

Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Grant Application Guidance and Instructions Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023

I. PURPOSE

- A. This document provides guidance and instructions on submission of the FFY 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) applications. This is a nationally competitive program and there is \$1,000,000,000.00 nationwide available funding dedicated to this funding stream's allocation. There is a \$2 million set-aside for the state Capability and Capacity Building activities and \$2 million building code plus up cap.
- B. More information on this FEMA BRIC grant can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

II. OVERVIEW

- A. The BRIC program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research supported, proactive investment in community resilience. FEMA anticipates BRIC funding projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to partnerships, such as shared funding mechanisms, and/or project design. For example, an innovative project may bring multiple funding sources or in-kind resources from a range of private and public sector stakeholders or offer multiple benefits to a community in addition to the benefit of risk reduction.
- B. The BRIC Guiding Principles include the following:
 - 1. Support community capability and capacity building
 - 2. Encourage and enable innovation
 - 3. Promote partnerships
 - 4. Maintain flexibility
 - 5. Provide consistency
- C. Through BRIC, FEMA will continue to invest in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects Community Lifelines which can be found at [FEMA Community Lifelines](#).

III. GENERAL

- A. The subrecipient application submittal period in the Commonwealth for the FFY 2023 BRIC is Wednesday, **November 13, 2023, 8:00 a.m. ET** through Friday, **December 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST**. All applications must be submitted by the Commonwealth's deadline. To start the grant application process, potentially eligible applicants **MUST** submit the required Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Letter of Interest (LOI) by Tuesday, **October 31, 2023, 5:00 p.m. ET**.

This non-contractual, but required form, can be found on the PEMA website at: <https://www.pema.pa.gov/Grants/HMGP/Forms/Documents/19-Non-Disaster-HM-Grants-Letter-Of-Interest.pdf>. Submissions to ra-shazmitoff@pa.gov

IV. APPLICATION

- A. Sub-applications for the FFY 2023 BRIC may be submitted via the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) portal starting Thursday, **October 12, 2023** <https://go.fema.gov/login>. The following browsers are supported by FEMA GO: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge.
- B. FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) is the system for applying for and managing non-disaster [hazard mitigation grant programs](#) from FY2023 and forward, including BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). The system allows users to apply, track, and manage all disaster and non-disaster grants. It also improves oversight and monitoring. FEMA GO is being built to perform all business functions that fall within all five phases of the Grants Management Lifecycle: Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award, Closeout and Post-Closeout. More information on FEMA GO can be found at: <https://go.fema.gov/info>
- C. The following sub-application required components must be completed in FEMA GO:
1. Sub-applicant
 2. Project Scope of Work
 3. Project Schedule
 4. Budget Spreadsheet
 5. Cost Effectiveness
 6. Environmental/Historic Preservation (EHP) Review Information
 7. Assurances
 8. Maintenance requirements, and if applicable, training requirements
 9. Commitment Letter for Cost Share
 10. Federal Assistance, Assurances and Certifications Forms
- D. The FFY 2023 BRIC sub-application is to be completed detailing the long/term mitigation solutions.

V. ELIGIBLE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Project must be cost-effective.
- B. Reduce/eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards.
- C. Meet latest consensus codes (e.g., 2018 or 2023 International Building code).
- D. Align with County and State FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation (HM) Plans. Mitigation activity must be identified in those plans prior to submittal to PEMA and FEMA. If a planning amendment is needed, it must be cleared by Friday, **January 12, 2024** by FEMA Region III.
- E. Meet all Federal/State Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements.

VI. COST SHARE

- A. There is a 75% federal and 25% non-federal share for eligible jurisdictions and a 90% Federal and 10% non-Federal share for identified Small and Impoverished Communities (SIC).

Impoverished communities must meet the following definition criteria: 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the commonwealth as disadvantage and the average per capita annual income not exceeding 80% of the national per capita income.

Federally identified Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ) that are submitting HM projects may be eligible for an increase in BRIC cost share up to 90% federal and 10% non-federal with the goal to lessen the financial burden on communities to perform resilience-related activities. Pennsylvania CDRZs can be found on page 8.

- B. The non-federal cost share is to be provided by the subrecipient (County or Municipality).

VII. CATEGORIES/ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- A. State Allocation/Capacity and Capability Building:
 - 1. Building Codes Activities
 - 2. Partnerships
 - 3. Project Scoping
 - 4. Mitigation Planning and Related Activities
- B. Mitigation Projects:

1. Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition
2. Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation
3. Structure Elevation
4. Mitigation Reconstruction
5. Dry Floodproofing of Historic Structures
6. Dry Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures
7. Generators
8. Saferoom Construction
9. Wind Retrofits

C. Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) [Non-Financial Support]

1. Communities may submit a letter of interest for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) by going to the following link at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_form-ff-206-fy-22-155.pdf Forms are due into FEMA Headquarters no later than 1500 EST on **February 29, 2024**.

