

ECONOMIC RECOVERY & EXPANSION STRATEGY

2024 CALENDAR YEAR END REPORT AND UPDATE

GOAL 1: RETAIN AND RECRUIT A MODERN WORKFORCE

OBJECTIVE 1: Formalize the relationships and importance of the triangle of business, academic institutions and policy makers to create access to a vibrant pipeline of qualified talent that is sustainable for the next decade and beyond.

1. Focus on Advanced Skills and Training (K-12 and post-secondary upskilling opportunities to match needs of employers)
2. Customize Curriculum
3. Debt Relief
4. Internships and Apprenticeships

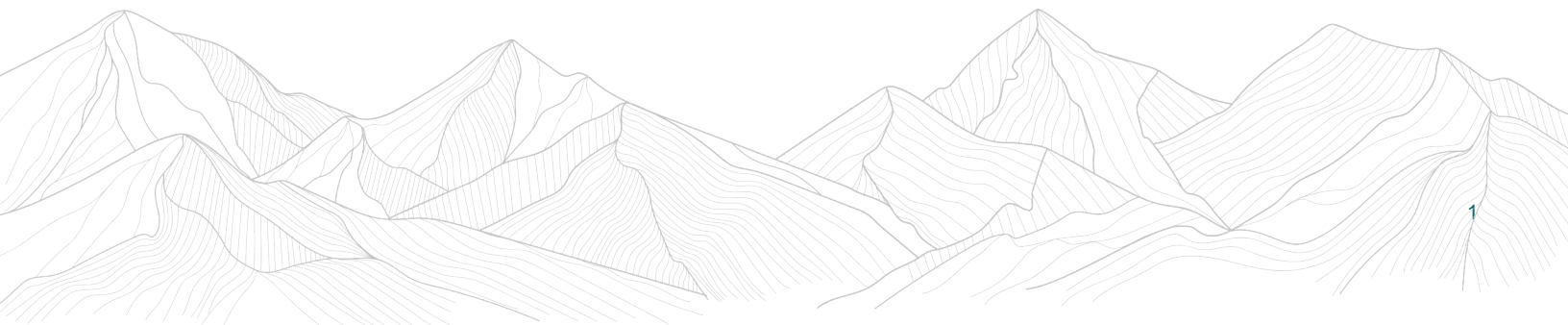
Progress:

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) continues to formalize relationships among businesses, academia, and policy makers in the development of a quality workforce pipeline, which is necessary for New Hampshire businesses and manufacturers to increase competitiveness and growth.

At its second annual NH 2024 EconForum, BEA brought together nearly 200 municipal, academic, and economic development leaders in November. The daylong summit, which again served as a unifying event, focused on workforce development, housing, and community planning. The EconForum also featured the inaugural BEA Partner awards, with a statewide recipient as well as regional recipients who were nominated by the Collaborative Economic Development Regions (CEDRs).

Breakout sessions, networking, and information exchange united the participants and highlighted the importance of aligning state and regional strategies to move forward with economic opportunities.

Connecting the agency's efforts in workforce development, business technical support, and business recruitment and expansion to the state's academic institutions remains a key focus. From the structure of CEDRs to align with the regional distribution of educational institutions to the expansion of those institutions into fields and subject matter that support industry sectors like life sciences and advanced manufacturing, BEA has increased its engagement of the entities responsible for training and education across New Hampshire, including the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and UNH-Manchester, Keene State College (KSC), Plymouth State University (PSU) and Dartmouth College, as well Career and Technical Education (CTEs) centers and community college campuses.



BEA continues to leverage the Council of Partner Agencies (COPA) to coordinate efforts and strategy, which is comprised of:

- BEA
- New Hampshire Business Finance Authority (BFA)
- New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA)
- New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA)
- Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH)
- University System of New Hampshire (USNH)

Through agency staff and resources as well as these key partnerships and relationships, BEA engaged and assisted hundreds of local businesses on a variety of matters, including workforce recruitment and retention; facilitating financial assistance programs that positively impacted employers and municipalities; enabling over \$650 million in capital investment by new and expanding businesses, bolstering international trade and cultural relations, and ensuring that invested funding resulted in substantial returns for the state and its economic ecosystem.

The BEA commissioner continued engaging chambers of commerce leaders across the state through the BIA's biweekly chambers of commerce meeting.

BEA Day, a series of in-person meetings with chambers of commerce, municipalities, and local economic development organizations, was launched in 2024. BEA staff visited groups across the state to share what resources, assistance, and access are available to partners, stakeholders, and the business community. BEA will also launch a biweekly BEA Partner call in 2024, ensuring ongoing open channels of communication.

The culmination of these relationships and focus areas enabled BEA to work with its CEDR network to develop employer-oriented workforce development tools, collaborate with CCSNH and USNH on curriculum and training development and awareness, and advocate for and support various uses of federal funding focused on workforce support and development.

OBJECTIVE 2: Investing in the next generation of workforce is required for the type of economic trajectory the state is on with high-tech jobs being at the core of this growth.

1. Leverage Existing Programs
2. Explore All Talent Pools
3. Educational Partnerships
4. Upskill labor

Progress:

This objective focuses on marketing and promotion efforts for workforce recruitment, community revitalization, retaining students, expanding existing programs that address employer needs, and establishing opportunities for employee upskilling.

