

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance

This Program Support Material (PSM) provides information on how to request the non-financial direct technical assistance offered through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The information provided is intended for guidance only and is not a request for information. The purpose of this document is to help the reader understand the grant application process.

Background

Millions of people living across the United States, its territories, and in Tribal Nations are affected by natural hazards each year. Underserved communities and Tribal Nations are often disproportionately impacted by such hazards and sometimes have fewer resources to 'build back better' following disasters, or otherwise increase their resilience to future risks.

Underserved communities” is defined in [Executive Order \(EO\) 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities](#) through the federal government and cited in the [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#). With the escalation in the frequency and intensity of natural hazard events, the imperative to reduce risk and strengthen resilience has intensified, especially for people on the frontlines, who will experience the most adverse consequences of climate change.

In recognition of these needs, FEMA established the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance](#) initiative to provide non-financial technical support to Tribal Nations and communities. These services include broad planning and capacity-building support, community engagement and communications, and partnership building, as well as hands-on technical assistance in mitigation alternatives development, project design (including engineering and cost estimation), application assistance, financing strategies, grants writing and grants management.

The goal of BRIC DTA is to increase the climate and natural hazard resilience of underserved and disadvantaged communities and Tribal Nations through technical assistance that focuses on holistic community planning and project development, facilitating access to multiple hazard mitigation funding sources, and leveraging partnerships.



FEMA

Support Available

Through BRIC Direct Technical Assistance, FEMA will:

- Approach BRIC Direct Technical Assistance as a collaborative effort that recognizes the inherent expertise within the community or Tribal Nation and remains open to mutual learning and growth.
- Recognize that the BRIC Direct Technical Assistance initiative is community- and tribe-driven. FEMA acknowledges that there is no “one-size fits all” technical assistance model, and that the approach to planning and capacity building for local risk reduction and climate resilience must be customized, flexible, and adaptable.
- Assist the community or Tribal Nation in leveraging a Community Needs Assessment process to develop a community vision for resilience and articulate community gaps and needs, if needed.
- Support and advise the community or Tribal Nation in the development of a BRIC Direct Technical Assistance Action Plan that identifies specific strategies and actions to build capacity and advance potential projects, programs, and partnerships.
- Ensure that the Community Needs Assessment, BRIC Direct Technical Assistance Action Plan, and overall delivery of the initiative, respects cultural norms and traditions as well as acknowledges past and current injustices.
- Create community and Tribal Nation access to the best available science and knowledge about risk and climate change—including community and traditional ecological knowledge—and help integrate it into design considerations.
- Support the community or Tribal Nation in advancing decision-making processes that include representatives from all affected groups.
- Identify and leverage partnerships that are best suited to meet the community or Tribal Nation needs at all governmental levels, and with other non-profit, foundation, and private partners.
- Foster outreach to and engagement with the whole community using tailored tools and approaches to establishing shared goals and projects that meet community-wide resilience priorities across stakeholder groups.
- Support development of projects that leverage co-benefits and address multi-hazards to create additional value; assist with project identification and planning.
- Partner with the community or Tribal Nation for up to 36 months (from the date of agreement) to identify needs, build partnerships, and deliver wide-ranging services.

As a prerequisite to eligibility, recipients must identify at least two potential community partners in the Letter of Interest (now the [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance Request Form](#), FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-155). Community partners may include, but are not limited to, other departments in the same government agency, non-profits, non-

governmental and community-based organizations, labor unions, advocacy groups, chambers of commerce, major employers or anchor institutions, and philanthropic organizations.

Eligibility Information

Eligible recipients of technical assistance provided through BRIC Direct Technical Assistance are any local government entities, as defined in Section 102(8) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ([Title 42 United States Code Section 5122\(8\)](#)), including, but not limited to, federally recognized tribal governments, cities, towns/townships, parishes, boroughs, counties, special district governments, metropolitan or regional planning organizations, and other political subdivisions of state governments. As a prerequisite to eligibility, FEMA requires that technical assistance recipients identify at least two potential community partners (as described in the letter of intent instructions) to generate deeper community engagement, particularly from historically under-represented populations and environmental justice stakeholders.

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

How to Request BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

Eligible entities can must complete the BRIC Direct Technical Assistance Request Form, [FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-155](#) to be considered as a participating community or tribe, Please complete the form and email it to Fema-bric-dta-submission@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA will select requests for non-financial BRIC Direct Technical Assistance from those that are submitted no later than 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Feb. 29, 2024.

Eligible applicants that do not have access to a computer or the internet, or that need assistance submitting a request, please contact their [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) or [Regional Tribal Liaison](#) for assistance.