

FY20 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Programs BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) & FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA)

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (as of 9/29/2020)

Who are eligible subapplicants?

- *State Agencies*
- *Local Governments (including counties, towns, cities and villages)*
- *Indian Tribal Governments (may also apply directly to FEMA as Applicants)*

Are public authorities eligible subapplicants?

A public authority, recognized and established under law, is typically an eligible subapplicant. Generally, if public authorities are eligible under the Public Assistance program, they are likely eligible for HMA programs.

Please note, eligible subapplicants must be covered by a FEMA-approved State or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Are Regional Planning Boards, established under municipal law, eligible subapplicants?

Similar to public authorities, if this entity is established under law, it is likely an eligible subapplicant. However, we encourage collaboration and coordination with the municipalities and counties that it covers.

Are SUNY campuses eligible?

The State University of New York is an eligible subapplicant as a state agency.

Does a subapplicant need to sign up for FEMA GO to submit a Letter of Intent?

No. Subapplicants do not need to sign up for FEMA's new application system, FEMA GO, prior or in order to submit a Letter of Intent. Once a subapplicant is notified to proceed, the subapplication will need to be completed in FEMA GO.

For those jurisdictions that are not in the counties that were declared for DR-4472, would it be more advantageous (in terms of time, effort and possibility to obtain funding) to take the path of BRIC or would you advise that they should submit LOIs for both HMGP and BRIC?

Eligible subapplicants are encouraged to submit eligible Letters of Intent (LOIs) for all available funding opportunities.

Small, impoverished communities are eligible for an increased federal share of 90%. How are small impoverished communities determined?

FEMA's definition of a small, impoverished community is as follows:

- *A community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the Applicant that is economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80 percent of the national per capita income, based on best available data.*

Is there a limit to the number of LOIs that can be submitted per subapplicant?

No, there is no limit to the number of LOIs that can be submitted per subapplicant.

Does a generator qualify as a mitigation project?

Generators are eligible standalone projects only when installed for critical facilities. Generators for non-critical facilities may be included as part of a component of another eligible project type.

Historically, standalone generator projects do not rank high in the national competition.

How are critical facilities defined?

Critical facilities are critical physical structures, facilities, and systems that provide support to a community, its population, and its economy. These are the structures, facilities, and/or systems that have been designated by the local community to be critical to support their normal day to day functions.

Would installation of a heat pump be an eligible activity under BRIC? The hazard would be extreme temps.

Heat pumps may mitigate risk to the nature hazard extreme temperatures (i.e. extreme cold, cold wave). The project must be proven cost-effective by quantifying future damages avoided through a formal Benefit-Cost Analysis.

Is flood warning equipment eligible for BRIC funding?

Communication equipment (including warning equipment) is not eligible as a standalone project but may potentially be included as a component of another eligible project type.

Do you have a list of projects that other communities have applied for in the past that we could use as a reference for a potential project?

FEMA's document [Mitigation Action Portfolio](#) provides a list of projects previously funded.

Will subapplicants be responsible to develop project BCAs to include in the subapplication?

Subapplicants are responsible to ensure that all eligibility criteria are met for a proposed project, including that it is cost-effective using FEMA's Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit v6.0. The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) will provide technical assistance for subapplications that are complete and provide sufficient documentation to support a BCA, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Are subapplicants at risk of LOI denial if they do not have an account of the cost of damages?

No. LOIs will be reviewed to determine whether the subapplicant and the project type are both eligible. However, any information related to damages that is available at the time of LOI should be included, either in narrative format or by submitting supporting documentation.

Accounting for the cost of damages (historical or future) will be part of the subapplication development to determine cost-effectiveness. If a subapplicant is unable to produce documentation to support a cost-effective BCA, this may preclude submittal of the subapplication to FEMA.

Will BRIC and FMA cover detailed engineering design, construction inspection, and similar phases of projects?

Under the BRIC program, mitigation projects may be submitted as phased projects. Phased Projects are complex projects that FEMA reviews and awards in multiple parts, or phases, because they require the subapplicant to develop engineering or environmental information to support the full project scope of work. The development of technical information generally serves the purpose of allowing FEMA to perform reviews for technical feasibility and effectiveness, cost effectiveness, and/or Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) review. Phase I can include final engineering design and detailed specifications as well construction inspection.

The FMA program does not support phased projects. However, final engineering and construction inspection can be included in a non-phased project.

Are FMA planning grants are best suited for multi- or single- jurisdictional plans?

For BRIC Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) activities, under Hazard Mitigation Planning, DHSES will only support Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans. For FMA, it is possible that DHSES may support single-jurisdictional flood mitigation planning proposals, however, multi-jurisdictional plans are preferable and more competitive.

Is it better to try for planning funds to study a problem area and develop the proposed designs for the mitigation first, or go for study, design, and construction all at once under BRIC?

If you know what the intended solution is, an LOI and subsequent subapplication for a phased mitigation project may be submitted. If you do not know what the solution is to the problem, an LOI for Project Scoping under BRIC's C&CB category or under FMA's Project Scoping category may be submitted.

Does the building codes project category include zoning, higher standards in flood damage prevention laws, and other land use regulations?

Yes, this is included under Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) category.

What if you are not sure of budget during the LOI submittal stage?

Please provide a best estimate for the LOI, and we will work with you during subapplication submittal to support a more detailed cost estimate.