

# FEMA Building Code Plus-Up

## Overview & FEMAGO

Massachusetts Emergency  
Management Agency  
November 2023



# Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

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- Hazard mitigation funding for states, tribal governments, and local communities/special district governments
- Initiated in 2020 (under the Disaster Recovery Reform Act)
- Establishes an annual national competitive award
  - *Qualitative and quantitative evaluation criteria*
  - *Between \$500 Million - \$2 Billion in grant funding awarded annually*
  - *Funds projects up to \$50 Million (Federal Share)*
  - *Projects can be up to 36 months - longer durations may be possible*
- Announced by an Annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
  - *Statement of Interest due on November 20, 2023*
  - *Subapplications due to MEMA January 8, 2024*

# BRIC Building Code Plus-Up State Allocation

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- New in Fiscal Year 2023, to further demonstrate the importance of building codes, FEMA is setting aside an additional amount of funding dedicated to building codes FEMA is referring to as a plus-up
  - *BRIC will allow up to an additional \$2 million per state and territory to be dedicated for building code activities (\$112 million total).*
  - *In addition, BRIC will allow up to \$25 million to be dedicated for building code activities for federally recognized tribes called the Tribal Building Codes Plus-Up.*

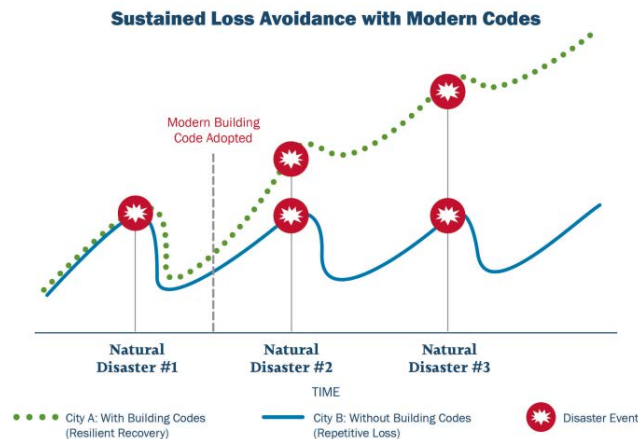
# Why Building Codes?

65%

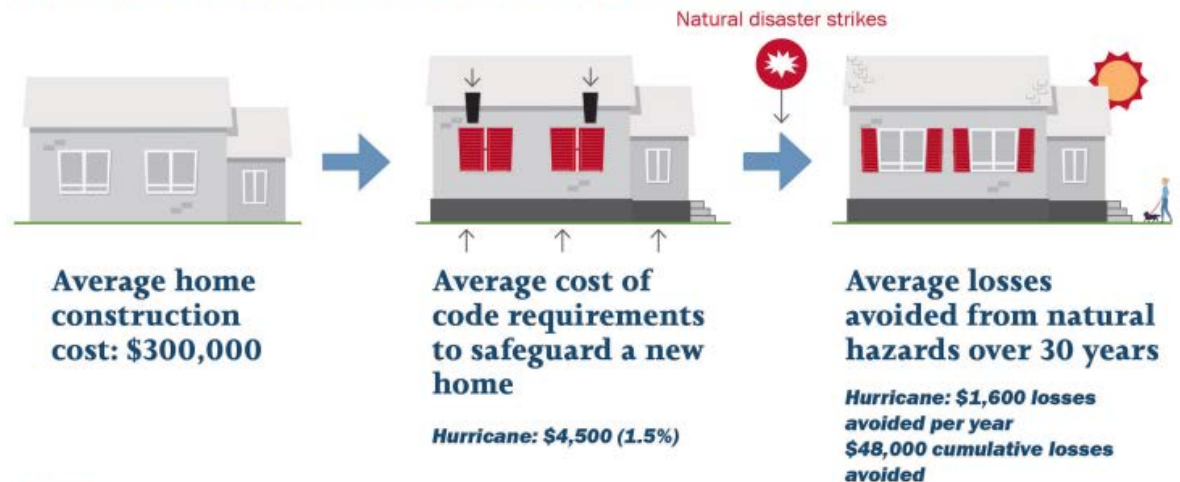
of counties, cities, and towns across the U.S. today still have not adopted modern building codes

**\$132 BILLION**

Estimated reduction in property losses based on forecasted consistent growth associated with use of modern building codes from 2000-2040.\*



## Building Codes Generate Big Benefits at a Low Cost



### Sources:

FEMA, "Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study," 2020; (source of cost data).