BEA continued to build upon the several reports issued last year, including an updated [New Hampshire Workforce Assessment](#), incorporating the findings and acting upon the defined strategies through relevant staff, such as the business development and resources teams, as well as part of its outreach and marketing efforts. As BEA continues to act upon such strategies, it will continue developing marketing efforts, tools, and creative assets that will be made available as a free benefit to employers, partners, and stakeholders, as well as champion programs and sources of assistance from sister agencies and other partners.

For example, BEA has worked closely with the newly established New Hampshire Life Sciences association, as well as the BIA, to coordinate employer and talent attraction efforts.

The agency also heavily promotes programs, like WorkInvestNH, which provide assistance to employers engaging in training or upskilling of their employees. Additionally, BEA's Office of Workforce Opportunity continues to be a point of emphasis for training and upskilling the workforce, and it enrolled over 800 people in three Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs (Adult Program; Dislocated Worker Program, and Youth Program).

OBJECTIVE 3: For all types of workforce housing (market rate, multi-family, single family homes, etc.), a healthy economy demands healthy vacancy rates. New Hampshire must address the supply and demand issues for housing product throughout the state as the economy continues to grow.

1. Increase Housing Availability and Affordability
2. Improve Predictability
3. Connect Economic Expansion and Housing Availability
4. Maximize Use of Programs

Progress:

BEA launched InvestNH Housing program in 2022, providing an investment of \$100 million to encourage and construct affordable housing and enable municipalities to plan for the future of housing in their communities.

Two years later, BEA has seen significant results from the program, with a total of 4,657 housing units throughout New Hampshire impacted:

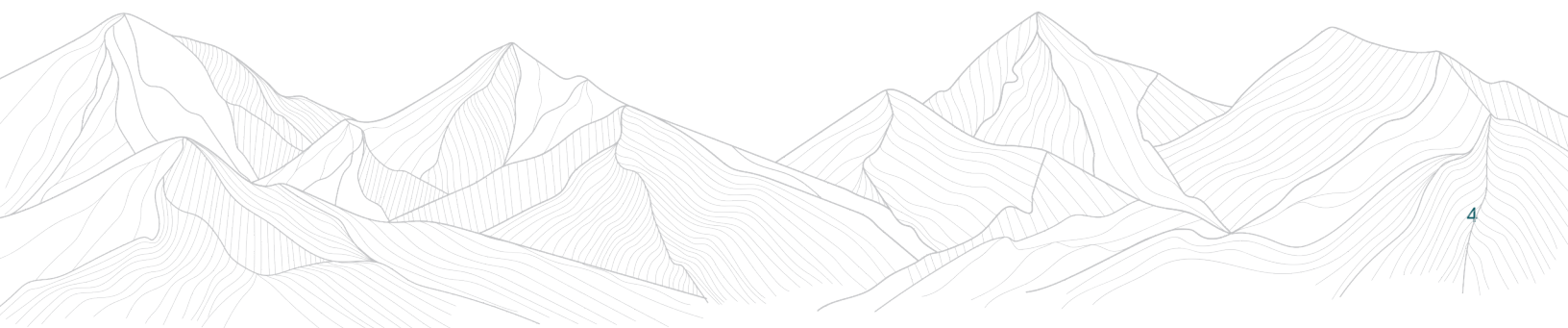
- Capital Grant: Allocated \$64 million, impacted 1,605 new units
- Per Unit Grants: Allocated \$16.2 million, impacted 1,910 units
- Demolition Grants: Allocated \$11.5 million, impacted 2,302 units
- Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) Grants: Allocated \$7.9 million to 67 individual communities

In addition to funding that directly supported housing development, HOP grants enabled communities to examine their outdated zoning ordinances with an eye toward modernizing them to accommodate growth, leading to dozens of regulatory changes.

In December 2024, BEA designated 18 communities as Housing Champions through the legislatively established program, recognizing their efforts addressing the state's housing shortage by supporting affordable, accessible, and sustainable housing development. With this designation, the municipalities are eligible to apply for \$5 million in grants through the Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant and the Housing Production Municipal Grant programs. These grants further support their efforts to continue developing housing solutions and advancing infrastructure critical to those efforts. The Housing Champion program will continue to enable additional communities to receive the voluntary designation and benefit from eligible grant programs. BEA is also working with sister agencies to assess what other programs can be aligned in order to enable even more benefits to Housing Champion designated municipalities, as well as identifying ways to improve upon government efficiencies in areas such as permitting and licensing.

OBJECTIVE 4: To make New Hampshire more attractive to a younger workforce, the state must address the availability of quality and affordable childcare as a means of workforce retention and recruitment

1. Develop Resources
2. Utilize Data to Increase Availability
3. Reward Innovation
4. Develop Professionals



Progress:

Childcare continues to challenge New Hampshire parents and their employers, with direct economic impacts, given its connection to workforce needs and the ability of employers to attract and retain employees, much like the issue of affordable housing. Working to address childcare-related issues remains essential agency objectives and strategies. BEA continues to use its relationships built through CEDRs, engaged partners, and employers to explore solutions.

