

# Mitigation Series:

## 2020 Lessons Learned and Moving Forward

# BRIC National Review Process

## 1. Technical Review

- a. [Technical evaluation criteria](#) reviews are performed by FEMA staff.
- b. Technical evaluation criteria are binary point awards; projects either receive the full points allotted or zero points for each criterion.
- c. While the National Technical Review determines if a project is cost-effective and technically feasible, the technical evaluation criteria offer incentives for additional elements valued by FEMA, such as projects that mitigate risk to infrastructure and lifelines or incorporate nature-based solutions.

# BRIC Qualitative National Review Panel

## 2. Qualitative National Review

- a. FEMA held a Virtual National Review Panel to score subapplications.
- b. FEMA recruited volunteers from state, local, tribal and territorial governments and other federal agencies to participate on 3 week-long qualitative review panels.
  - FEMA hopes the panels will increase transparency into the decision-making process while enhancing partnerships among the panelists.

# BRIC National Review Panel

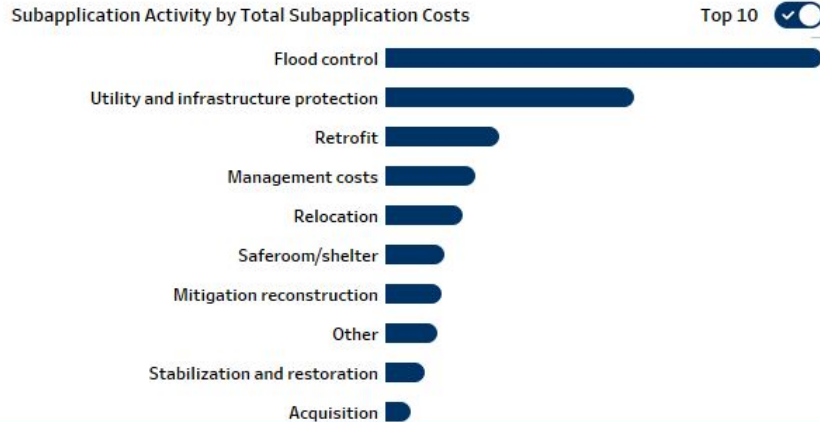
- Qualitative review panelists were expected to leverage their mitigation experience and expertise to assess the degree to which subapplications meet the [six BRIC qualitative evaluation criteria](#):
  - Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness; Future Conditions; Implementation Measures; Population Impacted; Outreach Activities; and Leveraging Partners.



BRIC National Competition Qualitative Criteria and Point Values

# BRIC National Review Panel

- MEMA participated in FEMA BRIC National Review.
  - (Qualitative National Review panelist)



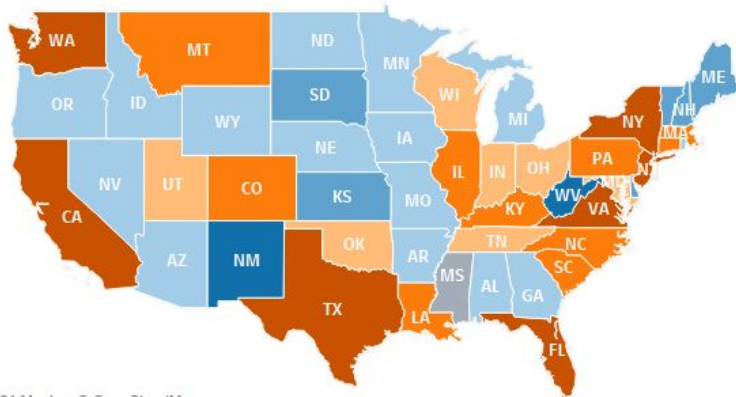
This visualization contains data from the Fiscal Year 2020 application cycle for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities that closed on Jan. 29, 2021. Data Source: FEMA Grants Outcomes (GO).

# Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities

Fiscal Year 2020 Application Period Submissions

|                            |                                      |  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Number of Subapplications  | Number of Structures to be Mitigated | Number of Small Impoverished Communities |
| <b>991</b>                 | <b>1,521</b>                         | <b>98</b>                                |
| Total Subapplication Costs | Federal Cost Share                   | Non-Federal Cost Share                   |
| <b>\$5.50B</b>             | <b>\$3.60B</b>                       | <b>\$1.90B</b>                           |

Total Subapplication Costs



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## Subapplication Activity by Total Subapplication Costs

Top 10



This visualization contains data from the Fiscal Year 2020 application cycle for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities that closed on Jan. 29, 2021. Data Source: FEMA Grants Outcomes (GO).

