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FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

Now in its second year, BRIC is FEMA's primary pre-disaster mitigation grant program. BRIC funding can be used to support building code adoptions and code implementation. The Agency also considers applicants' adopted codes and code implementation in its evaluation of brick-and-mortar mitigation project proposals. BRIC provides funding by formula to state, tribal, and territorial (STT) governments with remaining funds to be provided for mitigation projects through a national competition. STT governments are BRIC "applicants," while local governments are "subapplicants," meaning they need to apply to their state for funds.

This year (FY2021), \$1B is available, double the FY2020 funding level, including \$56M allocated to states and territories (\$1M per state/territory), with \$25M set aside for tribal governments. \$919M is available for competitive grants. The nonfederal cost share is generally 25% (10% for small/impooverished communities). FEMA has identified "increas[ing] funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building code s" as one of the five priorities for the program this year. The application period opens September 30, 2021 and closes January 28, 2022. FEMA's [fact sheet](#) and the [FY21 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) have additional information. Last year's BRIC program is expected to provide nearly \$2.3 million in grants to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments for 16 distinct code adoption and implementation efforts. Award data is available [here](#).

BRIC Building Code Activities

FEMA describes code projects as "Low-Cost, High Impact Hazard Mitigation." They must be paid for out of STT funding allocations as "Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB)" activities. Eligible building code activities are detailed [here](#). Funding can be used:

- To "[Purchase publications](#), or obtain digital license or printing permissions of publications, to support building code activities."
- For code official [training](#) and [certification](#). FEMA's [materials](#) link to ICC's website for training/certification resources and highlight ICC's *When Disaster Strikes Institute*. This [two-day course](#), available virtually, trains code officials and others to conduct post-disaster damage assessments quickly and thoroughly to ensure structures can be re-inhabited safely.
- For "[electronic permitting](#), [online model code access](#), [virtual inspection technology](#), and [remote building codes administration](#)."
- To "Cover costs associated with [building department accreditation](#)."
- To "[Engage consulting services](#) to support activities related to building codes."

Building Code Considerations for Competitive Grant Projects

All competitive grants are reviewed on technical criteria. Out of 115 total available points, applicants earn 20 points if they require the 2018 or 2021 IBC and IRC (or 10 points for the 2015 IBC and IRC) and an additional 20 points if the subapplicant has a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) rating of 1 to 5. Funded mitigation projects must also "at a minimum, be in conformance with the latest published editions (meaning either of the two most recently published editions) of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs." Acquisition projects must demonstrate to FEMA how they will resettle such areas in a way that mitigates future risk from natural hazards through mechanisms such as "new land use development plans, building codes or construction requirements, protective infrastructure development, or restrictions on future disaster assistance to such properties."