

# Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Camille Crain | July 1, 2020



Photo of Memphis, Tennessee



FEMA



Photo of Miami, Florida

# Agenda

- BRIC Program Overview
  - BRIC Legislation
  - BRIC Guiding Principles
  - Draft BRIC Policy Key Elements
  - BRIC Rollout Timeline
  - BRIC Funding
- How is BRIC Different than PDM?
- What Makes a Project Eligible?
- Elements of Good Mitigation Projects
  - Building Codes
  - Infrastructure Project Examples
  - Project Scoping, BCA, Technical Assistance
- BRIC Summer Engagement Webinars
- Resources



## Legislation



- Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1234, which amends Section 203 of the Stafford Act
- Funded by a 6% set-aside from federal post-disaster grant funding
- Eligible applicants – states and territories with major disaster declarations in past seven years
- Will replace FEMA’s existing pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) program

# BRIC's Guiding Principles

## Guiding Principles



Support Community  
Capability & Capacity Building



Encourage and Enable  
Innovation



Promote Partnerships



Enable Large Infrastructure  
Projects



Maintain Flexibility



Provide Consistency

## Supports FEMA's Strategic Plan

1

Build a Culture of  
Preparedness

2

Ready the Nation for  
Catastrophic Disasters

3

Reduce the Complexity  
of FEMA

# Draft Proposed BRIC Policy Key Elements



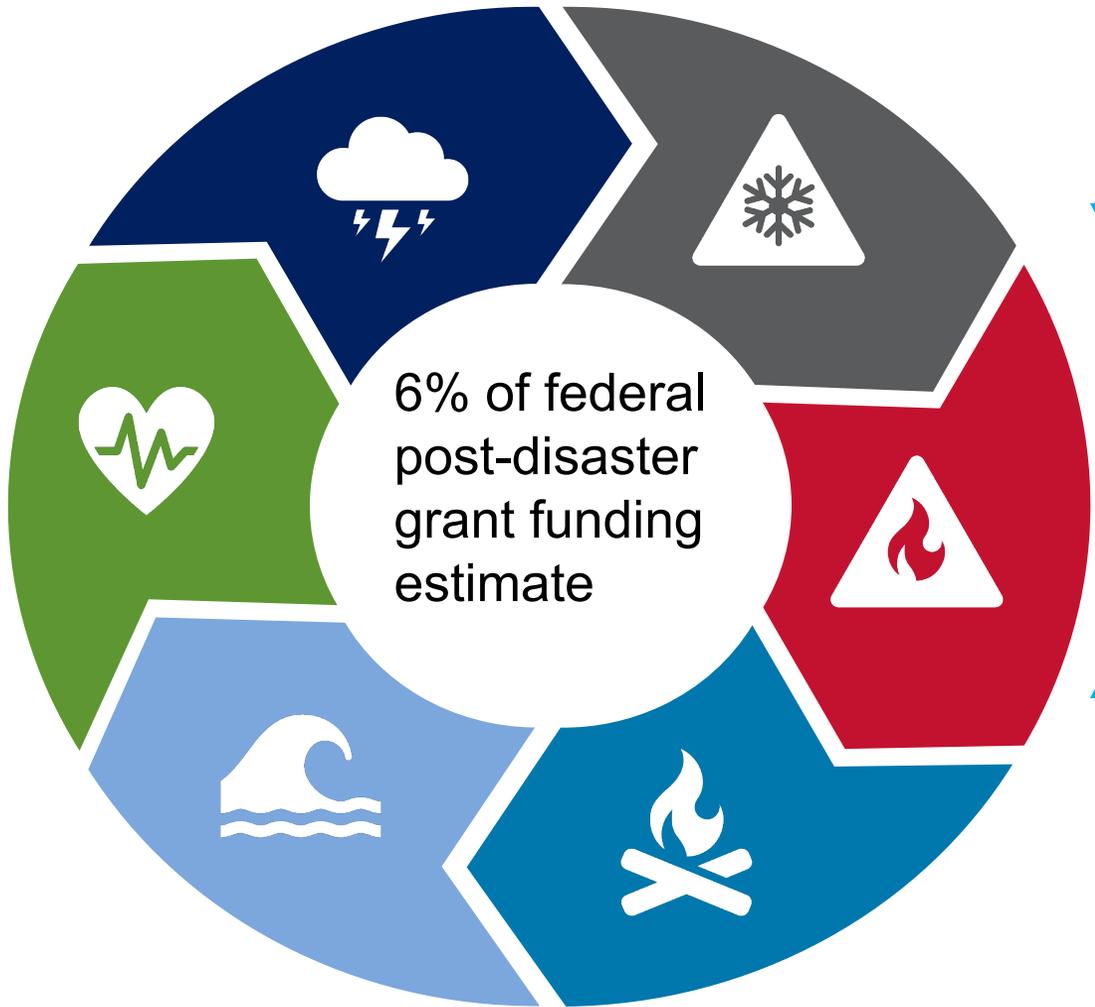
# Timeline



 Where we are now

\* Timing is estimated as of May 2020 and subject to change.

# BRIC Funding



BRIC Account





# How is BRIC Different Than PDM?

## Sets Clear Priorities

- Lifelines & infrastructure projects
- Building codes
- Shared responsibility & partnerships
- Innovative projects

## Builds Capability

- Capability & capacity-building activities
- In-person non-financial technical assistance
- The Mitigation Action Portfolio – selection of case studies

## Increases Flexibility

- Reduces limitations
- Increases caps
- Allows pre-award costs

## Streamlines Processes

- New application process through FEMA GO
