

Introduction to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

July 1, 2020

Photo of Memphis, Tennessee



FEMA

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BRIC Program Overview

Camille Crain, FEMA



Photo of Miami, Florida

Agenda

- BRIC Program Overview
 - BRIC Legislation
 - BRIC Guiding Principles
 - Draft BRIC Policy
 - Draft BRIC Policy Key Elements
 - BRIC Rollout Timeline
 - BRIC Funding
- How is BRIC Different than PDM
- What Makes a Project Eligible?
- Elements of Good Mitigation Projects
 - Building Codes, Lifelines
 - Infrastructure Project Examples
 - Project Scoping, BCA, Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Feedback and Engagement
- Resources



Legislation



- Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1234, which amends Section 203 of the Stafford Act
- Funded by a 6% set-aside from federal post-disaster grant funding
- Eligible applicants – states and territories with major disaster declarations in past seven years
- Will replace FEMA’s existing pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) program

BRIC's Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles



Support Community
Capability & Capacity Building



Encourage and Enable
Innovation



Promote Partnerships



Enable Large Infrastructure
Projects



Maintain Flexibility



Provide Consistency

Supports FEMA's Strategic Plan

1

Build a Culture of
Preparedness

2

Ready the Nation for
Catastrophic Disasters

3

Reduce the Complexity
of FEMA

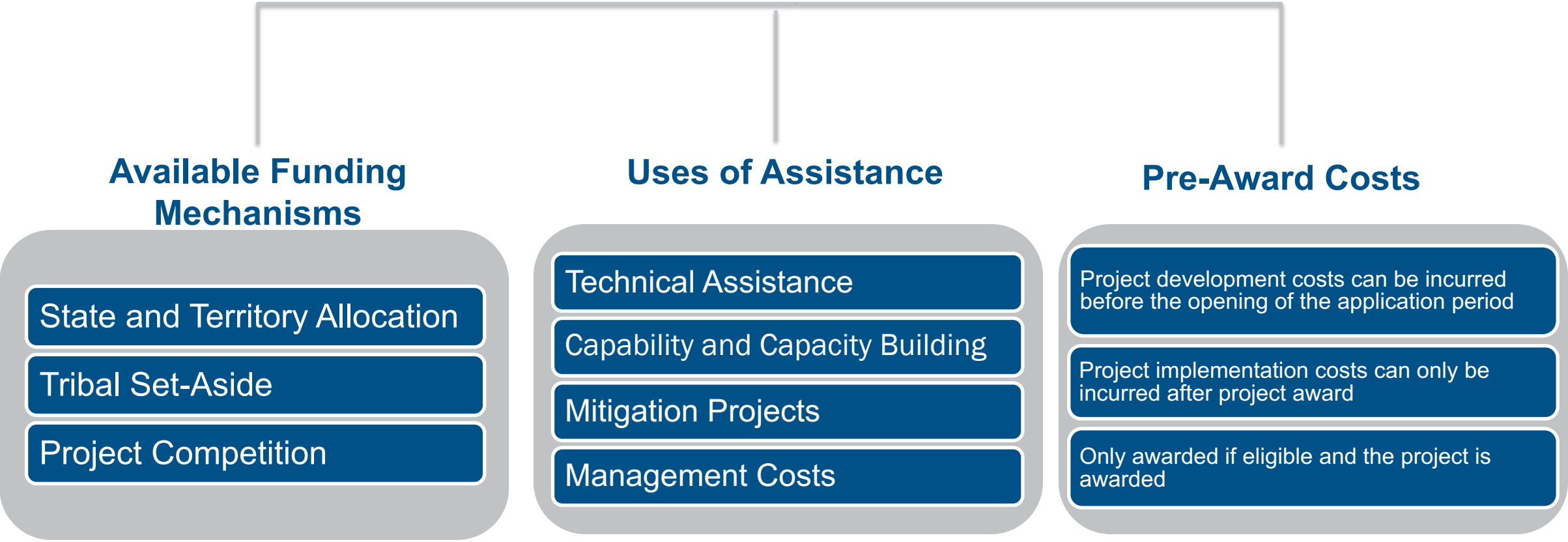
Draft Proposed BRIC Policy

- Informed by stakeholder feedback
- Public notice of the proposed BRIC policy published in Federal Register from April 10-May 11, 2020:
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FEMA-2019-0018>
- Reviewing stakeholder comments