The agency's aim is to help unify and spur action on this critical issue. With childcare providers operating at only 85 percent of full licensed capacity since September 2024, 46 percent of the state is in a childcare desert. Low wages and the perception that childcare is not a viable profession, combined with high costs for care (\$32,000 annually for two children), contribute to the lack of capacity. Granite State businesses also pay a price. Each month, about 16,000 employees are unable to work because they are caring for children who are not in school or childcare; the collective annual cost is estimated between \$36 million and \$56 million.

There is activity on this issue in all regions of the state, with partners launching pilot programs and engaging in employer surveys, as well as businesses and stakeholders stepping forward with potential solutions. For example, beginning in January 2025, the state's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will launch a \$1 million pilot project that enables qualified childcare providers to be eligible for scholarships based on earnings and the median income in their area.

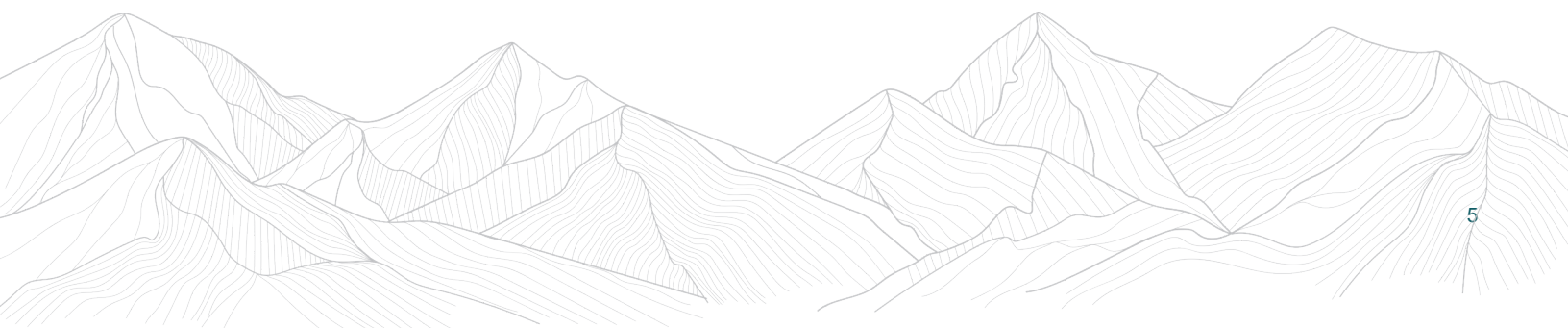
GOAL 2: CONNECT NEW HAMPSHIRE'S WORLD CLASS TOURISM ASSETS TO TALENT RECRUITMENT

The natural beauty of New Hampshire has attracted visitors from all over the world for centuries. For tourists, New Hampshire offers hundreds of options for all seasons and interests. Visitors must be converted to full-time residents through collaborative marketing and public relations programs focused on lifestyle and quality of life messaging reinforcing the assets enjoyed on vacation are available year-round to residents of New Hampshire.

1. Utilize Tourism for Talent Recruitment
2. Create Vibrant Communities
3. Leverage Office of Outdoor Economy
4. Develop a Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB)

Progress:

More than a way to inform travel markets of the appeal of New Hampshire in all seasons, the Division of Travel and Tourism Development's (DTTD) promotion campaigns incorporate the state's quality of life and reasons to consider making it a home.



This is accomplished through its ongoing social media platforms, which weave events, attractions, and places into a narrative rounded out with voices of residents incorporating their love of the state into their career and lifestyle passions. The Division of Economic Development cross posts these narratives on its social media platforms and website, nheconomy.com, to complement its narrative promoting the state's favorable business climate, healthy economy, and enviable lifestyle.

BEA also continues to encourage visitor conversion through the ChooseNH.com website, which features direct links to the state's largest employers, profiles of the state's distinct regions and opportunities, and a comprehensive list of colleges, universities, workforce programs and other career development resources.

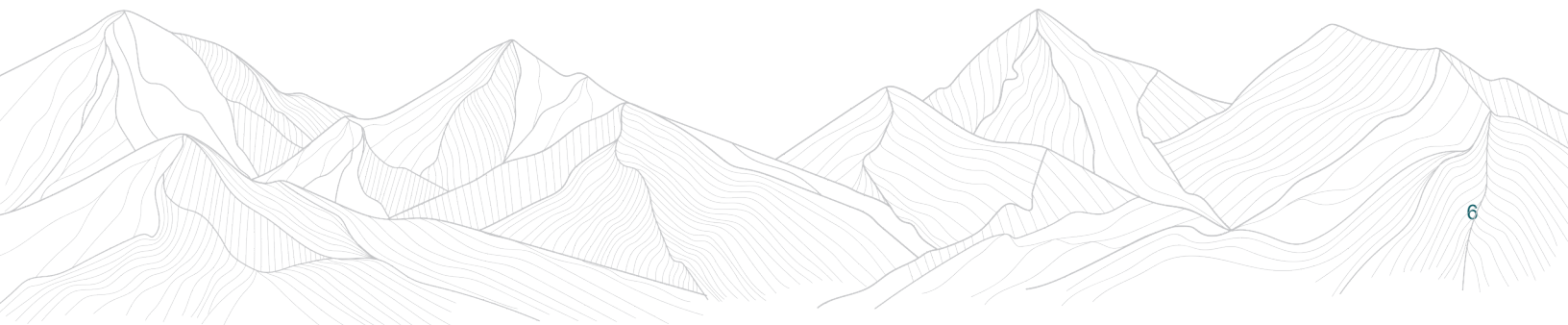
Through its Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development (ORID), the state adds depth to its quality of life and workforce development efforts by recognizing the role its natural resources play in attracting visitors and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, from RVers and snowmobilers, to hikers and fishermen.

