

Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Grant Application Guidance and Instructions Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021

I. PURPOSE

- A. This document provides guidance and instructions on submission of the FFY 2021 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) applications. This is a nationally competitive program and there is \$1,000,000,000.00 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

- A. 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.
- B. The BRIC Guiding Principles include the following:
1. Support community capability and capacity building
 2. Encourage and enable innovation
 3. Promote partnerships
 4. Maintain flexibility
 5. Provide consistency
- C. 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 [FEMA Community Lifelines](#).

III. GENERAL

- A. The subrecipient application submittal period in the Commonwealth for the FFY 2021 BRIC is Thursday, **September 30, 2021, 8:00 a.m. ET** through Friday, **November 19, 2021, 5:00 p.m. EST**. 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 Friday, **October 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.**

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>. Submissions to ra-shazmitoff@pa.gov

IV. APPLICATION

- A. Sub-applications for the FFY 2021 BRIC may be submitted via the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) portal starting Thursday, **September 30, 2021** <https://go.fema.gov/login>. The following browsers are supported by FEMA GO: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge.
- B. FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) is the system for applying for and managing non-disaster [hazard mitigation grant programs](#) from FY2021 and forward, including 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>
- C. The following sub-application required components must be completed in FEMA GO:
 - 1. Sub-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
- D. The FFY 2021 BRIC sub-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 consensus codes (i.e. 2015, 2018 or 2021 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 (County or Municipality).

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 (DTA)
 - 1. Communities may submit a letter of interest for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to the following link at FEMABRICDirectTechnicalAssistance@fema.dhs.gov no later than 1500 EST on January 28, 2022. There is no requested format for the letter of interest, but should contain the following information:
 - a. Point of contact information, including name, position, address, phone number and email
 - b. A description of the community's challenges and need for which the service is being requested

- c. The extent of the community’s capacity to assist the non-financial

VIII. FEMA SCORING/POINT SYSTEM

A. Evaluation: Technical Criteria (115 Points – Each category all or none)

1. Infrastructure Project - **20 points**
2. Mitigating risk to one or more community lifelines – **15 points**
3. Incorporation of nature-based solutions – **10 points**
4. State has mandatory building code adoption requirement – **10 or 20 points**
5. Sub applicant has Insurance Service Office (ISO)® Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Rating (BCEGS) of 1-5 – **20 points**
6. Application generated from a previous FEMA HMA Advance Assistance or Project Scoping award, High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) award, or DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP), or the sub-applicant is a past recipient of BRIC non-financial DTA – **10 points**
7. Increased non-federal cost share – **5 points**
8. Designation as an economically disadvantaged rural community (as referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as a small, impoverished community) – **15 points**

B. Evaluation: Qualitative Criteria (115 Points – Can obtain points in each category)

1. Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness – **35 points**
2. Climate Change & Other Future Conditions – **20 points**
3. Implementation Measures – **15 points**
4. Population Impacted – **25 points**
5. Outreach Activities – **5 points**
6. Leveraging Partners – **15 points**

IX. SUBMISSION/APPLICATION EXECUTION

A. The FFY 2021 BRIC application is available for submission as follows:

1. Eligible sub-applicants must have an accepted LOI and have been approved for access in FEMA GO, can open an application on Thursday **September 30, 2021**.
2. Prior to entry in FEMA GO, sub-applicants must have submitted an LOI by Friday, **October 15, 2020**.
3. FEMA/PEMA Application Period opens Thursday, **September 30, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**
4. PEMA sub-application period closes Friday, **November 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**
5. PEMA Hazard Mitigation Staff will review the completed FFY 2020 BRIC sub-applications and get ready for the Commonwealth review team Friday, **November 19 – Sunday, December 6, 2021**.

6. Pennsylvania State Hazard Mitigation Application Team will meet Monday, **December 6** – Friday, **December 17, 2021** to conduct sub-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 17, 2022**.
- C. PEMA will not accept BRIC sub-applications **after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 19, 2021**.
- D. FEMA deadline for the state application is Friday, **January 28, 2022**.

X. GRANT AWARD

- A. Official notice of grant award will be made by PEMA to eligible applicants.
- B. Upon receipt of the FEMA 2021 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](#)
- [FEMA 2021 BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunities](#)
- [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