

Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

FEMA provides federal funds for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program to state, local, tribal and territorial governments for hazard mitigation activities, including capacity and capability activity types and hazard mitigation projects. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, FEMA will distribute up to \$2.295 billion for the BRIC program.

The Fiscal Year 2022 BRIC program's priorities are to:

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, as referenced in [Executive Order 14008](#) - Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
- Incorporate nature-based solutions, including those designed to reduce carbon emissions
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes
- Encourages hazard mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities

Each year, FEMA publishes a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for the BRIC program. The FY 2022 BRIC funding opportunity can be accessed at www.Grants.gov. Before applying, please review the funding opportunity. It provides detailed program information and the requirements for grant application and administration.

Changes for the Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Cycle

FEMA made the following changes to the Fiscal Year 2022 funding opportunity to improve equity and reduce complexity:

- **Increased total available funding**, more than doubling BRIC levels from \$1 billion in FY 2021 to \$2.295 billion in FY 2022. This increase was boosted by the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#). The IIJA appropriates billions of dollars to FEMA to promote resilient infrastructure, respond to the impacts of climate change, and equip our nation with the resources to combat its most pressing threats. Within that total, the [FY 2022 funding opportunity](#) also:



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- Raised the State/Territory Allocation subtotal from \$1 million to \$2 million, which includes an increase to hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities to \$1 million per applicant.
- Increased the Tribal Set-Aside from \$25 million to \$50 million. Raised the combined cost of an applicant's Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) activities to \$2 million.
- **Removed the subapplicant hazard mitigation plan requirement for certain Capability- and Capacity Building Activities:** (1) hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, (2) partnerships, and (3) building code activities. (Note: applicants are still required to have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award. Hazard mitigation planning subapplications submitted by applicants are exempt from this mitigation plan requirement).
- **Allowed entities working in collaboration with an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (EDRC) to build and submit a subapplication on their behalf** and include an authorization letter with the subapplication permitting them to do so and receive the 90% federal cost share increased funding. This change was introduced to increase equitable access to our program.
- **FEMA may assist EDRCs, federal recognized tribal governments, or disadvantaged communities** (CDC SVI score greater than .80) **with developing a Benefit-Cost Analysis** for mitigation projects after submission of the project, as the Benefit-Cost Analysis requirement has been removed as a condition to apply for a grant.
- **Allowed activities that enable greater community resilience through cybersecurity as eligible costs** when those activities are performed in accordance with the cybersecurity performance goals for critical infrastructure and control systems directed by the National Security Presidential Memorandum on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems, found at: [Control Systems Goals and Objectives](#). FEMA recognizes that building a resilient nation requires addressing all hazards. Therefore, we are making cybersecurity upgrades to projects funded through our programs an eligible expense
- **Required a new identifier known as a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** for subapplicants. The Data Universal Numbering System or DUNS number will no longer be used. Communities should apply for, update, or verify their UEI number from [Sam.gov](#).
- **Added new reporting requirements** to comply with the [Build America, Buy America Act](#), which invests in our nation's resilience by ensuring federal funding be spent on American made goods. It also invests in creating jobs to help build our economy back better. Further guidance on this topic and its requirements will be available soon.
- **Changed the following Technical Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Removed mitigating risk from community lifelines criterion.
 - Expanded the EDRC criterion to incorporate communities with a [CDC Socially Vulnerable Index](#) of 0.6 or higher and federally recognized tribal governments and increased points allotted to this criterion.

- Expanded the qualifying awards included in the application generated from a previous qualifying award criterion to any federal award.
- **Changed the following Qualitative Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Expanded the Outreach Activities criterion to emphasize community engagement.
 - Expanded the Implementation Measures criterion to projects that demonstrate the ability and commitment to ensure strong labor standards to ensure high quality work, avert disruptive and cost delays, and promote efficiency. Under the partnerships criteria, partnerships may include innovative workforce development programs that ensure these programs are part of creating better jobs in the communities served.

