

Community Facilities & Rural Business Development Grants

Conversion of Historic Building Houses and Helps Feed Rural Residents in Lancaster, NH

\$30,000

USDA Rural Business Development Grant

\$37,490

USDA Community Facilities Grants

\$3,000,000

Parker J. Noyes building project cost

80+

Contractors employed for Noyes building rehab

100+

Producers supported by Root Seller Marketplace

3,507

People positively impacted

History in the Re-Making

In 2017, the Northeast Heritage Economy Program (NHEP) recognized the 11,000 sq. ft. Parker J. Noyes Building at the north end of Main Street as an historic property that needed help. Funded by the Northern Border Regional Commission, NHEP aims to invigorate both forest and regional economies by funding smart preservation projects using area contractors and local materials. The namesake of the Lancaster pharmacist who invented the sugar-coated pill, the Noyes building was in disrepair but had potential to revitalize downtown Lancaster with new housing and businesses.

Friends Flock to the Cause

Northern Forest Center (NFC) purchased the Noyes building in '18, and reached out to stakeholders to help fund the renovation into 6 new apartments and business space below. They came in full force, from non-profits and philanthropic groups to state and federal bodies, including USDA Rural Development (RD): Community Facilities and Rural Business Development Grants helped buy coolers and freezers for the 1st-floor tenant, Taproot Farm and Environmental Education Center (TFEEC).

Gleaning the Benefits of Economic Development

More than 80 contractors participated in the transformation of the Noyes building into a mixed-use model of community revitalization, and more than 100 area producers will reap the rewards of TFEEC's activities and agricultural network. The org's mission aligns with one of RD's Covid-19 focus areas: improving local food access. And apart from feeding the community, TFEEC's Root Seller Marketplace encourages farm workforce development through its gleaning program, and others.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the USDA RD [RBDG](#) and [CF fact sheets](#)



Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center will operate out of the newly rehabbed Parker J. Noyes building in Lancaster, NH, courtesy of Northern Forest Center, Northern Border Regional Commission, USDA RD and other partners

