



Getting the Most Out of FEMA's Billion Dollar FY2021 BRIC Program

A Discussion of Grant Funded Code Activities for Building and Fire Prevention Departments

October 7, 2021

Overview

Webinar Format

- Background on BRIC
 - How it's administered, what's eligible, and what conditions apply
- Success Story
 - Virginia's partnership between state agencies in support of code activities
- How Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Ratings Impact BRIC

Key Takeaways

- Overview of the FY 2020, \$500 million grant program for disaster mitigation that prioritizes building codes.
- Update/overview of the FY 2021, \$1 billion grant cycle
- Supports code adoption, implementation, training, certification, accreditation, and hardware/software needs
- States/localities with modern, well-enforced codes are more competitive applicants for mitigation projects
- Coordination with mitigation officials is key

MODERATOR



Karl Fippinger
Vice President, Fire
and Disaster
Mitigation, ICC

Getting the Most Out of FEMA's Billion Dollar FY2021 BRIC Program

Panelists



Camille Crain
BRIC Section Chief
FEMA



Debbie Messmer
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Jeff Brown
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Manager, Community Hazard Mitigation
ISO/Verisk

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BRIC Section Chief
FEMA



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Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Camille Crain | October 7, 2021



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BRIC's Guiding Principles



Support Community
Capability & Capacity Building



Encourage and Enable
Innovation



Promote Partnerships



Enable Large Infrastructure
Projects



Maintain Flexibility



Provide Consistency



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BRIC Priorities

- Mitigate the risk to public infrastructure
- Incentivize resilient investments in disadvantaged communities, as referenced in EO 14008 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad)
- Mitigate risk to one or more community lifelines
- Incorporate nature-based solutions
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Incentivize the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes

BRIC encourages mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities

FY 2021 BRIC – Available Funding



\$1 Billion

- **State/Territory Allocation:** \$56 million (up to \$1 million per Applicant)
 - All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories may apply under the State/Territory Allocation
 - Any funds not awarded from the State/Territory Allocation will be re-allocated to the national competition
- **Tribal Set-Aside:** \$25 million
 - All Indian tribal governments (federally recognized) may apply under the Tribal Set-Aside
 - Any funds not awarded from the Tribal Set-Aside will be re-allocated to the non-financial Direct Technical Assistance for tribes or the national competition
- **National Competition for Mitigation Projects:** \$919 million (estimated)



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Overview of BRIC Changes for FY 2021

■ Funding

- *Total funding*: doubled to \$1 billion
- *State/Territory Allocation*: increased by \$400,000 per Applicant (to \$1 million per Applicant)
- *Tribal Set Aside*: increased by \$5 million (to \$25 million total)

■ Non-financial Direct Technical Assistance

- Doubled number of communities (up to 20 communities)
- Streamlined process

■ Competition criteria

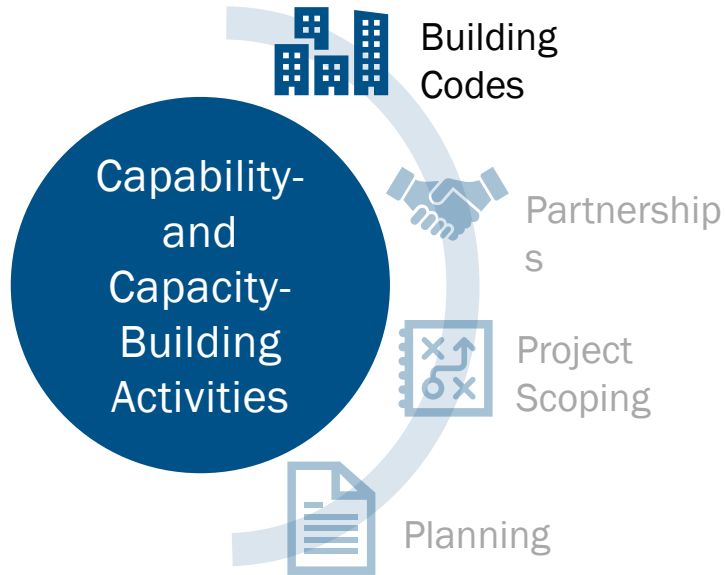
- Incorporation of equity across multiple criteria
- Tiered building codes points
- Increased points for BCEGS
- Total of 230 points available

■ Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities



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BRIC and Building Codes



- Building code activities are eligible for funding under Capability- and Capacity-Building
- Adopting building codes and encouraging communities to have good Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) scores are good practices for any project
- Part of FEMA's ongoing efforts to quantify the impacts hazard-resistant building codes have on the nation



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Example Building Code Adoption and Enforcement Activities



Evaluate adoption and/or implementation of codes that reduce risk



Enhance existing adopted codes to incorporate more current requirements or higher standards



Develop professional workforce capabilities through technical assistance and training



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FY 2021 BRIC – Technical Criteria



Infrastructure project



Mitigates risk to one or more lifelines



Incorporates nature-based solutions



Applicant has mandatory tribal-, territory-, or state-wide building code adoption requirement
(recent versions of International Building Code and International Residential Code)



Subapplicant has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Rating of 1 to 5



Application generated from a previous qualifying award or the subapplicant is a past recipient of BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance



A non-federal cost share of at least 30%
(or, for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities, a non-federal cost share of at least 12%)



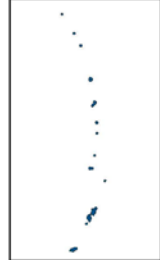
Designation as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

July 1, 2021



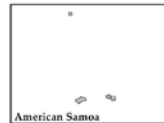
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



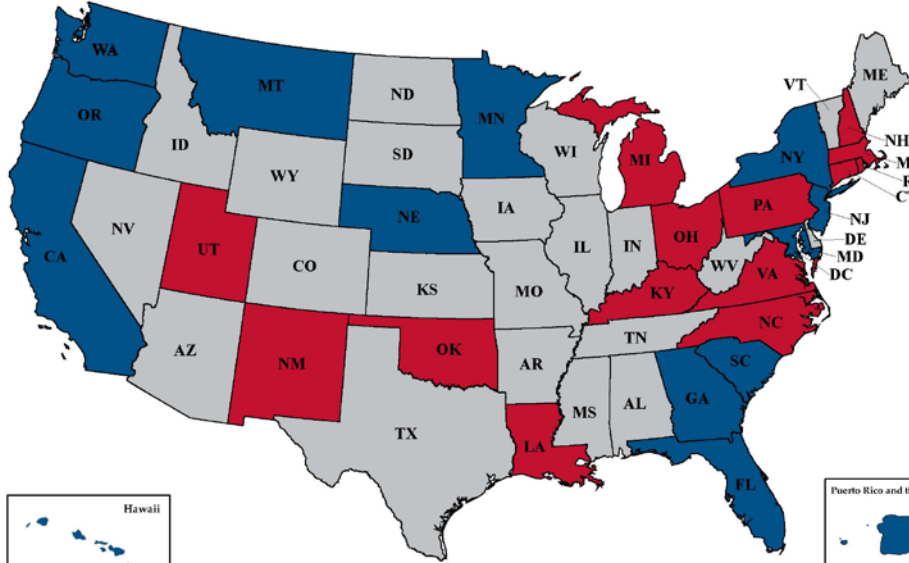
Hawaii



Guam



American Samoa



District of Columbia



Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

- Qualifies for 10-point allotment (mandatory state-wide or territory-wide 2015 or later IBC & IRC and at least one is 2015 edition)
- Qualifies for 20-point allotment (mandatory state-wide or territory-wide 2016 or later IBC & IRC)
- Does not qualify for 10- or 20-point allotment (lacks mandatory state-wide or territory-wide adoption of 2015 or later IBC and IRC)

Map reflects adoption information as of July 1, 2021, and is subject to change before the BRIC grant application deadline.
Map is based on data provided by FEMA Building Science through contract HHSF50-15-D-0005 with Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction (STARR II) Joint Venture.
Contact the FEMA Building Science Helpline with any inquiries regarding this map:
FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov

FY 2021 BRIC Technical Criterion 4

Building Code Adoption Status Map (as of July 1, 2021)



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FY 2021 BRIC – Direct Technical Assistance

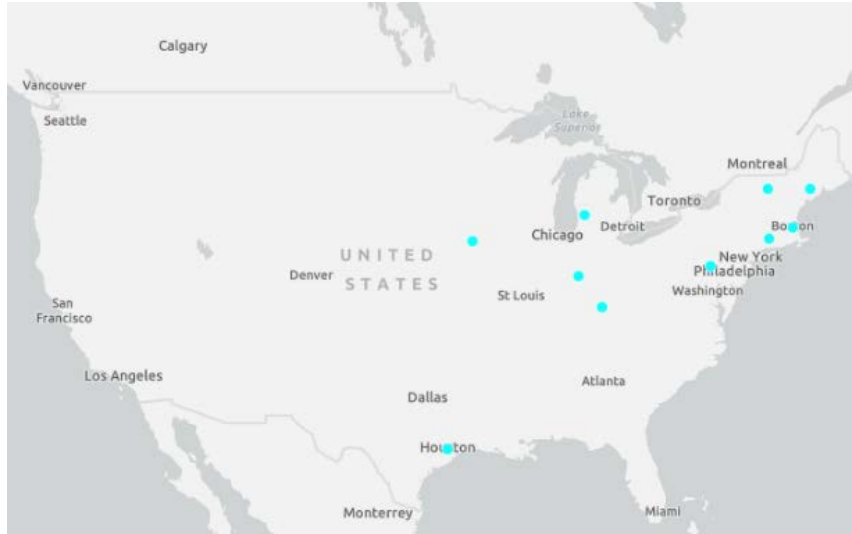
Double the number of communities supported through Direct Technical Assistance

Non-financial Direct Technical Assistance will be provided to up to **20 selected communities** to support the mitigation outcomes listed below:



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FY 2020 BRIC Building Code Subapplications



Building Code Subapplications in Allocation

Note: American Samoa project not included in Map

Evaluate adoption and/or implementation of codes that reduce risk

- *Connecticut* – Code enforcement implementation (Hartford), accreditation
- *Massachusetts* – Adoption of 2021 building codes
- *American Samoa* – Adoption of 2018 building codes
- *Alaska*
 - Native Village of Shungnak – Resilient building code implementation
 - Village of Levelock – Adoption of building codes
 - Village of Alatna – Resilient building code implementation
- *Seminole Tribe of Florida* – Adoption of resilient building codes



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FY 2020 BRIC Building Code Subapplications

Enhance existing adopted codes to incorporate more current requirements or higher standards

- *Indiana* – Updating/enhancing state’s existing building codes
- *Vermont* – Reviewing/updating current building codes to 2021 IBC and 2021 National Fire Protection Association
- *Pennsylvania* – Reviewing energy efficiency and energy code enforcement efforts
- *Texas* – Conducting flood modeling to inform regulatory policy (Houston); updating and adoption of floodplain management codes and standards

Develop professional workforce capabilities through technical assistance and training

- *Michigan* – Implementing training and certification of building inspectors, plan reviews, and officials for national 2018 model codes
- *Maine* – Development of virtual training for code officials
- *Kentucky* – Lexington/Lafayette accreditation for new building codes
- *Iowa* – Updating Iowa Storm Water Management Manual with current technology and information for practice designs

BRIC Program Support Materials

- [BRIC Website](#)
- [FY 2021 BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- [BRIC Resources](#)
 - [BRIC Technical Criteria](#)
 - [BRIC Qualitative Criteria](#)
 - [BRIC Building Codes Activities](#)
 - [BRIC Mitigation Planning Activities](#)
 - [BRIC Partnership Activities](#)
 - [BRIC Project Scoping Activities](#)
 - [BRIC Phased Projects](#)
 - [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance](#)
 - [BRIC Tribal Information](#)
 - [Mitigation Action Portfolio](#)

www.fema.gov/bric

Need Help?

General questions about the BRIC program can be directed to the appropriate [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) or [FEMA Regional Office](#).

