

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Tribal Information

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available for states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. The following provides an overview of BRIC funding and relevant programmatic requirements for federally recognized tribal governments.

How to Apply

Federally recognized tribal governments can access BRIC funding either as: 1) an applicant for the Tribal Set-Aside, Tribal Building Code Plus-Up, or National Competition, or 2) a subapplicant to an eligible state or territory. The state or territory can also apply for funding through the National Competition, State or Territory Allocation, or the State or Territory Building Code Plus-Up.

Only a federally recognized tribal government can apply for the Tribal Set-Aside. Tribal communities or groups that are not federally recognized can apply as subapplicants to an eligible state or territory. See Table 1 for details on these two processes.

Table 1: Apply as an Applicant to FEMA or as a Subapplicant to an Eligible State or Territory

	(A) Tribe that applies as an applicant to FEMA	(B) Tribe that applies as a subapplicant to an eligible state or territory
Develop an application?	YES, in FEMA GO	NO, use FEMA GO to submit one or more subapplications to the applicant (a state or territory).
Develop a subapplication?	YES	YES
Which BRIC funding type?	Tribal Set-Aside, Tribal Building Code Plus-Up or National Competition.	State or Territory Allocation, State or Territory Building Code Plus-Up or National Competition.



	(A) Tribe that applies as an applicant to FEMA	(B) Tribe that applies as a subapplicant to an eligible state or territory
Is a disaster declaration required?	YES , in the previous seven years. All federally recognized tribal governments and tribal nations are eligible due to COVID-19 Disaster Declarations.	NO
Eligible for applicant management costs?	YES , up to 10% of the application budget. submit these costs as a separate subapplication, attached to the application.	NO
Eligible for subapplicant management costs?	YES , up to 5% of the total budget for subapplicant management costs. These costs must be distinct from the applicant management costs.	YES , up to 5% of the total budget for subapplicant management costs.
Eligible for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (EDRC) designation?	YES , if it meets the requirements and provides documentation.	YES , if it meets the requirements and provides documentation.
Required to have a tribal hazard mitigation plan?	YES , it may be multi-jurisdictional with local governments or federally recognized tribal governments. State-wide mitigation plans will not be accepted as multi-jurisdictional.	YES , for hazard mitigation project subapplications. It may be multi-jurisdictional with local governments or federally recognized tribal governments. State-wide mitigation plans will not be accepted as multi-jurisdictional.
		NO , for the following capability- and capacity-building activity types: 1) hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, 2) partnerships, 3) building codes, and 4) project scoping.

Tribal Mitigation Plan Requirements

- Tribes applying as applicants are required to have a FEMA-approved Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with [44 C.F.R. Part 201](#) by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award.
- Tribes applying as subapplicants are required to have a FEMA-approved Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with [44 C.F.R. Part 201](#) by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for hazard mitigation projects. Tribes that are not federally recognized can be covered under a local hazard mitigation plan if they meet the local mitigation planning requirements in Title 44 CFR 201.6.
- Exceptions to the mitigation plan requirement for Tribes applying as subapplicants are as follows:

- A Tribe that applies as a subapplicant to an eligible state or territory is exempt from the hazard mitigation plan requirement when they apply for the following capability and capacity-building (C&CB) activity types: (1) mitigation planning and planning-related activities, (2) partnerships, (3) building codes, and (4) project scoping.
 - Note: Exceptions do not apply to federally recognized Tribes applying as both the applicant and as the subapplicant.
- For more information on tribal planning, visit FEMA’s [Tribal Funding, Mitigation and Planning Resources](#).

Disaster Declaration Requirements

- To apply as an applicant, a Tribe must either:
 - Have a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act in the seven years prior to the annual application period start date; or
 - Be in a state or territory (partially or entirely) that had a major disaster declaration in that same period.
- All federally recognized tribal governments and Tribal Nations are eligible to apply due to COVID-19 Disaster Declarations.
- A Tribe that applies as a subapplicant has no disaster declaration requirement.

Applicant Management Costs

- A Tribe that applies as an applicant may request up to 10% of the application budget as applicant management costs.
- A Tribe requesting reimbursement for applicant management costs must create a subapplication and submit that subapplication with its application to FEMA for review and approval.

Subapplicant Management Costs

- A Tribe that applies as a subapplicant (including those that are applying as the applicant and subapplicant) may submit up to 5% of the total budget for subapplicant management costs.
- A Tribe requesting reimbursement for subapplicant management costs must include these costs a separate line item within the subapplication budget.

BRIC Tribal Set-Aside

Under the Tribal Set-Aside, a federally recognized tribal government can apply for C&CB activities, mitigation projects, and management costs. Each proposed C&CB activity and mitigation project must be submitted as a single subapplication.

