

**NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION
FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND CLARIFICATION NOTES**

PREAMBLE

Potential applicants for NBRC funding should familiarize themselves with this document and provide conclusive evidence, within the application package, which clearly describes the eligible nature of the project. This determination must be consistent with the definitions found below and supported with proper documentation.

SUSTAINABILITY

Applicants must demonstrate through a sound, comprehensive business plan based on hard data, proven methodology and reasonable forecasts acceptable to the NBRC that the applicant is capable of maintaining the project after NBRC funding to assure the sustainability of the project and achievement of the level of service outlined in the project description.

Sustainability, by definition, includes all costs associated with management, operation and maintenance necessary to maintain an acceptable level of service. A project will NOT be deemed sustainable if it is dependent on future grants to meet its normal operating expenses.

Feasibility/marketing type studies will be considered non-sustainable and speculative, therefore they will NOT be considered eligible.

ENTITIES

ELIGIBLE

The NBRC federal grant program is ONLY available to participating member states, local governments (city and county) and non-profit entities, for projects within the NBRC region.

INELIGIBLE

The NBRC federal grant program is NOT available to private/for-profit entities and those entities normally deemed eligible but due to prior grant history have been identified as ineligible for future grants.

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PURPOSES

ELIGIBLE

The following funding categories as found in Public Law 110-246, June 18, 2008, Subtitle V – Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development, represent the continued focus for all NBRC grant dollars. This document has been organized under each one of these categories.

1. To develop the transportation infrastructure of its region.
2. To develop the basic public infrastructure of its region.
3. To develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region.
4. To assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development, and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development,
5. To provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services.
6. To promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals.
7. To promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

INELIGIBLE

Eligible entities may NOT be conduits for private-sector entities.

NO financial assistance will be authorized to assist any relocation from one area (of the region) to another, except as authorized, to attract business from outside the NBRC region to the NBRC region.

NBRC federal grant funds CAN NOT be used to “supplant” existing federal streams.

FUNDING CATEGORY SPECIFICS

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation Infrastructure shall mean basic physical structures needed to support and/or create a transportation system, which shall include roadways, bridges, rail, port facilities, airports, and other structures deemed to be central to an overall transportation system. To be deemed eligible, projects shall document job-creation or job-retention impact.

Local, state and/or federal road, highway and/or bridge maintenance projects will NOT be eligible for NBRC funding

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BASIC PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

For the purposes of the Northern Border Regional Commission Federal Grant Program the term “Basic Public Infrastructure” shall mean Water and Wastewater Facilities, Electric and Gas Utilities, and Solid Waste Landfills, all of which are fundamental services necessary to promote growth and attract business, which have a useful life of 20 years or more.

To be deemed eligible, projects shall document job-creation or job-retention.

NBRC federal grant funds will NOT be used for projects deemed to be “Maintenance” or “Deferred Maintenance”. Maintenance shall mean the work of keeping something in proper condition or upkeep. Deferred Maintenance shall mean to put off, postpone, or procrastinate the act of maintenance.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Broadband and Geographic Information System (GIS) projects (not to include speculative or feasibility-type studies – rather, complete and sustainable projects) will be considered.

Government-facility construction and/or improvements (including but not limited to, local/state government offices, libraries, fire stations, multi-purpose buildings and public education buildings/schools) will NOT be eligible.

.BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Business Development shall mean those areas of business development which include entrepreneurship, the creation of new businesses or the retention or expansion of existing businesses in the local communities and to be deemed eligible, projects shall document job-creation or job-retention.

Allow expansion of existing business incubators and industrial parks; only allow funding start-up facilities if a committed economic development project or committed business incubator tenants.

Applicants must document that a need exists per standards of research described by National Business Incubation Association. A plan should also be developed to coincide with standards and operations as set forth in the National Business Incubation Association.

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“Business incubation” shall mean a business support process that accelerates the successful development of start-up and fledgling companies by providing entrepreneurs with any array of targeted resources and services.

Workforce Development shall mean job training or employment-related education for a specific employer to fill immediate job openings or retain current jobs which are documented as such by that specific employer. Delivery of such training shall be through the use of existing public educational facilities (EPEFs) located in the Region. However, if, the applicant demonstrates (1) sufficient documentation demonstrating an EPEF’s inability (as examples, insufficient capacity, curriculum, and/or accessibility) to satisfy the defined need, and the applicant (2) demonstrates a compelling need to use a non-EPEF for such training, then the Federal Co-Chairman can waive this requirement and deem a project eligible. To be deemed eligible, projects shall document job-creation or job-retention.

Other than for “Workforce Development” projects as described above, start up or ongoing operating costs (including but not limited to, salaries, vehicles, equipment and maintenance) will NOT be deemed eligible.

BASIC HEALTH CARE

The cost of basic health care facilities, such as clinics, will be eligible provided that the project is located in a severely economically distressed area of the NBRC region.

Start-up or ongoing operating costs will NOT be deemed eligible.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION, TOURISM, RECREATION

Construction projects that promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation and preservation of open space, such as access roads, bridges, signage, etc, are eligible projects. However, said projects must be consistent with the economic development goals of the region.

RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Energy costs in the NBRC region are relatively higher than most other regions of the United States. In addition, this region is more reliant on oil than other parts of the country. Therefore, renewable and alternative energy projects such as wind, solar, and biofuel are eligible projects.

However, privately owned facilities would NOT be eligible. Publically owned and non-profit entities are eligible. In addition, public projects that support privately-owned energy facilities are eligible.

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FY2010 NBRC DISTRESSED COUNTIES

MAINE	NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEW YORK	VERMONT
Aroostook Franklin Oxford Piscataquis Somerset Washington		Franklin Fulton Herkimer Lewis Oneida Oswego St. Lawrence	Essex Orleans

FY2010 NBRC ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS

MAINE	NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEW YORK	VERMONT
	Berlin LMA		

Distressed Counties and Isolated Areas of Distress are defined as those that experience a negative economic impact in at least three of the four following:*

- Per capita income lower than the national average**
- Unemployment higher than the national average**
- Negative out migration**
- Poverty rate higher than the national average**

***As of April, 2010**

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ACCELERATED NBRC FY 2010 GRANT AWARD SCHEDULE

- 7/31 Announcement of Grant Program
- 8/2 States and LDD's Publicize, Educate, and Assist in application process
- 8/30 ALL applications due at LDD's to be screened for completeness
- 9/13 LDD's package complete applications and send original and one copy to NBRC
LDD's will send one copy to the State simultaneously
- 9/14 State commences evaluation of grant applications for Governor
- 9/21 Governors receive list of eligible and ineligible projects from NBRC
- 9/27 Governors sign certifications and forward certified application to the Federal Co-Chair.
- 9/29 NBRC Board meets to vote on NBRC FY10 Federal Grant Awards
- 9/30 Federal Co-Chair notifies Members of Congress of Commission's approval of FY 10 Federal Grant Awards
- 10/4 Applicants are notified of approval, and grant documents processing begins

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