

The Local Infrastructure Hub is an initiative to help ensure that all cities and towns can access federal Infrastructure Act funding to drive local recovery, improve communities, and deliver results for residents. The following is summary information about one of the many grants for communities.

Type

[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) Grant](#)

Agency

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Category

 Resilience

Total IJJA Funding

- \$2.295 billion in FY22:
 - \$112 million for States & Territories
 - \$50 million for Tribal
 - \$2.133 billion for National Competition
- Funding distribution guided by [Justice40](#)

Grant Funding

- Communities must apply as subapplicants through their Tribal, Territorial, or [State Hazard Mitigation Offices](#)
- National Competition awards capped at \$50 million, with a 36-month term
- Up to 10% may be used for public education

Match Requirements

25% non-federal match required, except for projects located in Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities (EDRCs) which can apply for a 10% match which is now applicable based on project location, not applicant (e.g. a County may apply on behalf of an EDRC)

Key Dates

- Application period opens Sept. 30, 2022
- Application deadlines will vary by state, contact your [State Hazard Mitigation Office](#) for information.

Technical Assistance

FEMA has a [FY22 webinar series about FMA and BRIC funding](#), and office hours in October

Review the [Resources for BRIC Grants](#) which include Fact Sheets about each type of

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grants Overview

Preparing for extreme events today protects lives, prevents future losses, and reduces disruptions when disasters strike. FEMA provides [Hazard Mitigation Grants](#), including [BRIC](#) Grants.

Communities eligible for BRIC mitigation project funding must have a current, FEMA-approved local [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (except for Planning Project applications), and, if property-specific work is planned, the community must participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the property must hold NFIP coverage.

The BRIC program gives funding priority to [natural hazard](#) risk reduction actions that mitigate risks to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, that incorporate [nature-based solutions](#), that enhance climate resilience and adaptation, and that support the adoption and enforcement of protective building codes. FEMA encourages BRIC applications that meet multiple program priorities. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their project supports a [Systems Based Approach](#) that addresses interconnectedness and provides benefits to the whole community.

Key Funding Criteria

FEMA convenes a National Review Panel to assess BRIC funding proposals based on programmatic, technical, and qualitative criteria. This review includes:

Programmatic Review for alignment with approved [State Mitigation Plans and Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plans](#); eligibility of proposed activities; cost-efficiency and engineering feasibility, applicant eligibility, financial integrity, non-federal cost share availability, and application completeness.

Technical Criteria Evaluation includes incentives for addressing BRIC priorities. Applications receive points for protecting infrastructure, incorporating nature-based solutions; adoption of latest building codes; whether projects originate from federal funding; and meeting cost share requirements.

Qualitative Criteria Evaluation:

- Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness (up to 35 points) for demonstrating cost effective risk reduction (as substantiated by the required Benefit Cost Analysis) and reducing risk for disadvantaged populations
- Climate Change and Other Future Conditions (up to 20 points) for enhancing climate adaptation and resilience and responding to other anticipated changes such as population and land use
- Implementation Measures (up to 15 points) for demonstrating capacity and how the project will be effectively executed, and incorporating fair and equitable labor standards
- Population Impacted (up to 25 points) articulating how the project maximizes benefits and minimizes impacts to disadvantaged communities
- Outreach Activities (up to 5 points) for articulating how the project engages stakeholders in design and implementation
- Leveraging Partners (up to 15 points) for showing how the project incorporates community and private sector partnerships

A Benefit Cost Analysis is required to demonstrate a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) greater than 1. Communities with a [CDC Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) greater than 0.80, Tribes, and EDRCs that are unable to sufficiently calculate a BCR, but otherwise have an eligible application can apply and FEMA may provide assistance with the BCA.

funding, application tips, and an overview of the technical and qualitative evaluation criteria

Review the FY21 [BRIC Mitigation Portfolio](#) and previously funded [BRIC projects, and Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities](#)

[Review FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Guidance](#)

See [FEMA's Regional Offices](#) for regional information, data, and contacts

Apply directly to FEMA for non-financial [Direct Technical Assistance \(DTA\)](#). FEMA expects to serve 40 communities. An approved Hazard Mitigation Plan is not required to apply. [Priority](#) will be given to disadvantaged communities that have demonstrated need which have not received mitigation funding in the past five years.

