



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

September 9, 2014

Sanford Blitz
Northern Border Regional Commission
Office of the Federal Co-Chair
Margaret Chase Smith FOB, Suite 214
202 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Mr. Blitz:

On behalf of the State of New Hampshire, I am writing to certify five projects meeting the established criteria for the Northern Border Regional Commission grant and the priorities for the Northern Border Regional Commission grant funding.

Priority #1 - Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN), Berlin

WREN requested a grant of \$161,670 for the purchase of a storefront building on Berlin's Main Street. It will serve as office space, an entrepreneurial training center and 'maker space' for small and emerging businesses. WREN anticipates assisting 78 emerging and existing entrepreneurs (equal to 45 FTEs). The project would be sustained by program and member fees. The WREN project is eligible for funding because it is located in a distressed county and meets the NBRC's priority for business development.

Priority #2 - Town of Littleton Reconnection Project

The Town of Littleton requests \$250,000 in NBRC funds for the construction of a multi-use bridge for pedestrians, bicycles and off-road vehicles. This proposal is part of the larger downtown Littleton Reconnection Project, which is a revitalization project to connect Main Street to its under-utilized frontage on the Ammonoosuc River. The project, which is one of five phases, seeks to construct a bridge for a section of Main Street that is not connected to the riverfront. At least two businesses foresee expanding when this project is completed. The bridge will also connect to recreation trails. The Littleton project is eligible for funding because it meets the NBRC's priority for public transportation.

Priority #3 - Coos Economic Development Council Cell Tower on Cummings Mountain

The Coos Economic Development Council (CEDC) seeks \$250,000 in NBRC funds to construct a new cell tower on Cummings Mountain in West Dummer. This is a strategic placement to facilitate a line of sight backhaul connection from West Dummer north to Pittsburg, which would provide cell service in unserved areas of Coos County. Offering connectivity is an established path for encouraging business development in rural areas and provides needed emergency

communications. Cell carrier fees would sustain the tower. The CEDC project is eligible for funding because it is located in a distressed county and meets the NBRC's priority for basic public infrastructure.

Priority #4 - Northern Community Investment Corporation NH Grand Website

The Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) requests \$200,000 in NBRC funds to expand and improve the website for the NH Grand project. NH Grand, the NCIC program that serves as a visitor information portal for Coos County, supports local tourism through marketing initiatives. The website plays a critical role in this marketing effort. NBRC funds would be used to redesign, expand and enhance the current platform and would include new features, such as search engine optimization, multilingual accessibility, teletype and mapping. The site will include two new revenue generating activities: a booking system and marketing opportunities via search engine sponsorships. The NCIC project is eligible for funding because it is located in a distressed county and meets the NBRC's priority for business development.

Priority # 5 - University of New Hampshire Broadband Mapping Program

The UNH/Broadband Mapping Program seeks \$106,695 in NBRC funds to extend and enhance broadband availability mapping activities to the rural addresses in Coos County. The program is now funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which will expire in December. The program will work with towns and providers to document broadband availability to every household in the proposed service area and the data can be used by municipalities, carriers and the general public. The value of the data is that it will document where investment dollars (grant or public/private funding) needs to be focused to facilitate expansion of broadband to streets and neighborhoods. The project will also provide information about service availability for people considering relocation to the area either full-time or with vacation homes and businesses. The mapping data obtained from this grant will be stored permanently on UNH/Granit servers. The UNH project is eligible for funding because it is located in a distressed county and meets the NBRC's priority for basic public infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor

