Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

NAME| DATE

Photo of Memphis, Tennessee

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
- BRIC Summer Engagement Webinars
- 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

Draft Proposed BRIC Policy Key Elements

Available Funding Mechanisms

- State and Territory Allocation
- Tribal Set-Aside
- Project Competition

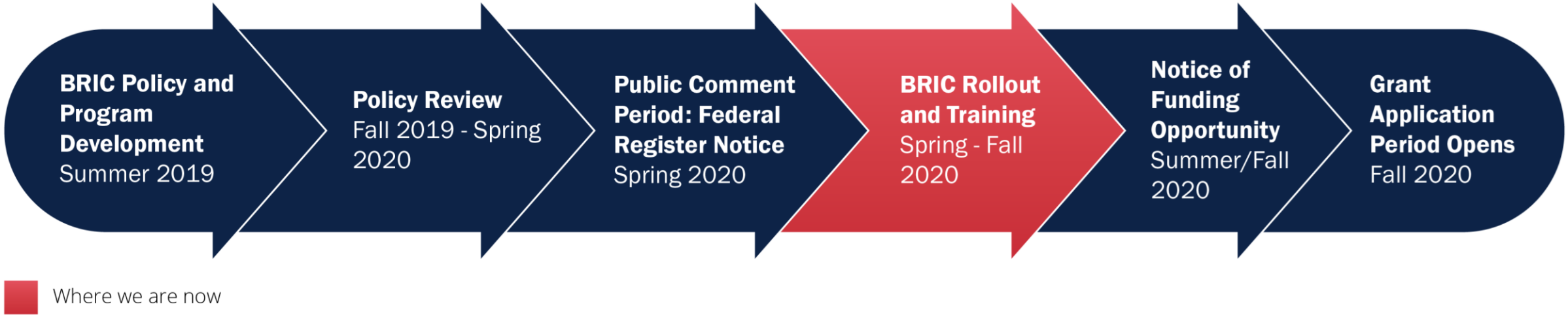
Uses of Assistance

- Technical Assistance
- Capability and Capacity Building
- Mitigation Projects
- Management Costs

Pre-Award Costs

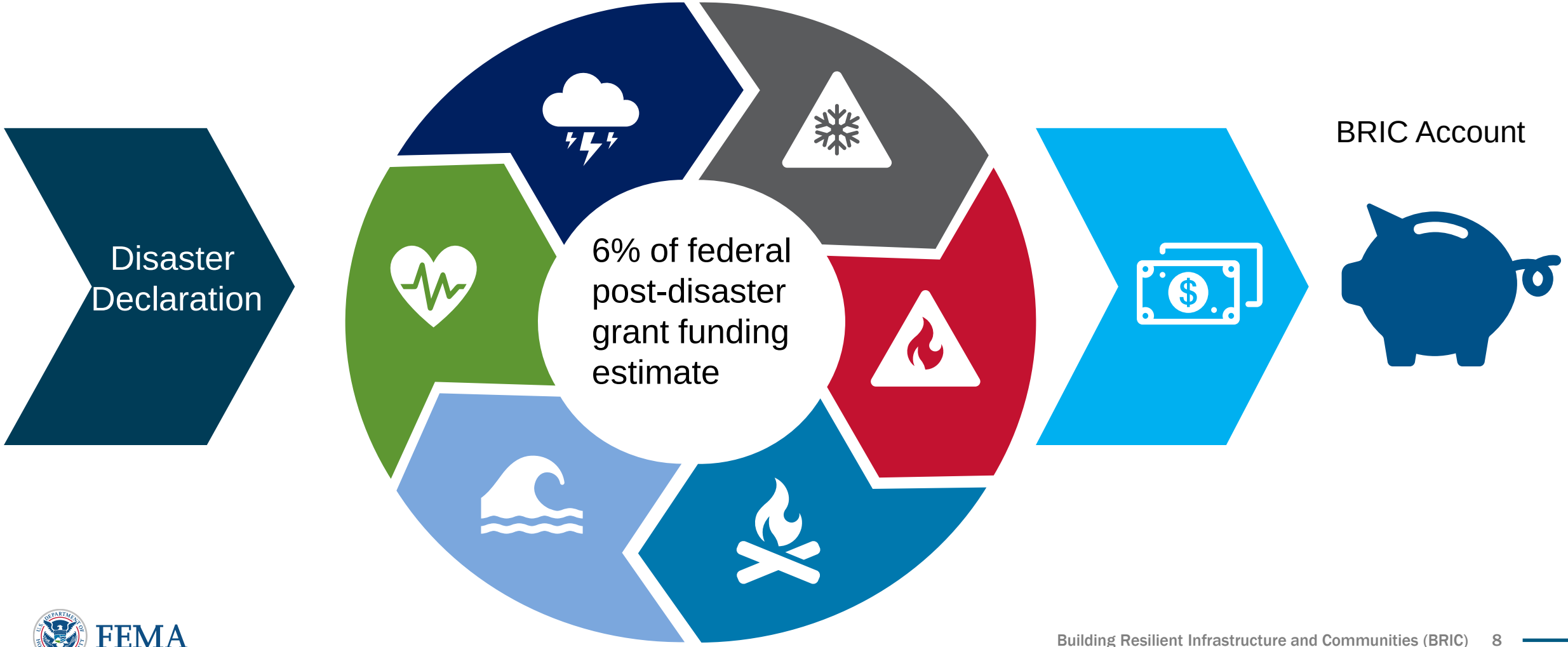
- Project development costs can be incurred before the opening of the application period
- Project implementation costs can only be incurred after project award
- Only awarded if eligible and the project is awarded