Eligible Applicants

State and local governments with a [current FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) may apply.

Local governments are considered subapplicants and must submit BRIC subapplications via their State/Territory/Tribal [Hazard Mitigation Office](#). Multi-jurisdictional projects can be submitted.

**An eligible applicant or subapplicant may apply for funding on behalf of individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.*

Preparatory Activities

- Verify current approved status and alignment with [Local and State Hazard Mitigation Plans](#)
- Evaluate the climate risks and vulnerabilities of disadvantaged communities
- Allow time for completion of the required [Benefit Cost Analysis \(BCA\)](#)
- Evaluate if a [Streamlined Pre-Calculated Benefit Cost Analysis](#), available for several project types, can be applied
- Coordinate with the [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) and [Regional FEMA offices](#)
- Determine if proposed activities are in a [Special Flood Hazard Area](#), and if so, confirm required [NFIP participation](#)

Eligible Activities

BRIC will fund risk reduction for acute natural hazard events and chronic stressors.

Mitigation projects must be consistent with the [FEMA-approved state and local Hazard Mitigation Plans. Up to 10% of funding can be used for outreach and engagement, and 5% for management costs.](#)

BRIC will fund:

Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) Activities to help current workforce improve mitigation assistance, encourage protective building codes, partnerships, [project scoping](#) to develop a mitigation project, [mitigation planning, and planning-related activities](#) such as incorporating hazard mitigation into other plans. Project scoping applications must be from a community with a current Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mitigation Projects to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, protect and maintain critical services, facilities, infrastructure, and cybersecurity measures for critical infrastructure. [Phased Project](#) proposals are encouraged for complex projects (e.g.: Phase 1 for engineering & design completion, and Phase 2 for construction).

Mitigation Planning and Projects must:

- Reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards
- Be a long-term solution with a maintenance plan
- Comply with BRIC, [FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Guidance](#), [Build America Buy America Act](#), and all applicable federal, state, tribal, local floodplain, land use, building code, environmental, and historic preservation requirements

Climate Equity Opportunity

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities are often the least able to prepare for, endure, and rapidly recover from natural disasters and adverse climate change impacts. Hazard mitigation funding and technical assistance is increasingly available from an array of federal (e.g.: HUD, DOT, EPA) and state agencies to help communities to plan and implement risk mitigation projects in advance of extreme events. [FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs](#) shift the focus from reactive assistance post disaster, to [pre-disaster hazard mitigation](#) and climate preparedness.

As a program covered by [Executive Order 14008](#): Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, [Justice40](#), and with [Executive Order 13985](#): Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, BRIC can enhance climate resiliency in an equitable manner. Vulnerable communities can be identified and benefits can be articulated by conducting vulnerability assessments and equity impact analyses of proposed interventions, and by utilizing tools such as the CDC SVI, [EPA's EJ Screen, and the Environmental Justice Index which provides census tract data on 36 indicators.](#)

Racial Wealth Equity Opportunity

Many majority BIPOC communities are more vulnerable, have at-risk infrastructure, and have fewer available resources and capacity to manage chronic stressors associated with climate change or to recover from extreme weather and natural disasters. Many BIPOC communities have not seen the same [reinvestment levels](#) as other communities after natural disasters. BRIC grants can advance [racial wealth equity](#) by targeting hazard mitigation planning and projects toward reducing or eliminating the natural hazard risks faced by vulnerable populations, and by enhancing resiliency. Successful BRIC proposals will incorporate equity considerations. Four of the six BRIC qualitative evaluation criteria require BRIC funding applications to address how the project will benefit disadvantaged communities. New this year is an emphasis on strong and fair labor standards that support a qualified, inclusive workforce.