

Notice of Funds Availability

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

October 16, 2023

FEMA has announced the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program for FY 2023, which includes Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). The HMA grant program will provide funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. 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 local mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the activity is located. The BRIC grant provides an excellent opportunity for communities to initiate mitigation projects that provide protection against natural hazards. Eligible mitigation project activities include (but 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.
- Construction of tornado safe rooms (tornado and severe wind shelters)
- 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
- Development of multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans and plan updates

The 2023 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide 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.

Cost Share or Match

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% maximum
- State of Iowa share of total eligible costs – 10%
- Local share of total eligible costs – 15%
- Identified Community Disaster Resilience Zones and 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 has established the application deadline for States to submit their application by **February 29, 2024**. In order to meet FEMA's deadline, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) must receive local sub-applications by **February 15, 2024**. HSEMD is required to review, provide comments on, and to rank each local application that it submits to FEMA.

2023 SCHEDULE FOR SUBMITTING A FULL BRIC OR FMA APPLICATION	
Date	Event
October 13 – 16, 2023	Email campaign to cities/counties/COGs for BRIC/FMA NOI submissions
October 27, 2023	Email campaign to cities/counties/COGs for BRIC/FMA NOI submissions
Jan 12, 2024*	Sub-applications due in FEMA-Go (*Hard deadline required for next review step)
January 15 – 19, 2024	HSEMD prioritization scoring panel
January 22 – 24, 2024	Sub-applicant meetings
February 02, 2024	CCB Final draft sub-application due in FEMA-Go
February 15, 2024	Competitive Final draft sub-application due in FEMA-Go
February 29, 2024	State application submitted

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

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We ask that the County Emergency Management Coordinators, Councils of Government, and Planning Commissions forward this information to the communities in their service area to achieve the widest distribution possible.

Dusty Pogones
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Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department