# National Review Panel Experience

- Constructive feedback of the BRIC grant program thus far (by review panelists):
  - Common pitfalls of nature-based solutions: more technically difficult, potentially having more expensive up-front costs, and subapplicants not having a history of successful case studies to reference for evidence of success.
  - The 25% cost-share requirement is a considerable roadblock to subapplicants applying for the BRIC program.
  - FEMA also received a lot of feedback on the BCA methodology along with suggested improvements.
    - [Summary of Stakeholder Feedback report can be found here.](#)

# National Review Panel: Personal Experience

- Scalability was an issue faced by many of the review panelists- it was difficult to score an acquisition and demolition project for two properties vs. a tornado saferoom/mass care shelter to house hundreds of people.
- National review panelist group was very diverse and representative of a wide variety of agencies.
  - Subapplicants should take this as a cue to build a diverse project team with multiple groups and agencies as partners.
  - As subapplicants, it is critical to write your subapplication with this in mind.



# National Review Panel: Personal Experience

- Panelist Feedback for Subapplicants:
  - More attention needs to be given to leveraging partnerships effectively. The ways in which you leverage partnerships are not limited to a cash-match.
    - (i.e. leveraging university partners through the use of research projects, studies, consultations, partnered discussions with community members, etc).
  - Social vulnerability was not accurately or effectively addressed by many of the subapplicants.
    - When thinking about social vulnerability, view the project area and impacted population through an expansive lens.

# National Review Panel: Personal Experience

- Many subapplicants provided thorough context and documentation for answers to the application questions in attached documents and not in the FEMA GO text boxes, which missed the attention of most reviewers.
- Additional stakeholder feedback from the FY20 BRIC cycle can be found here: [Summary of Stakeholder Feedback](#)

# Leveraging Partnerships: Prompts for Criterion

- [FEMA Qualitative Review Criterion PDF](#)
- Partnerships can take many different forms. For example, partners may contribute financially, support and promote the proposed project, help generate community-wide awareness of the risks the proposal is designed to address, etc.
  - What partners were involved in the project design?
  - How did partners contribute to the application?
  - What partners will contribute to the implementation of the project?

# Leveraging Partnerships: Prompts for Criterion

- To what extent were non-governmental organizations, universities, private organizations, or other government entities consulted for advice or assistance?
  - While many subapplicants were missing this critical piece of the subapplication, there were a few creative ways of leveraging partnerships that were seen: applying studies and input from subject matter experts and published reports from various academic departments: geology, etc.
  - Local tourism organizations/visitor centers and feedback from visitors and residents from local areas leveraged.

# Leveraging Partnerships: Prompts for Criterion

- How has collaboration with surrounding jurisdictions supported project development?
- To what extent have other federal programs or funding sources been leveraged for the project? To what extent have partners provided funding that increases the non-federal cost share?
- How have partnerships been used to increase community resiliency? What potential exists for partnerships to continue beyond implementation of the project?

# Population Impacted: Prompts for Criterion

- Community size, scale, and definition can look very different in different local contexts. What does “community-wide” mean in the context of the proposed project?
- What percent of the population will directly benefit from the project (i.e., experience direct community-wide benefits)? How is this estimate calculated?

# Population Impacted: Prompts for Criterion

- What is the extent of the project's expected direct and indirect impacts? How will the project reduce cascading impacts to Community Lifelines, residents, businesses, public services, infrastructure, and natural systems?
- Who are the most vulnerable members of the community where the project is proposed?
  - How will the project negatively impact vulnerable members of the community?  
How will the project positively impact vulnerable members of the community?  
Impacts can be directly related to the risk reduction activity or indirectly related, such as with ancillary impacts (i.e., social, environmental, economic impacts).