In 2024, ORID issued a comprehensive Outdoor Industry Report, providing benchmark data to guide future growth and help businesses understand market trends and consumer preferences. As the \$3.3 billion outdoor recreation industry grows, with it comes entrepreneur opportunities and an increasing demand for a specialized workforce to meet that demand. ORID continues to work with businesses, non-profit organizations, career and technical Centers (CTCs) to develop employment pathways and micro-credentialed programs in this increasingly important industry sector. Collaboration with the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) and the SBA focuses on creating programs aimed at outdoor recreation entrepreneurship.

As one of only two states in the nation without a convention and visitor bureau (CVB), New Hampshire hired Coraggio Group in late 2024 to research the merits of establishing one in the state.

Expanded Objectives for Goal 2:

1. Develop defined international channels for tourism and workforce engagement.



Legislation passed in 2024 created the New Hampshire-Ireland Trade Council with the purpose of advancing bilateral trade and investment, as well as promoting business and academic exchanges between these entities. In September 2024, a delegation that included the Governor's Office, BEA, and other key staff and partners, organized a trade mission to Ireland where they met with the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, the American Chamber of Commerce, key government officials and at institutes of higher education, and businesses interested in expanding into the U.S. At its first meeting in October 2024, the trade council discussed its priorities, including identifying key sectors, establishing university-level student exchanges and internships, and ways to market the state to businesses and manufacturers in Ireland.

The New Hampshire-Canada Trade Council's annual conference, drawing government and business leaders from both sides of the international border, was held in November 2024, with a focus on sectors of mutual interest – life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

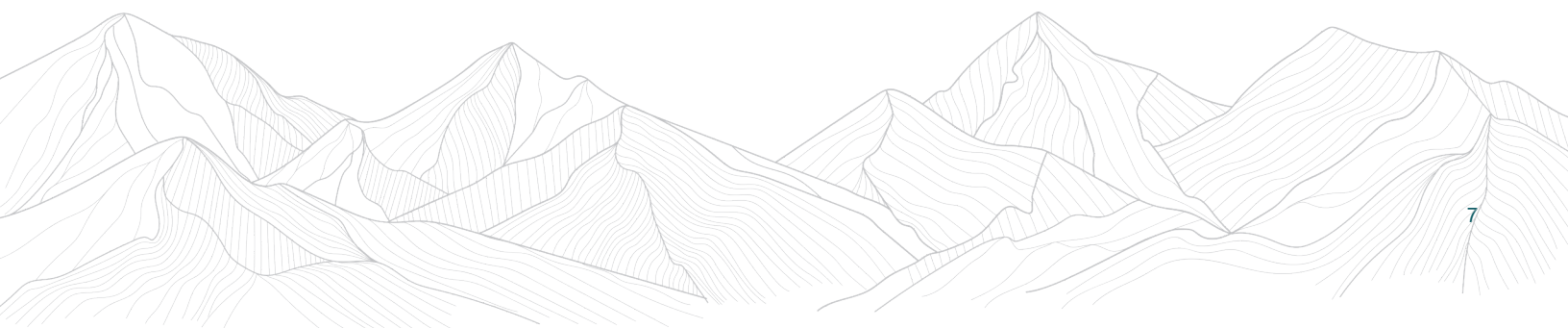
Additionally, a comprehensive [Eastern Canadian FDI Attraction Strategy and Action-Oriented Operational Plan](#), delivered to BEA in April 2024, included key advantages New Hampshire has over other states – proximity to markets, resilient workforce, and, particularly, the state's ability to assist companies in finding/training employees.

GOAL 3 FOCUS ON BUILDING RESILIENCY IN HIGH- GROWTH SECTORS

New Hampshire's economy is strong and focusing the state's economic development efforts on specific industries will make it even stronger. There are five industries that make up the majority of New Hampshire's economic development profile -- manufacturing, tourism, construction, healthcare and technology. Over the next decade, the state predicts expansion and growth of these industries.

OBJECTIVE 1: Business, government and academic collaboration is the centerpiece of New Hampshire's economic development strategy. This 'triangle' formed by the three will support high-growth industries with large workforce needs and establish a sustainable pipeline of talent and resources in these sectors.

1. Manufacturing
2. Tourism
3. Construction
4. Healthcare
5. Technology



Progress:

As highlighted in a previous update, BEA commissioned studies examining the economic depth of the state and what drives it as part of the effort to shape and position the New Hampshire economy for growth following the global pandemic. . The initial reports included:

- [New Hampshire Life Sciences Industry Assessment and Strategy](#)
- [Business Recruitment and Expansion](#)
- [New Hampshire Workforce Assessment](#)

Additional studies and strategies have since been released: International Commerce Data and Strategy, specifically for the [Eastern Provinces of Canada](#); [New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation Industry Inventory](#), and the [Advanced Manufacturing Assessment](#).

