

# 5 winning strategies for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Applications

The [BRIC](#) program provides funding directly to states for preventive investments in natural disaster resilience, including hazard mitigation planning and projects that will reduce the risk of damage in the event of a natural disaster. Below are five winning strategies for cities as they seek to access funding from this program. Learn more about the 2022 winners [here](#).

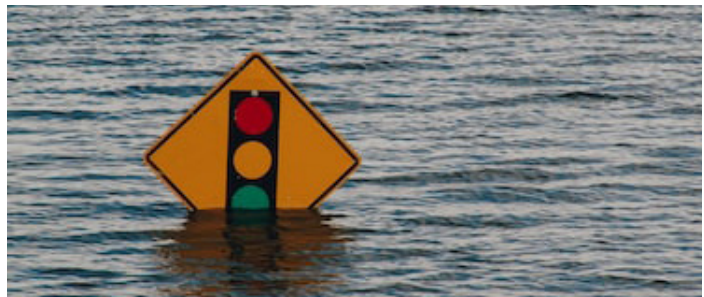
## #1 Update and finalize approval of your local Hazard Mitigation Plan for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Local governments apply for BRIC as subapplicants by submitting applications to their [state hazard mitigation officers](#); note that many states will have a *deadline for subapplicants that is BEFORE the federal deadline on the NOFO*, which is for states.

Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved local or tribal [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) by the application deadline and in order to obligate grant funds for hazard mitigation projects or capability and capacity building activities (check your local plan's status [here](#)). FEMA has provided more detail about [hazard mitigation planning requirements](#) and a resource document of [tips for subapplicants](#) to help them understand the BRIC process.

## #2 Make equity the foundation of your disaster mitigation planning

Promoting equity is one of the guiding principles of the BRIC program and priority will be given to subapplicants who focus on addressing the needs of underserved groups and communities disproportionately affected by climate change. These priorities are in line with the Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#) and [FEMA's Strategic Plan](#), which aim to instill equity as a foundational principle of emergency management.



For example, [Indianapolis, Indiana's](#) successful FY22 BRIC application will provide a historically underserved neighborhood with additional flood protection to reduce the frequency of flooding.

## #3 Conduct meaningful community engagement

The [previous NOFO](#) for FY22 grants asked subapplicants to the national competition to:

- Describe how the outreach strategy and supporting activities are appropriate to the project and the community
- Describe how input from a diverse range of stakeholders—including overburdened and underserved communities—was gathered and incorporated into project conception and design
- Outline how community planning and stakeholder input will continue to be used to help direct project execution

In their successful FY22 application, [Savannah, Georgia](#) incorporated community engagement into the core of their project, making it a critical part of project development. Subapplicants should expect to meet the same high bar for community engagement in FY23.

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## #4 Use nature-based solutions to gain multiple benefits from disaster mitigation projects

[Nature-based solutions](#) can be effective hazard and climate mitigation strategies, with secondary benefits such as cost savings, aesthetic and quality of life improvements, and air pollution reduction. Incorporating nature-based solutions was a priority and part of the technical evaluation criteria for the national competition in FY22 BRIC applications. [The Port of San Francisco's](#) winning application included a living seawall with native species habitats.

Previous LIH resources on using BIL and IRA funds to [plant trees and enhance green spaces](#) and the [technologies that support nature-based solutions](#) may be helpful for designing and planning nature-based solutions. The White House guidebook on [Opportunities to Accelerate Nature-Based Solutions](#) provides additional examples of how nature-based solutions can be an effective climate mitigation strategy.



In their successful FY22 BRIC application, Portland, Oregon, described a plan to plant over 10,000 trees to reduce the adverse effects of extreme heat events—expected to increase as a result of climate change—as well as improve air quality and reduce flooding.

## #5 Take advantage of the direct technical assistance available, even if you don't receive BRIC funding

FEMA is providing [direct technical assistance](#) under BRIC *even for those communities that did not receive or apply for BRIC funding*. Justice40 communities and other underserved communities will be given priority for direct technical assistance. The assistance is designed to “improve a community’s capacity and capability to conduct mitigation activities, increase the community’s resilience to natural hazards, or identify projects that will holistically improve the community’s resilience and reduce risk.” Further details on FY23 direct technical assistance will be provided [here](#) when available.

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**2023 NOFO Coming Soon**