- Project extensions
- Phased projects



# What Makes a Project Eligible?

## Existing Activities are Still Eligible



### Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

February 27, 2015



Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20472



## Expanded Eligibility includes:

- Project scoping
- Building code projects
- Additional activities for wildfire and wind implementation (DRRA Section 1205)
- Earthquake early warning (DRRA Section 1233)

NOTE: FEMA P-2055, *Post-disaster Building Safety Evaluation Guidance*

## Projects Must:

- Be cost-effective
- Reduce/eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards
- Meet latest two consensus codes (i.e. 2015 or 2018 international building code)
- Align with Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Meet all environmental and historic preservation requirements



Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe Microgrid

# Elements of Good Mitigation Projects

Risk Reduction

Grant Implementation Approach

Innovation in Project Planning and Implementation

Populations Impacted

Partnerships and Outreach

Future Conditions

Infrastructure and Community Lifelines



Jefferson, South Dakota

# Building Codes

- DRRRA provides legislative mandate to support broader adoption of updated building codes
- Projects must conform with latest published codes (either of two most recently published editions)
- BRIC will fund building code activity

Leverage references like the National Building Code Assessment Report, [https://www.isomitigation.com/siteassets/downloads/iso-bcegs-state-report\\_web.pdf](https://www.isomitigation.com/siteassets/downloads/iso-bcegs-state-report_web.pdf)

# Community Lifelines

Lifelines are services communities use. The goals and objectives of FEMA's Strategic Plan promote using mitigation to reduce risk to lifelines before a disaster and to quickly stabilize a community after disaster by preventing cascading impacts. BRIC mitigation grants can go toward projects which help improve these systems.

