FEMA Mitigation funding opportunity: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program 2022

FEMA has announced the 2022 nationally competitive BRIC grant program. BRIC offers a funding opportunity for large-scale, high-impact mitigation projects and state non-competitive allocation funding for capability and capacity-building activities, mitigation planning, and mitigation projects. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requests that potential applicants submit Notices of Interest (NOIs) for consideration and selection before September 23, 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nebraska Allocation</th>
<th>National Competition for Mitigation Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$2,133,000,000</td>
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</table>

Capability & Capacity Building Activities,* including
- Building codes activities;
- Partnerships;
- Project scoping;**
- Mitigation planning;***
- Planning Related Activities;*** and
- Eligible mitigation projects

Competitive mitigation projects must
- Be cost-effective
- Increase resilience and public safety;
- Reduce injuries and loss of life; and
- Reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure

*C&CB activities must result in a resource, strategy, or tangible mitigation product.

** Scoping projects should result in a mitigation project application to submit under future mitigation funding opportunities.

***Planning and Planning Related Activities are limited to $1,000,000 per state.

And must be aligned with the eligibility and evaluation criteria outlined in the BRIC Funding Announcement (NOFO FY 2022):
- Technical Evaluation Criteria and
- Qualitative Evaluation Criteria
NEBRASKA ALLOCATION

First, the State of Nebraska will prioritize Capability & Capacity Building Activities (C&CB), including Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs). The state will select C&CB activities that enhance mitigation strategies and produce tangible mitigation products that reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards, increase resiliency, and promote a culture of preparedness. The specific types of activities are listed above.

NEBRASKA LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Nebraska is limited to a $1,000,000 federal share for planning projects. Therefore, NEMA is prioritizing planning applications from districts with LHMPs expiring in 2025. These planning districts are the Upper Loup NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Region 23, and Nemaha NRD. These jurisdictions are encourage but not required to apply, plans expiring in 2025 should obtain funding no later than 2024.

SCOPING PROJECTS

If your community is impacted by a hazard, and you are unsure what action(s) to take to mitigation that hazard’s impact, a scoping project may be right for you. These projects provide funds for studies, engineering, and design work to pursue mitigation action(s). In addition, scoping projects should result in a mitigation project application to submit under future mitigation funding opportunities. FEMA will prioritize these projects for future funding.

MITIGATION PROJECTS

Given the federal share available under the state allocation, NEMA plans to prioritize at least one mitigation project for submission with the C&CB activities. In addition, NEMA will identify projects that will fit under the state allocation once they have prioritized C&CB activities.

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR MITIGATION PROJECTS

Proposed BRIC projects cannot exceed the $50 million federal share, and a minimum 25 percent local/non-federal match is required for this grant. The FEMA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines evaluation criteria for BRIC projects: technical criteria (all or nothing scoring) and qualitative criteria (graded scoring). Each application must explain how the project meets each of the scoring criteria to be competitive nationally. Refer to the tables below for a breakdown (FEMA BRIC NOFO, p. 27-29).

NEMA will prioritize projects submitted under previous Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants, including previous BRIC and previous major disaster declarations. In reviewing NOIs, NEMA and its partners will check potential projects against both the technical and qualitative criteria enumerated here.

FEMA may phase a project if providing the complete technical information required for a full eligibility or EHP review of a complex project is beyond a subapplicant’s technical and financial resources. NEMA and FEMA may provide technical assistance to the subapplicant to develop this complete body of technical data by approving a subapplication to complete a Phase I design, engineering, and EHP (FEMA BRIC NOFO, p. 54-55).
Nebraska has a mandatory statewide adoption requirement of the 2018 version of the International Building Code and the International Residential Code. (Nebraska Revised Statute 71-6403)