A screenshot of the Federal Register website. The page header includes the National Archives logo, the text "FEDERAL REGISTER The Daily Journal of the United States Government", and the seal of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The main content area features a blue banner with a "Notice" icon and the title "Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities". Below the title, it states "A Notice by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on 04/10/2020". A green button labeled "SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT" is visible. The bottom section is divided into "PUBLISHED DOCUMENT" and "DOCUMENT DETAILS". The "PUBLISHED DOCUMENT" section lists the "AGENCY:" as "Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS." and the "ACTION:" as "Notice, Request for Comments." The "DOCUMENT DETAILS" section lists "Printed version: PDF", "Publication Date: 04/10/2020", and "Agencies: Federal Emergency Management Agency".

Draft Proposed BRIC Policy Key Elements



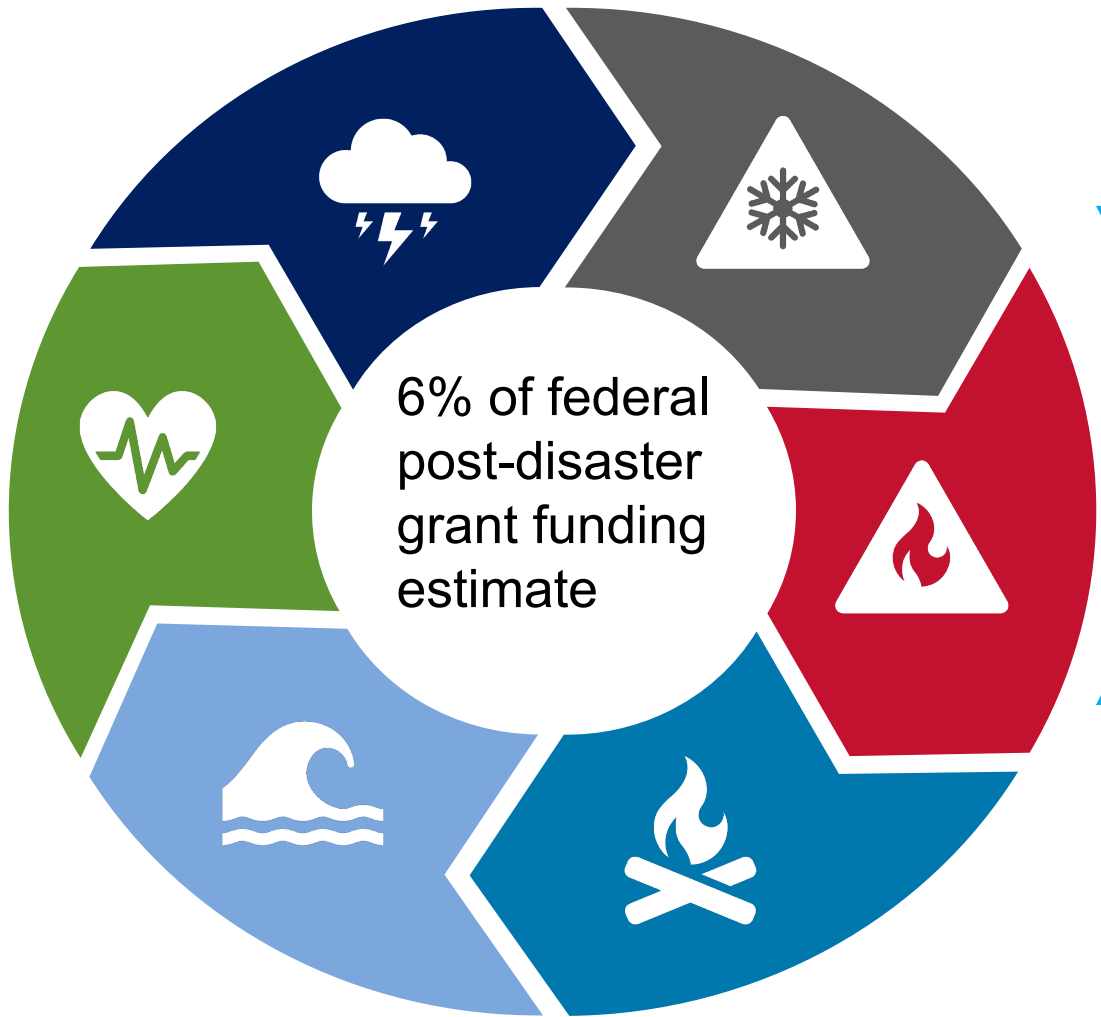
Timeline



 Where we are now

* Timing is estimated as of June 2020 and subject to change.

