

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

In recent years, the U.S. has experienced an increase in extreme hazards – from hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, tornadoes and other catastrophic events – drastically affecting families, communities, businesses and our economy.

As a result, governments have taken a much more proactive stance to reduce risks associated with hazards through various mitigation tactics and programs.

WHAT IS BRIC?

Now in its second year, FEMA's **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)** program has increased the annual allocation to further improve resiliency in communities. The program is designed to:



Set Clear Priorities

- Lifelines and infrastructure
- Building codes
- Shared responsibilities and partnerships
- Innovative projects
- Adoption and enforcement of building codes
- Nature-based solutions



Build Capacity

- Innovative projects
- Capability and capacity-building activities
- In-person non-financial technical assistance
- The Mitigation Action Portfolio-selection of case studies



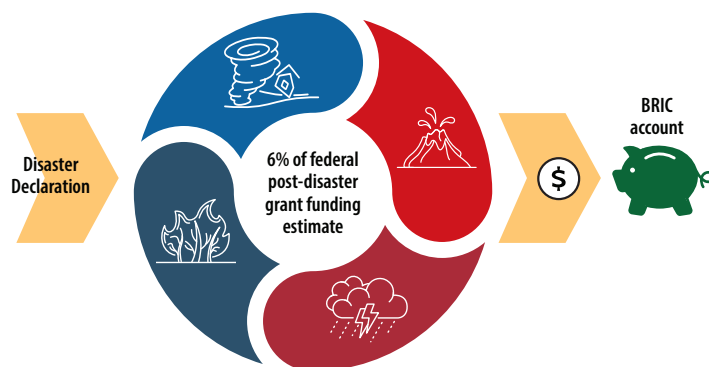
Increase Flexibility

- Reduces limitations
- Increases caps
- Allows pre-award costs



Streamline Processes

- New application process through FEMA GO
- Project extensions
- Phased projects



BRIC FUNDING

The BRIC program is funded by a **6% set-aside from post-disaster grant expenditures**.

FEMA anticipates the BRIC application period will begin on September 30, 2021, with eligible applicants applying for funding by **January 29, 2022**.^{*} It is important to know that applications received after that date will not be considered for funding.

PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS

In fiscal year 2021, FEMA is anticipated to distribute a record \$1 billion in BRIC grants to states, local communities, tribes and territories (SLTTs) for hazard mitigation projects that:

- Reduce risk to one or more lifelines
- Incorporate nature-based solutions
- Enforce modern building codes
- Assist with public infrastructure projects

States and territories who have received a major disaster declaration within the last seven years are eligible to apply for BRIC funding. Eligible BRIC applicants will receive financial assistance for the following activities:

- Technical assistance
- Capability and capacity building (C&CB)
- Mitigation projects
- Management costs

^{*}The 2021-22 allocation and NOFA has not yet been released but is anticipated to have similar application periods, criteria for application submittal, priorities and selection criteria as 2020-21.



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Lifeline-focused mitigation projects may involve a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations.



Safety and Security



Food, Water, Shelter



Health and Medical



Energy (Power & Fuel)



Communications



Transportation



Hazardous Waste

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY ALLOWANCES UNDER BRIC

Existing pre-disaster mitigation activities are still eligible, however, BRIC expands eligibility to include the following:

- Project scoping
- Building code projects
- Additional activities for wildfire and wind implementation (DRRA Section 1205)
- Earthquake early warning (DRRA Section 1233)
- Incorporation of nature-based solutions

COST SHARE

Generally, the cost share for BRIC is 75% federal / 25% non-federal. However, small or impoverished communities are eligible for an increased cost share up to 90% federal / 10% non-federal.

The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof.

FEMA encourages innovative use of public/private partnerships to meet the non-federal cost share.

MANAGEMENT COSTS

Management costs are any indirect costs, any direct administrative costs and any other administrative expenses that are reasonably incurred for administering a BRIC award or sub-award.

Applicants may apply for management costs up to 10% of the total BRIC grant application. Sub-applicants may include management costs up to 5% of their total C&CB activity or mitigation project sub-application. **Management costs are covered 100% by federal funds and can be used for hiring outside assistance to implement.**

ELEMENTS OF GOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

- Risk reduction
- Grant implementation approach
- Innovation in project planning and implementation
- Populations impacted
- Partnerships and outreach
- Incorporation of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions
- Future conditions infrastructure and community lifelines

How We Can Help

The Tidal Basin mitigation team is at the cutting edge of issues related to BRIC funding with in-depth, applied knowledge of all pre-disaster mitigation policies, regulations, and eligibility criteria. Our team is passionate about helping our clients build more resilient communities. Let us help you with the following:

- Hazard mitigation planning
- Identification of eligible projects
- Completion of BRIC applications
- Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)
- Grant and program management
- Project implementation
- Project closeout



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