



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Funding Announcement

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant makes federal funds available for natural hazard risk mitigation activities with an emphasis on promoting climate adaptation and resilience. Eligible subrecipients include state agencies, federally recognized tribal governments, and communities including local governments, cities, townships, counties, and special district governments. Eligible sub-applicants may apply for funding on behalf of individuals, businesses, and non-profits. If submitting a project application, a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan (HMP) is required by the application deadline and at the time of award (44 CFR 201).

Funding

For federal fiscal year 2021, there is \$1 billion available nationwide for the BRIC grant. The set-aside for New Mexico is \$1 million federal share. Projects submitted in excess of the state set-aside will be submitted to the national competition.

Cost Share

BRIC is a 75% federal and 25% non-federal grant. The non-federal ("local") match can be in the form of cash, in-kind efforts, or a combination. Match cannot be federal funds or funds already used as match for another federal award. If a community meets the requirements of a "Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community", the federal cost share can increase up to 90% federal with 10% non-federal match. The definition of 'Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community' is included at the end of this announcement.

Eligible Activities

Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) – (up to \$1 million) activities that enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. Can include:

- hazard mitigation planning (does not require prior FEMA approved HMP)
- planning-related activities
- project scoping
- building code activities
- partnership projects and other activities

Planning Activities – Per the State's Mitigation Administrative Plan, \$50,000 total project cost is allocated for the first two jurisdictions participating in a hazard mitigation plan. An additional \$5,000 may be requested for each additional participating entity. Participating entities must meet all requirements of 44 CFR (201.6 for local communities, 201.7 for Tribes) and agree to adopt the plan upon FEMA approval.

Project Scoping – Funds to develop hazard mitigation projects, conduct meetings, collect data, complete engineering and design, ect. will be given the following priority order:

1. communities that have not yet received Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) construction or land disturbance funding through DHSEM
2. the project includes multi-jurisdictional cooperation

Mitigation Projects – cost-effective projects (costs at least equal the benefits per FEMA BCA tool) designed to:

- increase resilience and public safety
- reduce injuries and loss of life
- reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure from natural hazards and the effects of climate change

Phased Projects - Phasing a project secures the full cost to complete a construction or land disturbance before all eligibility requirements have been met for a full award. The construction project is split into Phase I for final construction drawings, final cost estimation, Benefit Cost Analysis, environmental clearance, etc, and Phase II for implementation.

Regular Projects - To receive a regular project award, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

- All studies and analysis must be complete prior to application submittal
- Final construction drawings must be included with the application
- Benefit Cost Analysis and Report submitted with a result over 1.0 (costs at least equal the benefits) with appropriate back up documentation
- Meet either of the two latest International Building Codes (if applicable)
- Completed FEMA environmental compliance

National Competition Priorities (*additional information on page 5*)

Applications submitted in excess of the state's set-aside will be entered into national competition. General priorities include risk reduction of both acute events and chronic stressors, driven by climate change, which are either observed or expected. The following types of projects are prioritized. BRIC encourages mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities.

1. infrastructure projects
2. projects that mitigate risk to lifelines
3. projects that benefit disadvantaged communities as referenced in EO 14008
4. projects that incorporate nature-based solutions
5. climate change adaptation and resilience projects
6. increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes.

Management Costs

An additional 5% of the total project cost is available at 100% federal share for management of each sub-grant. Management costs are eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a mitigation project.

Period of Performance

The sub-grant Period of Performance (POP), the time during which project activities are to be completed, will end 36 months after the date FEMA makes the award to DHSEM.

FEMA GO – **Registration is required by October 1, 2021.**

All entities are required to register and submit applications through FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO). Registration is only possible with assistance from your **Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)** identified in SAM.gov. Your entity AOR must create an account, log into FEMA GO, and assign roles to all individuals tasked with BRIC activities.

View all FEMA GO step-by-step training videos here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL720Kw_OojlloKKliEE3oWaHOI3cVXb35

Additional information on FEMA GO is available at:

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants>

Tribal Nations

Federally recognized tribes may apply as a direct recipient to FEMA. There is \$25 million in national competition funds available for Tribal projects with \$1 million in Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) set-aside per Tribe. Tribes that wish to apply direct to FEMA should contact Christy King, FEMA Region VI HMA at Christina.L.King@fema.dhs.gov or 940-383-7220.

Direct Technical Assistance

Provided by FEMA to up to 20 communities across the nation to ensure stakeholders are capable of building and sustaining successful mitigation programs, submitting high-quality applications, and implementing new and innovative projects that reduce risk from a wide range of natural hazards. Communities are eligible to request this assistance even if they are not submitting any other sub-application. Interested communities can submit one letter of interest no later than **1:00 PM Mountain Standard Time on January 28, 2022**, to FEMA-BRICDirectTechnicalAssistance@fema.dhs.gov.

New Mexico sub-applicants must follow the DHSEM's sub-application procedure and deadlines.

