FEMA Funding for Nature-Based Adaption Solutions

Alison Kearns, Risk Analysis Branch Chief
FEMA Region 9
Hazard mitigation breaks the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

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<th>Risk Analysis:</th>
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<td>• Collaborates with communities to deliver technically credible multi-hazard data and analysis.</td>
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<th>Floodplain Management &amp; Insurance:</th>
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<td>• Provides oversight of floodplain management regulations and insurance, as well as training and outreach.</td>
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<th>Hazard Mitigation Assistance:</th>
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<td>• Provides funding for mitigation projects that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property.</td>
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<th>Environmental &amp; Historic Preservation:</th>
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<td>• Ensures that FEMA's activities comply with federal environmental and historic preservation laws and executive orders.</td>
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Hazard mitigation saves money.
What is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program?

A new grant program, which supports state, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects.
BRIC Priorities

• Encourage public infrastructure projects.

• Increase projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines.

• Promote projects that incorporate nature-based solutions.

• Enhance climate resilience and adaption.

• Incentivize adoption and enforcement of modern building codes.
FEMA defines nature-based solutions as...

sustainable planning, design, environmental management, and engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to build more resilient communities.
Prioritizing green over gray projects.
Categories of Nature-Based Solutions

- Watershed or Landscape Scale
- Neighborhood or Site Scale
- Coastal Areas
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Project Eligibility Criteria

Projects must:

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

**Applicants:**
- All 50 States
- U.S. territories
- Federally recognized Tribal Governments
- District of Columbia

**Subapplicants:**
- Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
- State Agencies
- Tribal Agencies

[Map showing eligibility regions]
FY20 BRIC Cycle

$500 MILLION AVAILABLE  $3.6 BILLION REQUESTED
FY20 BRIC in Region 9

$593.8 million federal share request

107 applications received

6 tribes, 4 states, 3 territories
FY21 BRIC Funding

$1 BILLION AVAILABLE
Considerations

• Use **creative solutions** for your non-federal match, such as in-kind services.
• Maximize funding for **project scoping** and management costs.
• Utilize **partnerships**, particularly the private sector.
• See if your community qualifies for a **lower cost-share** (small, impoverished areas have increased federal share 90% federal and 10% non-federal).
Keys for Success

• Know your state’s mitigation program, personnel and priorities.

• Keep your Hazard Mitigation Plan up to date and use it for project identification.

• Front-load as much as possible, for project identification and technical documentation needed for application submittal.

• Stay up to date on BRIC guidance and trainings.
Additional Resources

- **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)**
- **Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Officials**
- Applicants often determine funding priorities. Contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) to learn about the applicant’s priorities, deadlines, and additional requirements.
  - Email: HMA@caloes.ca.gov
  - CalOES's BRIC Webpage
  - CalOES's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Webpage
- Example eligible project types is profiled in the **BRIC Mitigation Action Portfolio (MAP)** and can serve as case studies in innovative mitigation at a variety of project scales.
Hear from Local Mitigation Practitioners

FEMA Region 9 partnered with Georgetown Climate Center to dive into local mitigation efforts and their keys to success on the Level Up! Audio Project.

Season 2 drops on June 1!
Thank you!