

Q&A for Investing In Resilient Communities: Flooding Webinar

Answers to questions asked during the Local Infrastructure Hub's
webinar with BRIC and NOAA on Oct. 10, 2023

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Q: What happens if an updated hazard mitigation plan is in queue for state or FEMA review? How does this impact BRIC funding eligibility?

A: If your plan review is in queue, it is suggested that you go and connect with your state partners as quickly as possible to see what can be done to expedite the process. That process and the process between the state and the region is managed at the lowest level possible so often it's the local planning department working with either their county or with the state and then the state working with the FEMA region. Additionally, get in touch with your local executives to make sure they're ready to approve or adopt the plan officially as soon as you get the approved adoption letter.

Q: For entities interested in applying for 2023 BRIC, did we have to submit a pre-application in the Summer?

A: This is a state by state question, but if you have a great idea and you haven't done it already and/or your state has already opened and closed that period, reach out to your state. Given that they are the ones who run the pre-application process and then work with you to submit complete applications.

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Q: Besides income, or maybe geography, what other criteria are used to describe disadvantaged communities?

A: So there's been lots of different ways people have talked about disadvantage. We have the disadvantaged communities being identified by the community, the climate, economic justice, screening tool, the cgist. Those are primarily communities below a certain income threshold. If you look at the data, there's a number of factors, but income is the dominant one. Then there are communities that are called rural and economically disadvantaged communities that although still look at income, also highlight size. Then there are oftentimes tribes or tribal governments that also receive prioritization. And lastly there is the community disaster resilience zone in which the focus is towards potential disaster losses. These are all different ways in which a community can be disadvantaged.

Q: Are there critical benefits or implications of the "recovery dollars" categorization?

A: Mitigation in the recovery process is incredibly important and is often when it is most cost-effective. Speed matters in recovery, so getting dollars to communities quickly can make all the difference.

Q: Where can we find the disadvantaged income measures you mention (maybe a link)? Do you expect that the upcoming BRIC NOFO will require the use of these measures?

A: The rural communities one: Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities (EDRCs) are eligible for an increase in funding, up to a 90% federal cost share/10% non-federal cost share. EDRCs are communities of 3,000 or fewer people, identified by the applicant, with residents having an average per capita annual income no more than 80% of the national per capita income, based on the best available data.

The CEJST: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>

Community Disaster Resilience Zones: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3fd0639ba0403e9414d05654449d32/page/Home/>