

Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC)

BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Intent: *To support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public with long lasting impacts on community risk reduction. This includes critical services, facilities, and future disaster costs. FEMA will provide financial assistance to eligible BRIC applicants for the following activities:*

1. **Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB) activities** – Enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. This includes activities in the following sub-categories: building codes activities, partnerships, project scoping, mitigation planning and planning-related activities, and other activities.
2. **Mitigation Projects** – cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure from natural hazards and the effects of climate change.
3. **Management Costs** – financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation measure or project in an amount up to 15 percent of the total amount of the grant award, of which not more than 10 percent of the total award amount may be used by the recipient and 5 percent by the subrecipient for such costs generally.
4. **Applicant Eligibility** – State, Local, Tribal or Federal Cooperators must apply on behalf of individuals, community members, or businesses. In the spirit of collaboration, they may not apply for BRIC funding independently as the primary applicant.

Federal Award Information

Application Closure	January 13, 2023 to OEM
Pre-Award Selection	Summer 2023
Performance Period	36 Months from Receipt of Federal Award
Available Funding for the NOFO:	\$1,900,000,000
State/Territory Allocation Total:	\$ 56,000,000
Tribal Set-Aside Total	\$ 25,000,000
National Competition Total	\$ 1,919,000,000

Cost Share

75 percent federal / 25 percent non-federal. This means federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible costs must be derived from non-federal sources. The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Cash and third-party in-kind matches must consist of eligible costs (i.e., same eligibility as the federal share). If applying under an economically depressed rural community, cost share becomes 90 percent federal/10 percent non-federal.

Hazard Mitigation Benefits: *Natural hazards pose a serious risk to states, localities, tribes, and territories throughout the United States. These hazards include flooding, drought, hurricanes,*



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landslides, wildfires and more. Many natural hazards are expected to become more frequent and more severe. Therefore, reducing the impacts these hazards have on lives, properties and the economy is a top priority for many communities. Although the general population understands “that” this is a reality, they do not understand “how” to effectively respond or prepare for these events. FEMA has previously provided financial assistance to BRIC applicants for the following activities:

1. **Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation** – The community has taken actionable steps to mitigate against future damage by adopting a stronger fire-resistive building code, mapping wildfire risk, and participating in strategic community engagement. The City of Colorado Springs Fire Department collaborated with the Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association to identify ways to mitigate the impacts of wildfires on residential buildings. This information led to Ordinance No. 18-50, which amended the International Fire Code to address wildland/urban interface mitigation requirements for high-risk areas. Benefits include but are not limited to:
 - a. Reduced physical damage to structures/contents as well as infrastructure.
 - b. Life-safety benefits for areas with potential rapid wildfire risk.
 - c. Improved air quality and community health due to a reduction of wildfire smoke/pollutants.
 - d. Retained timber values and reduced fire suppression costs.
 - e. As more structures are built with fire-resistant materials in the area, it decreases the cost for materials and installation.

Total Project Cost: \$1.33 Million

Partnerships: City of Colorado Springs Fire Department, Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association, and FEMA

2. **Camptonville Biomass Plant** – The Camptonville Community Partnership is developing a 5.5-megawatt biomass plant in Camptonville, CA. This plant will support healthy forests by generating electricity from materials removed from forests that are overstocked or suffering from tree die-off. The project provides incentives for fuel reduction activities and otherwise utilizing forest waste. It includes a power-purchase agreement with the local utility (PG&E) to purchase electricity created by the biomass facility. This plant will provide a market focused on sustainable forest management projects, reducing forest fuels, and minimizing the threat of wildfire. This plant will provide a market focused on sustainable forest management projects, reducing forest fuels, and minimizing the threat of wildfire. Benefits include but are not limited to:
 - a. Reduced physical damage to structures/contents as well as infrastructure in at risk areas.
 - b. Life-safety benefits for areas with potential rapid wildfire risk.
 - c. Improved air quality and community health due to a reduction of wildfire smoke/pollutants
 - d. An alternative power generation source which also provides jobs in the community
 - e. Potentially results for long-term wildfire fuels reduction without additional grants.
 - f. Reduced fire suppression and emergency response costs.

Total Project Cost: \$5.1 Million

Partnerships: Camptonville Community Partnership, Yuba Water Agency, and PG&E

Community Benefits

The above examples of BRIC funded projects can provide both short and long-term environmental, economic, and social advantages which improve a community’s quality of life or make it more



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attractive to new residents/businesses. BRIC prioritizes projects that mitigate risk to public infrastructure, community lifelines, incorporate nature-based solutions, and support modern building codes. The community benefits from these efforts may include:

1. **Wildfire Smoke Mitigation (Improved Air Quality)** – Hazardous fuels reduction work ensures that wildfires have less vegetation (fuels) to feed on. Less fuel means less opportunity for intense wildfire and smoke. Until landscape resiliency is achieved and maintained, Smoke Mitigation measures are likely an opportunity for the BRIC grant process. For example, Sonoma County in California was recently awarded \$36.98 Million to develop a system within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The system establishes zones containing an inner and outer core. The inner core is hardened by encouraging property owners to create and maintain defensible space around their homes to reduce the potential for ignition from embers, direct flame, or radiant heat. The outer core absorbs the impacts from wildfires before they get to this hardened inner core. This is accomplished by reducing vegetation in large-parcel infill sites and or wildland areas that abut communities. Infill sites are created to provide buffers to decrease fire spread and intensity, provide anchor points, and increase environmental benefits including improved forest health/wildlife habitats, improved water quality, less extreme wildfire, and effective smoke mitigation.
2. **Economic Health** – The utilization and removal of forest waste/fuel loading supports community economic health. As with the Colorado Springs Mitigation Project, these efforts have the capacity/capability to reduce damage to community lifelines and infrastructure due to less extreme wildfire or wildfire spread. Moreover, local job creation, property values, renewable energy, green building materials, and fire adaptive landscapes may increase.
3. **Community Partnerships** – BRIC is a firm believer in creating meaningful partnerships and community collaboration. Applicants are limited only by their imagination so long as they can successfully prove their proposal(s) have the capability and capacity to ***support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public with long lasting impacts on community risk reduction.*** The possibilities are only limited by our wiliness to work with one another toward a common goal. Thus, the list of potential shareholders in this effort are endless.

Some examples may include:

- City, State, Local, or Municipal Government(s)
- Counties and County Leadership
- Local Tribes and Tribal Leadership
- Health Departments
- Forestry Professionals, Representatives, and Associations
- Community Organizations
- Wildfire & Emergency Responders
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and related Councils
- FEMA

BRIC funded projects offer financial incentive to offset cost while providing a mechanism to enhance community lifelines and education to withstand damages resulting from disaster events. Think carefully, which project do you think would most benefit your community?

