

Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Grant Application Guidance and Instructions Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022

I. PURPOSE

This document provides guidance and instructions on submission of the FFY 2022 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) applications. This is a nationally competitive program and there is \$500,000,000.00 nationwide available funding dedicated to this funding stream's allocation. More information on this federal grant can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

II. OVERVIEW

The BRIC program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research supported, proactive investment in community resilience. FEMA anticipates BRIC funding projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to partnerships, such as shared funding mechanisms, and/or project design. For example, an innovative project may bring multiple funding sources or in-kind resources from a range of private and public sector stakeholders or offer multiple benefits to a community in addition to the benefit of risk reduction. Four of the six BRIC qualitative evaluation criteria reflect the need for subapplications to speak to how the project will benefit disadvantaged communities in the areas of Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness, Population Impacted, Community Engagement and Other Outreach Activities, and Leveraging Partners. BRIC reduces the non-federal cost share from 25 percent to 10 percent for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities (EDRC) (defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as a small impoverished communities).

Applicants may submit an unlimited number of hazard mitigation project subapplications each valued up to \$50,000,000 federal share to the national competition. Up to 10 percent of any subapplication may be used for information dissemination activities, including public awareness and education (brochures, workshops, videos, etc.) related to a proposed hazard mitigation project.

- A. BRIC Guiding Principles:
1. Support community capability and capacity building
 2. Encourage and enable innovation
 3. Promote Partnerships
 4. Maintain flexibility
 5. Provide consistency

Through BRIC, FEMA will continue to invest in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects Community Lifelines which can be found at https://www.fema.gov/emergency_managers/practitioner/lifelines.

B. BRIC Objectives:

1. With a general focus on disasters, risks, and hazards, including those associated with climate change, the guiding principles of the program are to:
 - a. support state and local governments, tribes, and territories through capability- and capacity-building to enable them to identify mitigation actions and implement projects reduce risks posed by natural hazards;
 - b. encourage and enable innovation while allowing flexibility, consistency, and effectiveness;
 - c. promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health, and communities;
 - d. provide an opportunity to reduce future losses and minimize impacts on the Disaster Relief Fund;
 - e. promote equity, including by helping members of overburdened and underserved groups and prioritizing 40 percent of the benefits to disadvantaged communities as referenced [Order \(EO\) 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) in line with the Administration’s Justice40 Initiative; and
 - f. support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, taking into account future conditions, prominently including the effects of climate change, and have long-lasting impacts on community risk reduction, including for critical services and facilities and for future disaster costs.

III. GENERAL

The subrecipient application submittal period in the Commonwealth for the FFY 2022 BRIC is **September 30, 2022** through **November 16, 2022**. All applications must be submitted by the Commonwealth’s deadline. To start the grant application process, potentially eligible applicants **MUST** submit the required Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Letter of Interest (LOI) by **October 19, 2022**. This non-contractual but required form can be found on the PEMA website at: <https://www.pema.pa.gov/Grants/HMGP/Forms/Documents/19-Non-Disaster-HM-Grants-Letter-Of-Interest.pdf>.

IV. APPLICATION

- A. Applications for the FFY 2022 BRIC must be submitted via the [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(FEMA GO\)](#) <https://go.fema.gov/login> portal starting **September 30, 2022**. All **COMPLETE applications must be in FEMA GO**, the system of record for applying for and managing non-disaster [hazard mitigation](#)

[grant programs](#) from FY2020 and forward, including Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) by November 19, 2022 by Close of Business. The FEMA GO system allows users to apply, track, and manage all disaster and non-disaster grants. It also improves oversight and monitoring. FEMA GO is being built to perform all business functions that fall within all five phases of the Grants Management Lifecycle: Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award, Closeout and Post-Closeout. More information on FEMA GO can be found at: <https://go.fema.gov/info>.

- B. The following application required components must be completed in FEMA GO:
 - 1. Applicant
 - 2. Project Scope of Work
 - 3. Project Schedule - must include GO and NO/GO Milestones
 - 4. Budget Spreadsheet – Lump Sum is NOT permissible
 - 5. Cost Effectiveness – Must include the FEMA 6.0 Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Excel Spreadsheet and Narrative the provides justification for the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) listed within the application provided to PEMA and FEMA in FEMA GO
 - 6. Environmental/Historic Preservation (EHP) Review Information
 - 7. Maintenance requirements, and if applicable, training requirements
 - 8. Commitment Letter for Cost Share
 - 9. Federal Assistance, Assurances and Certifications Forms
- C. The FFY 2022 BRIC application is to be completed detailing the long-term mitigation solutions.

