Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Grant Application
Guidance and Instructions Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020

I. PURPOSE

This document provides guidance and instructions on submission of the FFY 2020 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.

BRIC Guiding Principles:

- Support community capability and capacity building
- Encourage and enable innovation
- Promote Partnerships
- Maintain flexibility
- 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

III. GENERAL

The subrecipient application submittal period in the Commonwealth for the FFY 2020 BRIC is September 30, 2020 through November 18, 2020. 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 15, 2020; this non-contractual but required form can be found on the PEMA website at:
IV. APPLICATION

A. Applications for the FFY 2020 BRIC must be submitted via the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) portal starting September 30, 2020:
https://go.fema.gov/login

FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) is the new system 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). The 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
4. Budget Spreadsheet
5. Cost Effectiveness
6. Environmental/Historic Preservation (EHP) Review Information
7. Assurances
8. Maintenance requirements, and if applicable, training requirements
9. Commitment Letter for Cost Share
10. Federal Assistance, Assurances and Certifications Forms

C. The FFY 2020 BRIC application is to be completed detailing the long/term mitigation solutions.

V. ELIGIBLE REQUIREMENTS

A. Project must be cost-effective.
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.
E. Meet all Federal/State Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements.

VI. COST SHARE

A. There is a 75% federal/25% non-federal share for eligible jurisdictions and a 90% Federal/10% non-Federal share for identified Small and Impoverished Communities (SIC). Impoverished Communities must meet the following definition criteria: 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the Commonwealth as
disadvantage and the average per capita annual income not exceeding 80% of the national per capita income.

B. The non-federal cost share is to be provided by the subrecipient.

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

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 1 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 - 10 points  
2. Mitigating risk to one or more lifelines – 15 points  
3. Incorporation of nature-based solutions – 10 points  
4. State has mandatory building code adoption requirement – 20 points  
5. Sub applicant has Insurance Service Office (ISO)® Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Rating (BCEGS) of 1-5 – 15 points
6 Applicant generated from previous FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Advance Assistance Award – 10 points
7. Increased Non-federal cost share – 5 points
8. 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 2020 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, 2020
2. Prior to entry in FEMA GO, applicants must have submitted an LOI by October 15, 2020
3. FEMA/PEMA Application Period opens September 30, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.
4. PEMA application period closes November 18, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
5. PEMA Hazard Mitigation Staff will review the completed FFY 2020 BRIC applications and get ready for the Commonwealth review team November 19 – December 6, 2020
6. Pennsylvania State Hazard Mitigation Application Team will meet December 7 – 18, 2020 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 eligible applications according to the state rankings into the FEMA GO system by January 18, 2021.

C. PEMA will not accept BRIC applications after 5:00 p.m. on November 18, 2020.

X. GRANT AWARD

A. Official notice of grant award will be made by PEMA to eligible applicants.

B. Upon receipt of the FEMA 2020 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