The data identified and strategies proposed in these reports help drive collaboration and coordination within the triangle, equipping partners, stakeholders, and the business community with the information and data to make informed decisions and investments into the future of key industries. Of note, conclusions within these reports reinforced that New Hampshire's location, quality of life, tax advantages, business climate, and sound fiscal policies are drivers for innovation and opportunity.

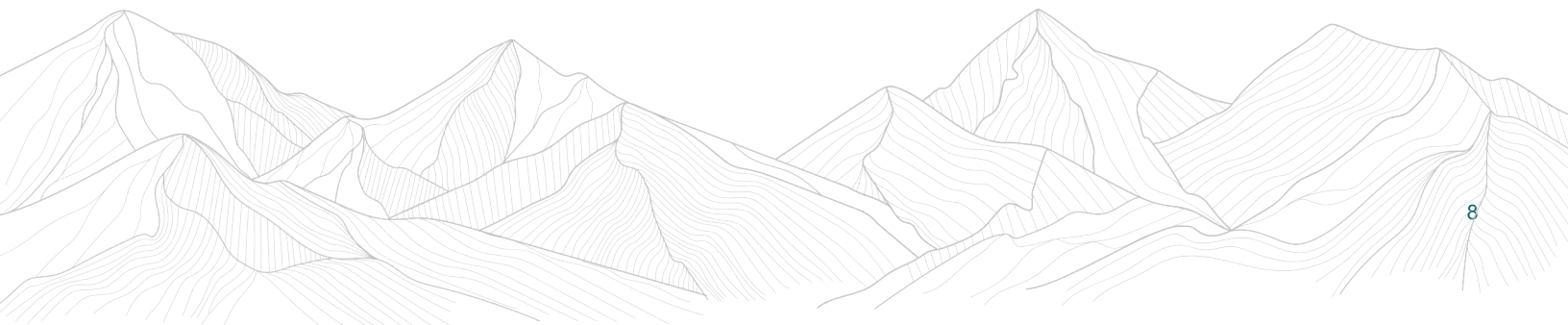
As noted earlier, BEA utilizes a variety of touch points, such as biweekly calls, formalized meetings with partners and stakeholders, and growing regional networks to maintain open communication and increase access to state government, strategies, and resources, all of which benefit the ecosystem supporting these five industries. Moreover, such communications frameworks help connect businesses to training resources for their employees and provide critical feedback to educational and vocational institutions on the workforce related needs of these key industries.

OBJECTIVE 2: Recognizing the value and potential of the bioscience sector.

1. Create Life Science Accelerator
2. Expand Definition of Bioscience Sector
3. Leverage the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI)
4. Collaborate with Clinical Healthcare

Progress:

After several years of evolution and development, NH Life Sciences, the state's first-ever statewide life sciences association, launched in January 2024, to help New Hampshire emerge as a preeminent hub for life sciences, ready to attract top talent to the state.



Signing on as the association's first founding members were global companies Novocure, which established North American operations in Portsmouth, and Novo Nordisk, with operations in Lebanon. By the end of 2024, Millipore Sigma of Jaffrey and Lonza of Portsmouth rounded out the founding membership and NH Life Sciences membership grew to 23 companies.

In July 2024, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated ReGen Valley (centered around the Manchester-Nashua metropolitan area) as one of 12 Tech Hubs, and the only one in New England, earmarking \$44 million to increase the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute's (ARMI) mass production of human tissue and organs. In October 2024, the University of New Hampshire/Manchester was awarded \$10 million to lead workforce development efforts within the ReGen Valley Tech Hub. With collaboration from Dartmouth College, the Community College System of New Hampshire, and other higher education institutions, UNH will create the ReGen Valley Common Campus and focus on advancing commercialization efforts in biofabrication to meet the unique needs of this growing industry.

OBJECTIVE 3: New Hampshire export numbers have been setting records for the last three years and are at an all-time high for the state.

1. Increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
2. Build on Existing Trade Partnerships
3. Focus on Supply-Chain Diversification for New Hampshire Manufacturers
4. Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)
5. United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)

Progress:

Over 50,000 New Hampshire jobs are supported by majority foreign-owned affiliates and BEA works with its domestic and international partners to encourage foreign investment around the state.

- In 2024, BEA applied the strengths identified in its [New Hampshire Life Sciences Industry Assessment and Strategy](#) report, and piloted an FDI attraction campaign. It targeted Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands for outreach and marketing of the state's opportunities for research, development, and commercialization of cutting-edge technologies and continues to follow up on leads generated as a result.
- BEA attended the SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C., where staff met with hundreds of potential investors as well as with U.S Embassy contacts in Europe and East Asia offering investment-related services and research and promoting the state's low tax and pro-business climate to potential investors.
- BEA continues to identify markets as part of an updated FDI attraction strategy, using data from third parties in the public and private sector to identify opportunities and where New Hampshire target companies are investing.

