

FEMA'S BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITIES

Opportunities to achieve coastal resilience with BRIC



Why use BRIC?

FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

is a grant program that can be used to achieve hazard mitigation measures during “blue skies” that is not dependent on disasters striking your area . BRIC is intended to fund large, creative, and innovative mitigation projects by providing flexibility that is not possible through other grant programs.

What does BRIC do?

BRIC is a pre-disaster program that began in FY20, replacing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. BRIC focuses on supporting capability- and capacity-building, encouraging and facilitating innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.

BRIC incentivizes projects that focus on mitigating risk to community lifelines and public infrastructure projects. It also incentivizes projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, projects protecting small and impoverished communities, and the adoption and enforcement of modern building codes.

Who can apply for BRIC?

Eligible applicants include any state, tribe, or territory that has had a major presidentially declared disaster declaration in the seven years prior to the application period start date. Tribes entirely or partially within a state that has had a major disaster declaration in the last seven years are also eligible.

The FEMA applicant is typically the State Emergency Management Agency (EMA), coordinated by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). Other state agencies may act as sub-applicants.

Sub-applicants also include local governments and non-federally recognized tribes. Sub-applicants may apply to state or territory Emergency Management Office/SHMO for funding under BRIC.

Sub-applicants must coordinate with their SHMO often and their state EMA for internal state deadlines which are often much earlier than the deadlines set by FEMA. States review applications and develop a priority order for applications in the state allocation project pool and the national mitigation project competition pool.

COASTAL RESILIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

- 01.** BRIC provides coastal states, tribes, and communities an opportunity to fund large and innovative mitigation projects regardless of disaster impact.
- 02.** BRIC also allows for funding of smaller capability- and capacity-building efforts and mitigation planning efforts through the state allocation to create more competitive mitigation project applications in the future.
- 03.** The yearly funding cycle provides a more reliable and predictable source of funds for mitigation grant funding compared to other disaster dependent programs.
- 04.** BRIC has an emphasis on the incorporation of nature-based solutions in mitigation projects. To help facilitate this focus, FEMA updated the [policy for the Benefit Cost Analysis \(BCA\) Tool to allow Ecosystem Services Benefits](#) to be utilized from the start of the BCA. Projects that incorporate natural features into their project design will also be rewarded in the competitive mitigation project selection.
- 05.** BRIC also provides an increased federal share for small and impoverished communities, with a 90% federal share provided and only 10% match required.

IN FY20
\$500M
AVAILABLE
FOR BRIC GRANTS

BEST PRACTICES FOR ACCESSING BRIC FUNDS

01. It is important to know that the deadline for applications set by FEMA within the Notice of Funding Opportunity does not always reflect those that are required by sub-applicants like local communities or Coastal Management Programs and other state agencies. The Emergency Management Agency in your state typically acts as the applicant to FEMA and can impose shorter deadlines to get all sub-applicant submissions compiled before FEMA's national deadline. Forming a relationship with your SHMO can provide you the opportunity to receive notification of internal state deadlines for BRIC applications.

02. For mitigation projects under consideration for the national competition, maximizing points in the seven categories for [Technical Criteria](#) such as incorporating nature based solutions, small and impoverished community status, building code adoption, or infrastructure mitigation will give you the best chance of passing the first round of screening. These categories are either awarded full point values or zero points for each category.

03. Scores will also be given to mitigation projects in the second round of review based on their ability to reduce risk, incorporate and consider of future conditions, leverage partnerships, and incorporate outreach initiatives into the application and project development. [The Qualitative Criteria](#) for BRIC will be used to rank mitigation projects that have previously met The Technical Criteria and will be used to determine final project selection in the national competition.



Coastal States Organization
Washington, DC 20001
www.coastalstates.org

Where can BRIC fund projects?

Any community, state, territory, or tribe that has had a major presidentially declared disaster declaration within their state or territory in seven years prior to the application start date. Due to COVID-19 declarations all states and territories will be eligible until FY27.

When are BRIC funds available?

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available annually, typically in July or August, with a four month application period typically starting in September. State Emergency Management Agencies usually act as the applicant for the state and often impose shorter timelines on sub-applicants (communities or other state agencies). Letters of intent, pre-proposals and proposals are often requested by State Hazard Mitigation Officers before applications are formally submitted to FEMA. Contact your SHMO for more details on state specific application deadlines.

How do I access BRIC funds?

