

# Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Project Scoping Activities

This Program Support Material (PSM) provides information about partnership activities eligible under the State or Territory Allocation and Tribal Set-Aside of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. As outlined in the BRIC [funding opportunity](#), FEMA encourages the use of, and provides financial assistance for, project scoping as an eligible capability- and capacity-building (C&CB) activity.



**Figure 1. Capacity and Capability Building – Project Scoping**

## Background

Project scoping activities are designed to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop, in a timely manner, complete applications that result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for BRIC or another funding opportunity.

This definition of “project scoping activities” is derived from the Project Scoping / Advance Assistance description on page 45 of the FEMA 2023 [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).



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The BRIC funding opportunity outlines how applicants can apply for funding to support project scoping activities; these subapplications need to be ranked along with the other C&CB activities or Tribal Set-Aside activities submitted by the applicant. Project scoping activities are not subject to any funding limitations or caps, as long as they do not exceed the total State or Territory Allocation amount or Tribal Set-Aside activity maximum amount.

To ensure applicants and subapplicants can build partnerships to support their mitigation efforts, partnership activities will be eligible under the BRIC State or Territory Allocation and BRIC Tribal Set-Aside. This activity is not eligible for funding under the BRIC National Competition.

## Scoping Activity Eligibility Criteria

As described in the BRIC funding opportunity: *A hazard mitigation plan is required for project scoping subapplications.*

Subapplicants must provide a detailed explanation of the proposed project scoping activity, expected milestones, and planned deliverables to demonstrate the effectiveness and ultimate benefit of the activity. At closeout, applicants and subapplicants must also provide information and materials to detail the outcomes of the approved activities and deliverables stated in the subapplication.

## Eligible Project Scoping Activities

The following list presents potential project scoping activities eligible under BRIC. This list is not exhaustive; subapplicants may have needs that extend beyond what has been included here. Additional examples of activities may be found in the 2023 [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).

- Scoping and developing hazard mitigation projects and alternatives, including engineering design and feasibility studies
- Conducting meetings, outreach, and coordination with potential subapplicants and community residents to identify potential future mitigation projects
  - Evaluating facilities or areas to determine appropriate mitigation actions
- Incorporating Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) considerations into project planning activities
  - Collecting data for benefit-cost analyses, environmental compliance, and other program requirements
- Conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies for unmapped flood zones or other areas where communities propose to submit hazard mitigation projects
- Coordinating, scoping, and developing regional or multi-community hazard mitigation projects that require coordination to cohesively address resiliency and sustainability goals
  - Utilizing third-party cost estimation services for project budgeting across subapplications

- Contracting services to address data consistency needs for other project application categories, such as Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, cost-sharing mechanisms, and work schedules.

## Project Scoping Activities in FEMA GO

The [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(FEMA GO\)](#) management system is used for the BRIC program and is where applicants and subapplicants submit, track, and manage all applications.

This section provides a brief synopsis on how to submit project scoping activity subapplications in FEMA GO under the annual BRIC State or Territory Allocation or BRIC Tribal Set-Aside, including information on selecting the correct activity type and an overview of the required narrative questions.

### Submitting an Application in FEMA GO

- To begin a project scoping activity subapplication in FEMA GO, select the “Project Scoping” Subapplication Type.
- In the Scope of Work section, select the Primary Activity Type that best describes your activity.
- To answer the question, “*What are you doing to consider other risks in the project area?*,” detail how your project scoping activity accounts for a range of risks within the area. Activities may include ancillary benefits outside of the primary hazard being mitigated. If the proposed subapplication does not cover more than one risk, this information can be provided here.
- In the Cost Effectiveness section, select “Not Applicable.”

More information on navigating the FEMA GO system and the full application process can be found on the [Grants Guidance webpage](#) on FEMA.gov.

## Additional Resources

The resources below provide additional information related to the BRIC program to assist applicants and subapplicants. More information can be found on the [FEMA BRIC webpage](#).

- [BRIC Qualitative Evaluation Criteria Program Support Material](#)
- [BRIC Technical Evaluation Criteria Program Support Material](#)

For additional information about project scoping, formerly Advanced Assistance, consult the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).