**Lifeline-focused mitigation projects** could involve a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations



# Example Infrastructure Projects

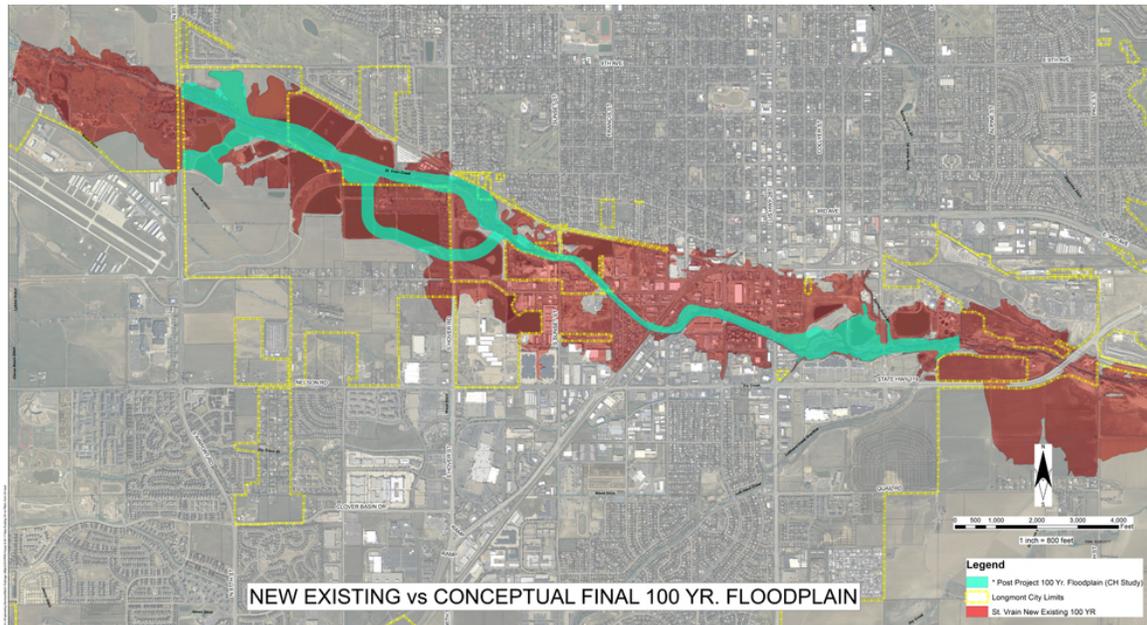


**Nature-Based Infrastructure**  
Underground Resiliency Park,  
Hoboken, NJ

# Example Infrastructure Projects



## Nature-Based Flood Protection Resilient St. Vrain, Longmont, CO





# Project Scoping

## What Is Project Scoping?

- Provides states, federally-recognized tribes, and territories with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete mitigation project applications
- Project Scoping can help states and communities prepare projects for the full launch of BRIC in FY20 and beyond, including years with larger funding available.

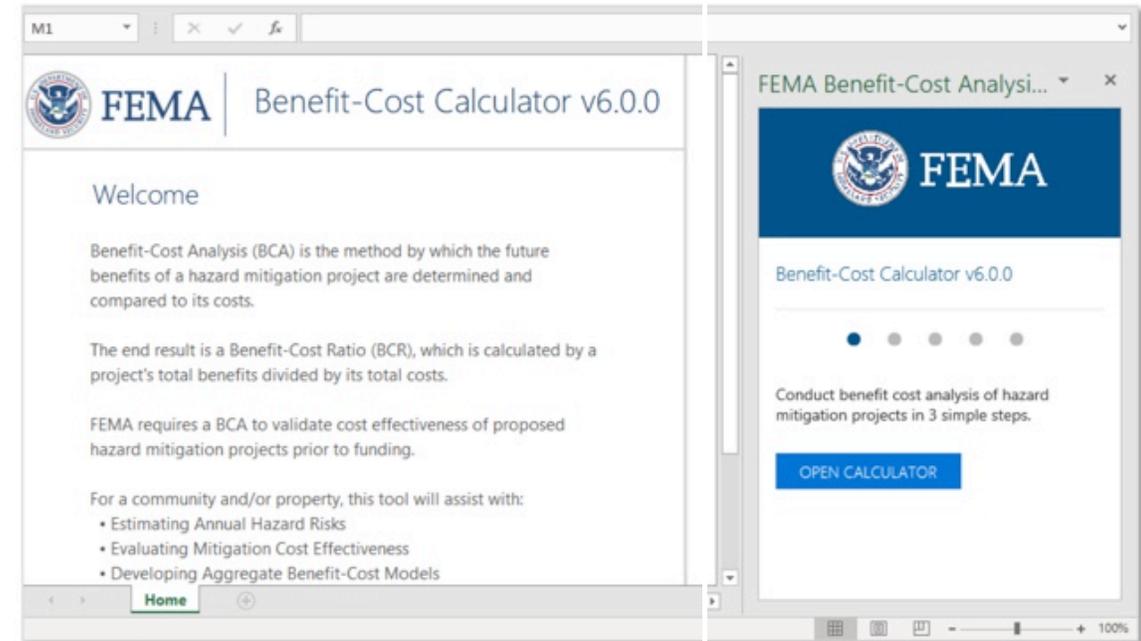
## What Activities Are Eligible For Project Scoping?