BRIC Funding



BRIC Account





How is BRIC Different Than PDM?

Sets Clear Priorities

- Lifelines & infrastructure projects
- Building codes
- Shared responsibility & partnerships
- Innovative projects

Builds Capability

- Capability & capacity-building activities
- In-person non-financial technical assistance
- The Mitigation Action Portfolio – selection of case studies

Increases Flexibility

- Reduces limitations
- Increases caps
- Allows pre-award costs

Streamlines Processes

- New application process through FEMA GO
- Project extensions
- Phased projects



What Makes a Project Eligible?

Existing Activities are Still Eligible



Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

February 27, 2015



Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472



Expanded Eligibility includes:

- Project scoping
- Building code projects
- Additional activities for wildfire and wind implementation (DRRA Section 1205)
- Earthquake early warning (DRRA Section 1233)

NOTE: FEMA P-2055, *Post-disaster Building Safety Evaluation Guidance*

Projects Must:

- Be cost-effective
- Reduce/eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards
- Meet latest two consensus codes (i.e. 2015 or 2018 international building code)
- Align with Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Meet all environmental and historic preservation requirements



Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe Microgrid

Elements of Good Mitigation Projects

Risk Reduction

Grant Implementation Approach

Innovation in Project Planning and Implementation

Populations Impacted

Partnerships and Outreach

Future Conditions

Infrastructure and Community Lifelines



Jefferson, South Dakota

Building Codes

- DRRA provides legislative mandate to support broader adoption of updated building codes
- Projects must conform with latest published codes (either of two most recently published editions)
- BRIC will fund building code activity

Leverage references like the National Building Code Assessment Report, https://www.isomitigation.com/siteassets/downloads/iso-bcegs-state-report_web.pdf

Community Lifelines

Lifelines are services communities use. The goals and objectives of FEMA's Strategic Plan promote using mitigation to reduce risk to lifelines before a disaster and to quickly stabilize a community after disaster by preventing cascading impacts. BRIC mitigation grants can go toward projects which help improve these systems.

Lifeline-focused mitigation projects could involve a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations



Example Infrastructure Projects

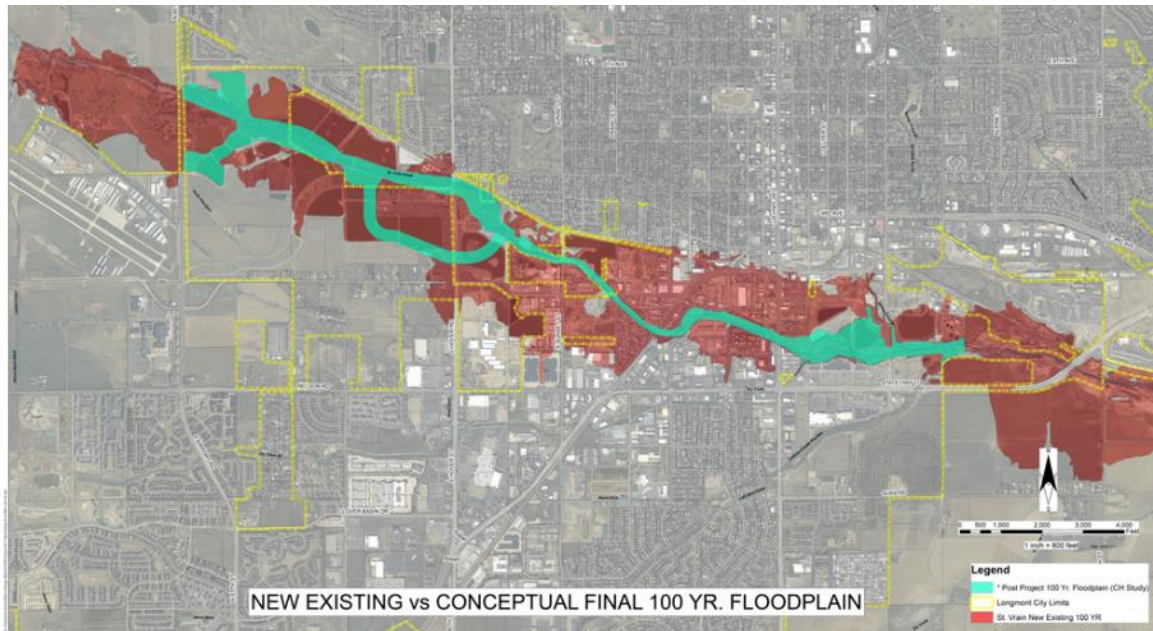


Nature-Based Infrastructure
Underground Resiliency Park,
Hoboken, NJ

Example Infrastructure Projects



Nature-Based Flood Protection Resilient St. Vrain, Longmont, CO



Example Infrastructure Projects



Microgrid Installation

Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe
Microgrid, Humboldt Co., CA



CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION

TESLA

SIEMENS



Idaho National Laboratory

Example Infrastructure Projects



Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami, FL



Hurricane Retrofits for Critical Infrastructure

Nicklaus Children's Hospital,
Miami, FL



Project Scoping

What Is Project Scoping?

- Provides states, federally-recognized tribes, and territories with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete mitigation project applications
- Project Scoping can help states and communities prepare projects for the full launch of BRIC in FY20 and beyond, including years with larger funding available.

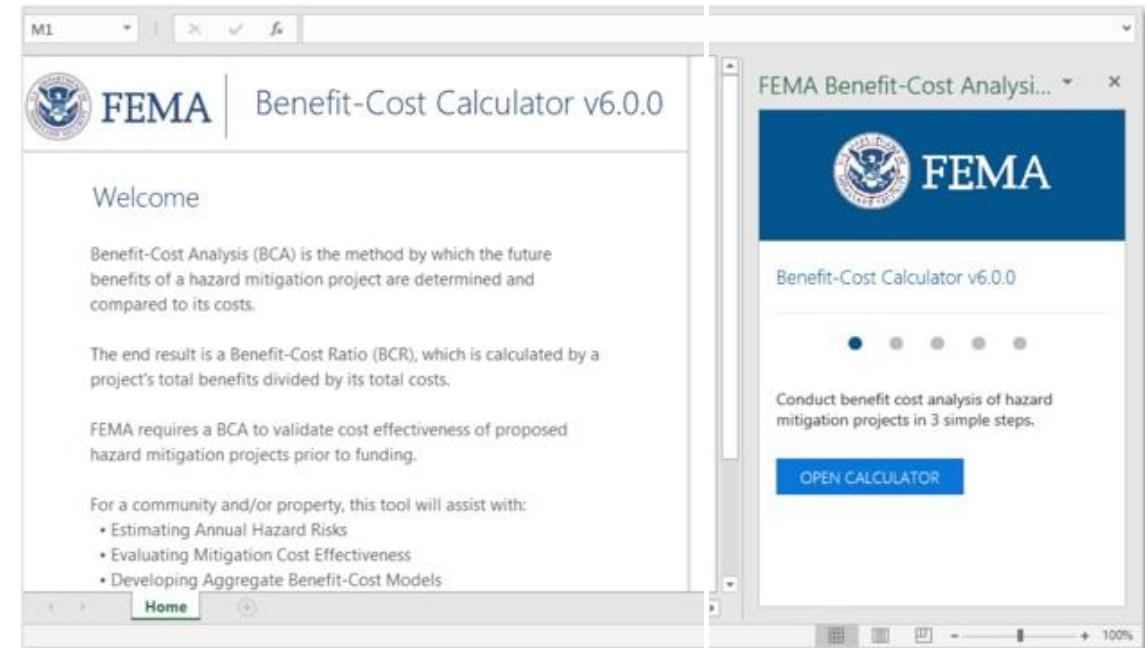
What Activities Are Eligible For Project Scoping?

- Engineering design and feasibility studies for larger or complex projects
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) studies
- Obtain staff or resources to develop cost-share strategy and identify potential match funding
- Evaluate facilities or areas to determine appropriate mitigation actions
- Incorporate environmental considerations early into program decisions
- Collect data for benefit cost analyses, environmental compliance and other program requirements
- Evaluation of potential solutions (i.e., alternative analysis)
- Project scoping across a wide variety of programs to incorporate sustainability, resilience and renewable building concepts



Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)

- FEMA has a statutory requirement to fund “cost-effective” hazard mitigation projects – to assess the cost-effectiveness of a project, FEMA requires a BCA
- A BCA quantifies the benefits of a project and compares them to its cost, resulting in a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR)
- FEMA has released “pre-calculated benefits” for some project types



