

# FY22 BRIC Project Subapplication Tips

This Program Support Material (PSM) provides tips for submitting mitigation projects through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The information below includes an overview of eligibility and completeness, project scoring prioritization, and technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

## Eligibility and Completeness

The first step of a BRIC subapplication review is to check whether it meets FEMA's eligibility and completeness standards. These standards include items such as providing all required documentation, confirming that your hazard mitigation plan is active, and demonstrating that you are an eligible subapplicant. To confirm eligibility and completeness, subapplicants should ensure that all necessary documentation is attached to the subapplication and has a clear naming convention. In addition to a clear naming convention for attachments, ensure that the attachments are being uploaded into the correct location within FEMA GO. FEMA is not able to consider or fund a project that is ineligible or incomplete. Using project scoping funds or phased projects may help develop competitive applications.

As described in the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):

*Subapplicants are exempt from the hazard mitigation plan requirements for the following C&CB [capability- and capacity-building] activity types: (1) hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, (2) partnerships, and (3) building codes.*

### Overview Checklist:

- Entity is an eligible subapplicant.
- Project subapplication meets all eligibility for criteria proposed activities and costs as outlined in the BRIC FY22 NOFO and [HMA Guidance](#).
- Project subapplication is complete, and all supporting documentation is provided.
- Project subapplication meets eligibility and availability of the non-federal cost share.
- Project subapplication and relevant documentation consistent with the BRIC technical and qualitative evaluation criteria.
- Project subapplication is consistent with approved State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Local and/or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Project subapplication demonstrates the ability to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards.
- Project subapplication demonstrates cost-effectiveness by producing a passing Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) with supporting documentation, or by applying pre-calculated benefits. FEMA will review hazard mitigation project subapplications during the pre-award process that are competitive and otherwise eligible for selection where an EDRC, federally recognized Tribal government, or community with CDC SVI greater than 0.80 is unable to calculate a BCR to demonstrate cost-effectiveness. FEMA may assist such communities with developing a BCA.



# FEMA

## Project Review Prioritization

The BRIC NOFO includes information on the point scoring and prioritizing criteria used to rank BRIC applications. The criteria help prioritize projects that are meeting other programmatic goals, such as encouraging resilience through building codes and nature-based solutions. For projects submitted to the national competition, to help your project achieve the highest score possible, provide detailed descriptions and relevant documentation to demonstrate how your project is meeting both the Qualitative Evaluation Criteria and Technical Evaluation Criteria. Considering BRIC scoring categories within both sets of BRIC scoring criteria can also help applicants and subapplicants prioritize which applications to develop and submit. During fiscal year (FY) 2020 BRIC reviews, trends showed that 100 percent of selected projects received lifeline points, infrastructure points, and building code adoption and Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) points. Other key categories included nature-based points and increased non-federal share. In general, risk reduction, population impacted, implementation measures, and leveraging partners were important variables for selected projects.

In accordance with the BRIC program's guiding principle of promoting equity and in implementing the Justice40 Initiative, the BRIC program is prioritizing assistance that benefits disadvantaged communities as referenced in Executive Order 14008.

A disadvantaged community may be characterized by variables including, but not limited to low income, high and/or persistent poverty, high unemployment and underemployment, racial and ethnic segregation, linguistic isolation, high housing cost burden and substandard housing, distressed neighborhoods, high transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access, disproportionate environmental burden and high cumulative impacts, limited water and sanitation access and affordability, disproportionate climate impacts, high energy cost burden and low energy access, and all geographic areas within tribal jurisdictions.

Applicants and subapplicants should define their disadvantaged communities as outlined in the Qualitative Criteria PSM and the Justice40 PSM.

Communities that do not receive points for building codes and BCEGS should consider ways to make up for those points in other Technical and Qualitative Evaluation Criteria.

Please see BRIC Qualitative Evaluation Criteria and the BRIC Technical Evaluation Criteria for program scoring.

## Technical Feasibility and Cost-Effectiveness

To be considered for funding, applicants and subapplicants must show that their project is cost-effective and technically feasible, meaning the project is designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure from natural hazards.

Technical feasibility should be confirmed by demonstrating how the project will be executed, and how existing risk to people and property will be mitigated by the project. Look out for the following trends that can result in ineligibility:

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- Incomplete scope of work, or a scope of work that conflicts with industry standards. While it is not expected that final design is complete and part of the subapplication, the scope of work should be clear and consistent to prove feasibility.
- Conflicting before- and after-mitigation damages. The existing risk and the residual risk should be identified.
- Insufficient documentation. Documentation can include stamped and sealed reports, design documents, technical drawings, surveys and studies, project site maps, historical data, etc.
- Inconsistencies across the application, such as conflicting information about the design level of protection or inconsistent project costs.

Most projects use FEMA's BCA toolkit to demonstrate cost-effectiveness unless the project qualifies for pre-calculated benefits. Look out for the following trends that can result in ineligibility:

- Lack of documentation for basis of estimating damages. Subapplicants should consider the benefitting area of the project and document the existing building and infrastructure present within that area boundary. Information about building(s), infrastructure, capacity, and/or population served may be appropriate depending on the project type.
- Recurrence intervals (RIs) represent the likelihood of a disaster event of a certain magnitude to occur and should increase with event severity. Documentation should show the source of the RIs. If the RIs are unknown, the unknown frequency calculator in the BCA Toolkit can be used for three or more historic events.
- Unsupported BCA inputs. Every value entered in the BCA Toolkit should be supported with an explanation and documentation unless it is a FEMA standard or default value.

## Additional Information and Resources

### Where can I go for further guidance?

Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMOs) for States and Territories: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/state-contacts>

Benefit-Cost Analysis Helpline: [BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov) or call toll free at 1-855-540-6744

BRIC NOFO: [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) or on the BRIC webpage at <https://www.fema.gov/bric>

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>

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