

# BRIC Hazard Mitigation Planning Activities

This Program Support Material (PSM) describes hazard mitigation planning activities that are eligible for grant funds under the annual Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) State/Territory Allocation and Tribal Set-Aside. Under the BRIC program, subapplicants are required to have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal hazard mitigation plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects and capability- and capacity-building (C&CB) activities; subapplicants are not required to have a hazard mitigation plan for the following C&CB activity types: (1) hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, (2) partnerships, and (3) building codes.

## Background

FEMA intends to foster new ways of thinking about hazard mitigation planning. 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. Funding C&CB activities, including hazard mitigation planning as the means to guide investments, is one way the program provides that flexibility and support. By regulation, states, tribes, and local governments are required to update their hazard mitigation plans every 5 years to remain eligible for certain FEMA non-emergency assistance. BRIC funds can be used for the required mitigation plan updates as well as developing new hazard mitigation plans and other hazard mitigation planning-related activities. To maximize the return on investments and to increase resilience in where and how we build, SLTT governments are encouraged to integrate hazard mitigation planning with existing planning efforts, such as comprehensive and economic development planning. Funds are available from the annual BRIC State/Territory Allocation and BRIC Tribal Set-Aside for these efforts to help support communities to build resilience to future conditions, including climate change, demographics shifts, and land use, including to the built environment.



During the development of the BRIC program, stakeholders expressed significant support for hazard mitigation planning as an eligible activity, particularly to ensure that rural and federally recognized Tribal governments, as well as those designated as economically disadvantaged rural communities, have access to funding for hazard mitigation planning activities. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of hazard mitigation planning and expressed concerns that the quality of mitigation plans—and in turn, project implementation—has not improved over time. This was partly the result of limitations on the eligibility of hazard mitigation planning activities. Based on this feedback, an extensive range of hazard mitigation planning activities are eligible to be funded by BRIC.



# FEMA

## BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity

The BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is published annually and details the financial assistance available to eligible BRIC applicants for C&CB activities such as hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities. Subapplicants are encouraged to coordinate early with their applicant to indicate their intent to apply for hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activity funds.

As indicated in the BRIC NOFO, the maximum amount that can be spent on hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities per year per applicant is up to \$1 million under the State/Territory Allocation, which can be distributed to an unlimited number of subapplicants. Under the BRIC Tribal Set-Aside, up to \$1 million may be used for hazard mitigation planning and planning activities per applicant per year. Plans and planning activities are not eligible for funding under the national competition.

## Eligible Hazard Mitigation Planning and Planning-Related Activities

As described in the BRIC NOFO:

Subapplicants are exempt from the hazard mitigation plan requirements for the following C&CB activity types: (1) hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, (2) partnerships, and (3) building codes. *Federally recognized Tribal governments, submitting as subapplicants to a state or territory, are included in this exemption. Federally recognized Tribal governments acting as the applicant and implementing the award as the subapplicant are not included in this exemption. A hazard mitigation plan is required for project scoping subapplications.*

The following list presents hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities eligible for BRIC funding. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or exclusive, but instead highlights activities that are considered hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities under BRIC. All hazard mitigation planning activities funded by BRIC must result in a new FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan or contribute additional information to a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. Planning activities may include:

- Preparing a new plan or plan update, including developing regional and multi-jurisdictional plans. This could include updating a plan to include the integration of partners that can advance resilience, such as the sectors highlighted in FEMA Community Lifelines concepts or the identification of new infrastructure projects, including, if applicable, private-sector collaboration.
- Updating or improving the quality of sections of the current FEMA-approved mitigation plan, such as:
  - Updating the risk and vulnerability assessment based on new information, including supporting studies, such as economic analyses, mapping, risk assessment, and planning
  - Strengthening the mitigation strategy section by incorporating actions to reduce vulnerabilities over the long-term, as well as linking proposed actions to available funding

