

# Building Resilient Infrastructure and Community Subapplication Project Tips

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This Program Support Material (PSM) provides tips for submitting mitigation projects through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The information below includes an overview of eligibility and completeness, project scoring prioritization, and technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

## Eligibility and Completeness

The first step of a BRIC subapplication review is to check whether it meets FEMA's eligibility and completeness standards. These standards include items such as providing all required documentation, confirming that your hazard mitigation plan is active, and demonstrating that you are an eligible subapplicant.

To confirm eligibility and completeness, subapplicants should ensure that all necessary documentation is attached to the subapplication and uses a clear naming convention. In addition to a clear naming convention for attachments, ensure that the attachments are being uploaded into the correct location within [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(FEMA GO\)](#). FEMA is not able to consider or fund a project that is ineligible or incomplete. Using project scoping funds or phased projects may help subapplicants develop competitive applications.

As described in the BRIC funding opportunity subapplicants are exempt from the hazard mitigation plan requirements for the following C&CB (capability- and capacity- building) activity types:

1. hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities
2. partnerships
3. building codes

Federally recognized tribal governments, submitting as subapplicants to a state or territory, are included in this exemption.

## Tips for Prioritizing Subapplications

The BRIC funding opportunity includes information on the point scoring and prioritizing criteria used to rank BRIC applications. The criteria help prioritize projects that are meeting other programmatic goals, such as encouraging resilience through building codes and nature-based solutions.



# FEMA

For projects submitted to the National Competition, to help your project achieve the highest score possible, provide detailed descriptions and relevant documentation to demonstrate how your project is meeting both the qualitative evaluation criteria and technical evaluation criteria.

Considering BRIC scoring categories within both sets of BRIC scoring criteria can also help applicants and subapplicants prioritize which applications to develop and submit. In general, risk reduction, population impacted, implementation measures, and leveraging partners are important variables for selected projects.

In accordance with the BRIC program's guiding principle of promoting equity and in implementing [the Justice40 Initiative](#), the BRIC program is prioritizing assistance that benefits disadvantaged communities as referenced in Executive Order 14008 and subsequent guidance if they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool's categories of burden, or if they are on lands within the boundaries of federally recognized tribes.

Applicants and subapplicants should define their disadvantaged communities as outlined in the BRIC Qualitative Evaluation Criteria Program Support Material found on the [Program Support Materials Resource webpage](#).

To show if a project benefits or primarily benefits a Justice40 community, [Community Disaster Resilience Zones](#), or Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community, applicants and subapplicants should submit a map associated with a geospatial file to show the estimated area benefitting from the project as outlined in the Technical Evaluation Criteria Program Support Material found on the [Program Support Materials Resource webpage](#).

Communities that do not receive points for building codes and Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule should consider ways to make up for those points in other technical and qualitative evaluation criteria.

In addition on the [Program Support Materials webpage](#), information is also available on the BRIC Qualitative Evaluation Criteria and BRIC Technical Evaluation Criteria.

## Technical Feasibility and Cost-Effectiveness

To be considered for funding, applicants and subapplicants must show that their project is cost-effective and technically feasible, meaning the project is designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure from natural hazards.

Technical feasibility should be confirmed by demonstrating how the project will be executed, and how existing risk to people and property will be mitigated by the project. Look out for the following trends that can result in ineligibility:

- Incomplete scope of work, or a scope of work that conflicts with industry standards. While it is not expected that final design will be complete and part of the subapplication, the scope of work should be clear and consistent to prove feasibility.
- Conflicting before- and after-mitigation damages. The existing risk and the residual risk should be identified.
- Insufficient documentation. Documentation can include stamped and sealed reports, design documents, technical drawings, surveys and studies, project site maps, historical data, etc.

- Inconsistencies across the application, such as conflicting information about the design level of protection or inconsistent project costs.

Most projects use [FEMA's Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit](#) to demonstrate cost-effectiveness unless the project qualifies for pre-calculated benefits or BCA support. Look out for the following trends that can result in ineligibility:

- Lack of documentation for basis of estimating damages. Subapplicants should consider the benefitting area of the project and document the existing building and infrastructure present within that area boundary. Information about building(s), infrastructure, capacity, and/or population served may be appropriate depending on the project type.
- Recurrence intervals (RIs) represent the likelihood of a disaster event of a certain magnitude to occur and should increase with event severity. Documentation should show the source of the RIs. If the RIs are unknown, the unknown frequency calculator in the BCA Toolkit can be used for three or more historic events.
- Unsupported BCA inputs. Every value entered in the BCA Toolkit should be supported with an explanation and documentation unless it is a FEMA standard or default value.

Please review the [Cost-Effectiveness and Benefit-Cost Analysis Technical Assistance for Communities Program Support Material](#) for more information.

## Additional Information and Resources

- BRIC Funding Opportunity: [Grants.gov](#) or on the [FEMA funding Opportunities webpage](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Officers for States and Territories](#)
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#)
- Benefit-Cost Analysis Helpline: [BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov) or call toll free at 1-855-540-6744
- Justice40 Initiative Resources:
  - [Interim Implementation Guidance](#) for the Justice40 Initiative
  - [Addendum to the Interim Implementation Guidance](#) for the Justice40 Initiative
  - [Executive Order 14008](#): Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad Section 223
- FEMA Resources:
  - [Regional Tribal Liaisons](#)
  - [FEMA Region Offices](#)