**Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Webinar Series: NOFO Overview**

**August 18, 2020 at 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

Kayed Lakhia: Good morning and good afternoon everyone. My name is Kayed Lakhia and I am the Director of Hazard Mitigation at FEMA, and I am here to kick off today’s NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) webinars for FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) and BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) pre-disaster mitigation grant programs. Hopefully some of you were able to attend our BRIC Summer Engagement Series webinars this July. And these NOFO sessions today and the next few days are meant to take a deeper dive into the requirements for application to both the FMA and the BRIC programs. I am especially thrilled to announce that for 2020 we have available $160 million for FMA and half a billion dollars for BRIC, collectively across both programs, $660 million. This is the highest level ever in the history of the program. As many of you are aware, FMA is an ongoing program and the BRIC program replaces the PDM (Pre-Disaster Mitigation) program. Many of you, through your input and feedback through the many information sharing sessions we have held, have helped shape the BRIC program. Specifically, the program allows us to address capacity- and capability-building at the community level, and also enables us to fund larger infrastructure mitigation projects that we have rarely been able to fund in the past. Let me assure you, are projects available under the PDM program are still eligible under BRIC. Most importantly, let me express a profound sense of gratitude and a huge thank you, because all of you played a large role in designing this program over the past 24 months. Before we get started I wanted to talk through a few housekeeping items. Please make sure that if you have a government computer, sign off the VPN and only join over the wi-fi. This will greatly improve the quality of the recording. Today’s session is being recorded so that we can share a link with our stakeholders and partners who were not able to attend today. The webinar portion of the session will last approximately 60 minutes, and after that we will answer questions live. Note, however, that while FEMA is answering questions live, participants can only ask questions through the Q&A pod on the right-hand side of your screen. When writing questions in the Q&A pod, please make sure you identify the question as FMA or BRIC. If you have technical questions or are experiencing technical difficulties, please email our helpdesk at [FEMA-HMACOMMS@FEMA.DHS.GOV](mailto:FEMA-HMACOMMS@FEMA.DHS.GOV), an email address which you can see in the left-hand side of your screen. A moderator will respond to you directly and answer technical questions only. As a helpful tip, technical problems can be signing off and signing back in, clearing your computer cache, and turning on your speakers. Before we get started, once the BRIC and FMA session concludes, we will provide slides with tools and resources and then start our Q&A session, which will begin around 3 o’clock today. Please note that today’s presentation and other resources can be downloaded, and kindly refer to the file pod on the lower left-hand side of the screen. So now, let’s begin. This session is being kicked off by Ryan Janda, my Non-Disaster Grants Implementation Branch Chief. He’ll give you a short overview on non-disaster mitigation grants, applicant eligibility, and program requirements. Next, you’ll hear from Brandon Sweezea, my FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) Section Chief, and he will give you an overview of the FMA program for this year. Camille Crain is the FEMA’s BRIC Section Chief, and she will give you an overview of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, and she will also share with you resources and program information on BRIC. Upon the conclusion of Camille’s presentation, we’ll come back on to kick off the live Q&A portion of the program. With that, let me wish you all the best as you compete for both these very exciting programs, and I look forward to seeing some exciting projects to further resiliency in our nation. So with that, let’s get started with Ryan Janda. Thank you all.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much Kayed, and let’s flip to the next slide. Before I begin, I’d like to say thank to all that have helped us to get to where we are today. Without you, this would not be possible. Today’s agenda will cover the following topics. We’ll talk about specific aspects of the mitigation grant programs, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. We’ll talk about specific priorities for those two programs, as well as FEMA GO, job aids and resources, and finally questions as Kayed said a few minutes ago, and we’ll spend about 30 minutes talking through questions that were submitted to us during this webinar. Next slide please.

On August 3rd, 2020, FEMA posted the Fiscal Year 2020 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program. We’ve been working on the BRIC program since roughly October of 2018, and it’s been a long road for many of us. And again, we thank you for your patience, your support, and your continued interest in this program. FEMA’s two competitive non-disaster grant programs provide states, local communities, tribes, and territories funding for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen our nation’s ability to build a culture of preparedness while reducing disaster losses, and protecting life and property from future disaster damages. This year, we are making $660 million available for these two programs - $500 million for the BRIC program (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) and $160 million for the FMA program (Flood Mitigation Assistance). As you can see from the images, here are the amounts of available funding, and we will get into more detail during this presentation. Next slide please.

I’m not get into a whole lot of detail with the information on this slide, but you can tell who is eligible to apply for the FMA and BRIC grant programs. We'll get into more depth later during today’s discussion when we cover each program separately. Next slide please.

To apply for funding made available for FY2020 through the FMA and BRIC programs, the application and funding deadlines must be adhered to. The application opening, or start date, will be September 30, 2020. The application deadline is January 29, 2021 at exactly 3 PM Eastern Standard Time. Please know that’s 3 PM Eastern Standard Time, that’s critically important because the application system will stop receiving applications at exactly 3 PM Eastern Standard Time. We will make selections, or post our notifications on [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) in June of 2021. The period of performance will begin when the recipient accepts the first award – this will vary for all recipients. Generally, the period of performance will be 36 months from the award date. For Community Flood Mitigation Projects under the FMA program, it’s 48 months from the award date. And for the BRIC program, for highly complex projects, an applicant may submit a request for a longer period of performance in the application for FEMA to review, consider, and approve. Next slide please.

Here are some of the requirements that are important to note for both the Flood Mitigation Assistance and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities programs. Applicants and subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of funding. Applicants and subapplicants applying for mitigation projects must provide a Benefit-Cost Analysis (also known as a BCA) or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness of projects. Mitigation planning subapplications are not required to have a Benefit-Cost Analysis submitted with them. Applicants and subapplicants applying for mitigation projects must provide information needed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related DHS and FEMA instructions and directives. In addition, communities are encouraged but not required to pursue mitigation plan integration aspects, which is a process where communities look critically at their existing planning framework and align efforts, such as integration of hazard mitigation principles into other local planning mechanisms such as comprehensive plans, transportation plans, floodplain ordinances, etc. and vice versa. It is vital to build a safer, more resilient community. This two-way exchange of information supports community-wide risk reduction both before and after disasters. Not only will the community planning efforts be aligned, but by going through the process there is a higher level of inter-agency collaboration, which is just as important as the planning mechanisms themselves. Next slide please.

There’s a whole lot of information on this one slide, even though there’s not a whole lot of text. For the cost shares, both for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, as well as Flood Mitigation Assistance program, there is a cost share requirement. A cost share is required for all subapplications funded under these programs. The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or in-kind third party services, materials, or any combination thereof. FEMA will provide 100% federal funding for BRIC management costs the cost share for BRIC is as follows. Generally the cost share for this program is up to 75% federal and 25% non-federal. For small, impoverished communities there may be an increase in the cost share up to 90% federal, 10% non-federal. A small impoverished community is a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified the applicant. It is economically disadvantaged with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80% of the national per capita income based on the best available data. For insular areas, and this is for both the BRIC program and FMA program, these territories include American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. FEMA will automatically waive the non-federal cost share for the recipient for the non-federal cost share if the entire award is under $200,000, the recipient may request a waiver in its application. For FMA specifically, federal funding is available for up to 75% of the eligible activity cost. However, FEMA may contribute the following federal cost share for properties that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program at the time of application, and meet the following definitions. Please pay close attention to these definitions. For severe repetitive loss there are two parts to the definition. First, a property that has received four or more NFIP claim payments that have been made with the amount of each claim exceeding $5,000 and with the cumulative amount of claims payments exceeding $20,000. The second part of the SRL property definition is at least two separate NFIP claim payments –those are building payments only - that have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure. For SRL properties FEMA may provide up to 100% federal cost share. For repetitive loss properties FEMA may provide up to 90% federal cost share. A repetitive loss property has incurred flood related damage on at least two occasions in which the cost of the repair on the average equaled or exceeded 25% of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event. This concludes some of the common aspects of the FMA and BRIC programs. I'm now going to turn it over to Brandon Sweezea the FMA Section Chief for detailed information on the Flood Mitigation Assistance program for FY2020. Thank you, and have a great day and thank you again for your interest in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program as well as the Flood Mitigation Assistance program.

Brandon Sweezea: Thank you, Ryan, for the introduction. Again, my name is Brandon Sweezea and I’m with the flood mitigation, I am the Flood Mitigation Assistance Section Chief at FEMA headquarters in D.C. Before I begin, I want to bring your attention to four FEMA resource documents we have available in the resource guide, available in the Adobe pod below. And these documents are for the FMA program and they include the Flood Mitigation Assistance NOFO fact sheet, a project scoping fact sheet, a community flood mitigation project fact sheet and a geospatial file eligibility criteria job aid, which can be used to develop benefitting area maps, which I will discuss later in my presentation. These resources are also available on the FEMA FY20 NOFO page on FEMA.gov. If you have any questions during my presentation, please provide them in the question-and-answer box on the right, and please put FMA in front of your question so that we can properly sort it. So let me begin with the FY2020 Flood Mitigation Assistance offering. And just to give you background, the purpose of the FMA program is to reduce and eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. And that’s primarily because funding for FMA originates from the National Flood Insurance Fund from policyholders that have NFIP policies. Next slide please.

So getting at the eligibility requirements. Eligible applicants include the states, District of Columbia, U.S. territories and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. And applicant entities shall designate one agency to serve as the applicant for all of the FMA funding applications and may submit only one FMA grant application to FEMA as an applicant. Grant applications are made up of several grant subapplications, which fund individual projects for subapplicants. And subapplicants are local governments and include cities, townships, counties, special district governments and can also be Indian tribal governments, including federally recognized tribes, who choose to apply as subapplicants. And if a tribe is applying as a subapplicant, they have to submit subapplications to eligible state, territory or tribal applicant agencies. All subapplicants for FMA are required to be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, as the Flood Mitigation Assistance program is funded by premiums paid by NFIP policyholders. And they also have to be in good standing with the NFIP. That means that they’re not on probation or suspended. The National Flood Insurance Program community status book can easily be verified to see what your community status is. And if you just search FEMA.gov or even Google, you can find the FEMA community status book to look up your community standings with the NFIP. Further, for individual property mitigation projects (we’re talking about elevations, acquisitions, those types of projects), all of the structures that are included in subapplications must have an NFIP policy in force at the time of the application opening, which is September 30, 2020. And the policy must be enforced through the selection, award, project implementation, and in cases where a mitigated structure remains after the project, for the life of the structure. FEMA is going to verify NFIP policy status at different times throughout the review, selection and implementation cycles for compliance with this requirement. Next slide please.

So FMA follows a waterfall funding distribution process, as the priority caps are met. So as you can see in this graphic, we have $160 million of total funding available for the FY20 FMA program. So going down to the first pool, if you may, up to $4 million for priority 1 will be available for project scoping activities. And then we will be shifting to the second priority once we have met that cap of eligible projects to the community flood mitigation projects, and we’ll be selecting up to $70 million in projects for that priority. And then as we move to the last pool, it’ll be priorities 3 and 4, which are flood planning and technical assistance. And then finally the priority 5, which is our traditional individual flood mitigation projects, and those are composed of elevation, acquisition, relocation and reconstruction projects of severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss structures. If any of these priorities are not met, so if we only got $2 million in eligible project scoping, priority 1 projects, then that funding will just flow down the line and be available essentially to priorities 3, 4 and 5, as they don't have a cap. Next slide please.

We have many eligible types of flood mitigation activities under FMA. This isn't meant to be an exhaustive list, but it just gives you an idea of the construction activities that we do have eligible. Again, the purpose of the FMA program is to reduce future claims against the NFIP. And with that in mind, these flood activities are eligible under the program, and are contained within the 2015 Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance. This is a list of eligible construction activities and isn't meant to be exhaustive. And most of these activities that are instructive (are construction based) fall within two priorities we have that I outlined in the previous slide, and that’s the community flood mitigation priority, which I will get to in a following slide. And then also our individual flood mitigation project types. In addition to these activities, we also have hazard mitigation planning, technical assistance funding and management costs for managing the grant projects, if they are awarded. Next slide please.

So getting into the priorities, under the FY20 FMA offering, we have priority number 1, which is project scoping. And this has been improved for this year. In previous years, the priority was called advanced assistance. So it's not a new priority, but we just renamed it to be more in line with what the activity is trying to accomplish, what essentially is seed funding for future projects. So based on the feedback that we have received from stakeholders, we have expanded project scoping to not only apply to the development of community flood mitigation projects but also to individual property mitigation projects. Those are the mitigation of individual SRL, RL and NFIP-insured properties. The following represents eligible property scoping activities that benefit NFIP-insured structures, recognizing that applicants and subapplicants may have needs that extend beyond what has been included here. All project scoping activities should result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for FMA, or another funding opportunity such as BRIC or the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Project scoping activities may include conducting meetings, outreach, coordination with subapplicants and community residents, developing or conducting engineering, environmental feasibility, benefit cost analysis, hydrologic or hydrogeologic studies (also known as H&H studies), undertaking activities that lead to development of project applications, evaluating facilities to identify mitigation activities, and using staff or resources to develop cost share strategies. But please note you can't use funds for the sole source of funding a position. We have received some applications that the whole goal is to fund a position and project scoping is not eligible for that type of activity if it is solely for funding an individual position. For the FMA project scoping priority, there is a cap of $600,000 per applicant. And more information can be found on the FY20 FMA project scoping fact sheet, which is available in our resource guidance. Next slide please.

Our second priority is the community flood mitigation project type. And for FY20, it has actually been enhanced. So in previous years, we had $30 million available per project, and this year the set-aside has been increased to $70 million fed share for these types of projects. FEMA's going to select the highest scored eligible community flood mitigation project subapplications, based on the FEMA scoring criteria, which is contained in the fact sheet for the community flood mitigation project that is available in the guidance documents that we have available. So if you want to get more information on how we do the scoring, the priorities are contained within that document with descriptions on how we do our point system. Additionally, projects are going to be evaluated to ensure that they provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program in accordance with Title 44 of the CFR and Part 79 and in accordance with the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance. And primarily how we will be assessing benefits of these projects is through the benefitting area maps, which will be submitted. And these geospatial maps essentially, they are described on how to make the maps in our geospatial job aid, which is also available. And what we are looking for is maps that are drawn that will show the area that will be benefitting from the mitigated project that is proposed. And it’s typically supported by a report or study, such as an H&H study. And when we get these reports we will be overlaying the severe repetitive loss or repetitive loss properties that we have available from insurance, as well as national flood insurance policy holders. And this, by overlaying all of these, we will be able to inform our confidence level in determining whether these projects, relative to their federal share, are going to be reducing claims to policyholders, NFIP policyholders in the benefitting area. And so again, these types of projects are really aimed at mitigating flood on a community level and are different from the individual flood mitigation that we’ve typically been done in the past. More information, again, can be found on the community flood mitigation project fact sheet that is available in the Adobe Connect resources link. Next slide.

So the purpose of the community flood mitigation projects is to lessen the frequency or severity of flooding to NFIP structures within isolated drainage areas that are not hydraulically linked or connected to larger basins. These projects include, but are not limited to, floodwater storage and diversion, floodplain and stream restoration, stormwater management through installation or modifications of culverts or other stormwater management facilities. Modifications must be for the purpose of increasing risk reduction capabilities of the existing structures and cannot constitute only repairs or maintenance or those sorts of activities. It is crucial these projects don't duplicate the flood prevention activities of other federal agencies and may not constitute a section of a larger flood control system. So, they really need to be on their own as standalone mitigation solution. Further, individual property mitigation projects such as the elevations Part 80 voluntary acquisitions, relocations, reconstruction are not eligible under the community flood mitigation project type, as they are considered in priority 5 of the individual property mitigation priority. Next slide please.

So a crucial component of the community flood mitigation projects is providing a proposed project that benefits NFIP-insured properties. And this is completed through the submission of a benefitting area map and associated geospatial file. So we accept shape files, KML, KMZ, geodatabase and other GIS-enabled documents. And the purpose of, these maps essentially need to delineate the proposed project footprint boundary, if available, so where the work is being done, and then the area benefitting from the project. And again, these are supported through like a hydrologic and hydraulic study or similar report showing that the realized project benefits will reduce flooding to the structures contained within the benefitting area. And then, so basically once those maps are received by FEMA through the application process, the benefitting area maps will be overlaid, as I explained, with NFIP policies, severe repetitive loss structures and repetitive loss properties, and we’re going to be reviewing them for confidence in reducing claims to the NFIP in relation to the funding requested. Again, for more information on developing these benefitting area maps, there is a geospatial file eligibility criteria job aid that is contained within the available documents in this presentation and also available on the FY20 FMA NOFO website. Next slide please.

For priorities 3 and 4, these are our typical priorities that we've had: technical assistance that’s available for applicants (so if you are an applicant that was awarded at least $1 million in funds last year for FY19, then you’re eligible for technical assistance) and flood mitigation planning--FEMA funds under FMA we fund the flood component only of a hazard mitigation plan. So it won't fund the entire mitigation plan, but we can do the flood portion. Next slide.

Lastly, for priority 5, is our traditional individual flood mitigation project type. So, funds for this are going to be distributed on a competitive basis for individual property flood mitigation projects. And there are essentially two large priority buckets. So we have subapplications, that include 50% or more of structures that meet in this order the SRL, BII which is that first box A, RL or SRL BI. And so those are the different definitions that we have, and they have already been categorized through our insurance process and prioritized in this manner. So we will be prioritizing the first bucket of projects that contain 50% or more structures that are included in the application will be in that first priority. As mentioned by Ryan earlier, the SRL and RL project cost shares are different than the traditional 75/25 cost share of other grants. SRL property mitigation projects are 100% federal cost share, so there is no local match required. And for RL, for the repetitive loss, it’s a 90% federal cost share and 10% nonfederal match. Again, more information on this project type can be found in the FY20 FMA NOFO fact sheet that’s available on the resources link and on our website. Next slide.

So for the sub-priority of the individual flood mitigation project type, the second one is for projects that have less than 50% of SRL, RL properties within it. And so we will be further prioritizing those projects based on additional project factors. And this includes the highest percentage of projects that meet the SRL, RL definition, and then the largest number of structures that meet the definition. And then we’ll be looking at the highest percentage of structures that are determined substantially damaged by the community as determined through a substantial damage letter that is admitted by the community determined on the property. Then, through the highest percentage of structures that are listed as primary residence, per their NFIP policy declarations page. And lastly, we’ll be looking at the FEMA validated benefit cost ratio submitted. And so this kind of just gives you an idea of how we go through the rack and stack of funding priorities as we move down. Next slide please.

Under the FMA program, we do have some application limits. Applicants may include the following in a grant application. You can have one management cost subapplication, which will be for the management cost for the applicant. You can have one technical assistance subapplication if that applicant received at least a million dollars in the previous year. And then there’s no limit on our project subapplications submitted under project scoping, community flood mitigation or individual mitigation projects. So you can submit as many projects as you want under that priority. Next slide please.

So under FMA, we do have some funding limits. So for project scoping project type, we have a $600,000 per applicant funding limit. So we will fund up to $600,000 in project scoping activities up to the cap that we established per applicant. For the community flood mitigation projects, the cap is per subapplication. So per project that we receive, projects can be up to $30 million federal share. And both of these caps are new for FY20 based on feedback that we have received. The rest of the funding caps are pretty standard that we have had year after year. And so with that, again I just want to draw your attention, that we do have those four resource documents available, both on this Adobe Connect and on our FEMA.gov website under the FY20 FMA NOFO page. So with that, I would like to turn things over to Camille Crain, who will give us an overview of the BRIC program that is new for FY20. Take it away, Camille.

Camille Crain: Thank you, Brandon. My name is Camille Crain, and I am the BRIC Section Chief at FEMA headquarters. BRIC is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, our new grant program that we are really excited to launch this year. Next slide please.

So as a reminder, if you do have BRIC-specific questions as we run through (or I run through) this presentation, please feel free to type those into the Q&A pod we have. And just put BRIC before your question, that way, just like Brandon said with FMA, we can sort out which program you are asking your questions for. So BRIC came about through the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, back in October of 2018. After that, we gathered a lot of stakeholder feedback and our leadership got together using that stakeholder feedback and our research on what other grant programs do and created the six guiding principles that we developed our program around. So I want to just give some context and walk through those guiding principles. One, we want to be a program that supports community capability and capacity building. We want to encourage and enable innovation, promote partnerships, enable large infrastructure projects, maintain flexibility and provide consistency. And hopefully, as I talk to some of the details of the program, you will see how we are bringing those principles to life. We also support FEMA's strategic plan by increasing the mitigation investment we support goal 1 of building a culture of preparedness by enabling projects that protect lifelines, we are readying the nation for catastrophic disasters. And as we designed the program, we tried to take into account or we did take into account reducing the complexity of FEMA. Next slide please.

So what are the BRIC priorities? These are the priorities for our program as listed in the NOFO. One, we want to incentivize public infrastructure projects. And when I say public infrastructure, we are talking about infrastructure that benefits the public. We know a lot of the infrastructure in the United States is actually owned by the private sector. And they, that infrastructure can also be mitigated as long as it is supported by the subapplicant and the applicant. We want to incentivize projects that mitigate risk to one or more of the community lifelines. We want to incentivize projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, and we want to increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest editions of building codes. And you will see those four priorities show up in our competition criteria as well as some of the requirements of our program. Next slide.

So we are very excited to announce we have $500 million available for year 1 of BRIC. As a reminder, BRIC funding actually comes from disaster activity. So after a presidentially declared disaster happens, 180 days later, a 6% estimate is taken for the cost of that disaster. And that goes into our BRIC piggy bank you see there on your screen. And then once a year we crack open our piggy bank and we scoop out the dollars. And this year we have those $500 million available. We are splitting that $500 million amongst three different funding mechanisms. The first is our state and territory allocations. That is up to $600,000 available for each applicant, those are states, each, so the 50 states, the territories and the District of Columbia. Each can apply for up to $600,000, so that’s a total of $33.6 million. Our federally recognized tribes, we have set aside $20 million for our federally recognized tribal applicants. And then the balance of the funds will be spent on a national competition that is open to all of our applicants. So that’s the states, the territories, the District of Columbia and our federally recognized tribes. And that’s for $446.4 million estimated. Just like Brandon, we have a waterfall effect, too. With the allocation, the tribal set-aside, if any of those monies are not spent in the allocation of the tribal set-aside, they will go into the national competition. Next slide.

So how can the funds be used? How can these $500 million funds be used? We have three different types of projects. One is management cost and you heard Ryan talk about management cost a little earlier. That can be put in for projects that are under the allocation, the set-aside and the national competition. Subapplicants can apply for up to 5% management cost to administer their award or administer their project. And that is a line item in your budget. Applicants can apply for 10% for all the subapplications they are putting in and for BRIC that is 100% federally funded. We also have the capability- and capacity-building activities. I will talk more about what those are in a minute. They are fundable under the allocation and the tribal set-aside. And then mitigation projects are fundable under each of those: the allocations, the tribal set-aside and then the national competition. Next slide.

So let me go through a little bit of our funding limits. So the state and territory allocation is capped as I said at $600,000 per applicant. And that can be spent on those C&CB (capacity- and capability-building) activities and mitigation projects. The only cap we have within the $600,000 is no more than $300,000, or half of it, can be spent on mitigation planning and planning-related activities. And that’s per applicant. Under the tribal set-aside, we’ve applied the same cap of $600,000 for C&CB activities. So each tribal applicant can apply for up to $600,000 for capacity- and capability-building activities, and within that $600,000, up to $300,000 of that can be used for mitigation planning and planning-related. In the national competition, we have a cap of $50 million federal share per subapplication. So each subapplication for a mitigation project that’s going to be submitted at the national competition can be for up to $50 million. And there’s no limit on the number of project subapplications that can be submitted per applicant. Next slide please.

So in addition to the eligibility requirements that Ryan talked about before, we have one additional for BRIC. And that is that it’s per the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, there’s a requirement that each applicant must have a disaster declared within the past seven years to the opening of the application period. So for example, our application period opens September 20- 30th this year, September 30, 2020. You must have had a disaster declared within the past seven years. I’m very happy to report that all of our states, all of our territories, the District of Columbia and our federally recognized tribes meet this requirement. So all have, are eligible this year for BRIC per the Disaster Recovery Reform Act seven-year disaster requirement. Next slide.

So talking a little bit about the capacity- and capability-building projects that can be applied for in the tribal set-aside and the state and territory allocation. There are four different project types. They include building codes, and this is a project that could help if a community did not have code, could help put together the work to adopt a code if a community does or a state does have a code but wants to better it, it could help do that. Or it do the enforcement. We also have partnerships. We talked about that partnerships are one of the six guiding principles of BRIC, so we wanted to put a lot of intention. And we understand a lot of communities say, I’d love to have a partner, how do I get a partner? So we have put funding towards that effort to help communities find partners to increase their resiliency. Just like Brandon, we have project scoping as well, which is what was formerly known as advance assistance. And this is seed money to help put together a project application for future submittals. And then planning and planning-related activities. BRIC is supportive of mitigation planning, and so you can apply for either the creation, the update of a 201 mitigation plan, or planning-related activities, where it might be updating, implementing or integrating your plan with other planning mechanisms. What I really want to point to is we have a program support material which offers a lot more information on each of these four types. That’s available, or more information is available, on our website and in the resource guide that you see in the downloadable, in the download pod. That the PSMs also will talk about where you apply or what kind of application you use in FEMA GO. So if you’re interested in applying for any of these four project types, please be sure to check out those PSMs, or program support materials. Next slide.

So I always get a question of, well what kind of projects are going to be eligible under BRIC for that national competition? So what I want to start with is, the eligible activities that were, or the projects that were eligible under PDM, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, are still eligible under BRIC. You’ll find a list of those in the 2015 HMA, or Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Guidance. In addition to those, we’ve added additional project types. So for example, the project scoping, the building code activities, the additional activities that we’ve had for wildfire and wind that were under Section 1205, and early earthquake warning, which was brought to us from the DRRA Section 1233. At the end of the day, we want to encourage innovation. So with that, what a project must be is those things to the right, or that blue box that’s on the right. Which is it must be cost-effective, and that’s done through a FEMA benefit cost analysis module. It must reduce or eliminate the risk and damages from future natural hazards. If it’s a construction project, it must meet one of the latest two consensus codes, so for example if constructing a building that would be the 2015 or 2018 international building code. It must align with Hazard Mitigation Plan. We have that planning requirement that Ryan mentioned. And at both the applicant and subapplicant level. And it must meet the environmental and historic preservation requirements. An additional bullet I have on here I want to talk about for just a second is pre-award cost. One change we have in the BRIC Program is the timing of pre-award cost. So pre-award costs are those costs that can be incurred prior to award to help put the project together. Not for the implementation of the project but helping maybe with design or benefit cost analysis or environmental permitting. There used to be a requirement or a limitation that those costs cannot be incurred before the opening of the application period. We have removed that limitation. Those costs can be incurred at any time prior to award. Once again though, you do not receive those unless you receive the award, or your project actually gets approved. But we think that is a gamechanger because it allows a longer lead-out time to be able to start putting together an application. Next slide.

So as we talk about the projects for the national competition, we have 200-point system that is broken into what we’re calling technical criteria and qualitative criteria. I’ll talk about the technical criteria first. These are eight different priorities of the program and they equal 100 points. In each of these criteria, it’s either a yes or a no. So like for example, with infrastructure, you either get the 20 points or you get zero points. We have a program support material that is going to give you lots of detail, I want to make sure that you, if you’re submitting projects to the national competition, it is a roadmap to how to score these 200 points. So there’s one for the 100 points for technical criteria. It’s going to tell you exactly what we’re meaning by each of these criteria or what the requirement is to get the points. It’s also going to tell you how to put that information into your FEMA GO application. So just quickly walking through them for today, we are looking for projects that protect infrastructure, and that is worth 20 points. We are looking at projects that mitigate against the risk of one or more of FEMA’s community lifelines. So these are mitigation projects, so natural hazard mitigation projects, that also protect a lifeline like transportation. That’s worth 15 points. We want to see how you are incorporating nature-based solutions--were they considered, does your project use one or more nature-based techniques, and if it does have one or more nature-based techniques, that’s worth 10 points. We want to look at the applicant, so at the applicant level, has there been adoption of a mandatory building code? So is the 2015 or 2018 international building code and international residential code been adopted by the applicant? If it has, they get 20 points. Then looking at the subapplicant level, does the subapplicant have a building code effectiveness grading schedule rating of 1 to 5? And if they do, that’s 15 points. In addition to the PSM for technical criteria, we also have the PSM for building codes. And there’s more information in that PSM, if you do not know your BCEGS, or building code effectiveness grading schedule rating, you can find more information there. If the application has previously or results from a previous advance assistance award from FEMA, that gets 10 points. If our subapplicant is a small and impoverished community, that’s five points. And if the subapplication has an increased nonfederal cost share, so traditionally our programs are 75/25 (75% federal, 25% nonfederal), if it has larger than 25%, then you get the nonfederal you get five points for an increased nonfederal cost share. Next slide.

The other 100 points of our competition, so once again it’s a 200-point system, 100 points for technical criteria the 100 for qualitative criteria. And this will be judged by a peer-review panel made up of state, local, territorial and tribal partners and other federal agencies. And they will be reviewing the applications against these six criteria. And these are not binary, these are gradient. So each one of these goes in five-part increments. So for example, our biggest point-getter is our risk reduction resiliency effectiveness criterion. And so it would be a gradient level of seven, 14, 21, 28, or 35 points depending on how well the reviewers think the application meets this criteria. Once again, we have a program support material that is dedicated to information regarding the qualitative criteria. It goes through each one of these and lists prompts or questions that the that the panelists will be looking to see how the application answers. So we really want you to read this program support materials so you know exactly what the panelists are going to be looking for to achieve the 200- the 100 points for qualitative criteria. So walking briefly through them, once again, the biggest one is risk reduction resiliency effectiveness, worth 35 points. In that one, we’re looking to see looking for a narrative about how well the project reduces risk, increases resiliency, takes all the benefits including ancillary benefits into account, and is innovative. Then we’re looking at future conditions. That’s worth 15. So how does how did the project when being developed take not only the risk of today but the risk of tomorrow into consideration? And what data or assumptions were used? There’s 15 points for implementation measures. So this is about, do we have confidence that the project that’s been submitted can be successfully completed with the resources and staff that have been listed in the application? Fifteen points then for population impacted. So we want to know the percentage of the community’s population that will benefit from the project, as well as how were different socially vulnerable groups both was that looked at both either positively or negatively might be impacted by the program or by the project. We have five points for outreach activities. So how has there been engagement with the community on the project and how has the planning process been included or how has the mitigation plan been used in developing this project? And then 15 points for leveraging partners. What kind of partners were brought in to assist, either with the development of the application or will assist with the development of the or the implementation of the project? Is it technical services, is it communication or technical expertise, is it potentially of a partner that is helping with the non-federal cost share? Next slide.

Another piece of our program that is outside of the $500 million that we’re really excited about is our non-financial direct technical assistance. So this is new for us, and what it is, is it’s the idea that for some communities that may not have the capacity or capability to put together an application, but have needs, this is a way for them to get some direct technical assistance from FEMA. For the first year of BRIC, we’re looking at doing 10 up to 10 communities, which will be one per FEMA region. We have, once again, program support material or PSM that explains the direct technical assistance piece of the program. It’s going to talk about what are the different things you can apply for, what the process is for how to apply, it is not completing an application, it is writing a letter of intent and submitting it to an email. And then it also talks about the commitment and some of the criteria we will use when trying when selecting the 10 communities. We have left the aperture open that you can ask for a lot of different things as long as it is solving or helping to create a solution that the community has around the area of natural hazard risk reduction community resiliency. Next slide.

So these are some of the priorities that FEMA will use when selecting the communities for the direct technical assistance. We’ll look at, have you received a HMA award in the past five years? We’ll look at, are you a tribal community? Are you a small impoverished community? And do you demonstrate a compelling need? So once again, this is non-financial direct technical assistance, so there’s not a budget required. This will come in the form of hands-on technical assistance by either FEMA or one of its partners. Next slide.

Another new element that we’ve added to our program is the idea of Go and No-Go milestones. So these will be included in the projects that are submitted to the national competition. And this is that throughout the schedule, you will determine at least one Go/No-Go milestone where we FEMA will track at least one Go…

Or you may need some more information like the final design to be able to produce the final budget. So what we are doing is we are allowing those projects to come forward in BRIC. The idea is that you would put the entire project into FEMA GO, but you would label which part is Phase I versus Phase II, with Phase I being the soft cost to get ready for construction and then Phase II being the construction. In your budget you would want to make sure that as you label those line items, you label if it is Phase I cost or Phase II cost. And then if your project is approved, you would basically get the funding for Phase I to finish the design, finish all the work needed for construction approval and then once that is submitted and approved, you would then move to the construction and those monies would be obligated. This is different than project scoping, with the project scoping being just for the soft cost. It doesn't have the tie to the construction budget. And the way I look at it is project scoping is when you have less of an idea or need to do more work. Phasing is where you have a pretty solid idea of what needs to be done, you’re conceptually there, you just need to move to final. We also don't have a limit on phased projects. So where the project scoping is kept to the $600,000 in the C&CB activities, phase projects do not have that cap. The just fall under the $50 million cap for the project competition or the national competition. Next slide.

So that wraps up my brief BRIC NOFO overview. But before we get to the questions and answers, I want to talk about some next steps as you move to starting your application. So one, we are using the new FEMA Grant Outcomes or FEMA GO, that is our new web-based application system. And you’re going to see here a link to how to get on FEMA GO's portal. There’s also a link there for where you can look at FEMA guides and resources to learn more. And most importantly, the helpline and the toll-free number. So if you have questions about FEMA GO, where you can go get more information. So as a reminder, our application period opens on September 30, 2020. Applications must be received in FEMA GO by January 29, 2021 at 3 P.M. Eastern time. We always suggest that you work on submitting your applications prior to the deadline. For example, you will see there that if you are experiencing technical problems that are outside of your control, that are going to potentially prohibit you from being able to submit your application on time, those must be identified and notified to FEMA no later than January 27, 3 P.M. Eastern time of 2021. Next slide.

So this is just a cap here of all those program support materials that Brandon and I have talked about. You’ll also find as we both stated in the download pod there’s a resource document for BRIC and for FMA that has more information about each of these and has links as well. Next slide.

And then just to cap us up, here’s some additional resources. Most importantly, the websites for both FMA and BRIC, as well as the helplines for FEMA GO, benefit cost analysis, technical feasibility and effectiveness, historic preservation and environmental compliance, and just our in general program helpline. Next slide.

So at this point I’m going to turn it back over to Ryan so we can begin our questions and answers section. Thank you.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Camille. And thank you everybody for your interest and for staying on the line with us. I know that was 60-minutes of very dense information. We’ve had just a ton of questions come into us over the last 60-minutes. So thank you for your very thoughtful questions. To begin, we had a couple of questions specifically about the HMA Guidance. We are in a period right now where we will be updating the HMA guidance that was released back in 2015. That will probably be a multiyear process with a ton of stakeholder engagement. It is going to be a very comprehensive process. So, I want to get ahead of that and that you guys know that we are going to be working on that over the remainder of 2020 as well as 2021. Some of you have also noticed that some of our resources are not exactly right on the page like we alluded to. We have some technical glitches. Sorry for the resource guide not being available. You can find some information on the web page in the technical support section. There is a link right there for the BRIC program and the program support materials are located there. It is pretty easy to find the BRIC training page if you go to [www.fema.gov/BRIC](http://www.fema.gov/BRIC). So that’s super easy to find. Some of the FMA resources we are also trying to get online right now. In order to find this, FMA page, it might be easier to search Google by searching for “FEMA flood mitigation assistance” and that will bring you to the page.

We are going to give you a polling question on here so that you guys can answer this at your leisure. We really appreciate your time. I'm going to check really quick to see if I have Brandon and Camille on the line. Are you there?

Brandon Sweezea: Yes, this is Brandon.

Ryan Janda: Hey, Brandon. Camille?

Camille Crain: I am. Hi, Ryan.

Ryan Janda: Good. We are trying to work through a couple of things. I am going to ask these two wonderful people a bunch of questions over the next 28 minutes. I'd like to start with Camille.

**Can you describe the difference between an applicant and a subapplicant?**

Camille Crain: Sure. An applicant is an organization that applies directly to FEMA, including our states, territories, the District of Columbia, and federally recognized tribes. A subapplicant is an entity that is putting together the project and will submit it to their applicants. Subapplicants include local governments—that might be cities, counties, parishes, towns, or even state agencies. Maybe one state agency is completing a subapplication to submit to the emergency management state agency that is the applicant. It can also include federally recognized or not federally recognized tribes. What ends up happening is that a subapplicant is putting together a subapplication, which is a project. They submit that to the applicants, who will then select which projects to put in their application and submit to FEMA. You will see a couple of organizations that I didn’t mention there include private citizens, private nonprofits and private sector. They can absolutely benefit from one of our projects, but cannot apply as a subapplicant. What that means is a subapplicant, like a town, can partner with an individual to be able to do mitigation work on their property, but they actually sponsor the subapplication that is being submitted.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much, Camille. Brandon, can you describe more about what it means for being a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program?

**Here is the question: by participating, does that mean the subapplicant has to be a participant in the NFIP?**

Ryan Janda: It’s not that. As long as the project has an NFIP property, then the project is eligible. So just talk a little bit about NFIP participation for the FMA program, please.

Brandon Sweezea: No problem. So for NFIP participation, I think there are two levels I think they are thinking about in the question. One is whether or not they have a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program. That is a part of eligibility for the individual flood project. But on the subapplicant level, which Camille talked about earlier, the community has to be in good standing with the national flood insurance program. That involves a lot of different hoops that the committees have to go through in terms of adopting building regulations, zoning ordinances, ensuring the committee is adequately and appropriately allowing development in that area that is consistent with the goals of the NFIP. So, for those communities they have to be in good standing. That can be verified online. If you type in “FEMA NFIP community status book,” you can look up your community status with the national flood insurance program on Fema.gov to verify it. For all of our subapplicants that do apply, they have to be in good standing and not be on probation or in bad standing, essentially, with the NFIP.

Ryan Janda: Thanks very much, Brandon. Camille, I have a question for you about phased projects.

**Can BRIC funding be used to fund a phased project?**

Camille Crain: Yes, it can. We have taken some of the lessons from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, HMGP, and we are including phased projects in BRIC. So what a phased project is, is the community may be really close. They know what they need as far as a solution to a risk and they put together a conceptual design for usually a construction project. But they just need a little more work or a little bit of money to finish the design and maybe do the benefit cost analysis or choose environmental paperwork. So what they can do is apply for a phased project. So when completing your sub application in FEMA GO, you will clearly define what will be phase one, which is all the cost or work to be able to put together the final application or final project design and then you would identify phase two, which would be the construction. You would do that both in the scope of work and the budget with listing what are the phase one and what are the phase 2. If that project is selected, the way it would work would be that we would award the phase one funding to be able to go forth and finish out things like the design, the benefit cost, the cost estimates—everything needed. That would be submitted and approved. If approved, it will be moved to phase two where we would obligate the phase two money for construction.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Camille.

Brandon, I have one for you now.

**Is a mobile home eligible for elevation through this program—under the FMA program?**

Brandon Sweezea: No. A mobile home elevation would not be eligible under the FMA program.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Brandon. I will find a tougher one for you in a second. Let's talk about cost-effectiveness and precalculated benefits.

**Can you discuss a little bit about precalculated benefits for elevation and acquisition projects?**

Brandon Sweezea: Yes, So under the benefit cost analysis—we use that for eligibility for all of our programs. So, what we are looking at is ensuring the benefits—so all of the benefits of the projects that are calculated are at least equal to or greater than all of the cost associated with that project. That is greater than the federal share and includes any type of cost matches as well as future maintenance and things like that. And we have BCA software available to do all of those calculations as required with the application. With that being said, specifically with flood mitigation projects, we do have some BCA auto calculations that can be used. What this means is if you meet specific parameters you won't have to do the whole development of a BCA. And so, for acquisitions, if the total project cost is equal to or less than $276,000 or, for an elevation project, if it’s equal to or less than $175,000, then the BCA auto calculation can be used and you would not have to go through and develop a BCA for that project. Now, for projects that have multiples—So a lot of times, a project will have multiple properties. Sometimes, for the projects, they will even comingle elevations and acquisitions. So, it can get complicated, but if you do aggregate so that the average per property cost does not exceed those figures—the 276,000 per acquisition and $175,000 for elevation—then you can still use the auto calculation instead of submitting a full benefit cost analysis for your project.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Brandon. Camille, I have one for you.

Can you elaborate more on the following: applicants may include one management cost sub application. Is this different or in addition to the applicant’s management cost application? Can you get into what the general management cost, sub application looks like for the BRIC and FMA programs?

Camille Crain: Sure, let me talk about management cost for the sub applicant as well as the applicant. For the sub applicant—like for the community who could apply for a project—they can include a line item in their budget for subapplicant management costs—so that is cost to administer the work. That is for 5 percent in the FMA program. That is cost shared at 75/25, in the BRIC program it is 100 percent federal funding. So, once again, a subapplicant would include a line item in their budget for sub applicant management costs--to administer the project, if selected. The applicant, so for example the state, can also apply for applicant management costs . They do that by creating a management cost subapplication. So where a subapplicant only puts a line item in, an applicant writes an application. That subapplication, it can be for 10 percent of the total of their subapplication. It is there management cost for administering all of the awards if selected. Once again, that’s a 75/25 percent cost share for FMA; and it’s 100 percent federal for BRIC .

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much, Camille. We had a lot of folks asking about eligibility for the BRIC program. Every single state and territory has had a disaster declaration since March. Just have that in the back of your mind—that every state is eligible as far as that part is concerned. That is kind of a good thing as far as eligibility for the BRIC program for the next seven years. I am going to go over to Brandon for just a second. Brandon, I think you alluded to individual property owners, at some point in your discussion earlier, but…

**Can you talk a little bit about the fact that an individual person cannot come to FEMA directly? Can you discuss the process in more detail?**

Brandon Sweezea: Absolutely. So, as Camille broke it down earlier, there is the applicant—so FEMA's relationship directly with the applicant, which are the states, federally recognized tribes, territories, and Washington D.C.—and then that boils down to essentially the local government or tribal—other federally recognized tribes if they do come in as a subapplicant. Homeowners cannot come directly to FEMA and they cannot come directly to states either. They come directly to the local governments who are the subapplicants—essentially to apply as a package of projects, typically. We do see projects that do just have just one individual homeowner mitigation project. But typically they can be bundled together. Regarding those individuals, again, they can’t apply directly to FEMA. So they have to have that sponsoring agency which is a local government that’s acting as a subapplicant. What I would recommend is, if you are a homeowner that is looking at doing one of the FEMA eligible FMA individual project types, which will typically be acquisition, elevation, reconstruction, or relocation of your structure, you can apply. Contact your local floodplain administrator first, or the emergency management department in your local county or city. If you cannot get anybody there, you can also check with your state hazard mitigation officer. If you go to Fema.gov or type into Google: FEMA and then 'SHMO', it will come up with the listing of the State Hazard Mitigation Officers for each state. They can direct you to the point of contact for the local government where you will be able to submit an application to.

Under the FMA program, again—as you can see in the presentation—it is funded through the national flood insurance fund. So you have to have an NFIP policy in force. The first check that we do is at the application opening, on September 30. So, if you do not have an NFIP policy in force at that time, your property, even if it is part of a larger project, will be deemed ineligible. I just really want to hammer that home. You do have to have a current NFIP policy in force at the opening of the application period.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Brandon. And I believe there is a 30-day waiting period. So if anyone wants to be eligible, they need to get a flood insurance policy basically right now, this second, basically.

The next question is for Camille.

**A FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan is a requirement for these grant programs. If the applicant is a local organization, will an approved state hazard mitigation plan suffice, or does a local plan have to be completed?**

Camille Crain: So yes. We require both a plan from the applicant and the subapplicant both at time of application and time of award. Looking at a local government, the local government would need to have a local hazard mitigation plan at time of application and time of award, and if the applicant was a state, the state would need to have their state hazard mitigation plan at the time of application and at the time of award.

Ryan Janda: Thanks, Camille. Brandon, get ready, this is a bit tougher.

**What is a Part 80 acquisition?**

Brandon Sweezea: Yes, absolutely there are typically two types of acquisitions: eminent domain, which is used for larger flood control, localized flood risk reduction projects. We typically would see this in our community flood mitigation projects. But those are very unpopular on the local level--to do takings of land through eminent domain. What FEMA offers to the individual flood mitigation project that we do is what we call Part 80 acquisition. That is when FEMA funds are used to purchase a property. They are filtered through the subrecipient, the local government. What we’ll do is purchase the property at pre-event, fair market value; then we’ll demolish the structure and convert the site to be open space. So we try to get as close as we can to a predevelopment condition so we can retain local floodplain function on that site. The property is transferred from the property owner to the local jurisdiction and, in most cases, it’s maintained in perpetuity. For local jurisdictions they have to consider the pros and cons of having to maintain that property in perpetuity as they have acquired it. Under this program FEMA does not acquire any property directly. They’re all held by local jurisdictions, typically, sometimes conservation districts or other entities that would be eligible to hold it and maintain the open space. The other big thing about it is that it is voluntary. So, an individual homeowner at any time up until when signing over that property could actually pull out of the project at any time. That is the other part that falls under Part 80 acquisitions, it that it is voluntary.

Ryan Janda: Thanks a lot, Brandon. Part 80 is part of the Code of Federal Regulations, 44 CFR, Part 80, and that is why we call them Part 80 acquisitions. The next question we have here is for Camille about CNCB projects. The question is…

**Are hazard mitigation plans only fundable as C&CB projects? Am I reading it correct, then—Of the 600,000, can only 300,000 be used for planning in the cycle?**

Camille Cain: That is correct. The states and territories all get an allocation of $600,000. That $600,000 can be spent on C&CB—Capability and Capacity-Building—activities, as well as mitigation projects. The only cap within that $600,000, is that we did place a $300,000 cap on mitigation planning and planning related activities. The other $300,000 can be spent on other C&CB activities such as partnership, project scoping or building codes or on a mitigation project. Inside of the tribal set aside, we also have the limit. So there is a $600,000 limit for C&CB activities for our federally recognized tribes that are applying directly as applicants toward the tribal set aside.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much, Camille. Looking through the questions a little more here, this is about the 6 percent.

**In terms of the 6 percent set-aside, what happens for ongoing events? I know that a snapshot is taken 180 days after the disaster declaration, but what will happen with the pandemic where impacts are ongoing and recent use of the DRF [Disaster Relief Fund] for unemployment benefits or states that opt-in?**

Camille Crain: The way the funding works for BRIC is when a disaster declaration is declared—so when a presidentially declared disaster is declared—180 days after that declaration, an estimate is taken of seven different sections of the Stafford act. These are the same seven sections that fund the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. 180 days or six months after a declaration, an estimate is taken of those seven sections. Then 6 percent of those seven sections goes into the BRIC piggy bank. If you can imagine it, in our Disaster Relief Fund there is a piggy bank labeled BRIC. Every time a declaration hits 180 days, 6 percent of those costs from those seven sections goes into the piggy bank. Then once a year we go into the piggy bank and scoop out some money. So, for example, this year we are scooping out $500 million. One thing to note is it is a continual accruing. If you think about it, every time there is a declaration—as every declaration hits that 180 day mark—we are continuing to put money in. We do not get another bite at the apple. The Disaster Recovery Act, the DRA, stated that we must take those estimates no later than 180 days. We get one bite at each declaration.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much, Camille. Brandon, I have a question for you.

**For the project types, are the demolition reconstruction projects available only for SRL [severe repetitive loss] properties, or can it be applied to other properties?**

Brandon Sweezea: No. Demolition reconstruction is available for SRL—severe repetitive loss structures, repetitive loss structures—as well as structures that only have a NFIP policy. With that being said, they cannot be comingled in applications that include elevations and acquisition projects. If you do submit a demolition reconstruction project, ensure that only demolition reconstruction projects are included within that subapplication. If we do get comingled projects, we will either deny them in whole or see how we can fund only those eligible projects. So, we would look and say just the elevation acquisition projects that are in there, and then have to deny the reconstruction or vice versa. Currently, as the guidance is written, we cannot comingle reconstruction, demolition reconstruction projects.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much, Brandon. Here is another one for you…

**Can an applicant submit more than one community flood mitigation project?**

Brandon Sweezea: Yes. A community can submit as many community flood mitigation projects as they wish. One of the big barriers that we found with community flood mitigation projects—so what I can get into is—those are localized flood mitigation projects that are treating a specific drainage area. So, it it’s a neighborhood-wide level project. The big barrier that we are seeing is that with FMA the funds come from the national flood insurance fund. We have to make that nexus connection to say these projects are benefiting NFIP policyholders for which these funds are coming out of their premiums. When developing those applications, the key component is to understand the area you're mitigating—that drainage area that’s being considered—has a high saturation of NFIP policyholders, severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss structures. Those are the projects we're looking to try to hit a whole swath of those high-risk policies within these mitigation projects. With that, this year has a much higher cap. Instead of $10 million in previous years, we have $30 million available. We are definitely looking for really good applications to be submitted, and that is why we did not put a project or funding cap per subapplicant

that is submitting it. So just submit as many as you want for up to the $30 million cap, and we’d really like to see some awesome projects for this FY20 cycle.

Ryan Janda: The next question is for Camille.

**Are wind retrofit projects only applicable to coastal areas?**

Camille Crain: So it depends on wind the retrofit project. You need to look at the risk you are trying to mitigate. Tornadic wind is another kind of wind event that could mean building a safe room inside of a house. So it kind of depends. You look at what the wind hazard is for where the property is located. Then you look at the level of protection based on the wind speeds at that location. You put that into the benefit cost analysis module to show if doing a wind retrofit at that location is cost-effective.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Camille. Here is a question on direct technical assistance.

**What is non-financial direct technical assistance? Confirm the only application will be in a letter of interest via the states, the local governments submit to build BRIC, at FEMA.dhs.gov, not the local government sends to FEMA and ask directly, are we only limited to one per state?**

Camille Crain: Yes. There is only one per applicant. So a state, territory, federally recognized tribe or the District of Columbia can all submit one. It is, the nonfinancial direct technical assistance does not have a formal application. It is a letter of interest that is submitted through the applicant and that applicant submits it to the build BRIC inbox. It is really meant to help provide direct technical assistance to lower capacity communities that do not have the bandwidth to put together a application or a sub application. We have program support material on the BRIC website, [www.fema.gov/bric](http://www.fema.gov/bric). If you look under “resources,” there is program support material for non-financial direct technical assistance, and it gives more details on the process, the activities, and the criteria for how to submit the letter of request.

Ryan Janda: We are close to running out of time. Let's see if there’s one more quick one we can answer. The question is…

**Will FEMA’s COVID-19 response significantly slow the delivery of the mitigation program’s grants?**

That is a fantastic question. We are doing a pretty good job working in a virtual environment right now. We are not too out of touch with our applicants and our subapplicants to know that you guys are working through a whole lot right now. Even though we, FEMA, are able to work in a virtual environment fairly effectively, some of the same expectation is not available for everyone. We expect the application period will open, as our NOFO says, on September 30 and close on 29 January. We will review the applications and probably make notifications during the month of June. We think that we are in pretty good shape. But we know you all across the nation are dealing with a whole lot, and we are very sympathetic to all of that and what you’re going through.

Before we close out of this, I just want to thank you all very much for your interest. This program wouldn’t be what it is today without the fantastic feedback we’ve had for well over a year now. So, I want to just say thank you from all of us at FEMA for all of your interest and all your support, and all you’re going to do with us for the next many years to come. We look forward to seeing some great applications and wish you all the very best. Stay safe. And thanks again for your time.