

===== PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN =====

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

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Rural Opportunity Tour Fact Sheet:

President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Empowers the Department of Homeland Security to Deliver for Rural America

President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver billions to rural communities across the country to create economic opportunity. Supporting Americans living in rural areas remains a top priority for the Biden Administration, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law delivers on the President’s promises to provide high-speed internet, safe roads and bridges, modern wastewater systems, clean drinking water, reliable and affordable electricity, and good-paying jobs in every small town and rural community. As part of this effort, the Biden Administration is also committed to working with communities to help them access federal resources and improving transparency and trust in the federal government.

The Department of Homeland Security will lead this effort focusing on climate resilience. This fact sheet provides information for rural communities to know all the available resources under the infrastructure law, where to apply, or how find more information.

Please route any questions to: dhs.iga@hq.dhs.gov.

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President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) represents a historic opportunity for rural communities. The Department of Homeland Security, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) various Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs, cybersecurity efforts, and dam rehabilitation programs, will support rural infrastructure investment, promote equity, and provide greater support to disadvantaged communities.

Supporting Rural Energy, Environments, and Climates

- **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program – \$1 billion.** BRIC supports states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and natural

hazards. BIL provides \$1 billion over five years to this program. This includes providing non-financial Direct Technical Assistance through the program to communities across the United States who have low program management capacity and lack the capabilities to submit high-quality BRIC sub-applications. For more information about the communities FEMA is working with, visit [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

FEMA continues to expand outreach to disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately affected by disasters to mitigate future hazards. This includes adjusting scoring criteria for applications to promote equity and incentivize mitigation actions for disadvantaged communities.

- **Flood Mitigation Assistance Program - \$3.5 billion.** BIL dedicates \$3.5 billion to the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. These funds are made to states, territories, Tribal governments, and local communities to reduce flood risks. Academic studies have found that flooding in rural areas poses higher risks to health and well-being than in other areas. The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program also prioritized assistance that benefits disadvantaged communities in the [Fiscal Year 2021 funding opportunity](#) to align with the Administration's Justice40 Initiative. For the opportunity, FMA used the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) at the census tract level at a threshold of 0.7501 or greater as included in the project's benefiting area map as a priority scoring criterion for Project Scoping, Community Flood Mitigation Projects and Individual Mitigation projects. More information is available on the [FEMA website](#).
- **Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams - \$585 million.** BIL allocates more than half a billion dollars to repair, removal, or rehabilitation of high hazard potential dams. High Hazard Potential is a classification that indicates that a dam may lead to a death or significant property damage if it fails or is mis-handled. More information is available on the [FEMA website](#).
- **State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program - \$1 billion.** BIL includes \$1 billion for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, which include explicit set asides for rural areas. Funds are initially allocated to state, Tribal, and territorial governments and will target imminent and long-term cybersecurity threats. In addition to tying funding levels to a state's rural population, the law carves out 25% of funds for rural areas. Applications are projected to open in the third quarter of 2022.

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