### Technical Evaluation Criteria for the National Competition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Potential Total Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure project</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigating risk to one or more community lifelines</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporation of nature-based solutions. For more information on potential nature-based solutions, please reference Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A guide for local communities.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant has mandatory tribal-, territory-, or state-wide building code adoption requirement (2015 version of International Building Code and International Residential Code)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant has mandatory tribal-, territory-, or state-wide building code adoption requirement (2018 or 2021 versions of International Building Code and International Residential Code)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subapplicant has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Rating of 1 to 5</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application generated from a previous FEMA IMA Advance Assistance or Project Scoping award, High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) award, or DHS Cybersecurity &amp; Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP), or the subapplicant is a past recipient of BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A non-federal cost share of at least 30% (or, for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities as referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as small impoverished communities, a non-federal cost share of at least 12%). To receive the full points, the federal share requested can be no more than 70% (or 88% for qualified EDRCs).</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designation as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (as referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) as a small impoverished community)</td>
<td>15</td>
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### Qualitative Evaluation Criteria for the National Competition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Potential Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness</td>
<td>The subapplication details how the project will effectively reduce risk and increase resilience (including the benefits quantified in the BCA), realize ancillary benefits, and leverage innovation. Ancillary benefits could include how this project will address inequities and provide the greatest support to those with greatest need.</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change and Other Future Conditions</td>
<td>The subapplication describes how the project will enhance climate adaptation and resilience, details how the project is being responsive to the effects of climate change (such as sea level rise) and/or other future conditions (population/demographic/land use, etc.), and cites data sources, assumptions, and models.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation Measures</td>
<td>The subapplication adequately describes how the costs and schedule will be managed, how the project will be successfully implemented, and how innovative techniques to facilitate implementation will be incorporated. The project’s scope of work identifies sufficient technical and managerial staff and resources to successfully implement this project.</td>
<td>15</td>
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NON-FINANCIAL DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FEMA will provide non-financial Direct Technical Assistance for up to 40 communities nationwide to build their capacity and capability to improve their resilience to natural hazards. This assistance will ensure stakeholders can create and sustain successful mitigation programs, submit high-quality applications, and implement new and innovative projects to reduce hazard risks.

To be considered for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance, communities may apply online at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities/direct-technical-assistance.

NEXT STEPS

Along with this State NOFO, NEMA has an NOI form catered to BRIC proposals. The deadline to submit an NOI to the NEMA Hazard Mitigation Unit is September 23, 2022.

NEMA will be hosting three virtual applicant briefings in September. The same material will be presented at each one and will be hosted over the Nebraska Webex platform. The links to the virtual briefings with the dates and times are at the end of this notice. If your agency or local community is interested in learning more about the BRIC program and next steps, please attend one of these briefings. NEMA will review program requirements, eligibility, and competitive considerations. The Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery will review all NOIs and prioritize the most competitive projects for submission.
**STATE & FEDERAL KEY DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Completed NOIs submitted to NEMA Hazard Mitigation Unit</td>
<td>September 23, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>GTFDR selection of projects to move forward with formal FEMA application</td>
<td>September 28, 2022</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>FEMA Application Start Date</td>
<td>September 30, 2022</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>NOI late submission cutoff*</td>
<td>October 20, 2022</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>State application submission deadline (complete applications submitted to NEMA Hazard Mitigation Unit for review)</td>
<td>December 16, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Deadline to notify FEMA of any technical issues outside of their control that will prevent application submission</td>
<td>January 25, 2023 @ 2PM Central Standard Time</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>FEMA Application Submission Deadline</td>
<td>January 27, 2023 @ 2PM Central Standard Time</td>
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*NEMA will consider NOIs received between September 15, 2022, and October 20, 2022, after prioritized project applications have started.
The dates and times for the Nebraska applicant briefings are as follows:

1. BRIC & FMA NOFO Webinar #1
   Wednesday, September 7, 2022
   10:00 AM  |  (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  |  1 hr
   https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=mf495694efe0690aed97aecd63b8696d1
   Meeting number (access code): 2494 750 2916
   Meeting password: hrJJ33DbNp8
   Join from a mobile device (attendees only)
   +1-408-418-9388,,24947502916## United States Toll

2. BRIC & FMA NOFO Webinar #2
   Friday, September 9, 2022
   9:00 AM  |  (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  |  1 hr
   https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m5802bf96511209feccaac5f6f6d9b55
   Meeting number (access code): 2480 500 1516
   Meeting password: pEaHabph722
   Join from a mobile device (attendees only)
   +1-408-418-9388,,24805001516## United States Toll

3. BRIC & FMA NOFO Webinar #3
   Wednesday, September 14, 2022
   11:30 AM  |  (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  |  1 hr
   https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=me30cfe5db36748a04326b0e5a8f51cad
   Meeting number (access code): 2488 764 9665
   Meeting password: 3skJp7tT3yw
   Join from a mobile device (attendees only)
   +1-408-418-9388,,24887649665## United States Toll