# Best Practices Moving Forward

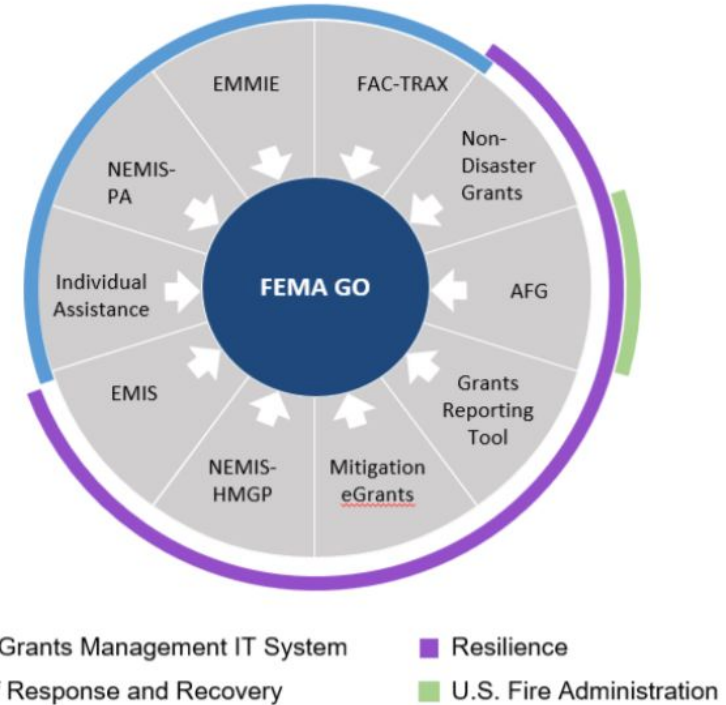


# Before Application Opens

- Ensure you are aware of the difference between State and Federal deadlines.
  - Materials directly from FEMA provide deadlines the State must meet.
  - Subapplications will be due to MEMA approximately 2 months prior to the deadline established by FEMA for the State.
- Review FEMA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in detail to ensure you are prepared to meet all grant requirements. NOFOs are available on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).
- Create an account and register for [FEMA GO](https://www.fema.gov). Ensure you notify [mitigation.mema@maryland.gov](mailto:mitigation.mema@maryland.gov) once you register.

# Register for FEMA GO

- Obtain your organization's DUNS number and register at the below link:
  - <https://go.fema.gov/>
- [Resources and Guides](#)



# Before Application Opens

- Review FEMA subapplication template for your proposed activity types to begin compiling necessary data and documentation.
- Submit your Notice of Interest (NOI) to MEMA for pre-screening.
  - The Deadline is August 31, 2021.
  - This serves as a broad overview of the proposed activity and provides an opportunity for MEMA to evaluate eligibility and give feedback.
  - NOI is a Google Form available on the [MEMA Mitigation website](#).
  - [Direct link](#).

# MEMA's Notice of Interest

- Subapplicants submit a Notice of Interest Form to MEMA for review and project applicability.
  - [Electronic Notice of Interest \(NOI\)](#)

*\*Deadline for consideration for FY21 BRIC & FMA is August 31\**



## MEMA NOTICE OF INTEREST (NOI)

Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant Programs

Submit to [mitigation.mema@maryland.gov](mailto:mitigation.mema@maryland.gov)

| 1.0 PROGRAM PREFERENCE   |  |
|--|--|
| Please check the program you are most interested in pursuing:  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - post-disaster declaration.   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) - annual grants.  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) - annual grants for activities addressing flooding. Structures must be insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Other  |  |
| 2.0 SUBAPPLICANT IDENTIFICATION  |  |
| Name of Project  |  |
| Subapplicant   |  |
| Point of Contact   |  |
| 3.0 COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION   |  |
| Describe project relationship to local and state mitigation strategies.  |  |
| Location   |  |
| Relationship to Existing Community Plans   |  |
| Mitigation Plan Expiration   |  |
| Community in Good Standing with NFIP   |  |
| Impact on People   |  |
| Impact on Environment  |  |
| 4.0 ACTIVITY   |  |
| Description of Project or Plan   |  |
| Estimated Project Schedule   |  |
| 5.0 COST ESTIMATE  |  |
| Total Activity Cost  |  |
| Proposed Non-federal Cost Share and Source   |  |

# Mitigation Action Portfolio

- Case studies from throughout the Country
- Organized by hazard
- Aligns projects with Community Lifelines
- Details scope, cost, funding sources, partners, timeline, etc.
- Will be updated periodically



# Best Practices

- Build upon existing efforts.
- Seek out multi-disciplinary solutions.
- Identify commonalities to bring in additional partners and stakeholders.
- Explore regional opportunities.
- Take a whole community approach. Expertise can be found in government, private sector, non-profit sector, academia, etc.
- Prioritize mitigating Community Lifelines to increase community resilience.



Whole Community  
Participation



Federal Government and  
Nonfederal Partners



Decreased Natural  
Hazards Risk

# Timeline

# TENTATIVE MEMA FY21 FMA and BRIC Timeline

- August 31, 2021: Notice of Interest Due to MEMA
- September 2021 - NOFO Available
- October 2021 - FEMA GO Subapplications Available
- November 2021 - Subapplicats due to MEMA
- Jan. /Feb. 2022 - State Application Due





# Maryland

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY

*The mission of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency is to proactively reduce disaster risks and reliably manage consequences through collaborative work with Maryland's communities and partners.*

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