

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

Frequently Asked Questions *

(BRIC)

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How many applications can my community submit?

We are asking communities to submit your one best and highest priority project for this year's BRIC cycle. If you are thinking about multiple project ideas, please contact us and we can help you to determine which is the best fit for the program.

Do I need to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place in order to apply?

FEMA requires that communities have a local Hazard Mitigation Plan approved at the time of application and at the time of award. Since this rule is set in Federal statute, there are no waivers, extension, or exceptions to this plan requirement. To check your plan status, [please visit the MEMA website](#).

What types of projects are eligible for BRIC?

A list of these activities can be found starting on page 32 of the [2015 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#). Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. BRIC will fund projects that are cost effective that mitigate natural hazard risk to critical facilities or communities lifelines. If you have a project that you think may be eligible, but is not necessarily on this list, please contact us to discuss your idea.

Can BRIC fund a new building construction for a critical facility if the current facility is located of a hazard zone (I.e. fire station in flood zone)?

This construction activity on its own is not eligible. BRIC can fund mitigation projects to reduce risk from natural hazards such as upgrades beyond codes to buildings for floods, retrofitting buildings for wind, or application of ignition-resistant construction for wildfires.

Who can apply to BRIC?

Communities or state agencies apply to BRIC as sub-applicants to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). MEMA coordinates all of the sub-applications into one State Application which is submitted to FEMA. FEMA will select which projects from the state applications are funded based on the national review.

If my project is funded, when can I expect to start work?

The application and review process is lengthy. Project award and obligation varies depending on the project type and level of programmatic and environmental review required. MEMA advises that you plan for about 12 to 18 months from the application date before funding will be awarded to you.

What is a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) and do I need one?

All projects funded through FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance are required to be cost effective. This is shown by utilizing FEMA's BCA Toolkit (v 6.0). In this software you enter information about the cost of your project and the damages (historic or estimated) this project will avoid or eliminate. This will give you a cost effectiveness

ratio. This free software can be downloaded from the [FEMA website](#). Planning or Capability and Capacity Building activities do not require a BCA.

Are traditional (grey) stormwater projects still eligible even if green alternatives cannot be built in?

Traditional construction methods are eligible for this program. However, it is important that you explain in your application why green alternatives cannot be used.

If we have already submitted our best project under another program but haven't received an award yet, can we also submit the project under BRIC?

A community can also apply to BRIC but we recommend speaking with MEMA prior to doing so to receive the latest information on the status of your application.

Would a regional solar siting analysis be considered an eligible C&CB project?

If the solar siting analysis could lead to a future grant application, then it could be eligible as a Project Scoping activity. Project scoping activities are designed to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner 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. Please see the [Project Scoping Program Support Material](#) for more information.

Would clean energy resilience for a critical facility (ex: solar + storage) be considered to fit in the generator category?

These types of activities would be eligible if the project scope provides back up power, similar to the functions of a generator and can be eligible under either the C&CB or national competition. The project scope must be sure to meet the project criteria as defined in the [2015 HMA Guidance](#).