NOFO information can be found [here](#). Each state will designate one agency to compile all projects within their state or territory and act as the applicant. All other sub-applicants (communities, tribes and other state agencies) will submit applications to the designated applicant. To coordinate a project proposal as a sub-applicant please [contact your SHMO](#).

Cost Share: FEMA will provide 75% of the funding while the sub-applicant must cover the other 25%. The other 25% can be any match of non-federal funds including cash, other non-federal grants, in-kind donations like community volunteer hours, or donated materials or services. More information can be found [here](#).

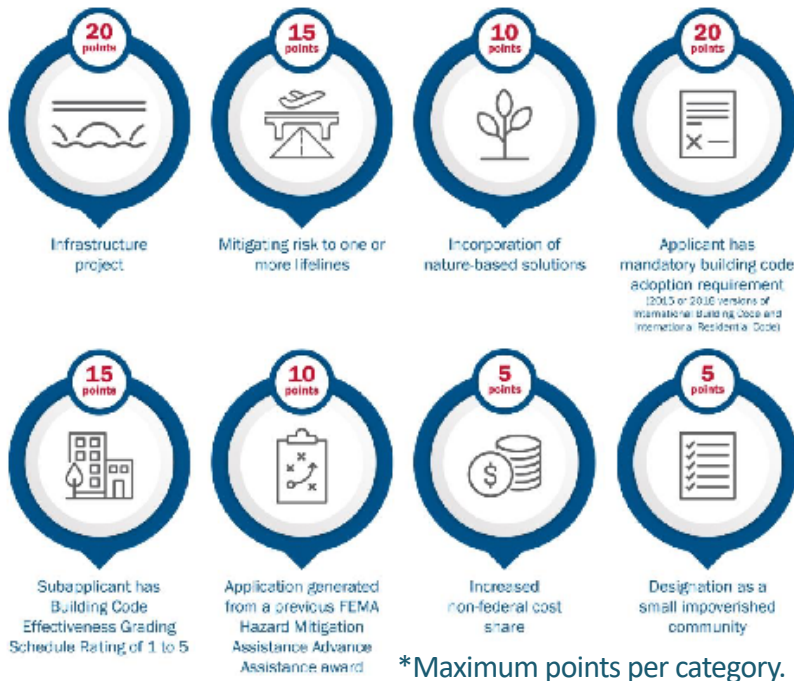
For small and impoverished communities, the cost share match portion is lowered to 10% match required by the sub-applicant and 90% provided by FEMA. Insular areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and US Virgin Islands) can receive a waiver for the non-federal cost share for awards where the entire award is smaller than \$200,000, and may request a waiver for the elimination or reduction of the non-federal cost share for projects which the entire award is greater than \$200,000 for projects that are difficult to evaluate using the typical FEMA approved cost-effectiveness methodologies, but otherwise meet HMGP requirements. For more information view [Hazard Mitigation Assistance's Cost Share Guide](#).

BRIC Resources

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|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| BRIC Technical Criteria | Mitigation Planning Activities |
| BRIC Qualitative Criteria | BRIC Nature Based Solutions Guide |
| Building Codes Activities | Non-Financial Direct Technical Assistance |
| Partnership Activities | Mitigation Action Portfolio |
| Project Scoping | Hazard Mitigation Assistance Cost Share Guide |
| BRIC Webinars | Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance (2015) |

BRIC RESOURCES

TECHNICAL CRITERIA



[Click here for more information on the BRIC Technical Criteria.](#)



QUALITATIVE CRITERIA



[Click here for more information on the BRIC Qualitative Criteria.](#)

*Maximum points per category.

BRIC PROJECT TYPES AND FUNDING CAPS

Mitigation Projects through the national competition: Competitively awarded financial assistance to implement cost-effective mitigation projects. Individual project cap \$50 million, total allocation \$500 million.

Capability- and Capacity- Building (C&CB) and Planning through state allocations: FEMA may provide financial assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills and expertise of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. Categories include: building codes activities, partnership activities, project scoping, mitigation planning and planning-related activities, and other activities. Individual applicant cap: \$600,000. State Allocation \$600,000.

Non-Financial Direct Technical Assistance: FEMA will provide non-financial direct technical assistance to help communities sustain or improve successful mitigation programs, submit high-quality mitigation applications, and implement new and innovative projects to reduce risk from natural hazards. In FY20 one community from each region will be chosen and non-financial support can be given for up to three years.

Management Costs: FEMA may provide financial assistance to reimburse eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses up to 15% of total award amount (10% recipient, 5% sub-recipient).