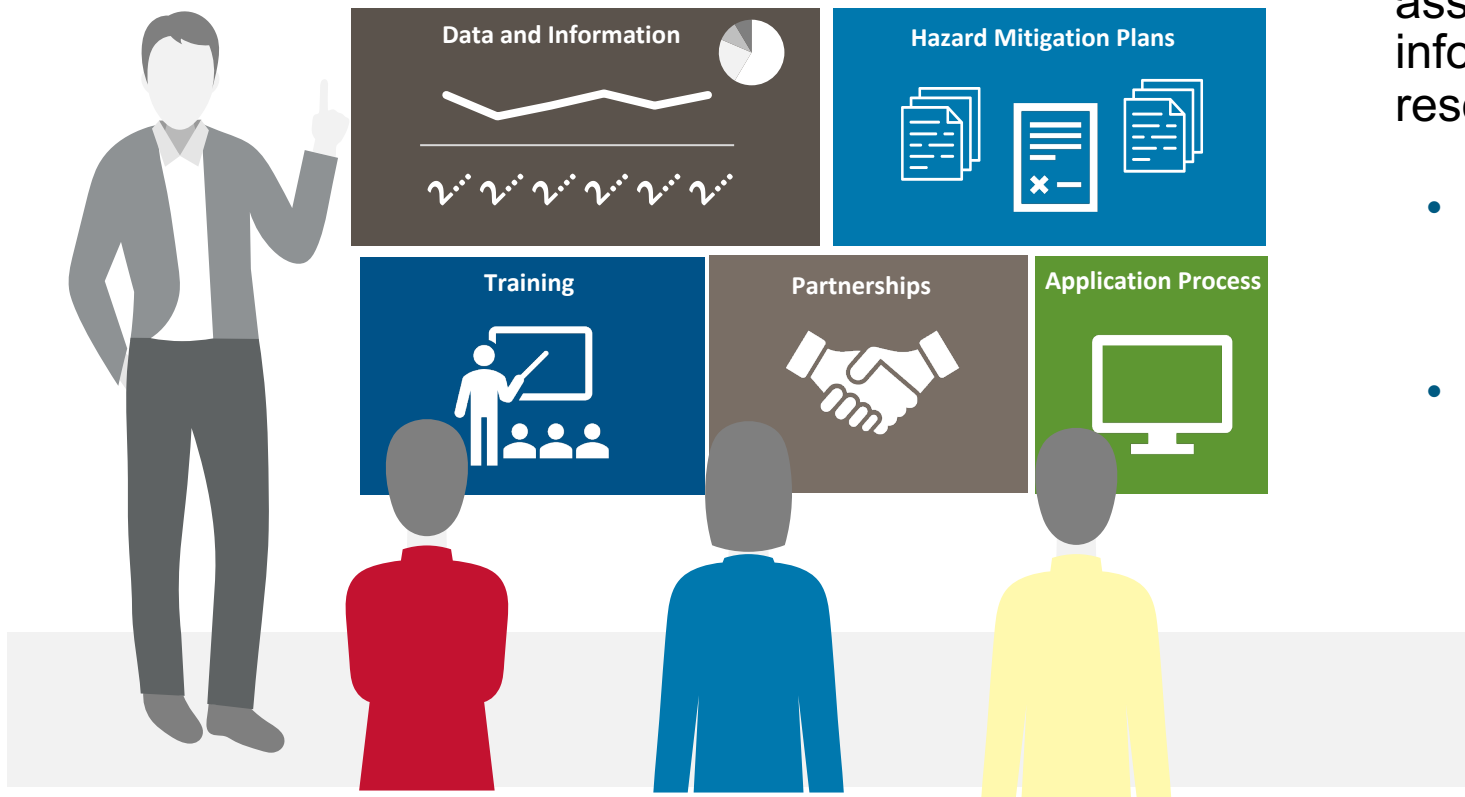
FEMA’s BCA Toolkit, pre-calculated benefits, and other resources may be found at www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis



Technical Assistance

We heard that communities need technical assistance, application advice and have other information needs. FEMA is offering tools and resources for stakeholders such as:

- Mitigation Action Portfolio – A guidebook with project examples and best practices
- Non-financial technical assistance with select communities to help build local capability and capacity





Partnerships

Guiding Principles:

