

Northeast Heritage Economy Program Eligibility Requirements

A collaborative initiative of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, Maine Preservation, the Preservation League of New York State and the Preservation Trust of Vermont

Generously supported by the Northern Border Regional Commission

Eligibility Requirements

Program Purpose: Development of an interstate shared Northeast Heritage Economy Program (NHEP) that makes grants to community-driven preservation projects to address the negative economic shift produced by the chronic and consistent decline of the forest products industry in the rural areas of the Northern Border Regional Commission region.

Program Goal: Revitalize vacant and underused historic buildings in rural communities to stimulate economic development and tourism, build community cohesion, and create jobs in areas suffering from the decline of the forest products industry.

Program Strategy: Provide seed money to sub-grantees to create and/or enhance “third places” in rural communities where people gather, exchange ideas, experience culture, build relationships, and create community. These places help to make communities a desirable place to live, work, and start a business and include: non-profit, community supported stores providing space to sell and market local products; public spaces, like libraries and community centers providing critical resources for workforce development training; and cultural and arts centers offering classes, performances and partnerships.

Eligible Sub-Grantees Must:

- Be an established, not-for-profit organization, municipality, political subdivision of state government, or federally recognized tribe in order to receive funding
- Have in-hand a 50% match of any grant requested from the NHEP at the time of application
- Own the target property(ies) and be prepared to maintain that ownership for a minimum of twenty (20) years following the completion of the project or
- Have a long-term, great than 20-year lease that provides the sub-grantee with legal control over the NHEP-funded improvements
- Propose a project in a county eligible to receive funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission and in a community negatively impacted by at least one of the NBRC’s threshold priorities
 - Eligible NBRC counties
 - Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties
 - New Hampshire: Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, and Sullivan counties, and specific towns in Belknap and Grafton counties. See New Hampshire’s state specific information for non-eligible communities in Belknap and Grafton counties.
 - New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Fulton, Franklin, 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
 - NBRC threshold priorities
 - Industry changes in employment as a result of the decline of the forest industry
 - Percent change in wages in the project area
 - Location of mill and other forest-based manufacturing closings in the past 20 years
 - County population losses

Eligible Activities:

- Construction

Eligible Projects Must:

- Be completed by July 31, 2021
- Impact rural communities suffering from the decline of the forest products industry
- Stimulate economic development and creation of jobs
- Follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation
- Leverage additional public and private forms of support
- Build local and regional partnerships
- Have a lasting and positive impact on the community

Ineligible Sub-Grantees:

Applicants who have received NBRC funding and do not have their project 75% completed by the application deadline are not eligible to apply for a NHEP grant.

State specific information, if applicable:

New Hampshire: The following towns are **not** eligible to apply for NHEP-funding
Belknap County: Alton, Barnstead, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, Tilton
Grafton County: Benton, Easton, Ellsworth, Hanover, Holderness, Monroe, Landaff, Lebanon, Lyman, Lyme, Orford, Piermont, Sugar Hill

Vermont: Vermont will have two tiers of funding. The first tier, or highest priority projects, will be Community Supported Enterprises, specifically publicly-owned general stores, café, restaurants and pubs. The second tier of funding will be for preservation projects with strong economic development potential, such as job creation, business creation, workforce development, etc. Vermont will also accept applications for the purchase of equipment related to the creation or improvement of a CSE.

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