Timeline



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

BRIC Funding



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

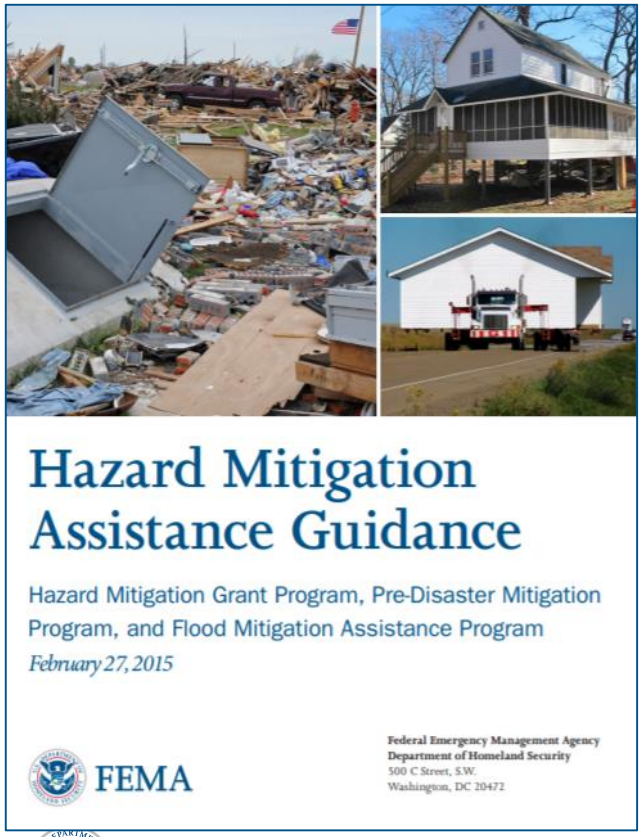
- Reduces limitations
- Increases caps
- Allows pre-award costs

Streamlines Processes

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

What Makes a Project Eligible?

Existing Activities are Still Eligible



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

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.