V. ELIGIBLE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Project must be cost-effective and submitted by the state in FEMA GO by the FEMA deadline of January 27, 2023. The state has to bundle up the sub-applications into one state application by that date but will be doing so the middle of January 2023 to ensure no error message occur, and if the errors do appear, there is enough time to correct with FEMA Region III and FEMA HQ.
- B. Reduce/eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards.
- C. Meet latest two consensus codes (i.e. 2015 or 2018 International Building code).
- D. Align with County and State FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plans (44CFR Part 201) and must be current prior to the submittal FEMA BRIC application deadline.
- E. Meet all Federal/State Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements.
- F. States and territories that have had a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the 7 years prior to the annual application period start date are eligible to apply to FEMA for federal assistance under BRIC (applicants). As a result of numerous major disaster declarations, all states, territories, and the District of Columbia are eligible to apply in FY 2022.
- G. Local governments are eligible to apply to eligible states and territories for federal assistance under BRIC (subapplicants). Individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for BRIC funds; however, an eligible applicant or subapplicant may apply for funding on behalf of individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

- H. All activities under BRIC must be in conformance with all applicable environmental planning and historic preservation (EHP) laws, regulations, executive orders, and agency policies including:
1. 44 C.F.R. Part 9; DHS Directive 023-01 Rev 01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act* (October 31, 2014);
 2. Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01 Rev 01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* (November 6, 2014);
 3. FEMA Directive 108-1, *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements* (October 10, 2018);
 4. FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, *Instruction on Implementation of the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements* (October 10, 2018), accessible at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/118323>. EHP Job Aids and Supplements are available on the FEMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/job-aids>
- I. All activities under BRIC must be in conformance with all applicable federal, state, Tribal, and local floodplain and land use laws and regulations including 44 C.F.R. § 60.3 (floodplain management criteria). All non-critical structure elevation, dry floodproofing, and mitigation reconstruction projects in a Special Flood Hazard Area must apply, at a minimum:
1. The flood elevations of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standards Freeboard Value Approach. All other types of projects are strongly encouraged to apply the flood elevations of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard's Freeboard Value Approach. See [EO 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk](#) and [FEMA Policy #-206-21-0003, Partial Implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs \(Interim\)](#).
 2. For critical actions in the Special Flood Hazard Area, the elevation requirements from 44 CFR § 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.
 3. Activities under BRIC must not duplicate activities that another federal agency or program has more specific authority to conduct.
 4. All activities under BRIC must be in conformance with any other criteria established by FEMA that is specific to the proposed activity, such as the criteria found in the most recent version of the [HMA Guidance](#).
 5. Construction activities for which ground disturbance has already been initiated or completed are not eligible for funding. Non-construction activities that have already started may not be considered for funding.
 6. C&CB activities should result in a resource, strategy, or tangible mitigation product that will reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards, increase resilience, and promote a culture of preparedness.
 7. Hazard mitigation projects must be consistent with a State Mitigation Plan and Local or Tribal Mitigation Plan approved under 44 C.F.R. Part 201, or for federally recognized Tribal government acting as applicants, be consistent with a Tribal Mitigation Plan approved under 44 C.F.R. §

- 201.7. Applicants must identify in the BRIC application where specifically the needs for the proposed project types are referenced or included in the State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan (page number, section title, etc.).
8. Hazard mitigation projects must, at a minimum, be in conformance with the latest published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs.
 9. Hazard mitigation projects should consider the amount of carbon emissions generated.
 10. Hazard mitigation projects must be technically feasible and effective.
 11. Hazard mitigation projects must solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a long-term solution for which there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed or there is a reasonable plan and available funding for completion.
 12. Hazard mitigation projects must be cost-effective and designed to increase resilience and reduce risk of injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, including critical services and facilities. This means the project, as documented by the applicant, achieves the following goals:
 - Addresses a problem that has been repetitive or that poses a risk to public health and safety and improved property if left unresolved;
 13. Satisfies applicable cost-effectiveness requirements in compliance with OMB Circular A-94;
 14. Contributes, to the extent practicable, to a long-term solution to the problem it is intended to address; and
 15. Accounts for long-term changes to the areas and entities it protects and has manageable future maintenance and modification requirements.
- J. If the hazard mitigation project is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, it must meet all of the following conditions:
1. The project is in a jurisdiction participating in the National Flood Insurance Program that is not on probation, suspended, or withdrawn.
 2. The property owner obtains and maintains flood insurance for the life of the structure, regardless of transfer of ownership, in an amount at least equal to the project cost or to the maximum limit of coverage made available with respect to the mitigated property, whichever is less.
 3. The project complies with any FEMA directive or policy implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS).
 4. Applicants should utilize climate data to consider the effects of climate change including but not limited to: high winds and continued sea level rise and ensure responsible floodplain and wetland management based on the history of flood mitigation efforts and the frequency; duration, and intensity of precipitation events; exposure and sensitivity to extreme temperatures, including heat; drought; and wildfire.
 5. Applicants should consider their plan for conducting stakeholder engagement, and how they will engage with affected communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, to ensure that activities under BRIC are being responsive to community needs.
 6. When subapplications include an information technology or operational technology component as part of a larger project, FEMA will allow 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 <https://www.cisa.gov/control-systems-goals-and-objectives>.