- Engineering design and feasibility studies for larger or complex projects
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) studies
- Obtain staff or resources to develop cost-share strategy and identify potential match funding
- Evaluate facilities or areas to determine appropriate mitigation actions
- Incorporate environmental considerations early into program decisions
- Collect data for benefit cost analyses, environmental compliance and other program requirements
- Evaluation of potential solutions (i.e., alternative analysis)
- Project scoping across a wide variety of programs to incorporate sustainability, resilience and renewable building concepts



# Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)

- FEMA has a statutory requirement to fund “cost-effective” hazard mitigation projects – to assess the cost-effectiveness of a project, FEMA requires a BCA
- A BCA quantifies the benefits of a project and compares them to its cost, resulting in a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR)
- FEMA has released “pre-calculated benefits” for some project types



FEMA's BCA Toolkit, pre-calculated benefits, and other resources may be found at [www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis](http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis)



# Technical Assistance

We heard that communities need technical assistance, application advice and have other information needs. FEMA is offering tools and resources for stakeholders such as:

- Mitigation Action Portfolio – A guidebook with project examples and best practices
- Non-financial technical assistance with select communities to help build local capability and capacity





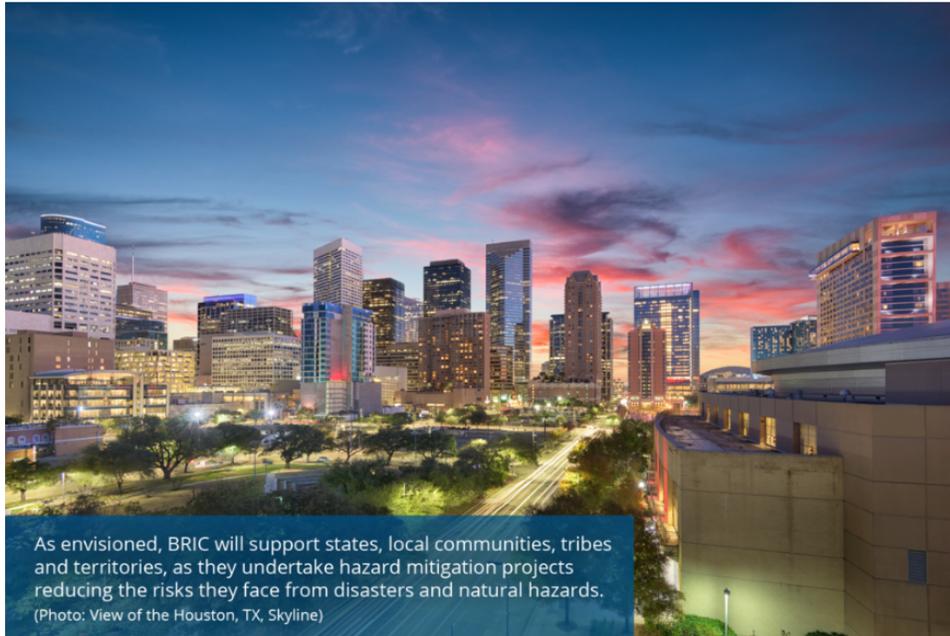
# BRIC Summer 2020 Stakeholder Engagement Webinars

## Purpose and Goals

- Educate stakeholders on all aspects of the BRIC policy and program
- Increase awareness and understanding of key BRIC program components. Over the summer FEMA will deliver two groups of webinars:
  - BRIC Engagement Webinars – all about the BRIC program (July 2020)
  - BRIC NOFO Webinars – will occur NOFO is released (August - September 2020)