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- Augmenting the risk assessment and/or mitigation strategy section by incorporating climate adaptation, green building, nature-based solutions, smart growth principles, or historic properties and cultural resources information
- Incorporating diverse and/or underserved populations that have unique needs into the planning process, risk assessment, and mitigation strategy
- Collaborating with floodplain management and integrating specific components from the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System to maximize points for the community and increase resilience to future flood events
- Integrating information from mitigation plans, specifically risk assessment or mitigation strategies, with other planning efforts, such as:
  - Disaster recovery strategy (pre- or post-disaster plans), preparedness, or response plans, including disaster recovery plans to protect local cultural, artistic, and historic resources
  - Comprehensive (e.g., land use, master) or community development plans
  - Capital improvement or economic development plans
  - Resource management/conservation plans (e.g., stormwater, open space)
  - Resilience and/or climate change adaptation plans
  - Other long-term community planning initiatives (e.g., transportation, housing, recreation, landmark and heritage, economic development, redevelopment, drought, wildfire)
- Evaluating, updating, adopting, and/or implementing land development codes and ordinances that reduce risk and/or increase resilience to future hazards by:
  - Promoting flexibility and adaptation approaches to protect historic and cultural resources
  - Evaluating the current and future built environment to assess risks and vulnerabilities
  - Reducing development in high-hazard areas
- Improving mitigation strategies, specifically strengthening the linkage between mitigation plan implementation and well-defined actions and projects such as:
  - Conducting feasibility studies
  - Utilizing innovative community engagement methods to inform local priorities
  - Leveraging urban design (e.g., community design charrettes) to develop multi-beneficial solutions

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## Hazard Mitigation Planning Activities in FEMA GO

The FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) management system will be used for the BRIC program and is where applicants and subapplicants submit, track, and manage all applications. The eGrants system will not be used to process BRIC applications or subapplications.

This section provides a brief synopsis on how to submit hazard mitigation planning activity subapplications in FEMA GO under the annual BRIC State/Territory Allocation or BRIC Tribal Set-Aside, including information on selecting the correct activity type and an overview of the required narrative descriptions. More information on navigating the new FEMA GO system and the full application process can be found on the [Grants Guidance](#) webpage on FEMA.gov.

### FEMA GO Information

- To begin a hazard mitigation planning activity subapplication in FEMA GO, select the “Plan” Subapplication Type.
- In the Scope of Work Section, select the Primary Activity Type that best describes your activity:
  - New plan
  - Plan update (includes an additional Evaluation Process Description question)
  - Planning-related activities
- **Implementation Process Description:** Describe, in detail, the process that will lead to the successful completion of the activity.
- **Primary Sources Description:** Identify the documents the proposed activity will create or update and the primary sources (e.g., mitigation plans, studies, policies) used to develop or inform the activity.
- **Staff and Resources Description:** Detail the level of staff used to accomplish the activity, as well as the resources being leveraged to complete the activity.
- **Evaluation Process Description:** This description is only applicable to the “Plan Update” Primary Activity Type.

### Additional Resources

This section provides links to information on hazard mitigation planning. This information explains how FEMA approaches hazard mitigation planning and can help applicants and subapplicants develop a planning subapplication for the BRIC program. Additional FEMA hazard mitigation planning grant programs are also listed.

- [Considerations for Local Mitigation Planning Grant Subapplications](#)
- [Tribal Mitigation Planning Grant Application Development HMA Job Aid](#)
- [State Mitigation Planning Resources](#)

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- [Local Mitigation Planning Resources](#)
- [Tribal Mitigation Planning Resources](#)
- [Mitigation Ideas](#)
- [Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts](#)
- [Integrating Hazard Mitigation Into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials \(2013\)](#)
- [Mitigation Planning and the Community Rating System: Key Topics Bulletin](#)
- [BRIC Non-financial Direct Technical Assistance webpage](#)
- BRIC Non-financial Direct Technical Assistance Program Support Material

Additional FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding opportunities:

- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#): 7% of the disaster funding received per presidentially declared disaster can be used for the development of hazard mitigation plans. The *Planning-Related Activities Using Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Program 7% Funding Fact Sheet* is a useful resource that details which planning-related activities are eligible for funding under HMGP. Additional information is available on the [hazard mitigation](#) webpage on FEMA.gov.
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance Program \(FMA\)](#): Funding awarded through FMA can be used to develop the flood-mitigation section of hazard mitigation plans. Additional information is available on the [flood mitigation](#) webpage on FEMA.gov.

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