7. FEMA encourages the use of environmentally friendly construction practices when completing BRIC hazard mitigation projects. When subapplications include the use of concrete or asphalt products, FEMA encourages the inclusion of low embodied carbon concrete and environmentally preferable asphalt.
8. Subrecipients should ensure that federally-funded infrastructure investments reduce life cycle emissions of construction materials, specifically concrete, asphalt, and steel.
9. Subrecipients should request disclosure of Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) to evaluate and incentivize acquisition of these lower carbon materials.

VI. COST SHARE

- A. Cost share is required for all subapplications funded under this program. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75 percent federal / 25 percent non-federal. This means federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible costs must be derived from non-federal sources. For example, if the total cost of the activity is \$400,000 and the non-federal cost share is 25 percent, then the non-federal contribution is \$100,000: 25 percent of \$400,000 is \$100,000. This amount would be provided by the applicant. Likewise, the federal share of that activity would be \$300,000: 75 percent of \$400,000 is \$300,000. This amount would be provided by FEMA. FEMA will provide 100 percent federal funding for management costs.

The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Cash and third-party in-kind matches must consist of eligible costs (i.e., same eligibility as the federal share). Applicants cannot apply other federal award funds toward the BRIC non-federal cost share unless the other federal statutory authority allows the funds to be used to meet cost-share requirements

- B. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the non-federal cost share is to be provided by the subrecipient.
- C. 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. A Benefit Cost Analysis may not be required but the state is recommending that one should be added for state and FEMA reviewers in case FEMA does not agree with the Social Vulnerability derived in the application and can use the BCA for eligibility purposes (per FEMA Region III NOFO/Resilience Workshop September 12, 2022).

The following entities may, by working in collaboration with an EDRC to build a subapplication, submit a subapplication **on behalf of** an EDRC: (1) applicants; or (2) local government subapplicants, including a school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government. An applicant or subapplicant applying on behalf of an EDRC must coordinate with the EDRC to include as part of the subapplication a letter authorizing the applicant or subapplicant to submit the subapplication on the EDRC's behalf. There is no required format for the authorizing letter, but it should contain the following information:

1. Point of contact information, including a name, community, address, phone number, and email for both the EDRC and the applicant or subapplicant applying on behalf of the EDRC.
2. A signature from an authorized representative of the EDRC.

An applicant or subapplicant applying on behalf of an EDRC will be eligible to receive up to a 90 percent federal cost share.

- D. Applicants and subapplicants who apply as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community, or subapplicants who apply on behalf of one, must request the increased federal cost share amount in the Cost Share section of their C&CB activity and hazard mitigation project subapplication(s). Management costs are already 100 percent funded. Applicants must certify subapplicants' Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community status and provide documentation with the subapplication(s) to justify the increased federal cost share. If documentation is not submitted with the subapplication, then FEMA will provide no more than 75 percent federal cost share of the total eligible costs.

VII. CATEGORIES/ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- A. State Allocation/Capacity and Capability Building
 1. Building Codes Activities
 2. Partnerships
 3. Project Scoping
 4. Mitigation Planning and Related Activities
- B. Mitigation Projects – (not a complete list of potentially fundable project types)
 1. Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition
 2. Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation
 3. Structure Elevation
 4. Mitigation Reconstruction
 5. Dry Floodproofing of Historic Structures
 6. Dry Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures
 7. Generators
 8. Saferoom Construction
 9. Wind Retrofits
- C. Direct Technical Assistance (Only 2 per 10 FEMA Regions)
 1. No application required; submit Letter of Intent (LOI)

2. Only available for up to 10 local governments/communities
3. Meets FEMA’s prioritization in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

