

CCI GRANT STATEMENT

2/2/2025

We have received positive feedback from the community about our recent award of \$727,456 from the Northern Border Regional Commission. Many are eager to learn more!

The thrust of the grant application was geared toward the benefits of a community resource. “This project will repurpose and renovate a newly donated building into a community resource hub, available to the general public and equipped with the tools to support economic development.” (NBCR Application Summary)

As Merilynn Bourne mentioned to the Eagle Times (<https://eagletimes.com/2025/01/29/cornish-community-initiative-receives-grant-to-be-used-for-new-library-community-center/>), “The community space would be a resource for local home businesses, and we have a number of those in town. Those people who are interested in growing their business outside of their home could meet with folks from MakerSpace or Work Ready NH. It is all programming. People can come and take advantage of the programs being offered.”

This project, a newly renovated, comfortable, ADA accessible building, becomes the catalyst to create new opportunities in our community by including “organizing and building workforce development opportunities such as: partnerships with SCORE, MakerSpace, Sullivan County Conservation District, River Valley Community College (Work Ready NH), and showcase local entrepreneurs and artists, programs for community health that promote community connectedness, and teen after-school gathering space for 12-17 year olds to alleviate childcare gaps.” (NBCR Application Summary)

The NBCR announced the award on January 23rd, which is a total award of \$909,320 with a 80/20 split percentage-wise with the grant funds totaling \$727,456 to fund the construction. “A \$727,456 grant does not come to Cornish often,” said Susan Chandler of the Cornish Initiative Fundraising Committee. “Once this building is completely renovated and outfitted as a library and community center, CCI is going to turn it over to the town. So, in effect, the money that is coming to the initiative is coming to the whole town of Cornish, and we’re very excited about that.” Eagle Times (<https://eagletimes.com/2025/01/29/cornish-community-initiative-receives-grant-to-be-used-for-new-library-community-center/>)

We understand that many may have questions. We have posted a Q&A feature on our website for direct engagement. We look forward to continued dialogue and collaboration!

Please visit our website for more information: <https://cornishci.org/>