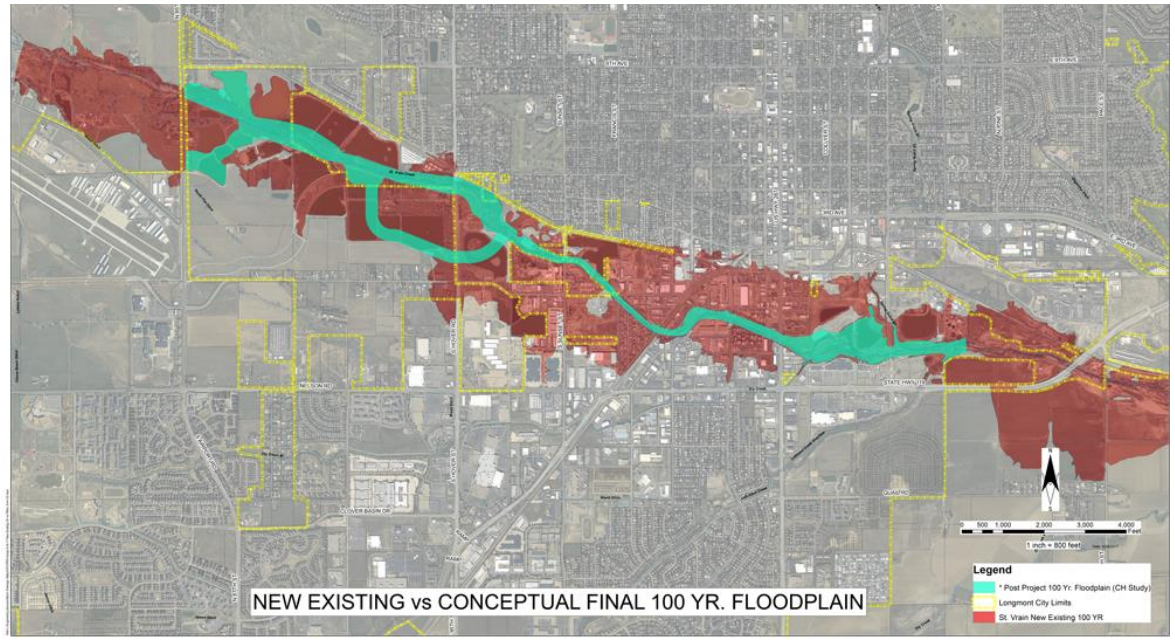
Lifeline-focused mitigation projects could involve a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit organizations

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

Idaho National Laboratory

SIEMENS

Example Infrastructure Projects

Photo of Texas County Memorial Hospital

Energy Support for Critical Infrastructure

Texas County Memorial Hospital, Houston, MO

Project Scoping

What Is Project Scoping?

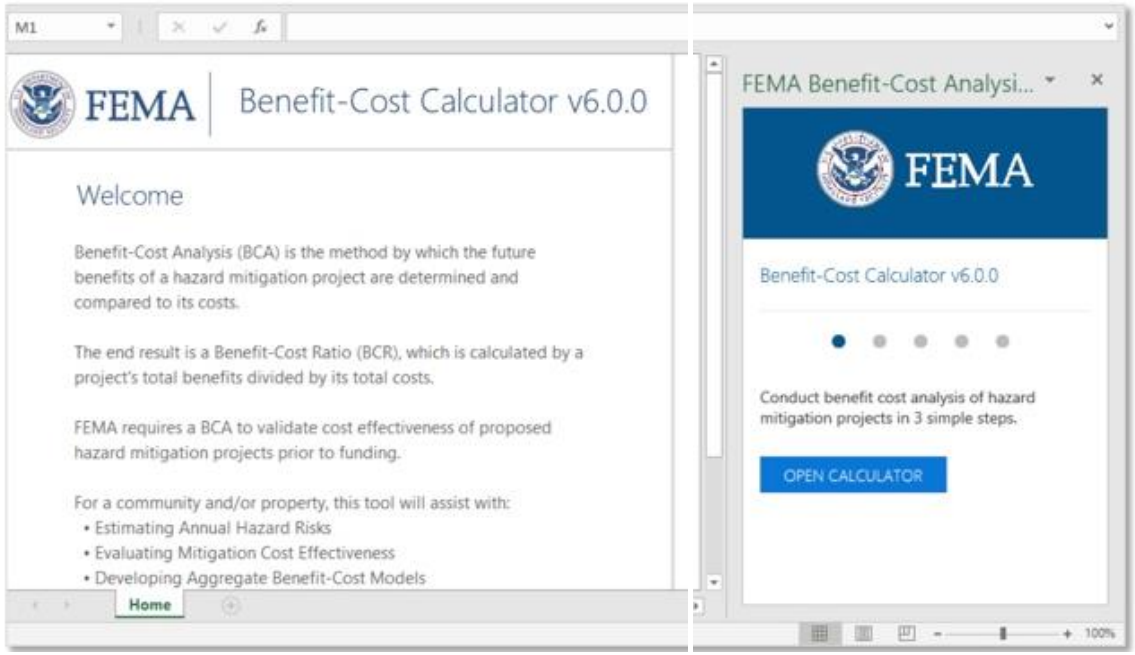
- Provides states, federally-recognized tribes, and territories with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete mitigation project applications
- Project Scoping can help states and communities prepare projects for the full launch of BRIC in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