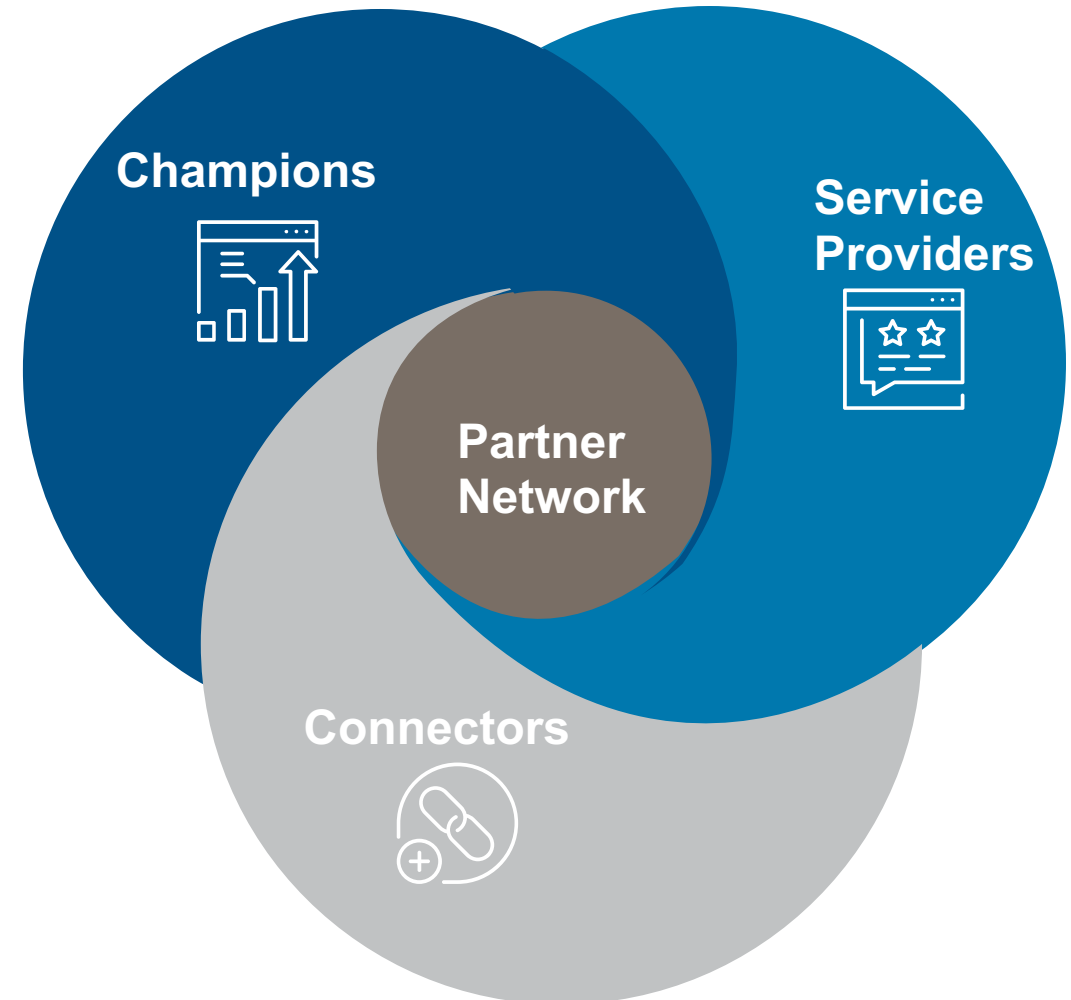


Support Community
Capability & Capacity Building

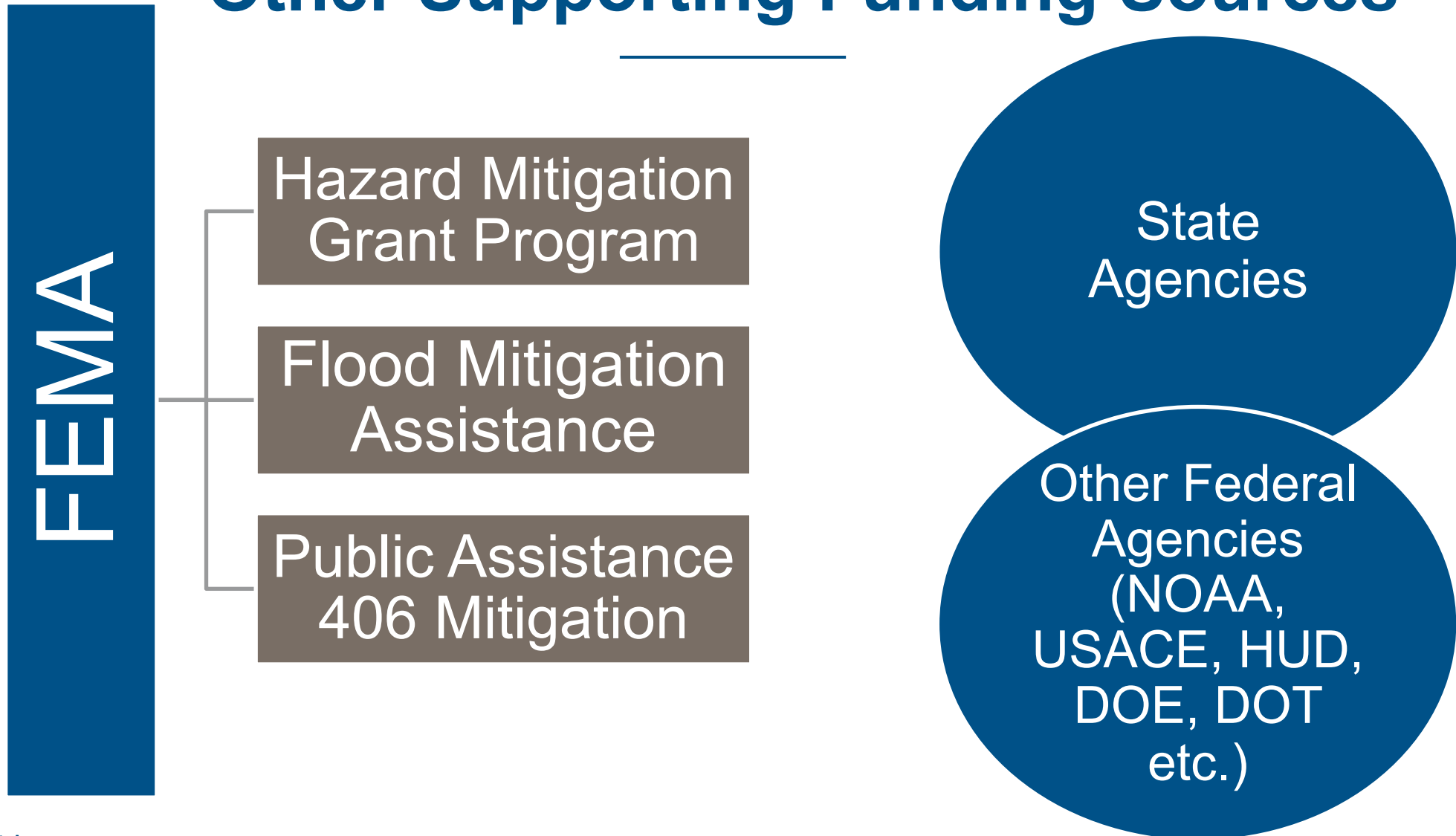


Promote Partnerships

Partnering with other **federal agencies and state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations** amplifies mitigation investment and its effects



