

Funding Amount: \$44 Million

Program Name

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) 2023 Catalyst SEID and IIJA Grant Program

Funding Amount

\$44 Million Funded partially by IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)

Approximately \$11 Million per NBRC State: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York

- Infrastructure projects award cap: \$1,000,000
 - Consideration of awards up to \$3,000,000
- Non-infrastructure projects award cap: \$500,000

Key Dates

- March 17 - 2023 Materials Available
- March/April 2023 - SEID Program Information Sessions (Virtual)
- **April 21, by 5:00 p.m. - Letters of Interest Deadline (Required)**
- April 21 by 5:00 p.m. - 75% Expenditure Waiver Requests for Prior SEID Recipients
- April 21 by 5:00 p.m. - Significant Benefit Waiver Request
- Week of May 1st - Responses to LOIs and Invitations to Apply
- May 5 - LDD Waiver Request
- May 15 - 2023 Application Portal Open
- May 2023 - Program Application Sessions (Virtual - one per State will be scheduled)
- **June 2 by 5:00 p.m. - Applications by Invitation Only**
- August 2023 - NBRC Commission Meeting
- August 31 - NBRC Notification of Awards & Notice to Unsuccessful Applicants Sent
- September 2023 - Mandatory Grant Recipient & LDD training (Virtual - one per State will be scheduled)
- September/October 2023 - NBRC Grant Agreement Preparation & Distribution
- October 2023 - NBRC/EDA Notification of Awards & Notice to Unsuccessful Applicants
- October 2023 - NBRC/USDA Notification of Awards & Notice to Unsuccessful Applicants

Eligible Applicants

- State governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York
- Local governments (village, town, city, and county)
- Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state)
- Indian Tribes: § 200.54 Indian tribe or "federally recognized Indian tribe"
- Only projects within the NBRC's service area are eligible for funding, to include:
 - Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties
 - New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coös, Grafton, and Sullivan counties

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- New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Yates counties
- Vermont: all counties within the State

Eligible Projects

- **Non-Infrastructure Funding** – assistance in obtaining job skills training; skills development; employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, business development; improving basic health care, enhancing nutrition and food security; promotion of resource conservation, tourism, recreation; and preservation of open space consistent with economic development goals
- **Infrastructure Funding**
 - Transportation Infrastructure – EV charging stations and EV Make Ready infrastructure
 - Basic Public Infrastructure – construction, alteration, or repair, including those services that are generally necessary to conduct business
 - Public infrastructure are facilities, systems, and structures that are owned or available for use by the public to catalyze economic development; core infrastructure (such as water, wastewater, and energy); and electric power generation and transmission to include renewable energy and storage
 - Telecommunications Infrastructure – construction, alteration, or repair to accommodate any part of the infrastructure of a telecommunications network, including lines, equipment, apparatus, towers, antennas, etc., and/or cyber infrastructure (routing and switching software, operational support systems, etc.) necessary to transmit information via a telecommunications network
 - Telecommunications Infrastructure supports reliable and affordable broadband to provide local businesses and entrepreneurs access to the digital marketplace, facilitate online learning and workforce development, and connect communities
- Funding prioritized for projects that demonstrate both readiness and direct impacts on the region's economy and communities
- Projects must be consistent with regional economic development goals and advance a combination of NBRC as well as member state strategic investment principles
- NBRC investment priorities include projects that:
 - Provide benefits to or demonstrate meaningful engagement with communities who have been under-represented in past NBRC investments
 - Include underinvested communities such as rural communities (population less than 5,000), communities of color, and tribal communities
 - Address multiple needs and multiple investment categories
 - Adapt to changing climate conditions and extreme weather events



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- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success

Telecom Companies: Contact Byron Tuley at 319-298-4754 or btuley@nrtc.coop

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Bradley Kusant at 908-507-7941 or bradley.kusant@nrtc.coop

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Scoring Criteria

NBRC awards up to 50 points out of 100 points based on the following criteria:

- **Project Readiness** - Ability to perform the proposed work within the 3-year performance period and begin to draw down NBRC funds within 12 months of award date
- **Alignment with Agency Investment Priorities** - How project fits within the NBRC strategic investment goals and program priorities.
- **Economic Impacts** - Economic impacts should be consistent and supported by feasibility studies as well as local, state, or regional data
- **Project Costs and Match** - Budgets and costs, including contingency for construction projects, are clear and reasonable.
- **Organizational Capacity** - Past performance for timely completion, collaboration, staff qualifications, and ability to meet program requirements

The remaining 50 points will be awarded by the NBRC State Program where the project is proposed

- States' review criteria similar, with an emphasis on state economic development and infrastructure priorities

Eligible Costs

- Reasonable fees to contractors
- Construction and pre-construction costs such as engineering
- Bid, performance, or payment bonds
- Indirect costs for work performed by the recipient staff
 - Indirect cost must be documented by a Federal Cognizant Agent or an entity acting on their behalf, documentation must be included in application
 - If no federally approved indirect cost rate (such as many non-profits) use 10% as indirect cost rate
- Applicable and allocable costs as outlined in the Federal Cost Principles

Ineligible Costs

- Application preparation
- Food and beverages
- Meals and lodging
- Alcohol
- Entertainment
- Appraisals of property to be purchased or used as match
- Allowance or payment of debts
- Maintenance or deferred maintenance
- Any committed or expended costs incurred prior to receiving a Notice to Proceed (includes both NBRC and match funds)



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Middle Mile

- [NBRC Catalyst Program Overview.pdf](#)
- [2023 Catalyst Program Timeline Updated 20230316.pdf \(nbrc.gov\)](#)
- [Northern Border Regional Commission \(nbrc.gov\)](#)
- Please submit questions to aharrison@nbrc.gov



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