- **General BRIC Questions and State Application Deadlines:**
[State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#)
- **FEMA GO Helpline:**
femago@fema.dhs.gov or 1-877-611-4700
- **Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Helpline:**
BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov or 1-855-540-6744
- **Feasibility and Effectiveness Helpline:**
FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov
- **Environmental and Historic Preservation:**
EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov or 1-866-222-3580
- **Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Helpline:**
1-866-222-3580



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Thank you!

www.fema.gov/bric



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Experience from the State Perspective



Debbie Messmer

State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Virginia Department of Emergency
Management (VDEM)



Jeff Brown

Director, State Building Codes Office
Virginia Department of Housing and
Community Development (DHCD)





Virginia Department of
Emergency Management

BRIC in Virginia

Applicant vs Sub-applicant

- Applicant – State, Territory, or Federally Recognized Tribe that submits one umbrella application on behalf of their sub-applicants



- Sub-applicant – Local Governments, Tribal Governments, State Agencies, and Tribal Agencies

Application Process

- NOFO deadline – January 28, 2022
- Virginia Deadline – November 10, 2021
- Technical Review
- Peer Review Process
- Ranking of Projects
- Project application data entry



Grants Portal



- VDEM.EMGRANTS.COM – grants management system that all sub-applicants must use to complete the pre-application and application. Peer review will also happen using this system.
- FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMAGO) – grants management system FEMA uses to review all sub-applications and applications. VDEM enters in all relevant application data and documents



Funding Opportunities

- State set-aside for FY 2020 = \$600,000 federal
- State set-aside for FY 2021 increased to \$1,000,000 federal
- Virginia priorities are for projects that are scoping in nature or evaluating a problem and determining a solution
- Applications is FY 2020 included: engineering studies for stormwater and microgrids, outreach and education for flooding and building codes
- This year the full \$1,000,000 federal will be used for capability and capacity



Questions?



Debbie Messmer
(804) 267-7732
Debbie.messmer@VDEM.virginia.gov

Dale Thomure

Manager, Community Hazard Mitigation
ISO/Verisk



The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®) within the FEMA BRIC Program

Dale K. Thomure, CBO, CFM
Manager – Community Hazard Mitigation
ISO

Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®)



- Insurance Industry Program
focused on Natural Hazard
Mitigation
- Started in 1996
- Assigned at the community level
based on building code
enforcement service delivery.
 - County Departments
 - Third-Party Agencies