Through its extensive trade partnerships, BEA supports the state's exporters at every level, as they work to expand their international presence. For example:

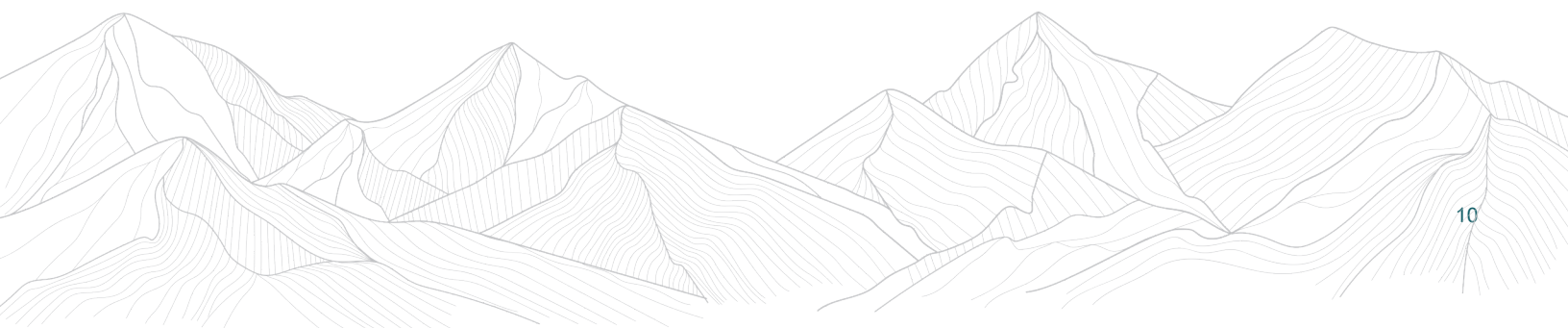
- In 2024, BEA launched the NH Export Accelerator, enrolling six businesses that are new to exporting to help them create their first export plans, culminating in their participation in a trade mission to Brazil.
- By leveraging existing relationships, BEA supported four companies on a trade mission to Brazil and organized five companies to participate at the Farnborough (England) Air Show, one of the largest aerospace trade shows in the world.
- BEA, in collaboration with the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire, welcomed foreign delegations to the 2nd annual Global Business Summit featuring representatives of six countries.
- Once legislation to create the New Hampshire-Ireland Trade Council was passed in 2024, BEA organized a governor-led mission to Ireland in September 2024, which included identifying government, academic, and business leaders in Ireland that are forming the basis of the council's work in expanding trade and investment opportunities in New Hampshire.

Finding and securing new markets is key for companies to diversify their supply chains and through its [Advanced Manufacturing Assessment](#), BEA identified top potential trade partners, as well as investment sources to help businesses find new sources of supply and new customers to help build resiliency.

BEA manages the Small Business Administration-funded State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant, which supports trade associations and small businesses entering new markets. A two-year grant ending in 2024, in which BEA spent \$250,000 to support small businesses attending trade shows, partner searches, and trade missions translated into export sales worth more than \$10 million in advanced manufacturing, aerospace and defense, and life sciences industries.

Leveraging the relationships built through the New Hampshire-Canada Trade Council, BEA supported the council's annual meeting in November 2024 and focused efforts pertaining to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) by launching a business matchmaking component to this event.

As a member of the Eastern Trade Council, a collaborative of 10 states in the Northeastern U.S., BEA plans to launch new initiatives to connect with Canadian companies and associations to identify and expand trade and investment relationships.



Expanded Objectives for Goal 3:

1. Assess enhancing or refining initiatives like the Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) tax credit program and other similar tax credit program to determine whether such programs should be revised or more targeted to achieve defined goals.
2. Further develop action plans for implementation of recently released, key studies and reports.

GOAL 4 BUILD ON NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ENTREPRENEURIAL LEGACY TO FUEL INNOVATION

Yankee ingenuity and an entrepreneurial spirit is part of New Hampshire's identity and BEA continues to advance this. New Hampshire seeks to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem critical to providing a connected environment for the knowledge economy by improving the alignment of R1 research universities, investors and innovators, . While existing resources are available, more needs to be done to bring together expertise, investors, and creators o encourage and increase the number start-ups in the state and sustainability strategies.

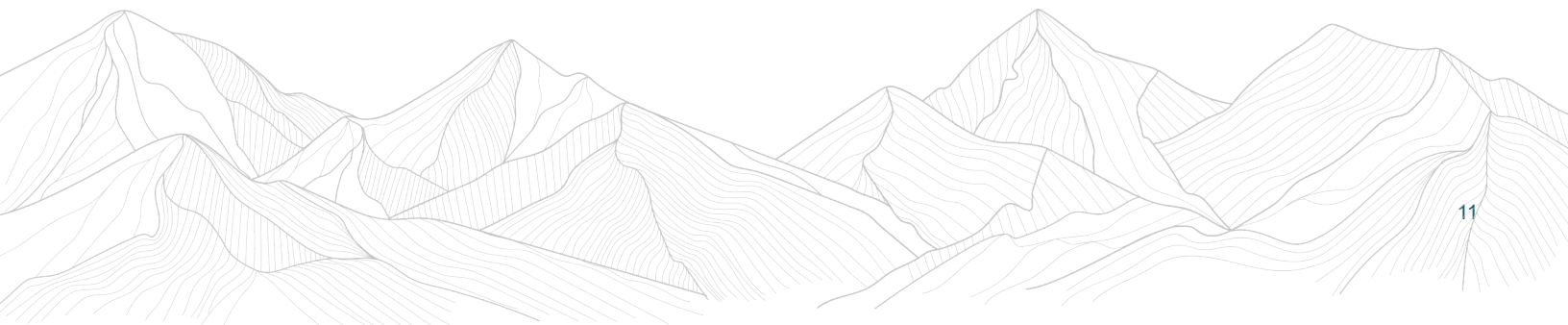
1. Foster Entrepreneurship
2. Rural Entrepreneurship Program
3. Drive Innovation through Academic Centers
4. Encourage Incubators
5. Focus on Resource Attainment
6. Venture Capital
7. Learn from New Hampshire Success Stories

Progress:

BEA relies on collaboration with partners, such as the Hannah Grimes Center, the Dartmouth Regional Technology Center, and the SBDC, to support the New Hampshire entrepreneurial ecosystem, and will work to leverage its business resource specialists and CEDR network as ways to connect entrepreneurs to assistance, resources, training, and more.