Available Funding for Fiscal Year 2022

FEMA will distribute up to \$2.295 billion through the BRIC grant program in the following manner:

Total Available BRIC Funding \$2.295 Billion			
Uses of Assistance	\$112M State/Territory Allocations	\$50M Tribal Set-Aside	\$2.133B National Competition for Hazard Mitigation Projects
Management Costs	✓	✓	✓
Capability and Capacity Building Activities	✓	✓	
Hazard Mitigation Projects	✓	✓	✓

- **State or Territory Allocation:** \$112 million (up to \$2 million per applicant). All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories may apply under the State/Territory Allocation. Up to \$1 million per applicant may be used for hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities.
- **Tribal Set-Aside:** \$50 million. All federally recognized tribal governments may apply under the Tribal Set-Aside. The Tribal Set-Aside can be used for Capability and Capacity-Building Activities and hazard mitigation projects. The combined cost of the applicant’s Capability and Capacity-Building Activities under the Tribal Set-Aside must not exceed \$2 million per applicant.
- **National Competition for Hazard Mitigation Projects:** An estimated \$2.133 billion (\$50 million per subapplication). Any funds that are not awarded from the state or territory allocation will be reallocated to the national competition. Any funds that are not awarded from the tribal set-aside may be reallocated to the national competition. An unlimited number of subapplications can be submitted to the national competition by an applicant.

Funding Caps

The federal share funding caps for the BRIC program are as follows:

- **State or Territory Maximum Allocation and Activity Caps:** The maximum allocation and activity cap is \$2 million. Each applicant may use up to \$1 million of that for hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities.
- **Tribal Set-Aside Activity Caps:** The combined cost of the applicant's Capability and Capacity-Building Activities under the Tribal Set-Aside must not exceed \$2 million per applicant.
- **National Competition Cap:** Each subapplicant will have a cap of \$50 million. An applicant may submit an unlimited number of subapplications to the national competition.

Cost Share

A cost share is required for all subapplications funded under the BRIC program. The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. FEMA will provide 100% of the federal funding for management costs. Cost share amounts are as follows:

- Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal funding and 25% non-federal funding.
- EDRCs are eligible for an increase in cost share up to 90% federal funding and 10% non-federal funding.
- 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 when it is under \$200,000. The recipient may request this waiver in its application.
- FEMA provides 100% federal cost share funding for management costs.

Opportunities for Successful Subapplications

- Talk to your [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](#) and [FEMA regional office](#) points of contact about your projects and the subapplication process. Look for mentors and partners who have had success navigating the grant application process that could give advice.
- Attend this year's [webinar series](#) to learn more.
 - FEMA has planned 10 webinars that address technical and qualitative criteria, capacity and capability, system-based mitigation, application pitfalls, and Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss Properties. Register on this webpage; [Connect Event Catalog](#).
- Review BRIC program support materials in detail. FEMA developed program support materials to help inform stakeholders.

- FEMA would like to receive more subapplications for projects with multiple benefits, system-based mitigation, and goals that address multiple hazards to further increase resiliency in communities across the nation.
 - FEMA will continue to encourage innovative mitigation projects that include nature-based solutions, combat climate change, reduce flood risk, improve water quality, reduce urban heat, add recreational space and more.
 - FEMA also encourages communities to consider a system-wide approach to mitigation, a resilience strategy that mitigates the risk to critical sectors of a community and builds community-wide resilience to natural hazards.