Aggregated into classifications
of 1–10 for both Personal and
Commercial Lines

Class 99 Jurisdictions

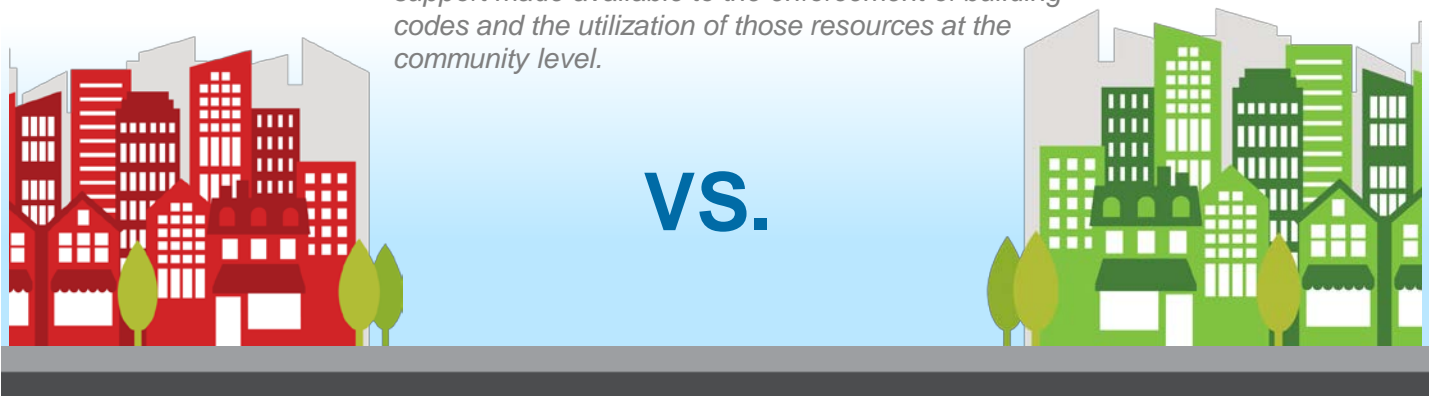
5 Year Cyclical Update

Countrywide Coverage

All applicants or sub-applicants of BRIC
have a BCEGS classification

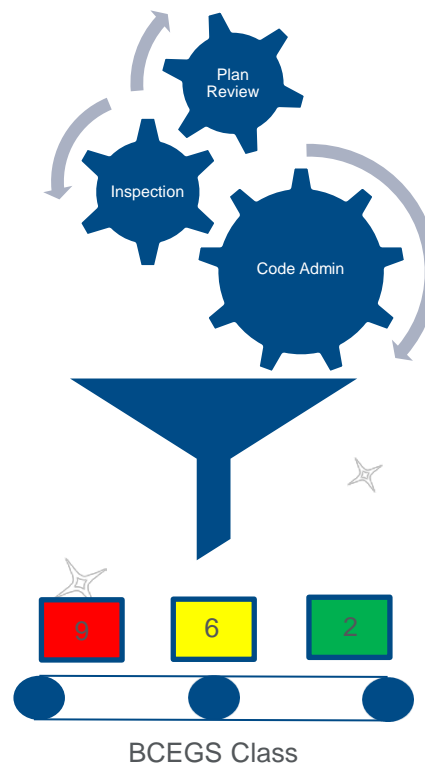
Bureau States

*BCEGS is designed to measures resources and
support made available to the enforcement of building
codes and the utilization of those resources at the
community level.*



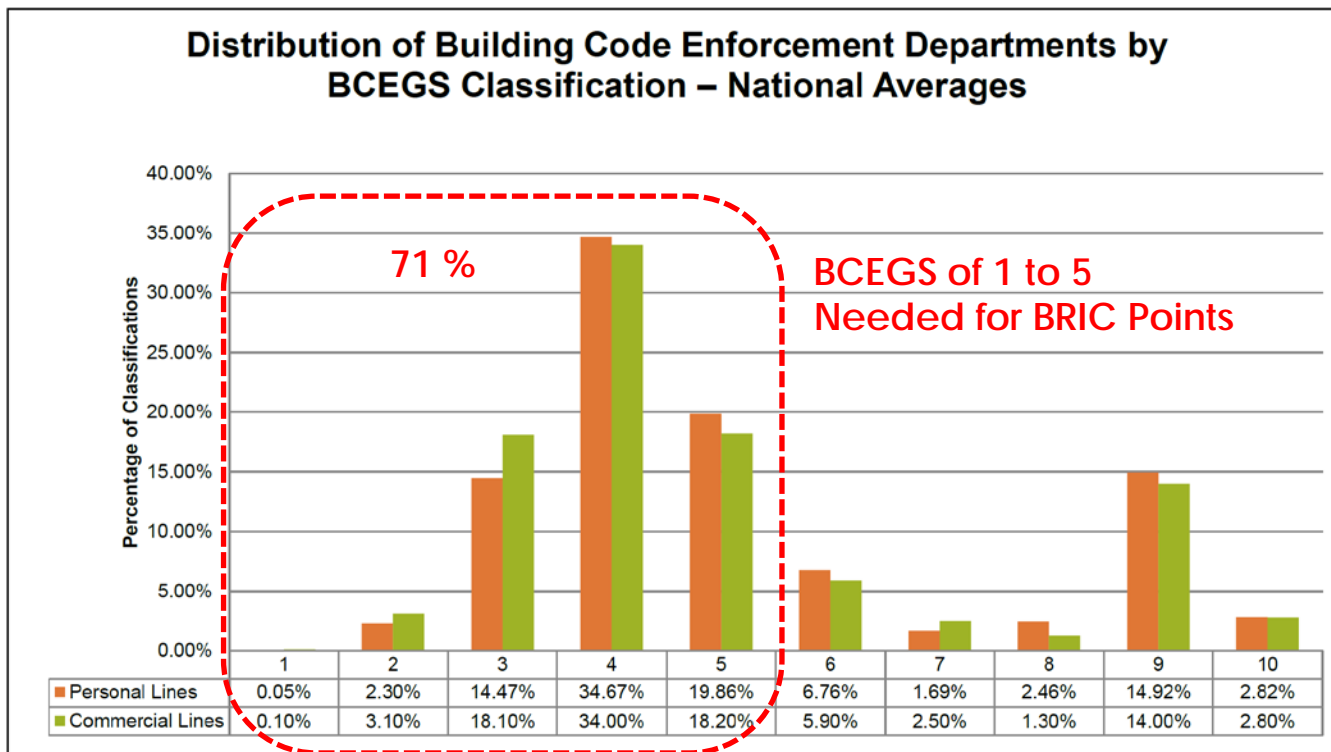
What goes into a BCEGS Classification?