Please contact the DHSEM Mitigation Program with questions at DHSEM.mitigation@state.nm.us

Important Dates	
September 9, 2021 9:00am-11:00 am MT	WEBINAR: Hazard Mitigation Assistance Funding Opportunity Overview
September 20, 2021	Final date for requests for individual technical assistance to register your entity in FEMA GO. Participation of your SAM.gov Authorized Organization Representative is mandatory
October 1, 2021	DEADLINE - All Notices of Interest (NOI) are due AND it is the final date for registration in FEMA GO
October 7, 2021 9:00am-11:00am MT	WEBINAR: Hazard Mitigation Assistance Application Development
November 1, 2021	DEADLINE - Complete application packets must be submitted in FEMA GO for DHSEM review
November 24, 2021* (no later than)	Requests For Information (RFI) will be issued by DHSEM and technical assistance will be offered for any corrections or outstanding items
January 1, 2022	DEADLINE - Complete applications ready for submission to FEMA must be submitted in FEMA GO
January 28, 2022	FEMA's Direct Technical Assistance request deadline
June 2022	Estimated FEMA funding selection
December 2022	Estimated FEMA award to DHSEM
January 2023	Estimated DHSEM award to sub-grantees
Webinars will be recorded and posted to the DHSEM website	

*In order to maximize all open grant funds, DHSEM will prioritize technical assistance to projects selected for submission to BRIC and FMA first, followed by HMGP-PF, then HMGP as these grants are the first to close.

More information on BRIC, including the FEMA Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

Excerpt from Federal FY2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
Notice of Funding Opportunity – Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities

Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities are eligible for an increase in cost share up to a 90% federal and 10% non-federal. The definition of an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community is a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the Applicant [State of NM] that is economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80% of the national per capita income, based on best available data.

Indian tribal governments (federally recognized) meeting the definition of an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community that apply to FEMA directly as Applicants are eligible for a 90 percent federal cost share for their sub-applications, which make up their overall BRIC grant Application.

BRIC 2021 Funding Methodology

This methodology describes the steps taken by DHSEM to allocate BRIC funding. It identifies the priorities for funding so that applications can be prepared to address the highest priority activities. It also serves as one way to increase transparency by sharing the decision-making approach with all stakeholders. All projects must meet the minimum requirements of 44 CFR 206.434 (b) and 44 CFR 206.435 (b). If more applications are submitted than there is available funding, all applications will be submitted to an Application Ranking Committee for priority ranking.

In order to maximize funding, DHSEM may enter applications submitted for BRIC as Hazard Mitigation Grant Program or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- Post Fire applications. Funds will not be held for projects that do not meet all established deadlines and minimum application criteria. The BRIC Application Priorities are:

1. Project Scoping (project scoping is not an eligible project type under HMGP or HMGP-PF)
2. Planning Activities - up to \$500,000 of the state's set-aside
3. Capability- and Capacity-Building projects in excess of the 5% of HMGP or HMGP-PF available funds but under the \$1 million BRIC state set-aside
4. Construction projects with a total project cost over what is allocated under HMGP or HMGP-PF or warranting high scores if submitted to the BRIC National Competition

Required Criteria

The following standards are required for an application to be eligible for review by the Application Ranking Committee.

- The entity has a FEMA approved mitigation plan
- The entity is in good financial standing via DUNs number or Sam.gov verification
- A completed application was submitted by the deadline
- The project is an eligible HMA project type
- The project describes measures that, if not taken, will have a severe detrimental impact on the sub-applicant, such as potential loss of life, loss of essential services, or economic hardship in the community
- The project effectively reduces risk and increases resilience, realizes ancillary benefits, and/or shortens recovery time (community function, natural environment, other)

State Competitive Selection Process

Based upon applications submitted and available funding, plans and projects may need to be prioritized for funding. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) and DHSEM Subject Matter Experts will form an Application Ranking Committee. A non-voting member will act as Observer. The Application Ranking Committee will review the applications and prepare a selection report. Each application will be analyzed based on the BRIC FFY 2021 Qualitative and Technical review criteria. Projects that achieve high scores in all or most categories will be put forward into national competition. The Observer shall certify that all entities selected for project recommendation in the report are in good financial standing via DUNs number or Sam.gov verification. The Application Ranking Committee recommendations are provided to the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) for approval. After the GAR provides approval, the SHMO contacts each applicant in writing to notify them if their project was selected or not. If a project is withdrawn or is determined to not meet all eligibility criteria, the project with the next highest ranking is submitted for funding up to the maximum amount of federal dollars remaining.

National Competitive Selection

Per the 2021 federal NOFO, the following criterial will be scored in all nationally competitive applications. The detailed scoring numbers can be found in the Qualitative and Technical review links below:

1. Support state and local governments, tribes, and territories through capability- and capacity-building to enable them to identify mitigation actions and implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards.
2. Encourage and enable innovation while allowing flexibility, consistency, and effectiveness.
3. Promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health, and communities.
4. Provide a significant opportunity to reduce future losses and minimize impacts on the Disaster Relief Fund.
5. Promote equity, including by helping members of disadvantaged groups and prioritizing 40 percent of the benefits to disadvantaged communities as referenced in Executive Order (EO) 14008 in line with the Justice40 Initiative. Criteria can include low income, high and/or persistent poverty, high unemployment and underemployment, racial and ethnic segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discrimination by government entities, linguistic isolation, high housing cost burden and substandard housing, distressed neighborhoods, high transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access, disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts, limited water and sanitation access and affordability, disproportionate impacts from climate, high energy cost burden and low energy access, jobs lost through the energy transition, access to health care, and all geographic areas within Tribal jurisdictions.
6. Support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, taking into account future conditions, prominently including the effects of climate change, and have long-lasting impacts on community risk reduction, including for critical services and facilities and for future disaster costs.

Information on the BRIC Technical Criteria and points available can be found here:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_fy21-bric-technical-criteria-psm.pdf

Information on the BRIC Qualitative Criteria and points available can be found here:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_fy21-bric-qualitative-criteria-psm.pdf

Please review the State's Mitigation Administrative Plan for additional information. The latest version is posted online at <https://www.nmdhsem.org/preparedness-bureau/mitigation/>