Development of the multi-year, multi-million-dollar investment of the business services portal continued on schedule. This is one of BEA's most significant initiatives and investments targeting new and growing businesses, as it will create a hub where employers can connect with more than a dozen state agencies and partners, access resources, applications, and assistance, track key responsibilities, and even create a single sign on to accomplish critical business related tasks across multiple agencies - making starting a business in the Granite State even easier.

In 2024, NH SBDC provided free, one-on-one business advising to 1,910 clients, of which 31 percent were creating plans to start a business, and 81 SBDC clients launched a new business – all clients who would benefit from the business services portal.



BEA's Administrator of Rural Economic Development also produces and implements strategies supporting and encouraging rural entrepreneurship. For example, as southwestern New Hampshire continues evolving a cluster of optics manufacturers, Keene State College took action resulting in acceptance into the American Center for Optics Manufacturing (AmeriCOM), which is a partnership among institutes of higher education and industry leaders leading to overall support of organizations in the optics ecosystem.

Additionally, the agency's standard approach to interacting with new and expanding businesses is to discuss not only opportunities for assistance but also available financing, including through entities like the NH BFA, and resources, such as the John Olson Advanced Manufacturing Center at UNH, which works directly with upstart manufacturing businesses.

Expanded Objectives for Goal 4:

1. Assess whether a dedicated goal should be developed and added to ERES focused on Rural Economic Development.
2. Explore development of soft-landing programs for foreign companies looking to invest in the US by formalizing cooperation and collaboration with incubators, accelerators, universities, and other partners.
3. Develop a resource list that can be provided to startups and growing businesses to help with fully understanding the financial resources and funding paths available.

GOAL 5 RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN DRIVING THE ECONOMY

Investments in infrastructure are essential to economic growth. The availability and condition of roads, bridges and utilities are factors to consider when supporting the business growth and job creation. Access to reliable broadband is essential in the new normal work and school environment. Proper attention must be given to these assets to sustain business and population growth.

1. Modernize the Transportation Infrastructure
2. Explore Alternative Transportation Options
3. Diversify and Enhance Energy Infrastructure
4. Advocate for Water and Sewer Infrastructure
5. Broadband as an Economic Driver

Progress:

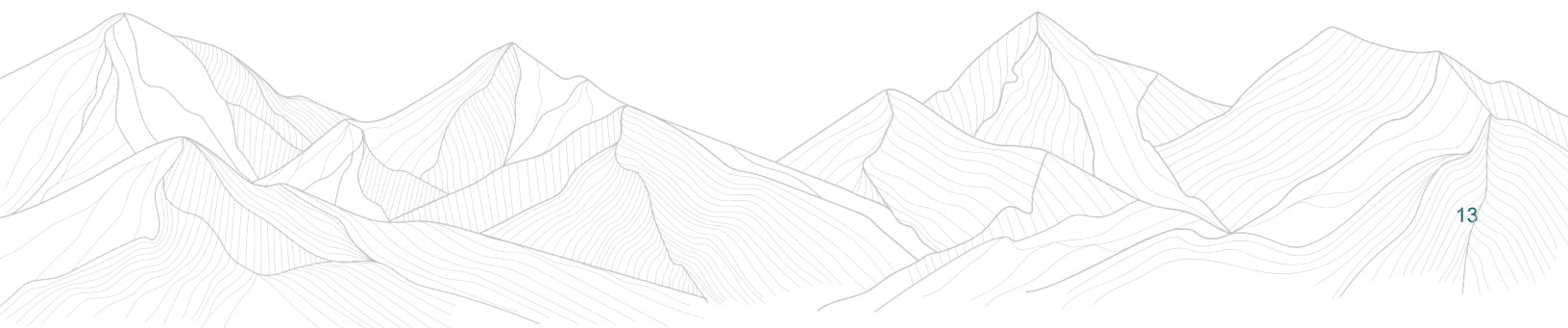
In addition to programs that received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, such as the statemanaged revolving loan funds for water and sewer projects in municipalities across New Hampshire, major investments and expansions took place at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport to accommodate electric planes, as well as additional airlines and flights to popular domestic destinations becoming target tourism markets for the state.

As noted, BEA also facilitates investment in broadband and housing infrastructure, which will soon include other forms of infrastructure investment. As defined by the legislature, one of the grant programs that will be made available to Housing Champion designees is funding for certain eligible infrastructure projects. More detail will be provided as that program completes the administrative rulemaking process and is subsequently made open for applications from eligible communities.