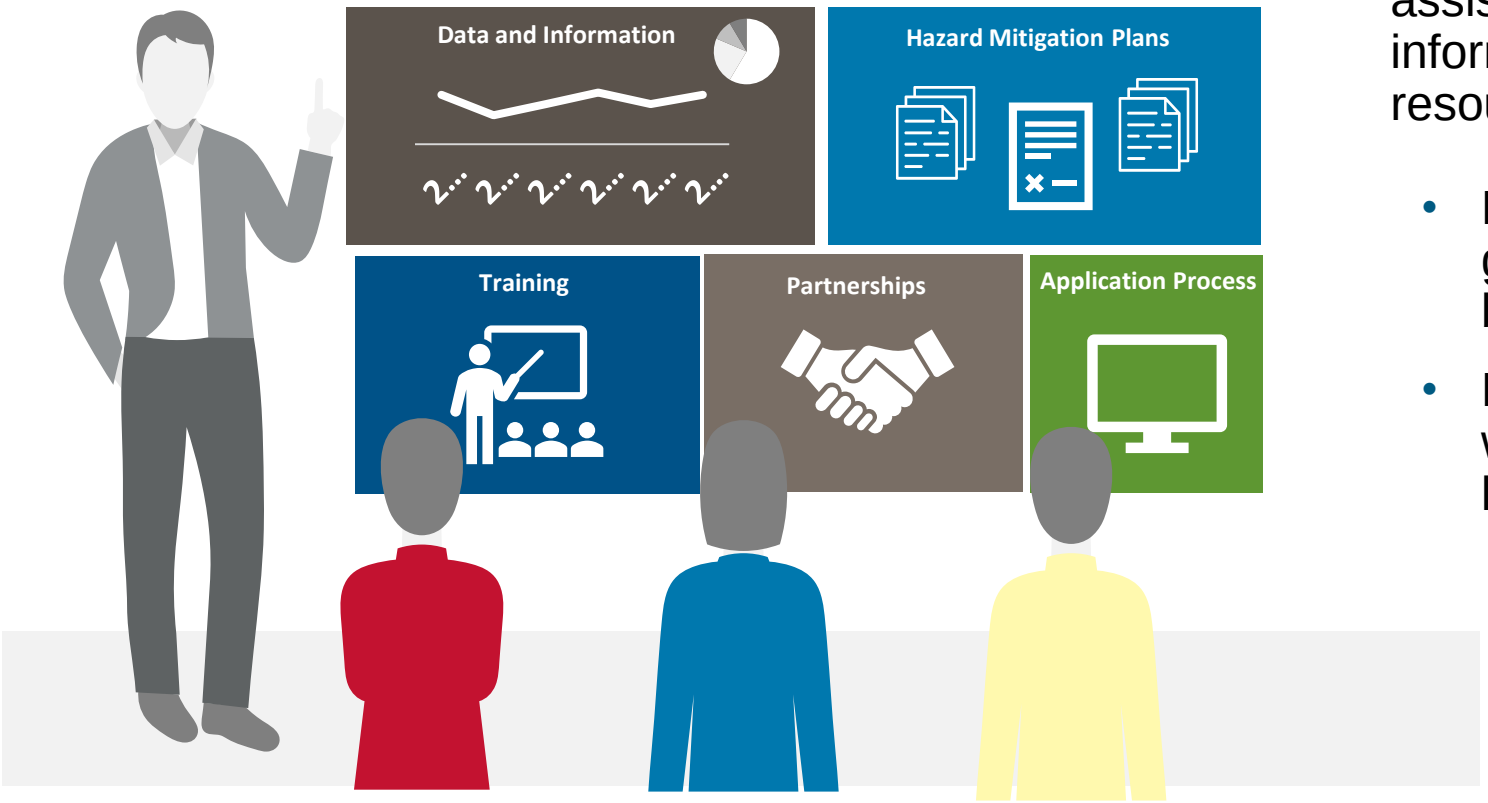
Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)

