

BRIC Bites

The Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructures (BRIC) program offers a unique opportunity for FEMA to address the whole community by focusing on hazard mitigation practices that encourage communities to build **resilience** by addressing both the direct and cascading impacts of a disastrous event. Communities who mitigate their risk can reduce the impact of disasters, have a quicker path to recovery, and experience less disaster suffering. Mitigation lessens the financial impact to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and to federal agencies.

BRIC funding was developed following the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) through the reformation and amendment of multiple sections of the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act](#), including Section 203, Pre-Disaster Mitigation. The program is funded through a six percent set aside of estimated disaster grant expenditures for the purpose of making the country more **resilient** against future disasters.

The guiding principles of the BRIC program aim to support communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; promoting equity; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency. On July 1, 2021, FEMA announced the selection of the FY 2020 grants to the tune of \$700 million available through its BRIC and FMA programs. *While FEMA has announced the selections for FY 2020, the actual awards are anticipated to be made at earliest in November 2021.*

So, what does BRIC mean for the future of hazard mitigation? The President increased BRIC funding availability to \$1 billion in Fiscal Year 2021 to encourage additional mitigation opportunities and increase resilience for communities. The FY 2021 program will highlight the impacts that natural hazards - such as floods, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other events - have on our communities, families, individuals, and the economy and address how to shift disaster response from post- to pre-disaster action.

BRIC funding will focus strongly on projects that provide nature-based solutions, enhance building codes, strengthen public infrastructure and partnerships at local, state, and federal levels. This change will allow FEMA to invest in projects that drive risk reduction and build capability for communities and is consistent with the three overarching strategic goals in FEMA's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan: Build a Culture of Preparedness, Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters, and Reduce the Complexity of FEMA.

The BRIC program provides a unique opportunity for private funders to support states and local communities and leverage fund use through side-by-side investment with federal capital. Private investors can support their states and communities who are exploring BRIC projects by providing staff capacity for project planning and implantation and match funding for project completion.

The fiscal year 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was launched by FEMA HQ in August 2021, along with an extensive webinar training series that was unveiled in late July 2021. Past recordings are available on the website [FY2021 BRIC Webinar Series](#).

The FY 2021 application period for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), which includes the BRIC program, opened on **Sept. 30, 2021**, and will close at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on **Jan. 28, 2022**. Subapplicants should be aware that most States enforce an earlier deadline for BRIC applications. Please check this link to find the contact information for your local State Hazard Mitigation Officer about their application requirements and deadlines. ([State Hazard Mitigation Officers | FEMA.gov](#))

BRIC Bites will become a regular series in this publication. It is our hope that our applicants will use this forum to highlight best practices and spotlight innovative mitigation projects. If you have BRIC questions or have a project you would like to add to BRIC Bites, please contact the FEMA Region 7 Hazard Mitigation Assistance BRIC Team at FEMA-R7-MT-Nondisaster@fema.dhs.gov.