BEA's Office of Broadband Initiatives will manage more than \$300 million in funding for broadband infrastructure buildout as a result of funding allocated to the state through ARPA's Capital Projects Fund (CPF; \$122 million) and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD; \$196 million) program. The Office partnered with the UNH Cooperative Extension to develop its Digital Accessibility Plan and worked with Mission Broadband to develop a five-year broadband action plan and proposal for use of BEAD funds. As is already the case with the Office's use of CPF, this funding will focus primarily on providing highspeed internet access to unserved or underserved locations.

Throughout 2024, the broadband office continued oversight and implementation of the CPF funding awarded to bring highspeed broadband access to Granite Staters, reaching more than 50,000 locations in largely rural areas, dramatically enhancing access statewide and moving closer to the larger goal of 100 percent access statewide. This was accomplished through two significant contracts with internet service providers and a legislatively created program called the Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI).

BEA was also named in recent legislation as a member entity for committees and studies related to renewable energy and related workforce needs and will use such platforms as opportunities to better understand opportunities for the state, partners, and the business community. One such effort related to offshore wind energy workforce development is already underway.



Expanded Objectives for Goal 5:

1. Assess opportunities for connecting/strengthening forms of public transportation within and between urban areas as well as to and from key transportation hubs, such as the Manchester-Regional airport.

NEXT STEPS

As defined in the initial ERES plan, BEA must continue to take critical steps, in partnership with state and local organizations, academic institutions, private companies and non-profits, to successfully implement ERES, including:

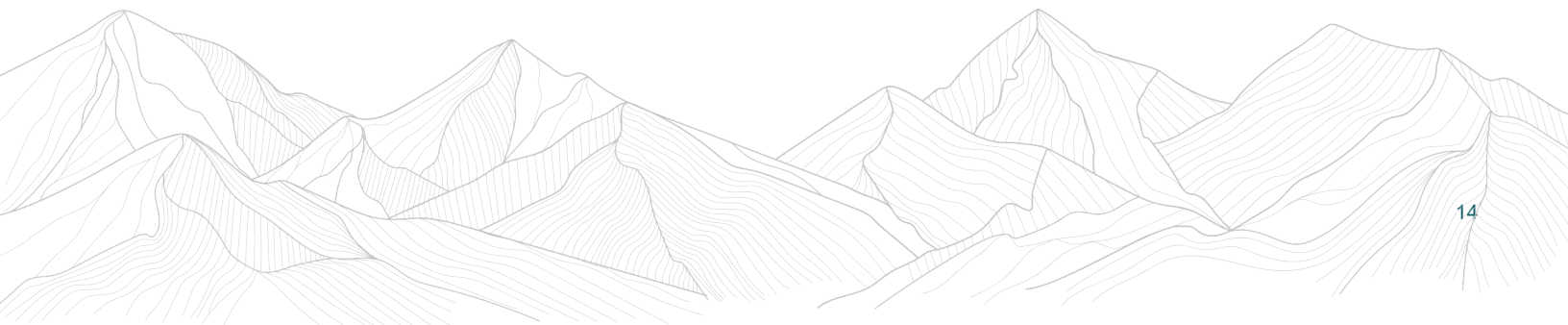
1. Convene the proposed CEDRs and statewide resource networks through collaboration with stakeholders and partners in economic development at all levels in New Hampshire.
2. Publish New Hampshire's economic development dashboard to enable all stakeholders and partners to monitor progress toward COVID-19 recovery and implementation of this strategic plan.
3. Establish and publicize programs focused on education and training pathways to build workforce capacity in high-priority sectors identified by stakeholders and in this strategic plan.
4. Survey stakeholders and partners every six months to measure effectiveness of collaboration, identify areas of improvement, and to keep New Hampshire on track to fulfill this strategic plan.
5. Hold annual economic development conferences, open to all stakeholders and partners, to continue focus on New Hampshire's long-term economic development priorities through collaboration and reporting progress.

Progress:

Four CEDRs were established (Seacoast, Northern, Central-Southern and South-Western), which received grant funding to provide technical or administrative assistance to regional partners or to engage in specific projects. The result was the creation of tools and resources now available to stakeholders and businesses throughout the state, as well as a solidification of the initiative that continues.

Although a dashboard has yet to be implemented, ERES serves as a guidepost for agency activity and reports such as this help publicly measure progress.

Working through BEA's Office of Workforce Opportunity, and in partnership with agencies such as the Department of Employment Security, ongoing programs for education and training pathways are publicized. Additional efforts are underway through partners in the community, such as the Career Pathways program orchestrated by the Hampton Chamber of Commerce, and such resources will be featured on the business service portal the agency is developing.



Through its outreach, biweekly calls, in-person engagement, and CEDR network development, BEA receives feedback, questions, and concerns from stakeholders and partners in real time.

BEA hosted its second annual NH EconForum in November 2024, and like its first event, it brought nearly 200 partners and stakeholders together for discussion and collaboration. BEA plans to continue these economic development conferences annually, adapting it to focus on the needs and initiatives each year.

The agency continues to develop a centralized business services portal and expects significant progress to be made within the next year.

Additional Next Steps for 2024 and Beyond:

1. Update ERES to reflect expanded objectives.
2. Expand the role and importance of the CEDR networks.
3. Make measurable progress on development of a business services portal.
4. Make measurable progress on newly created programs such as Housing Champions and establishment of councils and committees, such as the New Hampshire-Ireland Trade Council.