- 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:

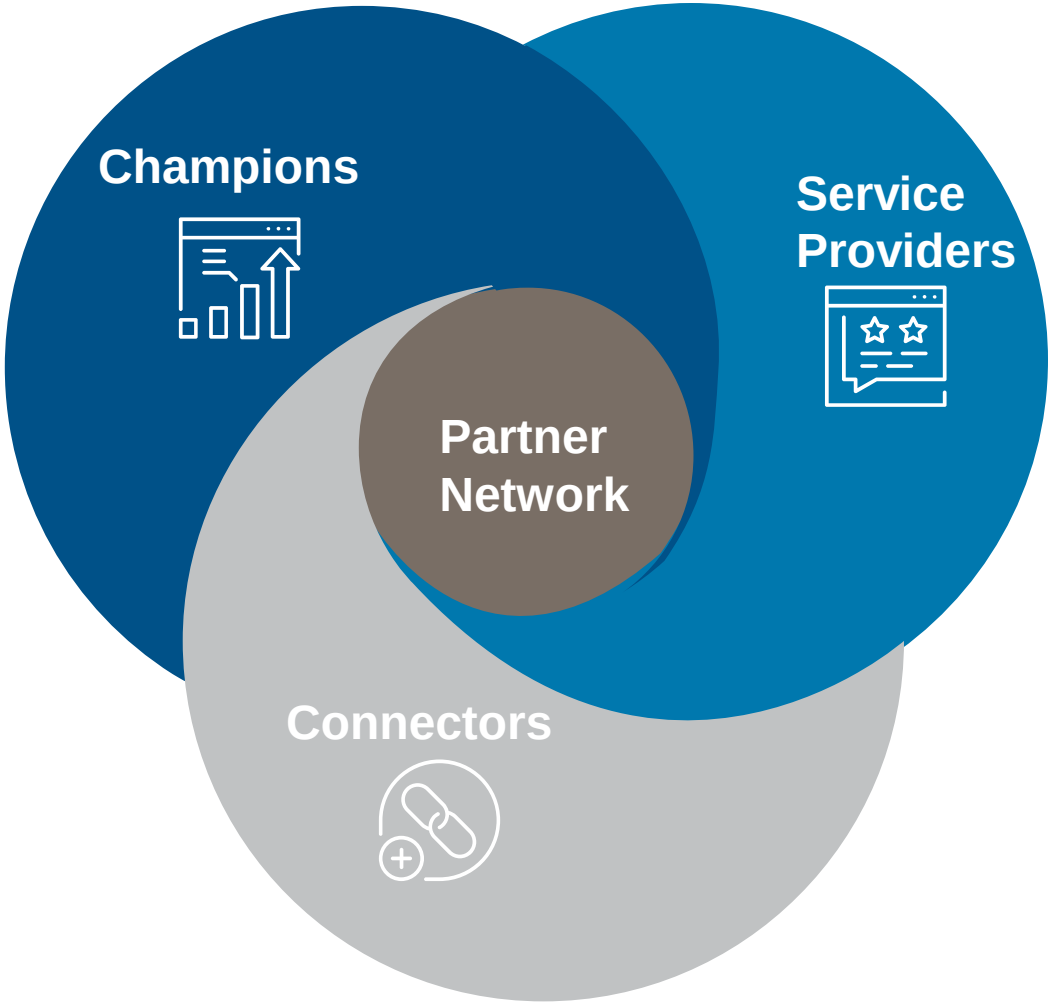
- Mitigation Action Portfolio – A guidebook with project examples and best practices
- Non-financial technical assistance with select communities to help build local capability and capacity

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

FEMA

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance
- Public Assistance 406 Mitigation

State Agencies

Other Federal Agencies (NOAA, USACE, HUD, DOE, DOT etc.)