NIBS, "Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2019 Report," 2019; (source of dollar spent on mitigation).

# Eligible Building Code Activities



**Adopt and/or implement codes, specifications, and/or standards that incorporate hazard-resistant designs and establish minimum acceptable criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential and nonresidential structures**



**Enhance existing adopted codes, specifications, and/or standards to incorporate more current requirements or higher standards**



**Develop professional workforce capabilities through technical assistance and training that capitalize on the use of virtual/electronic submission methods**



# Additional Bldg. Code Activities

(see FEMA PSM Document for full list)

- Adopt, improve, or modify current or existing building **energy and green codes** that result in buildings that meet or exceed the energy performance thresholds and renewable generation requirements specified in the zero energy appendices of the IECC or IgCC
- Provide or pursue individual **certification courses or training** related to building codes for both the public and private sectors. Examples include building code inspections or plans reviewer, floodplain management, etc.
- Develop planning, training, and exercises for **post-disaster** building code enforcement through the International Code Council's When Disaster Strike's Institute training course
- Develop activities related to improving **code enforcement** (i.e., evaluate processes, implement an inspection program, improve BCEGS score, improve Community Rating System [CRS] rating)
- Develop or acquire **software and hardware**, as well as associated training, to assist with plan reviews, permitting, inspections, and records retention
- **Purchase publications**, or obtain digital license or printing permissions of publications, to support activities associated with building codes, specifications, and/or standards

## FEMA Grant Outcomes (FEMA GO)



- Sub-applications must be filed in FEMA Go with the legal name of the municipality (i.e. Town of x).
- The UEI registered name and address must match the legal name of the municipality.
- The UEI must be an Active Registration.
- FEMA GO Startup Guide
  - [fema-go\\_startup-guide.pdf](#)
- Follow sub-application process
  - [FEMA GO Application and Subapplication Process Guide](#)

### How to Set Up a FEMA GO Account in Three Easy Steps



- Register, renew OR confirm your SAM.gov account
- Obtain OR Confirm Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in SAM.gov
- Visit [go.fema.gov](https://go.fema.gov) to create & register a new account

Still need help? Check out these resources.



Watch the FEMA GO Start Up Tutorial on Youtube

Explore SAM.gov self-help options online



Check out GSA's Federal Service Desk resources

Review the FEMA GO Start Up Guide



A black and white photograph of a microphone on a stand next to a computer keyboard. The microphone is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its head pointing towards the top right. The keyboard is visible in the lower left corner. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a desk or office environment. The text 'Live Demo' is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Live Demo

FEMA GO subapplication development



# Expected Project Cycle

Statement of Interest (SOI) Period (Building Code Activities)	Deadline – December 18, 2023
Sub-applicant Register with FEMA GO	ASAP
Federal Grant Application Period Opens	October 16, 2023, to January 8, 2024
Sub-application Final Submittal	January 8, 2024
State Review Committee	January to February 2024
Submittal to FEMA for National Competitive Review	February 2024
Award Notification for FY23 Cycle	Summer 2024
Project Initiation	TBD: Starting Spring 2025

# Contact MEMA

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[MEMA Hazard Mitigation Website](#)

# Building Code Activities in FEMA GO: Summary Steps

- To begin a building code activity subapplication in FEMA GO, select the “Project” Subapplication Type.
- In the Scope of Work section, select “Codes and Standards” as the Primary Activity Type.
- Choose a Sub-Activity Type that best describes your building code activity.
- Select a Primary Community Lifeline; if applicable, select secondary and tertiary lifelines as well.
- Answer the following questions:
  - Question: “Are you doing construction during this project?”
    - Please answer “No” for building code activities.
  - Question: “Please identify the entity that will perform any long-term maintenance and provide a maintenance plan, schedule and cost information. The subapplicant or owner of the area to be mitigated is responsible for maintenance (including costs of long-term care) after the project is completed.”
    - To fully address this question, focus on describing how building codes will be enforced and updated.
- In the Additional Comments section, provide insight on how education and outreach will be used to facilitate the building code activity.
- In the Cost Effectiveness section, select “Not Applicable.”

## Start a subapplication

### Fiscal Year 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities subapplication

Organization you are applying for

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY MASSACHUSETT

Organization you are applying to

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY MASSACHUSETT

Subapplication title

Building Code Test Application

Subapplication type

Project

Start your subapplication

Cancel

#### Scope of work

Schedule

Location

Project location

Project benefiting area

Project impact area

Project site inventory

#### Activities

Primary activity type

Codes and standards

Primary sub-activity type

Select

Select

Evaluation of existing codes

Evaluation of existing codes and enforcement of new codes

Development, administration, and enforcement of new codes

Technical assistance and training of new codes

Other

### Community lifelines

Primary community lifeline

Food, water, shelter

Primary sub-community lifeline

Shelter

Secondary community lifeline (Optional)

Select

Select

Safety and security

Food, water, shelter

Health and medical

Energy

Communications

Transportation

Hazardous material

Not applicable

### Are you doing construction in this project?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please identify the entity that will perform any long-term maintenance and provide a maintenance, schedule and cost information. The subapplicant or owner of the area to be mitigated is responsible for maintenance (including costs of long-term care) after the project is completed?

Test Building Code will be enforced by the Test Town Building Official. The Test Building Code will be updated every 5 years.

Additional comments (optional)

Test Building Code will be published in Test Town Newspaper. It will be available on Test Town website. A video training on how the Test Building Code will be applied will be made available on Test Town website. Contact information for Test Town Building Official will be provided for any questions.

#### Cost-effectiveness

Environmental/Historic Preservation (EHP) Review Information

A. National Historic Preservation Act - Historic Buildings and Structures

B. National Historic Preservation Act - Archeological Resources

### Cost-effectiveness

How was cost-effectiveness determined for this project?

☒ Not applicable

Please explain why this project is not applicable.

This is a building code activity subapplication

# Additional Resources

- Additional information related to the BRIC Program [FEMA BRIC webpage](#)
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance [Mitigation Action Portfolio](#)
- Additional Information about building codes can be found at the following sites:
  - International Code Council [Training Program](#) and [Certifications](#)
  - U.S. Fire Administration [Online Learning Opportunities](#)
  - FEMA [Building Science Resources](#)
  - [Building Code Adoption Playbook](#)
  - [Building Codes Toolkit for Homeowners and Occupants](#)
- For a list of many, but not necessarily all, consensus-based codes, please see Appendix A of [Consensus-Based Codes and Standards V2.1 - DRRA 1235\(b\)](#)
- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Building Code Activities \(fema.gov\)](#)



# Building Codes Benefit All



Insurance companies promote codes to help save losses



Social organizations advocate



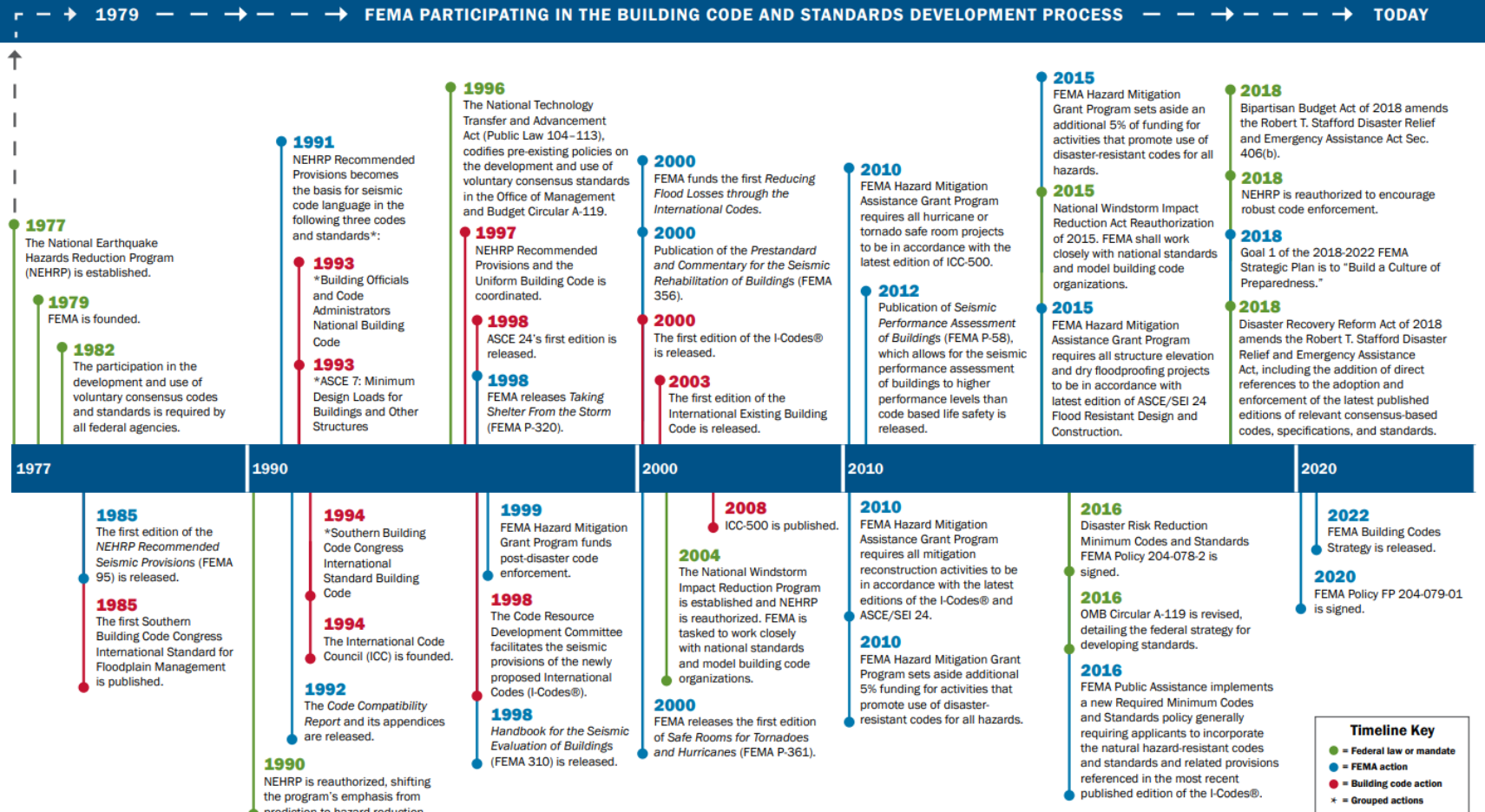
Local governments are the ones that adopt and enforce the code



Disasters are events that test the code

## Fast Facts

- Flooding is the most common natural hazard—90% of natural disasters are flood events, and flood risk exists in every county in the nation.
- A 2019 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that adopting the latest building codes saves \$11 per \$1 invested (NIBS, 2019).
- The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 established the need for creating and promoting model building codes to make buildings more resilient against natural hazards.
- Since 2000, states and communities across the country that have adopted the consensus model codes have saved and estimated \$32 billion in building damage, according to FEMA's Building Codes Save study (2020).
- Between 2010 and 2020, the [National Weather Service](#) reported a ten-year average of 94 tornado-related fatalities.
- The [Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves Study](#) determined that about 1,600 people experience nonfatal injuries for every one fatality caused by natural hazards.





# Building Codes Strategy

Federal Emergency Management Agency

March 2022



FEMA

# Massachusetts Building Code History

- Current Massachusetts 9th Edition Building Code based on 2015 IBC
- Massachusetts 10th Edition Building Code (to be released in 2024) based on 2021 IBC



## VIEW THE CODE HISTORY FOR MASSACHUSETTS

See below for the available information on the history of building codes adopted in your community. Contact your local government offices to learn more if you do not see your information here.

Code History		8
Code version		Years in effect
2015 International Building Code		2017 - Present
2009 International Building Code		2010 - 2017
2003 International Building Code		2008 - 2011
1993 National Building Code		1997 - 2009
1987 National Building Code		1991 - 1997
1978 Basic Building Code		1980 - 1991
1970 Basic Building Code		1979 - 1980
1970 Basic Building Code		1975 - 1979

[No Code. No Confidence – Federal Alliance for Safe Homes – FLASH® \(inspecttoprotect.org\)](#)