

Anticipatory Notice of Application Period

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

April 26, 2023

Later this year, FEMA is anticipated to announce the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program for FY 2023, including Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). Funding amounts are based on major disaster declarations the previous calendar year.

Projects submitted for consideration must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Iowa's State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the approved local mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the activity is located. The BRIC grant provides an opportunity for communities to initiate shovel ready mitigation projects that provide protection against natural hazards. Eligible mitigation project activities include (but are not limited to):

- Capability- and Capacity- Building (C&CB) activities, which 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, hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, and other activities;
- Hazard Mitigation Projects (construction) – 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 (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards and the effects of climate change;
- Acquisition or structural relocation for permanent open space, or elevation of buildings located in a special flood hazard area
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing structures to meet or exceed applicable building codes relative to hazard mitigation;
- Hydrologic and hydraulic studies/analyses, engineering studies, and drainage studies for the purpose of project design and feasibility in conjunction with a project.
- Protective measures for utilities; water and sanitary sewer systems and/or infrastructure;
- Storm water management projects (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins) to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from flood hazards; and
- Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system.
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins)
- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system

The BRIC Program consists of two parts. One is a set aside amount that each state receives for planning, capacity building, and projects. The second part is a nationally competitive pool of funding. Based on previous years, competitive projects are expected to be scored and ranked based on technical and qualitative criteria including the following.

Technical Criteria

- BCEGS Rating
- Infrastructure Project
- Incorporates Nature Based Solutions
- Related to past Advanced Assistance or Project Scoping
- Non Federal Cost Share greater than 30%
- EDRC Designation or CDC SVI of 0.6-0.79

Qualitative Criteria

- Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness
- Climate Change and other future considerations
- Implementation Measures
- Population Impacted
- Outreach Activities
- Leveraging Partners

These criteria are subject to change year-to-year. Review FEMA's Notice of Funding Opportunity from last year's BRIC program for more information.

The HMA FY 2023 Hazard Mitigation Assistance program guidance provides critical information about eligibility, the National Evaluation Process, and other key aspects of each program. The guidance can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>

Applicants with proposed projects located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are eligible for funding only if the jurisdiction in which the project is located is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There is no NFIP participation requirement for projects located outside of the SFHA.

Funding & Cost Share

This is a cost share grant program which means that awarded grants will be funded as follows:

- Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs – 75%
- State share of total eligible costs – 10% (for eligible subapplicants)
- Local share of total eligible costs – varies
- Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities are eligible for an increase in cost share up to 90 percent federal (10 percent non-federal). Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (EDRC) means a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the applicant that is economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80 percent of the national per capita income, based on best available data.

FEMA will establish the application deadline for States to submit their application. In order to meet FEMA's deadline, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) must receive local intent to complete sub-applications by **July 31, 2023**. Submitting a Notice of Intent at an earlier time could be advantageous as more time is allowed for HSEMD to provide

application development and technical assistance. HSEMD is required to review, provide comments on, and to rank each local application that it submits to FEMA.

For additional information or questions, feel free to contact a State Mitigation Project Officer:

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We ask that partners share this information with communities in their service area to achieve the widest distribution possible.

BRIC will require access and use of EMGrants and FEMA GO. Instructions for EMGrants and FEMA GO have been provided separately and are available at <https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov>. Subapplications and applications are processed through the FEMA GO system. To access the system, go to <https://go.fema.gov/>.

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