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## Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

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# Before You Apply for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funds

Funding

Eligibility

Capability- and Capacity-Building Activities

Technical Assistance & Resources

Cost Share & Pre-Award Costs

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funds may be used for:

- Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) Activities
- Mitigation Projects
- Management Costs

Existing project types detailed in the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#) for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program are still eligible under BRIC. Projects must:

- Be cost-effective
- Reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards
- Meet either of the two latest International Building Codes (i.e. 2015 or 2018)
- Align with the applicable hazard mitigation plan
- Meet all environmental and historic preservation (EHP) requirements



A sampling of eligible project types is profiled in the [BRIC Mitigation Action Portfolio \(MAP\)](#) and serve as case studies in innovative mitigation at a variety of project scales.

## Funding

For FY20, FEMA will distribute up to \$500 million through the BRIC program in the following manner.

### State/Territory Allocation

\$33.6 million (up to \$600,000 per Applicant). All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories may apply under the State/Territory Allocation.

### Tribal Set-Aside

\$20 million. All Tribal governments (federally recognized) may apply under the Tribal Set-Aside.

### National Competition for Mitigation Projects

\$446.4 million (estimated). Remaining funds that are not awarded from the State/Territory Allocation or Tribal Set-Aside will be included in the national competition.

## Eligibility

Eligible states, territories, and Tribal governments (federally recognized) can submit applications on behalf of subapplicants for BRIC funding via [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(GO\)](#), the new grants management system to support FEMA grant programs.

Homeowners, business operators, and non-profit organizations cannot apply directly to

FEMA, but can be included in a subapplication submitted by an eligible subapplicant. For more information please contact your local government or state to apply for BRIC funding.

## Who is eligible for BRIC funding?

**Applicants:**

- ✓ All 50 States
- ✓ U.S. territories
- ✓ Federally recognized Tribal Governments
- ✓ District of Columbia

Alaska

Hawaii

American Samoa

Guam

Northern Marianas

Puerto Rico

U.S. Virgin Islands

District of Columbia

Federally recognized Tribal Gov'ts.

**Subapplicants:**

- ✓ Local Governments
- ✓ Tribal Governments
- ✓ State Agencies
- ✓ Tribal Agencies

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while targeting specific mitigation projects beneficial to their communities.

Entities interested in creating BRIC **subapplications** may contact town/city/county managers, planning, and/or emergency management offices within local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments. For local governments, please contact your [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) to learn about the applicant's priorities, deadlines, and additional requirements.

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants may include states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Tribal governments (federally recognized). Federally recognized tribal governments are those under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994.
- Each state, the District of Columbia, territory, and Tribal government (federally

recognized) shall designate one agency to serve as the Applicant for BRIC funding. Each Applicant's designated agency may submit only one BRIC grant application to FEMA. An application can be made up of an unlimited number of subapplications.

- Applicants must have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds.
- **State or territory:** Must have received a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the 7 years prior to the annual grant application period start date. Currently, all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Tribal governments (federally recognized) meet this requirement.
- **Tribal government (federally recognized):** Must have received a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the 7 years prior to the annual grant application period start date or be entirely or partially located in a state that received a major disaster declaration in the 7 years prior to the annual grant application period start date. Currently, all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Tribal governments (federally recognized) meet this requirement.

## SUBAPPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and Tribal governments (including federally recognized tribes who choose to apply as subapplicants) are considered subapplicants and must submit subapplications to their state/territory/tribal applicant agency.
- Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects and C&CB activities (with the exception of mitigation planning).
- Tribal governments (federally recognized) and non-federally recognized tribes can choose to apply as a subapplicant to an eligible state or territory.
- If a tribe requests to apply through the state, the state must have received a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the 7 years prior to the annual grant application period start date.

## Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) Activities

Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) activities enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. This includes activities in the following sub-categories:

- Building codes activities
- Partnerships
- Project scoping
- Mitigation planning and planning-related activities
- And other activities

## FY 2020 Funding for Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB)

C&CB activities can only be submitted under the State/Territory Allocation and Tribal Set-Aside.

The **State/Territory Allocation** includes \$33.6 million (up to \$600,000 per Applicant) for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

The **Tribal Set-Aside** includes \$20 million under which all Tribal governments (federally recognized) may apply. Each tribal applicant may apply for up to \$600,000 for C&CB activities under the Tribal Set-Aside.

### C&CB Subcategories

Building codes activities are a sub-category of C&CB activities, and applicants can apply their entire \$600,000 allocation for C&CB activities to building code activities under the State/Territory Allocation and Tribal Set-Aside.

Project scoping (previously known as Advanced Assistance) is a sub-category of C&CB activities, and applicants can apply their entire \$600,000 allocation for C&CB activities to project scoping under the State/Territory Allocation and Tribal Set-Aside.

Mitigation planning activities are a sub-category of C&CB activities and can be submitted under the State/Territory Allocation and Tribal Set-Aside. Under the allocation, only up to \$300,000 may be used for mitigation planning and planning-related activities. The Tribal Set-Aside includes \$20 million under which all Tribal governments (federally recognized) may apply. Under the Tribal Set-Aside, up to \$300,000 of the C&CB activities cap (federal share) may be used for mitigation planning and planning-related activities per Applicant.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

FEMA offers technical assistance resources to communities including:

- Videos on [FEMA's YouTube channel](#)
- [BRIC Mitigation Planning Activities](#)
- [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance](#)
- [BRIC Building Code Activities](#)
- [BRIC Partnership Activities](#)
- [BRIC Project Scoping Activities](#)

Visit the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) page](#) for more program information.