BRIC has a Tribal Set-Aside of \$50 million total, however the combined cost for any C&CB activities under the Tribal Set-Aside must not exceed \$2 million federal cost share per applicant.

When applying for the Tribal Set-Aside in FEMA GO, applicants first rank all C&CB activity subapplications, then all mitigation project subapplications. Any funds from the Tribal Set-Aside that are not awarded may be re-allocated to the National Competition.

BRIC Tribal Building Code Plus-Up

BRIC will allow up to \$25 million to be used for the Tribal Building Code Plus-Up (up to \$2 million per applicant).

Under the Tribal Building Code Plus-Up, federally recognized tribal governments may carry out eligible building code adoption and enforcement activities such as:

- Evaluate adoption and/or implementation of codes that reduce risk;
- Enhance existing adopted codes to incorporate more current requirements or higher standards (excluding construction); and/or
- Develop professional workforce capabilities relating to building codes through technical assistance and training.

Building code adoption activities under this category should enable the adoption and enforcement of building codes based on both the [International Building Code \(IBC\)](#) and the [International Residential Code \(IRC\)](#) model codes published by the [International Code Council \(ICC\)](#) either through mandatory state-wide or territory building code adoption requirement or via local code adoption requirement (2018, 2021 or 2024 versions of IBC and IRC). For any consensus-based codes, specifications, or standards used to carry out these activities, the two most recently published editions may be used.

Note that Building Code Plus-Up funds may only be applied to the eligible building code activities mentioned above. They may not be used for other BRIC eligible projects or activities. Allocating funds to activities that are not eligible building codes activities will result in loss of those funds.

Tips for Application Development

Here are some tips to create a competitive and complete application:

Cost Share

All BRIC subapplications must have a non-federal cost share. It can be a combination of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, or materials.

- Pre-award costs can also count as a non-federal cost share and are reimbursable because it incurred before the grant award. They must relate directly to the development of a BRIC application or subapplication (e.g. benefit-cost analysis [BCA]). Identify and label this as a pre-award cost in a subapplication.

Generally, the cost share is 75% federal and 25% non-federal, however there are some opportunities for an increased federal cost share.

- **Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities**

- EDRCs are eligible for a 90% federal and 10% non-federal cost share.
- Tribal communities that meet the following EDRC terms are eligible for a federal cost share of up to 90%.
 - Must be a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals.
 - The average per capita annual income of its residents must be at or under 80% of the national per capita income, based on the best available data.
 - Applicants must certify subapplicants' Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community status and provide documentation with the subapplication(s) to justify the increased federal cost share.

- **Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ)**

- Hazard mitigation projects and C&CB activities located within or primarily benefitting a [CDRZ](#) are eligible for a greater cost share. They can qualify for up to 90% federal cost share and 10% non-federal.

Application System: FEMA GO

Users will manage their BRIC applications and submit subapplications in FEMA GO (system of record). For more information, visit the [FEMA GO homepage](#) or [YouTube](#). Please let FEMA know about any technical issues right away. For support, contact your [FEMA Regional Office](#).

Evaluation Criteria

FEMA evaluates all subapplications for the National Competition using a defined set of criteria. The criteria are discussed in the [Technical Evaluation Criteria and Qualitative Evaluation Criteria PSMs](#).

BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

Tribal governments can apply for BRIC Direct Technical Assistance (BRIC DTA) which can help Tribal Nations improve their resilience to natural hazards, build strong mitigation programs, develop high-quality applications, and carry out innovative mitigation projects. To request assistance, a tribal government should complete the BRIC Direct Technical Assistance Request Form and send it to the BRIC DTA submission inbox: fema-bric-dta-submission@fema.dhs.gov. The form will be available on the [BRIC DTA web page](#) once the request period opens.

Please note, to receive BRIC DTA, a Tribe does not need to have a BRIC subapplication under the Tribal Set-Aside or National Competition. An approved hazard mitigation plan is also not required for technical assistance.

FEMA Tribal Contacts and Resources

If you have more questions, contact the [FEMA Tribal Affairs Liaison](#) in your region. These liaisons help build relationships with Tribes in their area. They can help Tribes understand and use the FEMA programs. A full list of these liaisons and other points of contact is available [online](#).

Find training and more resources on the [FEMA Tribal Affairs webpage](#). It covers topics such as tribal mitigation planning and preparedness.

Do you have a question about the BRIC program? Use the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Helpline at 866-222-3580 or email fema-hmahelpline@fema.dhs.gov.

Do you have technical questions about FEMA Go? Call the FEMA GO Help Desk at 877-585-3242 or email femago@fema.dhs.gov.

Use the following link to find more [BRIC Program Support Materials](#).