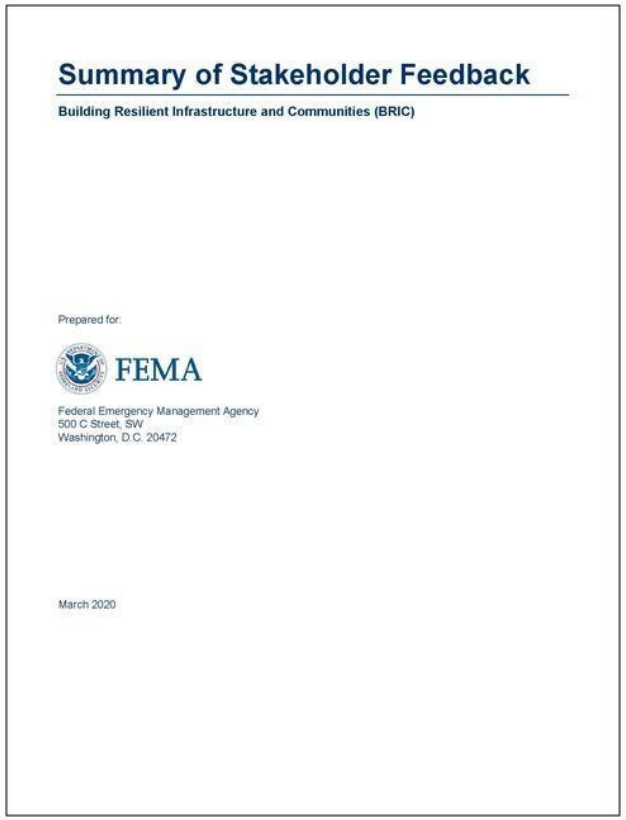
Stakeholder Feedback

In-person engagements

Virtual forums

Emails and letters

Formal comments



Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Prepared for:

FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

March 2020

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

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

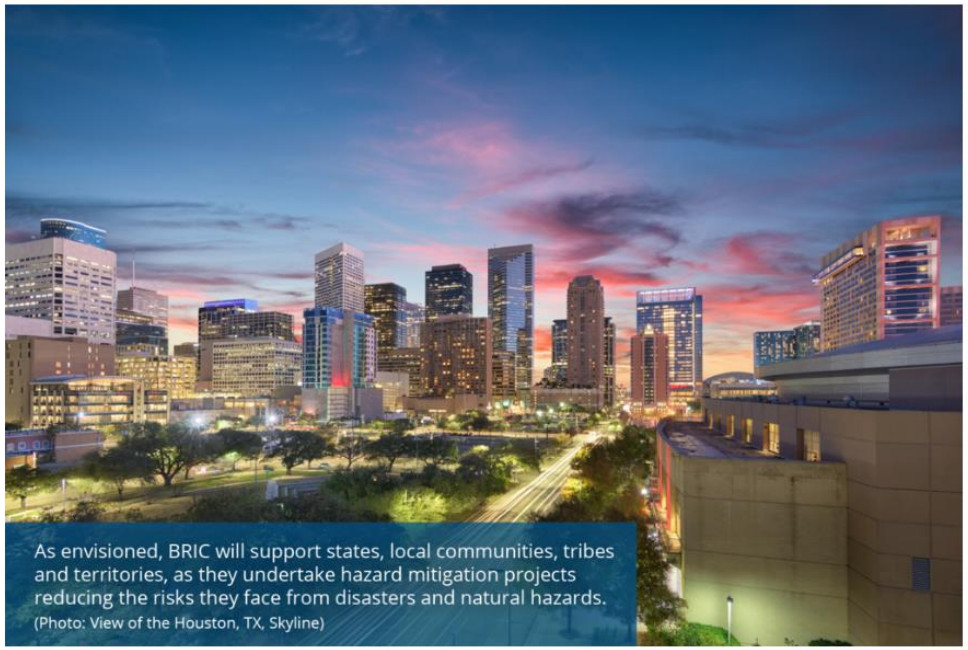
BRIC Summer 2020 Stakeholder Engagement Webinars

Purpose and Goals

- Educate stakeholders on all aspects of the BRIC policy and program
- Increase awareness and understanding of key BRIC program components. Over the summer FEMA will deliver two groups of webinars:
  - BRIC Engagement Webinars – all about the BRIC program (July 2020)
  - BRIC NOFO Webinars – will occur 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