How to Apply for BRIC Grants

- To apply for available funding, applicants must adhere to the application and funding deadlines. The application period opens on **Sept. 30, 2022**.
- Eligible applicants must apply for funding using the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) management system. Applications must be received in the [FEMA GO Portal](#) by **Jan. 27, 2023 (3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time)**. Applications received by FEMA GO after this date will not be considered for funding. Subapplicants should contact their [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) to find out their deadline to submit subapplications.
- Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify FEMA by **3 p.m. ET on Jan. 25, 2023**. No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline.
- If you need help, reach out to:
 - FEMA GO Help Desk: femago@fema.dhs.gov.
 - FEMA GO technical support for error messages or forgotten password: 877-585-3242.
 - Hazard Mitigation Assistance programmatic support for questions such as eligibility: 866-222-3580.
- The application deadlines are for the applicants only. Subapplicants should consult with their state, tribal or territorial agency to confirm deadlines to submit subapplications for their consideration.
- FEMA will release additional guidance for eligible communities that are unable to calculate or demonstrate cost-effectiveness of their mitigation project during the review process. It will explain how FEMA can help.
- For any subapplications submitted for the FY 2021 cycle that met all programmatic requirements and were not selected for BRIC funding, there are two options:
 - Applicants and subapplicants can repurpose their subapplications and apply for the FY 2022 cycle, or
 - Applicants can apply for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), including HMGP COVID-19 funding. The application period deadline was Aug. 5, 2022; however, a majority of the 59 declared states,

territories, District of Columbia and three federally recognized tribes that received a major declaration have requested extensions.

Eligibility Information

To be eligible for BRIC funding, FEMA will require the applicants to have a current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan at the time of application and award. FEMA will require subapplicants to have a current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan at the time of application and award for hazard mitigation projects and project scoping subapplications. Subapplicants are exempt from the hazard mitigation plan requirement for the following Capability and Capacity Building Activity types: (1) hazard mitigation planning and planning related activities, (2) partnerships, and (3) building codes activities.

Applicants must also meet these criteria:

- **Eligible applicants** include states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and the District of Columbia.
- **Eligible subapplicants** include local governments, tribal governments, state agencies, and tribal agencies.
- **A state or territory** must have received a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the seven years prior to the start date of the annual grant application period.
- **A federally recognized tribal government** must either have received a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the seven years prior to the annual grant application period start date or be entirely or partially within a state that received a major disaster declaration in that same period. A federally recognized tribal government is eligible to apply for a grant either as an applicant or subapplicant. If a tribe asks to apply through the state, the state must meet the “seven-year” declaration criteria.
- FEMA must apply this seven-year requirement for each BRIC grant cycle. All states, federally recognized tribes, and territories satisfy these criteria for the FY22 BRIC grant cycle.

FEMA will fund the following uses of assistance through the BRIC program:

- **Capability and Capacity Building Activities** are those that enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the current workforce, to expand or improve the administration of hazard mitigation assistance. There are four types of activities:
 - Building Codes
 - Partnerships
 - Project Scoping
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning and Planning-Related Activities

- **Hazard mitigation projects** are cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure from natural hazards.
- **Management costs** allow FEMA to provide financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific hazard mitigation project or Capability and Capacity Building Activity.

Other Eligibility Criteria

FEMA continues to partially implement the [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard \(FFRMS\)](#).

- All non-critical structure elevation, dry floodproofing, and hazard mitigation reconstruction projects in a Special Flood Hazard Area must apply, at a minimum, the flood elevations of the FFRMS Freeboard Value Approach, which requires a minimum of 2 feet of freeboard over the base flood elevation. All other types of projects are strongly encouraged to apply the flood elevations of the FFRMS Freeboard Value Approach.
- For critical actions in the Special Flood Hazard Area, the elevation requirements from [Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 9.11](#) continue to apply. For any new construction or substantial improvement of structures, the lowest floor of the structure (including the basement) must be at or above the level of the 500-year flood.

For additional information on eligibility, view the full FY 2022 BRIC funding opportunity accessible at [Grants.gov](#).

Additional Resources

Additional information and resources on the FY22 BRIC program are available at: [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#). The resources include:

- A [link](#) to the funding opportunity.
- A summary of the application process.
- A link to the FEMA GO system.
- Program support materials, including fact sheets to help with the BRIC application process. Access these materials here: [Resource List for the BRIC Grant Program](#).

Direct any general questions about the BRIC program to your [State Hazard Mitigation Officer \(SHMO\)](#) or [FEMA Regional Office](#) on [FEMA.gov](#). Call the HMA Helpline at (866) 222-3580.

This document is intended to be used as guidance. It is not a request for information.