



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

May 28, 2026

Mr. Chris Saunders
Federal Co-Chair
Northern Border Regional Commission
James C. Cleveland Federal Building
53 Pleasant Street, Suite 1501
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter serves to certify that the State of Maine has reviewed the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program grant applications for the 2026 Spring Round.

We have determined the following **16** applications score well according to both the NBRC and State of Maine's scoring criteria and align with our funding priorities. These projects are recommended for funding; we wish the applicants well as they implement their projects.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor

cc: Jeremy Kennedy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Michael Duguay, Commissioner DECD, Governor's Alternate for State of Maine, NBRC
Sarah Demers, DECD, Maine NBRC Program Manager, Acting Capacity



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING, BY PRIORITY:

1. Applicant Name: Town of Brooksville

Award Amount: \$902,938

Location: Hancock County, CD2

Brooksville will build the town's first all-tide public pier, landing, and boat ramp at Betsy's Cove in Buck's Harbor, including a 16-foot-wide, 120-foot-long pier with ADA-accessible ramp and floats, a hoist, and replacement of the deteriorating launch.

2. Applicant Name: Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc.

Award Amount: \$360,211

Location: Aroostook County, CD2

Funding will launch Aroostook Rising, a two-year talent attraction and retention initiative addressing population decline and workforce shortages across Aroostook county. The program combines targeted marketing with concierge-style integration—housing, childcare, and civic engagement—to stabilize the labor force and expand the tax base.

3. Applicant Name: IBEW Augusta Electrical JATC

Award Amount: \$497,560.70

Location: Penobscot County, CD2

Augusta Electrical JATC will upgrade industry-standard lab equipment, modernize training rooms, and reduce cost barriers for first-year apprentices across rural Maine. Strengthening instructional capacity aligns training with today's jobsites and increases retention for partner contractors.

4. Applicant Name: Tree Street Youth

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Location: Androscoggin County, CD2

Tree Street Youth will construct the 7,500-square-foot Canopy Center in Lewiston, offering childcare, community meeting space, and youth workforce training. The project will create 80 new childcare slots and deliver career exploration for up to 100 youths, positioning the center as a neighborhood anchor that expands economic mobility for working families

5. Applicant Name: Town of Vinalhaven

Award Amount: \$46,500

Location: Knox County, CD2

The Town of Vinalhaven will conduct a Municipal Property Feasibility & Optimization Assessment of up to six Town-owned parcels, to include site studies, conceptual layouts, cost estimates, and an evaluation framework to compare uses such as community meeting infrastructure, public parking, workforce housing, and downtown-supportive assets. This effort builds on prior planning and NBRC investments to position shovel-ready public infrastructure that strengthens year-round economic vitality.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

6. Applicant Name: Old Town Water District

Award Amount: \$520,000

Location: Penobscot County, CD2

Old Town Water District will construct approximately 11,563 linear feet of transmission main to improve water service for Old Town and the University of Maine. Upgraded infrastructure will support fire protection, future development, and long-term system reliability.

7. Applicant Name: Workforce Housing Coalition Western Maine Mountains

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Location: Franklin County, CD2

Construction of public sewer and roadway infrastructure enabling approximately 50 workforce housing units in Carrabassett Valley, strengthening labor force stability for regional employers.

8. Applicant Name: City of Calais

Award Amount: \$590,580

Location: Washington County, CD2

Funding will rebuild and extend the Calais Waterfront Walkway, connecting downtown to the Canadian border crossing and regional trail networks. The project adds wayfinding, interpretive art, ADA-accessible picnic tables, a bike repair station, and a new staircase, while replacing a failing retaining wall.

9. Applicant Name: Spruce Mountain Educational Fund

Award Amount: \$368,000

Location: Franklin County, CD2

Implement outdoor recreation infrastructure upgrades at the tri-town owned ski area. The project expands four-season operations for advancing tourism opportunities, increases early-season terrain, promotes health and wellness, and sustains affordable access for the region's youth and families.

10. Applicant Name: Ashland Water and Sewer District

Award Amount: \$680,000

Location: Aroostook County, CD2

Ashland Water & Sewer District will replace an approximately 1,000-foot essential water main that crosses the Aroostook River and serves 90% of the customer base. The project addresses a critical system vulnerability and strengthens service resilience for residents and businesses.

11. Applicant Name: Central Maine Growth Council

Award Amount: \$485,000

Location: Kennebec County, CD2

Funding will promote and support business development in Kennebec and Somerset communities affected by the collapse of legacy paper mills and regional hospitals. Business support and programming will accelerate technology commercialization across high-growth sectors: advanced manufacturing, blue economy, energy security, IT, and biotech.

12. Applicant Name: ME Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Location: Franklin County, CD2



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Construct a multi-use pedestrian and snowmobile bridge over the Sandy River, extending the 14-mile Whistle Stop Trail directly into downtown Farmington. The project's primary purpose is to improve safe, non-vehicular connectivity to employment centers, health services, education, and tourism assets, yielding economic impacts in jobs, wages, and tax revenue.

13. Applicant Name: Matinicus Isle Plantation

Award Amount: \$70,400

Location: Knox County, CD2

Matinicus Isle Plantation will acquire approximately three acres comprising the island's only airstrip, preserving a critical transportation lifeline for a remote, unbridged community. Securing long-term site control protects emergency access, mail and supply delivery, and resident travel essential to island sustainability.

14. Applicant Name: Town of Livermore Falls

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Location: Androscoggin County, CD2

Rehabilitate 1.1 miles of failing sanitary sewer supporting downtown businesses, medical offices, municipal facilities, and multifamily housing. Activities will be coordinated with roadway and drainage upgrades to avoid duplicate disruption and costs.

15. Applicant Name: City of Augusta

Award Amount: \$80,000

Location: Kennebec County, CD2

The City of Augusta will conduct a feasibility study for marina and docking infrastructure on the Kennebec River that prioritizes ADA access, safety, and community use. The study will deliver engineering, environmental, permitting, and cost-benefit analyses to inform a redevelopment that catalyzes downtown events, tourism, and workforce retention.

16. Applicant Name: Town of Albion

Award Amount: \$100,000

Location: Kennebec County, CD2

The Town of Albion will conduct a feasibility study to redevelop the former 24,644-square-foot elementary school into the Albion Community & Enterprise Center. The assessment will evaluate rehabilitation for flexible civic space, childcare and workforce training, remote work areas, microenterprise and shared offices, health supports, emergency shelter, and use of an existing commercial kitchen for food-based startups.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER