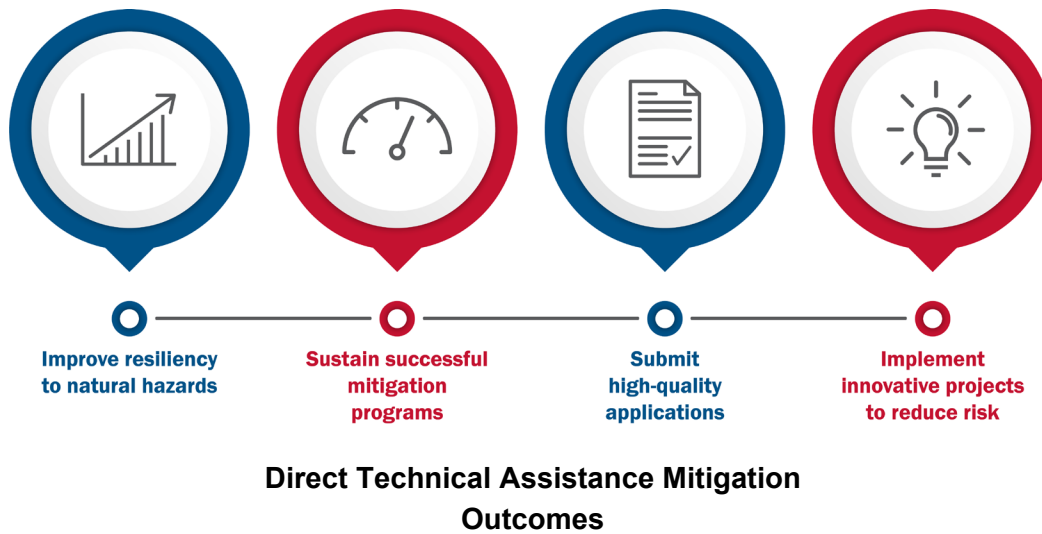


BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

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 20 selected communities to support the mitigation outcomes outlined below and as referenced in the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity.



Background

FEMA encourages its partners and stakeholders to think about mitigation planning as a whole community concept encourages our partners and stakeholders to engage in new ways of thinking about mitigation as a whole community concept. Our focus is to provide applicants and subapplicants with tools to help them build and sustain a commitment to system-wide mitigation activities, improving their resilience to hazards holistically rather than on an individual or topical basis.

The BRIC program provides state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments with the flexibility to determine how they can best support their own mitigation and resilience initiatives. Direct Technical Assistance can provide holistic planning support at the earliest stages to communities that may not have the capacity to start on their own. The agency can match up communities with experienced mentors who provide support and lessons learned. 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.



FEMA

During its stakeholder engagement efforts for the development of BRIC, 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 economically disadvantaged rural communities and tribal communities. Stakeholders suggested that direct, hands-on delivery methods would best meet their needs. FEMA considered all this feedback when developing BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance.

As described in the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity and below, FEMA will deliver Direct Technical Assistance to up to **20 communities** across the nation. Any funds that are not awarded to tribal nations as part of the Tribal Set-Aside will be re-allocated to tribal nations as the non-financial Direct Technical Assistance. 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.

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 and other future conditions
- Developing a project involving collaboration between multiple communities
- 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
- Bringing stakeholders together to discuss innovative mitigation solutions
- Matching mitigation solutions to funding mechanisms
- Identifying partnership opportunities or local mitigation partnership network

- Exploring mitigation strategies to reduce risk to Community Lifelines
- Understanding social vulnerability and equity in the mitigation context of one's community
- Exploring a mitigation needs analysis with a community-based participatory approach
- Integrating mitigation principles into other planning mechanisms

FEMA recognizes communities have diverse needs and different capability and capacity levels; thus, FEMA will consider letters of interest for all types of Direct Technical Assistance if they meet the eligibility and submission information outlined in the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity and this program support material.

Eligibility Information

As described in the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity, communities, which are defined as cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments, are considered eligible for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance. Both federally recognized tribal nations and non-federally recognized tribal governments can apply 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 the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity, 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 the compelling need, the specific request, and the extent the request demonstrates 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 subaward under BRIC, 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 or capability- and capacity-building subaward under BRIC, PDM, FMA, or HMGP within the past 5 years
- Are tribal entities
- Are designated as economically disadvantaged rural communities (documentation to support this designation must be included with the letter of interest) or a disadvantaged community as defined by Executive Order 14008, including tribal nations.

- Have demonstrated a compelling need (e.g., communities with significant disadvantaged populations, communities with multiple major disaster declarations within the past 5 years, etc.)

Submission Information

The BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity describes the submission process is as follows:

- All communities interested must submit one letter of interest for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to FEMA-BRICDirectTechnicalAssistance@fema.dhs.gov no later than 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on January 28, 2022. 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 to meet this mitigation need for Direct Technical Assistance
 - Proposed deliverables and timelines, including duration of 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

Delivery and Expectations

FEMA will notify the communities and their respective applicant (states, territories, or tribes) of its selection to receive non-financial Direct Technical Assistance. 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.

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.