BCEGS Areas of Focus	
Code Administration 54%	Adopted Building Code Adopted Sub-Codes State and Local Code Amendments Method of Code Adoption Natural Hazards Impacting the Jurisdiction Staff Training and Education Certification of Staff Qualification of the Building Official Utilization of Design Professionals Zoning and Land-Use Provisions Contractor Licensing Programs Public Awareness Programs Appeals Process Administrative Policies and Procedures Quality Assurance Programs
Plan Review 23%	Plan Review Staffing Experience of Plan Review Personnel Detail of Plan Review Management of Plan Review Activity
Field Inspection 23%	Inspection Staffing Experience of Inspection Personnel Management of Inspection Activity Inspection Checklists Special Inspections Inspections for Natural Hazard Mitigation Final Inspections Certificates of Occupancy



BCEGS Classifications Across the Nation

BRIC Requires a Class of 1 -5 to be eligible for points



What is the applicable BCEGS Class for my Project?

BCEGS Class for BRIC credit is based on the **subapplicant**

ISO does not make the determination as to appropriate subapplicant.

- If a **State**: Use the state average found on the isomitigation.com website:



- If a **Local Unit of Government**; use the BCEGS Class assigned to that unit of government.
 - All classified units of government have received notification of their BCEGS classification in the past, check with the local building department or City Hall administrators.
- If a **Quasi-Governmental Entity or Other** (water district, drainage district, as examples); use the BCEGS classification applicable to the physical location of the project.
 - Contact the Building Code Department that has jurisdiction over the project area, their BCEGS classification is the one that is to be used. Ask this question: *“If I needed to get a permit for construction here, who would have jurisdiction?”*



I need Help!

ISO will assist subapplicant with the determination of the appropriate classification

- If you are unable to obtain the classification from the appropriate building department, you can contact ISO for assistance.
 - ISO cannot release BCEGS classifications to consultants or outside parties without the consent of the classified jurisdiction. Permission can be given via email.
 - BCEGS classifications are not available for public download.

ISO will assist any Building Code Enforcement Department with determination of methods to improve classifications or to determine their classification

- Detailed reports of scoring are available to the code official
- Resurvey can be completed quickly for BRIC projects in instances of departmental improvements since last evaluation.

Direct inquiries to: BCEGS_Info@verisk.com

State Average Lookup:
<https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/facts-and-figures/>

Resources and Contact Info

- BRIC for Code Officials: <https://www.iccsafe.org/BRIC>
- Certifications: <https://www.iccsafe.org/certification>
- Training: [learn.iccsafe.org](https://www.iccsafe.org/learn)
 - [When Disaster Strikes Institute](#): Next virtual training: **December 6 - 7, 2021**
 - Going Virtual: [iccsafe.org/GoVirtual](https://www.iccsafe.org/GoVirtual)
- Building Department Accreditation: www.iasonline.org/BDA
- Consulting Services for Code Adoption: <https://www.SK Ghosh Associates.com/>

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Additional Questions?

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Family of Solutions

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Email: Advocacy@iccsafe.org