# FEMA Resources

## Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities



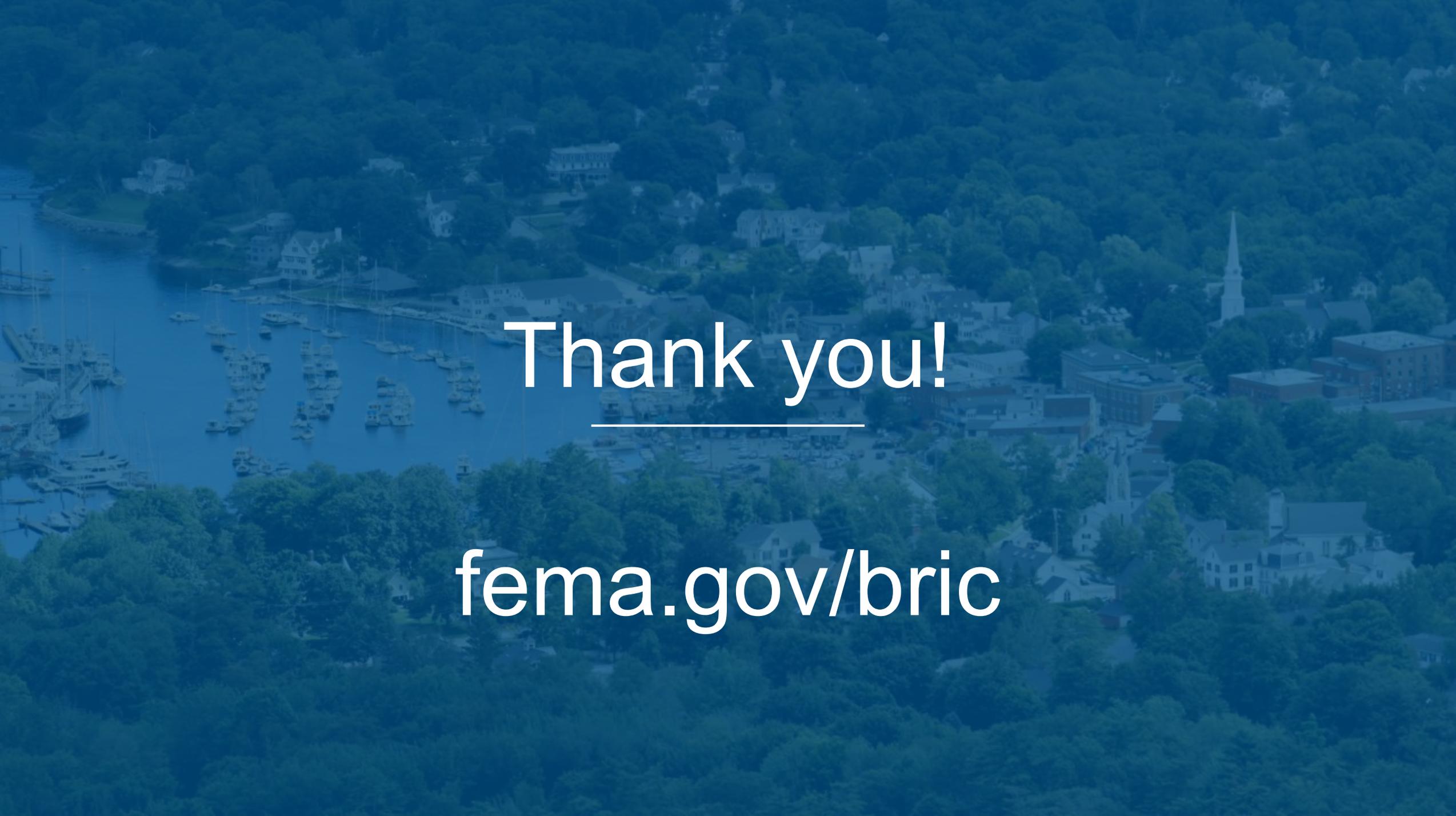
This page provides general information about a new pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

<https://www.fema.gov/bric>

**Sign up for BRIC and HMA Updates:**  
<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>

### Other Resources:

- Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit:  
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222>
- Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA):  
[www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis](http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis)
- Hazard Mitigation Planning:  
<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning>
- ISO Mitigation – Building Codes  
<https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>



Thank you!

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[fema.gov/bric](https://fema.gov/bric)