Disaster Planning & Mitigation: Utilizing FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program
Our Experts

Carlos J. Castillo, CEM
Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer
40 years of experience as emergency manager and disaster recovery expert. Held several senior roles and led an organization of 1,300
- FEMA – Acting Deputy Administrator, Resilience
- FEMA – Assistant Administrator for Disaster Assistance

José L. Valenzuela, MSEM, CFM
Senior Director, Mitigation
20 years of experience in the areas of government, public policy, planning, regulations, floodplain management, grants management, environmental risk management, among others. Prior to Tidal Basin, José was appointed as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) for Puerto Rico after the hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the Island

Jacob Gray
Senior Director, Mitigation
Former State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) with over 17 years of experience in the areas of mitigation planning project management, mitigation grants management, risk identification, and vulnerability assessments in Homeland Security and Emergency Management fields
Agenda

1. What is BRIC?
2. Program priorities: eligibility, risk, usage, and the like; and building codes,
3. Past approvals, FEMA’s Justice 40, and Set-Asides
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

- Set clear priorities
- Build Capacity
- Increase Flexibility
- Streamline Processes
States and territories who have received a major disaster declaration within the last seven years are eligible to apply for BRIC funding.

Projects should work to mitigate risk to community lifelines.
Program Priorities: Eligibility and usage

Clear priorities
+ National Hazard Risk Reduction activities
+ Mitigating risk to public infrastructure
+ Showing how disadvantaged communities will benefit
+ Mitigate risk to one or more community lifelines
+ Nature-based solution projects

It’s important to analyze and understand program initiatives that receive funding prior to investing money.

Applicants should adopt the latest published building codes.
Program Priorities: Risks

+ 75% of time spent usually going to application development
+ If communities can accept the risk and have funds available, then proceed any way you wish
  + ***if not, then apply for direct technical assistance through BRIC and Advanced Assistance application through HMGP or a Capability and Capacity Building activity under BRIC
+ FEMA allows pre-award costs for all application development

There is a level of risk with application development if utilizing contract support.

BRIC is competitive so applications need to be complete and paint a picture for the reviewer and awarding members.
Building Codes

+ Applicants who have building codes receive big points for having them.
+ Building codes are a pain point for many folks and states.
+ Stops funding from going to disadvantaged communities because most do not have building codes as well.
+ Rural Alaska and Native communities are a perfect example.

Building codes are an important mitigation activity.
Building codes provide significant resilience benefits.
Building code requirements are not something that will go away or be limited in the future.
Past Approvals

- Nature-based projects
- Up-to-date building codes
- Past projects scored and selected based on documentation
- Must demonstrate that your facility requires additional staff
FEMA’s Justice 40

40%

+ Overall benefits of funding programs to go to economically disadvantaged populations
+ Change in BRIC points going to these populations
Set-Asides

+ Eligible set-aside money is guaranteed if you have an eligible project submitted within NOFO criteria. We saw an increase in this from FY2020.

+ If the project fits into FMA and reduces the NFIP insurance losses, you have a better opportunity of being funded under FMA than BRIC since it has been so highly marketed.

+ Bottom line: put in your FMA application if you have one that meets eligibility.
Resources

BRIC Sell Sheet

FEMA's BRIC Resource Page

FEMA's 2021 BRIC and FMA Webinar Series

BRIC Nature Based Solutions Guide

FY 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants
Questions?