Other Supporting Funding Sources





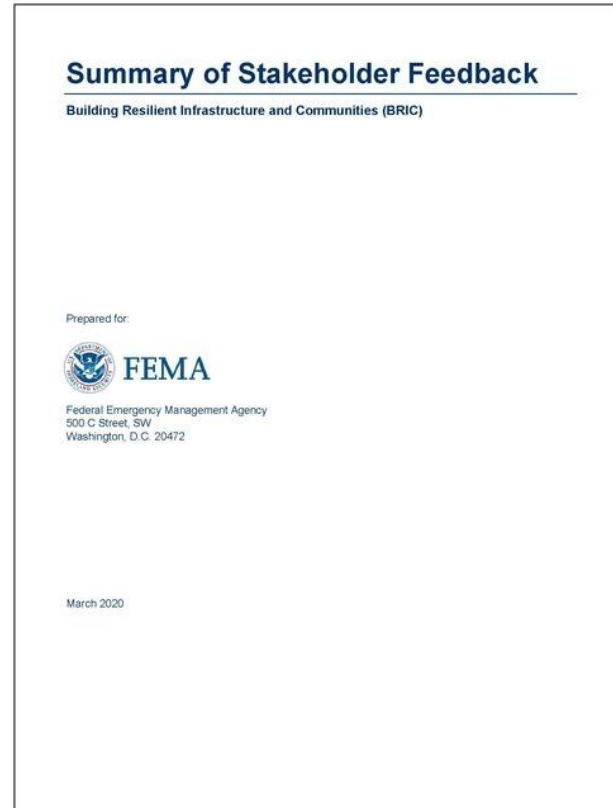
Stakeholder Feedback

In-person engagements

Virtual forums

Emails and letters

Formal comments



Stakeholder feedback was vital to inform the BRIC policy and program design

FEMA gathered feedback from:

- Federal, State, Tribal and Territorial Stakeholders
- Partners
- Members of the General Public

The **Stakeholder Feedback Summary** is available online at [fema.gov/bric](https://www.fema.gov/bric)



Stakeholder Feedback: Top Themes and Subtopics

Application Process & Requirements

- BCA
- Complexity
- Eligibility
- Eligible project types
- Flexibility
- Project scoping
- Nature-based solutions
- Streamlining
- Technical assistance
- Timeline
- Transparency

Capability and Capacity Building

- Building codes
- Collaboration
- Data
- Funding
- Knowledge / knowledge management
- Partnerships
- Technical assistance
- Technical expertise
- Training
- Small / rural / impoverished communities

Hazard Mitigation Planning and Plan & Project Implementation

- Hazard mitigation plan funding and quality
- Plan contents
- Project implementation

Project Monitoring and Evaluation & Lesson Sharing

- Best practices
- Case studies
- Evaluation

Risk-Informed Decision-Making

- Data accessibility
- Incomplete / outdated risk data

Tribal-Specific Issues

- Hazard mitigation planning
- Capacity and capability building
- Program design
- Project development and application



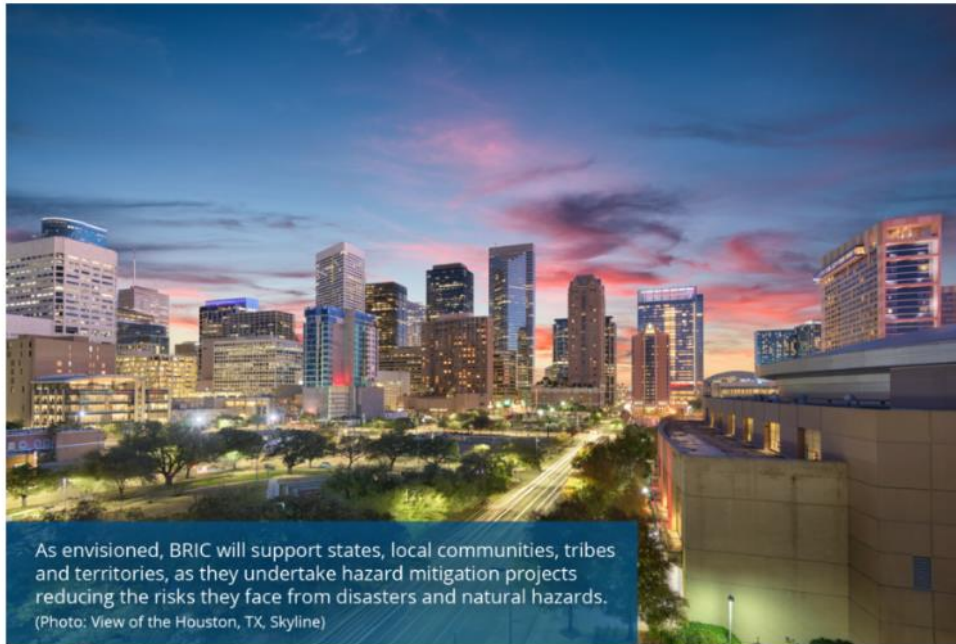
BRIC Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Purpose and Goals

- Educate stakeholders on all aspects of the BRIC policy and program
- Increase awareness and understanding of key BRIC program components
- [BRIC Engagement Sessions](#) – all about the BRIC program (July 2020)
 - July 8: The Meaning of the BRIC Name
 - July 15: BRIC and Building Codes
 - July 22: BRIC and Community Lifelines
 - July 29: BRIC and Nature-based Solutions
- BRIC NOFO Webinars – will occur after NOFO is released (August - September 2020)

FEMA Resources

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities



This page provides general information about a new pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

<https://www.fema.gov/bric>

Sign up for BRIC and HMA Updates:
<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>

Other Resources:

- Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit:
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222>
- Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA):
www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis
- Hazard Mitigation Planning:
<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning>
- ISO Mitigation – Building Codes
<https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>



Thank you!

fema.gov/bric