Contact us by calling the HMA Helpline at 1-866-222-3580, or finding your [State Hazard Mitigation Officer \(SHMO\)](#).

## Cost Share Requirements and Pre-Award Costs

A non-federal cost share is required for all subapplications funded under BRIC and may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. The cost share for BRIC is as follows:

- Generally, the cost share is 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal.
- Small impoverished communities are eligible for an increase in cost share up to 90 percent federal/10 percent non-federal.
- For insular areas, including American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, FEMA automatically waives the non-federal cost share for the Recipient when the non-federal cost share for the entire Award is under \$200,000. The Applicant may request the waiver in its Application.

Applicant may request the waiver in its Application.

- One exception to the cost share requirement is FEMA will provide 100 percent federal funding for Applicant and subapplicant management costs.

## Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs are directly related to developing the BRIC grant application or subapplication. Applicants and subapplicants who are not granted awards or subawards will not receive reimbursement for the corresponding pre-award costs.

Pre-award costs are incurred prior to the date of the grant award. There is no start date for when they can be incurred. They can be incurred any time prior to award.

Examples of pre-award costs include gathering National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) data, developing a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), preparing design specifications, or conducting workshops related to development and submission of subapplications. Costs associated with implementation of proposed projects in the submitted grant application or subapplication that are incurred prior to the date of the grant award are not allowed. Activities initiated or completed prior to the date of the grant award are generally not eligible.

To be eligible for BRIC funding, pre-award costs must be identified and labeled pre-award as an individual line item in the cost estimate of the subapplication.

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# Resource List for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program

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These Program Support Materials provide important information on various activities under the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program to support building codes, partnerships, project scoping, mitigation planning, direct technical assistance, competition criteria and more. The materials listed below can be found under [Additional Resources](#) on the [BRIC webpage](#) on FEMA.gov.

## Program Support Materials:

### [Mitigation Action Portfolio](#)

This portfolio has been created to introduce stakeholders to the BRIC program and the array of eligible hazard mitigation activities that can benefit stakeholders.

### [BRIC Building Code Activities](#)

The adoption and enforcement of building codes is an important mitigation activity that provides significant resilience benefits. This program support material provides applicants and subapplicants of the BRIC program with information relative to eligible building code-related activities under the state or territory allocation and tribal set-aside.

### [BRIC Partnership Activities](#)

FEMA promotes partnerships and provides financial assistance as an eligible capability- and capacity-building activity. This program support material provides information about partnership activities eligible under the state or territory allocation and tribal set-aside of the BRIC program.

### [BRIC Project Scoping Activities](#)

Project scoping is the successor to Advance Assistance and designed to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner. Project scoping may result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for BRIC or another funding opportunity.



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## **BRIC Mitigation Planning Activities**

Under BRIC, mitigation planning activities should result in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan or contribute new information to an existing hazard mitigation plan. This program support information provides applicants and subapplicants eligible mitigation planning activities under the state or territory allocation and tribal set-aside. Subapplicants are required to have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects and capability-and capacity-building activities, with the exception of mitigation planning.

## **BRIC Direct Technical Assistance**

FEMA will provide non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to up to 10 selected communities to support the mitigation outcomes outlined and referenced in the BRIC NOFO. This includes providing technical assistance to communities to build a community's capacity and capability to improve its resiliency to natural hazards and to ensure stakeholders are capable of building and sustaining successful mitigation programs, submitting high-quality applications, and implementing new and innovative projects that reduce risk from a wide range of natural hazards.

## **BRIC Technical Criteria**

FEMA uses technical evaluation criteria to score subapplications submitted to the national competition. This program support material provides detailed information about the eight technical evaluation criteria that will be used in the BRIC national competition and explains how to meet the criteria.

## **BRIC Qualitative Criteria**

FEMA will convene a national review panel to score subapplications submitted for consideration under the national competition based on a qualitative review. The program support material is intended to increase transparency in decision-making and discusses the six scoring criteria. Additionally, application instructions are included for each respective criterion to guide information submission in FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO).

## **Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Cost Share Guidance**

This guidance is a tool for applicants, subapplicants and FEMA to assist with understanding match requirements for FEMA's HMA grants. The guide encourages early coordination for cost share strategies and provides helpful examples for various approaches such as donated resources for the non-Federal cost share.

## **Additional Resources**

General questions about the BRIC program can be directed to the appropriate State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), which can be found on the [SHMO webpage](#) on FEMA.gov, or you can contact the FEMA Regional Office, which can be found on the [FEMA Regional Office webpage](#) also on FEMA.gov.

### **FEMA GO Helplines:**

[femago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-877-611-4700

### **Environmental and Historic Preservation:**

[EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-866-222-3580

### **BCA Helplines:**

[BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-855-540-6744

### **HMA Helplines:**

1-866-222-3580

### **Feasibility and Effectiveness Helpline:**

[FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov)

[BRIC webpage](#) and [NOFO webpage](#) on FEMA.gov (FY20 BRIC Fact Sheet and NOFO)