

BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

This program support material provides detailed information about the non-financial Direct Technical Assistance offered through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. FEMA will provide non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to up to 10 selected communities to support the mitigation outcomes outlined below and as referenced in Section A.9 (*Program Description – Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities*) of the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).



Direct Technical Assistance Mitigation Outcomes

Background

During its stakeholder engagement efforts in the summer of 2019, FEMA received an overwhelming number of comments that requested or addressed the need for technical assistance. Stakeholder comments addressed a range of topics, including:

- Requesting application support
- Identifying specific areas of expertise that stakeholders lack
- Sharing challenges in sustaining mitigation programs
- Expressing difficulties identifying needs and determining strategies

Information shared indicated that addressing these concerns will be especially important for small, impoverished, rural, and tribal communities. Stakeholders suggested that direct, hands-on delivery styles would best meet their needs. FEMA considered all of this feedback when developing this offering of non-financial Direct Technical Assistance.

As described in Section E.2 (*Application Review Information – Review and Selection Process, Non-Financial Direct Technical Assistance*) of the BRIC NOFO, FEMA will make Direct Technical Assistance available to up to 10 local communities across the nation, one per FEMA Region, selected from letters of interest submitted through Applicants



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and in consultation with the FEMA Regions. FEMA's provision of Direct Technical Assistance will depend on its ability to perform the requested services. Should the demand for the services exceed FEMA's organizational capacity, FEMA may refer the community to other technical assistance offerings.

For more information on BRIC and stakeholder engagement efforts, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/bric>.

Support Available

Through Direct Technical Assistance, FEMA will provide support for both project or application-specific needs and community-wide resilience needs. Examples of project or application-specific assistance needs include but are not limited to:

- Support applying the Benefit-Cost Analysis methodology to nature-based solutions
- Assistance with understanding or completing environmental planning and historic preservation requirements

Examples of community-wide resilience assistance needs include but are not limited to:

- Building a shared understanding of resilience across local government departments
- Matching mitigation solutions to funding mechanisms
- Identifying partnership opportunities and building a partnership framework
- Exploring mitigation strategies to reduce risk to Community Lifelines

As illustrated by stakeholder feedback, FEMA recognizes communities have diverse needs and different capability and capacity levels. FEMA will consider letter of interest requests for all types of Direct Technical Assistance if they meet the eligibility and submission information outlined in the BRIC NOFO and this program support material.

Eligibility Information

As described in Section C.1 (*Eligibility Information*) of the BRIC NOFO, communities, which can include cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and Indian tribal governments, are considered eligible for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance.

A BRIC grant subapplication or award under the State/Territory Allocation, Tribal Set-Aside, or national competition is not a pre-requisite or requirement for consideration for Direct Technical Assistance. Additionally, an approved hazard mitigation plan is not a pre-requisite or requirement for consideration for Direct Technical Assistance.

As described in Section C.3 (*Eligibility Information – Other Eligibility Criteria*) of the BRIC NOFO, Direct Technical Assistance must improve the community's capacity and capability to conduct mitigation activities, increase the community's resilience to natural hazards, or identify projects that will holistically improve the community's resilience and reduce risk.

FEMA will review each submitted letter of interest and select communities based upon a compelling need and demonstration that the assistance will further BRIC's goals to build community capability and resilience. FEMA may prioritize Direct Technical Assistance for communities that:

- Have not received a project award under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program, or the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) within the past 5 years

- Have not received an Advance Assistance award under PDM, FMA, or HMGP within the past 5 years
- Are Tribal entities
- Are designated as small impoverished communities (documentation to support this designation must be included with the letter of interest)
- Have demonstrated a compelling need (e.g., communities with significant social vulnerability, communities with multiple major disaster declarations within the past 5 years)

Submission Information

As described in Section D.9 (*Application and Submission Information – Content and Form of Application Submission*) of the BRIC NOFO, the submission process is as follows:

- A community must submit a letter of interest for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to its state, territorial, or Indian tribal government (federally recognized) Applicant agency. Contact information for the State Hazard Mitigation Officers is provided on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/state-hazard-mitigation-officers>.
- Each state, territory, and Indian tribal government (federally recognized) may submit one letter of interest on behalf of a community for Direct Technical Assistance. This must be emailed to BuildBRIC@fema.dhs.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 29, 2021. FEMA will consider only one letter for Direct Technical Assistance from each state/territory/Indian tribal government (federally recognized). The state/territory/Indian tribal government (federally recognized) is expected to review the requests and send the most critical or relevant request to the FEMA email address provided.
- Although there is no required format for the letter of interest, at a minimum it should contain the following information:
 - Community point of contact information, including name, position, address, phone number, and email
 - A description of the community's challenges and need for Direct Technical Assistance
 - The extent of the community's capacity to assist in the Direct Technical Assistance activity and the staff available to commit to participate in the activity

FEMA requests that the letter of interest not exceed two pages and will accept any submission format that contains the information requested.

Delivery and Expectations

Once communities are selected for this non-financial Direct Technical Assistance, FEMA will coordinate with them to develop a clear list of goals and objectives and a timeline outlining milestones or deliverables expected. In addition, FEMA must receive a signed agreement that confirms the commitment of the community. The agreement must state the resources and timeline that the community will provide. The intent of Direct Technical Assistance is for FEMA staff (or staff assisting on behalf of FEMA) to provide direct support for a specified period, not to exceed 36 months.

Participating communities will need to submit a final report to detail the assistance provided, share deliverables, and explain how goals and objectives have been met. FEMA will not require a community to submit a BRIC application in subsequent grant cycles. FEMA expects participating communities to serve as mentors for future recipients of Direct Technical Assistance and other communities.