \$52,821.66

Kennebec County

Organization: Monmouth Water Association

Project Summary: The Monmouth Water Association has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to extend public water service to North Monmouth, where private wells are contaminated with PFAS. The project includes installing 14,700 feet of water main, service connections, and a new storage tank to ensure safe drinking water and fire protection. This infrastructure upgrade will protect public health and support future development in the area.

Location of Project: ME – Kennebec

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$10,154,999.00

Penobscot County

Organization: Bangor Young Mens Christian Association

Project Summary: The Bangor YMCA has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 to support the construction of a new \$57.8 million facility. The project will double childcare capacity, expand health services, and provide free mental health and workforce programs for teens. It aims to improve regional health outcomes, support working families, and revitalize downtown Bangor.

Location of Project: ME – Penobscot

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$4,373,278.00

Organization: Friends of Veterans Memorial Library

Project Summary: Friends of Veterans Memorial Library has been awarded \$606,691.00 to construct a new 8,400-square-foot library and community center in Patten, Maine. The facility will serve 12 rural towns with broadband access, workforce training, and public programming. This project supports infrastructure, education, and rural revitalization.

Location of Project: ME – Penobscot

Grant Amount: \$606,691.00

Total Project Amount: \$1,376,208.00

Organization: Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

Project Summary: Northern Light Health has been awarded \$100,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study for a regional clinical training simulation center in Bangor or Brewer, Maine. The study will assess the viability, location, and economic impact of expanding simulation-based healthcare training for local providers, students, and emergency personnel. This project supports workforce development and healthcare infrastructure in underserved rural areas.

Location of Project: ME – Penobscot

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$164,568.22

Washington County

Organization: Town of Jonesport

Project Summary: The Town of Jonesport has been awarded \$799,615.00 to construct a commercial working waterfront facility at Henry Point, including a boat launch, parking, and floating docks. The project will support 250 fishers and 20–50 marine businesses, enhancing economic resilience and access to deep water. This initiative supports infrastructure, fisheries, and rural economic development.

Location of Project: ME – Washington

Grant Amount: \$799,615.00

Total Project Amount: \$999,520.00

Multiple Counties

Organization: Maine Development Foundation

Project Summary: The Maine Development Foundation has been awarded \$500,000.00 to launch a three-year pilot program supporting economic revitalization in communities impacted by biomass mill closures. The initiative will provide technical assistance, community assessments, and direct investments to four rural towns, helping them diversify their economies and improve service delivery. This project aligns with NBRC priorities by addressing workforce development, business growth, and long-term resilience in distressed areas.

Location of Project: ME - Aroostook; ME - Franklin; ME - Oxford; ME - Penobscot; ME - Piscataquis; ME - Somerset; ME - Waldo; ME – Washington

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Total Project Amount: \$651,449.00