Introduction to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

July 1, 2020

Photo of Memphis, Tennessee
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BRIC Program Overview

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Agenda

• BRIC Program Overview
  • BRIC Legislation
  • BRIC Guiding Principles
  • Draft BRIC Policy
  • Draft BRIC Policy Key Elements
  • BRIC Rollout Timeline
  • BRIC Funding

• How is BRIC Different than PDM

• What Makes a Project Eligible?

• Elements of Good Mitigation Projects
  • Building Codes, Lifelines
  • Infrastructure Project Examples
  • Project Scoping, BCA, Technical Assistance

• Stakeholder Feedback and Engagement

• Resources

Photo of Miami, Florida
• Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1234, which amends Section 203 of the Stafford Act

• Funded by a 6% set-aside from federal post-disaster grant funding

• Eligible applicants – states and territories with major disaster declarations in past seven years

• Will replace FEMA’s existing pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) program
BRIC’s Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

- Support Community Capability & Capacity Building
- Encourage and Enable Innovation
- Promote Partnerships
- Enable Large Infrastructure Projects
- Maintain Flexibility
- Provide Consistency

Supports FEMA’s Strategic Plan

1. Build a Culture of Preparedness
2. Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters
3. Reduce the Complexity of FEMA
Draft Proposed BRIC Policy

• Informed by stakeholder feedback


• Reviewing stakeholder comments
Draft Proposed BRIC Policy Key Elements

Available Funding Mechanisms
- State and Territory Allocation
- Tribal Set-Aside
- Project Competition

Uses of Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Capability and Capacity Building
- Mitigation Projects
- Management Costs

Pre-Award Costs
- Project development costs can be incurred before the opening of the application period
- Project implementation costs can only be incurred after project award
- Only awarded if eligible and the project is awarded

Project implementation costs can only be incurred after project award

Only awarded if eligible and the project is awarded
* Timing is estimated as of June 2020 and subject to change.
BRIC Funding

6% of federal post-disaster grant funding estimate
How is BRIC Different Than PDM?

**Sets Clear Priorities**
- Lifelines & infrastructure projects
- Building codes
- Shared responsibility & partnerships
- Innovative projects

**Builds Capability**
- Capability & capacity-building activities
- In-person non-financial technical assistance
- The Mitigation Action Portfolio – selection of case studies

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

**Streamlines Processes**
- New application process through FEMA GO
- Project extensions
- Phased projects
What Makes a Project Eligible?

Existing Activities are Still Eligible

Projects Must:
- Be cost-effective
- Reduce/eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards
- Meet latest two consensus codes (i.e. 2015 or 2018 international building code)
- Align with Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Meet all environmental and historic preservation requirements

Expanded Eligibility includes:

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

NOTE: FEMA P-2055, Post-disaster Building Safety Evaluation Guidance
Elements of Good Mitigation Projects

- Risk Reduction
- Grant Implementation Approach
- Innovation in Project Planning and Implementation
- Populations Impacted
- Partnerships and Outreach
- Future Conditions
- Infrastructure and Community Lifelines
• DRRA provides legislative mandate to support broader adoption of updated building codes
• Projects must conform with latest published codes (either of two most recently published editions)
• BRIC will fund building code activity

Community Lifelines

Lifelines are services communities use. The goals and objectives of FEMA’s Strategic Plan promote using mitigation to reduce risk to lifelines before a disaster and to quickly stabilize a community after disaster by preventing cascading impacts. BRIC mitigation grants can go toward projects which help improve these systems.

Lifeline-focused mitigation projects could involve a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations.
Example Infrastructure Projects

Nature-Based Infrastructure
Underground Resiliency Park, Hoboken, NJ
Nature-Based Flood Protection
Resilient St. Vrain, Longmont, CO
Example Infrastructure Projects

Microgrid Installation
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe
Microgrid, Humboldt Co., CA
Example Infrastructure Projects

Hurricane Retrofits for Critical Infrastructure

Nicklaus Children’s Hospital, Miami, FL
What Is Project Scoping?
- Provides states, federally-recognized tribes, and territories with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete mitigation project applications
- Project Scoping can help states and communities prepare projects for the full launch of BRIC in FY20 and beyond, including years with larger funding available.

What Activities Are Eligible For Project Scoping?
- Engineering design and feasibility studies for larger or complex projects
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) studies
- Obtain staff or resources to develop cost-share strategy and identify potential match funding
- Evaluate facilities or areas to determine appropriate mitigation actions
- Incorporate environmental considerations early into program decisions
- Collect data for benefit cost analyses, environmental compliance and other program requirements
- Evaluation of potential solutions (i.e., alternative analysis)
- Project scoping across a wide variety of programs to incorporate sustainability, resilience and renewable building concepts
Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)

- FEMA has a statutory requirement to fund “cost-effective” hazard mitigation projects – to assess the cost-effectiveness of a project, FEMA requires a BCA.
- A BCA quantifies the benefits of a project and compares them to its cost, resulting in a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR).
- FEMA has released “pre-calculated benefits” for some project types.

FEMA’s BCA Toolkit, pre-calculated benefits, and other resources may be found at [www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis](http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis)
We heard that communities need technical assistance, application advice and have other information needs. FEMA is offering tools and resources for stakeholders such as:

- **Mitigation Action Portfolio** – A guidebook with project examples and best practices
- **Non-financial technical assistance** with select communities to help build local capability and capacity
Partnerships

Guiding Principles:

- Support Community
- Capability & Capacity Building
- Promote Partnerships

Partnering with other federal agencies and state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations amplifies mitigation investment and its effects.
Other Supporting Funding Sources

- FEMA
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
  - Flood Mitigation Assistance
  - Public Assistance 406 Mitigation

- State Agencies

- Other Federal Agencies (NOAA, USACE, HUD, DOE, DOT etc.)
Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholder feedback was vital to inform the BRIC policy and program design.

FEMA gathered feedback from:
- Federal, State, Tribal and Territorial Stakeholders
- Partners
- Members of the General Public

The Stakeholder Feedback Summary is available online at fema.gov/bric

In-person engagements

Virtual forums

Emails and letters

Formal comments
### Stakeholder Feedback: Top Themes and Subtopics

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BRIC Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Purpose and Goals

- Educate stakeholders on all aspects of the BRIC policy and program
- Increase awareness and understanding of key BRIC program components
- **BRIC Engagement Sessions** – all about the BRIC program (July 2020)
  - July 8: The Meaning of the BRIC Name
  - July 15: BRIC and Building Codes
  - July 22: BRIC and Community Lifelines
  - July 29: BRIC and Nature-based Solutions
- **BRIC NOFO Webinars** – will occur after NOFO is released (August - September 2020)
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

FEMA Resources

Sign up for BRIC and HMA Updates:
https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance

Other Resources:

- Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit:
  https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222

- Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA):
  www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis

- Hazard Mitigation Planning:
  https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning

- ISO Mitigation – Building Codes
  https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/

https://www.fema.gov/bric
Thank you!

fema.gov/bric