VIII. FEMA SCORING/POINT SYSTEM

A. Evaluation: Technical Criteria (100 Points – Each category all or none)

1. Infrastructure Project - **15 points**
2. Incorporation of nature-based solutions – **5-15 points**
3. Building Code Adoption – **5-10 points**
4. Building Code Enforcement Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) 1-5 rating or Alternative Higher Standards **5-10 points**
5. Application generated from any previous FEMA HMA Project Scoping award, or the sub-applicant is a past recipient of BRIC non-financial DTA – **10 points**
6. Designation as a Justice40 community or designated as an economically disadvantaged rural community (as referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as a small, impoverished community) – **30-40 points**

B. Evaluation: Qualitative Criteria (100 Points – Can obtain points in each category)

1. Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness – **30 points**
2. Climate Change & Other Future Conditions – **20 points**
3. Implementation Measures – **15 points**
4. Population Impacted – **25 points**
5. Community Engagement and Outreach Activities – **5 points**
6. Leveraging Partners – **5 points**

IX. SUBMISSION/APPLICATION EXECUTION

- A. The FFY 2023 BRIC application is available for submission as follows:
1. Eligible sub-applicants must have an accepted LOI and have been approved for access in FEMA GO, can open an application on Thursday **October 12, 2023**.
 2. Prior to entry in FEMA GO, sub-applicants must have submitted an LOI by Tuesday, **October 31, 2023, 5:00 p.m. ET**.
 3. FEMA/PEMA Application Period opens Thursday, **October 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.** (PEMA will approve or deny received 2023 LOIs by this date)
 4. PEMA sub-application period closes Friday, **December 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST**
 5. PEMA HM staff will review the completed FFY 2023 BRIC sub-applications and get ready for the commonwealth review team Friday, **January 15 – Sunday, January 21, 2024**.
 6. Pennsylvania State Hazard Mitigation Application Team will meet Monday, **January 29– Friday, February 2, 2024** to conduct sub-application review, scoring, prioritization and submittal recommendations to PEMA Director based on State and Federal Priorities and scoring criteria.
- B. PEMA will submit eligible applications according to the state rankings into the FEMA GO system by Friday, **February 16, 2024**.
- C. PEMA will not accept BRIC sub-applications after Friday, **December 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST**.
- D. FEMA deadline for the state application is Friday, **February 29, 2024**.

X. GRANT AWARD

- A. Official notice of grant award will be made by PEMA to eligible applicants.
- B. Upon receipt of the FEMA 2023 BRIC award, PEMA will provide a grant agreement to the designated signatory(s) for review and wet signature.

XI. REPORTS

- A. Subrecipient quarterly reports are due to PEMA Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation as follows:
1. 1st Quarter (October 1 to December 31) – **January 10**
 2. 2nd Quarter (January 1 to March 31) – **April 10**
 3. 3rd Quarter (April 1 to June 30) – **July 10**
 4. 4th Quarter (July 1 to September 30) – **October 10**

- B. Subrecipient quarterly reports are to include the following:
1. Actual eligible activities completed in the reporting period.
 2. Planned activities for the next quarter.
 3. Explanation of any delays that may be encountered.
 4. All drawdowns incurred during the reported period.
- C. Subrecipient quarterly reports that are incomplete or lacking supporting documentation will be returned with a checklist identifying the issues to be resolved and a due date by which the documentation must be returned to PEMA.

XII. FEMA RESOURCES/JOB AIDS

- [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Mitigation Action Portfolio \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance)
- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/building-resilient-infrastructure-and-communities)
- [Fiscal Year 2023 Notices of Funding Opportunities for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/fiscal-year-2023-notices-of-funding-opportunities-for-hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants)
- [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-program-and-policy-guide)

XIII. DISTRIBUTION

American Planners Association – Pennsylvania Chapter
 American Rivers Association
 Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Management
 County Commissioners of Pennsylvania
 Commonwealth Building Officials
 Delaware River Basin Commission
 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region III
 House of Representatives of Pennsylvania
 Keystone Emergency Management Association
 Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs
 Pennsylvania Association of Building Code Officials
 Pennsylvania Association of Floodplain Managers
 Pennsylvania Construction Code Academy
 Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation
 Pennsylvania County Conservation Districts
 Pennsylvania County Emergency Management Coordinators
 Pennsylvania County Planning Commissions
 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 Pennsylvania Insurance Department
 Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 Pennsylvania Insurance Agents and Brokers

Pennsylvania Municipal League
Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commissions
Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Representatives
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors & Zoning Association
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
Senate of Pennsylvania
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District – Outreach Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District – Outreach Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District – Outreach Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District – Outreach Office
Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZs)

Pennsylvania Designated (Community Disaster Resilient Zones)

Census Blocks	County_
Harrisburg	Dauphin
Meadville	Crawford
Brockway	Jefferson
Chester	Delaware
Hallstead	Susquehanna
Titusville	Crawford
Great Bend	Susquehanna
Hayesville	Chester
Lower Hopewell	Chester
Mount Vernon	Chester
Tweedale	Chester
Jersey Shore	Lycoming
Eastwick	Philadelphia
Hickory Grove	Susquehanna
Highspire	Dauphin
Island Plain	Susquehanna
Shimersville	Northampton
South Terrace	Northampton
Didier	Northampton
Iron Hill (historical)	Northampton
Northampton Heights	Northampton
Saucon	Northampton
Bell Road (historical)	Philadelphia
Hillside Village	Dauphin