VIII. FEMA SCORING/POINT SYSTEM

- A. Evaluation: Technical Criteria (100 Points – Each category all or none)
 1. Infrastructure Project - 20 points
 2. Incorporation of nature-based solutions – 10 points
 3. State has mandatory building code 2018 ICC adoption requirement – 20 points
 4. Sub applicant has Insurance Service Office (ISO)® Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Rating (BCEGS) of 1-5 – 15 points
 5. Applicant generated from previous FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Advance Assistance Award – 10 points
 6. Increased Non-federal cost share – 5 points
 7. Designation as a small impoverished community – 5 points
- B. Evaluation: Qualitative Criteria (100 Points – Can obtain points in each category)
 1. Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness – 35 points
 2. Future Conditions – 15 points
 3. Implementation Measures – 15 points
 4. Population Impacted – 15 points
 5. Outreach Activities – 5 points
 6. Leveraging Partners – 5 points

IX. SUBMISSION/APPLICATION EXECUTION

- A. The FFY 2022 BRIC application is available for submission as follows:
 1. Eligible applicants must have an accepted LOI and have been approved for access in FEMA GO, can open an application on **September 30, 2022**
 2. Prior to entry in FEMA GO, applicants must have submitted an LOI by **October 19, 2022**
 3. FEMA/PEMA Application Period opens **September 30, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.**
 4. PEMA application period closes **November 16, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.** **Applications must be COMPLETE.** Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by PEMA and subapplicants will be asked to submit in the following non-disaster grant cycle or another potential disaster grant.
 5. PEMA Hazard Mitigation Staff will review the completed FFY 2022 BRIC applications and get ready for the Commonwealth review team **November 16 – December 2, 2022**
 6. Pennsylvania State Hazard Mitigation Application Team will meet **December 5–16, 2022**, to conduct application review, scoring, prioritization and submittal recommendations to PEMA Director based on State and Federal Priorities and scoring criteria
- B. PEMA will submit complete eligible applications according to the state rankings into the FEMA GO system by **January 23, 2023.**
- C. PEMA will not accept BRIC applications after 5:00 p.m. on **November 16, 2022.**

X. GRANT AWARD

- A. Official notice of grant award will be made by PEMA to eligible applicants.
- B. Upon receipt of the FEMA 2022 BRIC award, PEMA will provide a grant agreement to the designated signatory(s) for review and wet signature.

XI. REPORTS

- A. Subrecipient quarterly reports are due to PEMA Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation as follows:
 - 1. 1st Quarter (October 1 to December 31) – **January 10**
 - 2. 2nd Quarter (January 1 to March 31) – **April 10**
 - 3. 3rd Quarter (April 1 to June 30) – **July 10**
 - 4. 4th Quarter (July 1 to September 30) – **October 10**
- B. Subrecipient quarterly reports are to include the following:
 - 1. Actual eligible activities completed in the reporting period
 - 2. Planned activities for the next quarter
 - 3. Explanation of any delays that may be encountered
 - 4. All drawdowns incurred during the reported period
- C. Subrecipient quarterly reports that are incomplete or lacking supporting documentation will be returned with a checklist identifying the issues to be resolved and a due date by which the documentation must be returned to PEMA.

XII. FEMA RESOURCES/JOB AIDS

- [Mitigation Action Portfolio](#)
- [BRIC Building Codes Activities](#)
- [BRIC Partnership Activities](#)
- [BRIC Project Scoping Activities](#)
- [BRIC Mitigation Planning Activities](#)
- [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance](#)
- [BRIC Technical Criteria](#)
- [BRIC Qualitative Criteria](#)
- [HMA Cost Share Guide](#)
- [FY20 BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance & Addendum](#)

XIII. DISTRIBUTION

American Planners Association – PA Chapter
 American Rivers Association
 Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Management
 County Commissioners of Pennsylvania
 Commonwealth Building Officials
 Delaware River Basin Commission
 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region III
 House of Representatives of Pennsylvania
 Keystone Emergency Management Association
 Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs

Pennsylvania Association of Building Code Officials
Pennsylvania Association of Floodplain Managers
Pennsylvania Construction Code Academy
Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation
Pennsylvania Conservation Districts
Pennsylvania County Emergency Management Coordinators
Pennsylvania County Planning Commissions
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Insurance Agents and Brokers
Pennsylvania Municipal League
Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commissions
Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Representatives
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors & Zoning Association
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
Senate of Pennsylvania
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District – Outreach Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District – Outreach Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District – Outreach Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District – Outreach Office