



## Making Mitigation Work: A Webinar Series

### Natural Hazards Center and FEMA Webinar Series “Making Mitigation Work” Written Questions and Answers after the October 8, 2019 Webinar Moving Mitigation Forward: The Past, Present, and Future of Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Eric Letvin, Federal Emergency Management Agency, October 8, 2019

**Question from Balakrishnan Balachandran:** During the phases of research and policy & program development, is there any opportunity for researchers and professionals to contribute ideas/suggestions?

Speaker response: We welcome stakeholders to submit ideas and suggestions to [BUILDBRIC@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:BUILDBRIC@fema.dhs.gov), and to provide written comment once the draft policy is posted to the Federal Register.

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**Question from Carolina Gomez:** You mentioned that one requirement is that the agency has had a disaster in the 7 years. In Oregon we haven't had an earthquake, but we are waiting for a massive Cascadia Subduction zone, is there eligibility for disasters like this?

**Question from Susan Park:** So, if my state is eligible, but my County was not affected by a declared disaster in the past seven years, my County is still eligible to apply as a sub-applicant?

**Question from Susan Park:** To clarify, BRIC funding is only available to communities who have had declared disasters in the past 7 years?

Speaker response: Yes, BRIC funding is only available in “States that have received a major disaster declaration in the previous 7 years, or to any Indian tribal government located partially or entirely within the boundaries of such States.” If a State is eligible, any eligible sub-applicant (which may include counties, communities, and tribes) within that State may apply (i.e., there is no requirement that a sub-applicant was specifically affected by the disaster).

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**Question from Shawn Strange:** Can funding under the BRIC program be leveraged using other Disaster Recovery funding (i.e. CDBG-DR)?

**Question from Gary O’Neal:** Can FEMA comment on the use of CDBG-MIT and/or CDBG-DR funding with BRIC funding?

Speaker response: A federal agency's grant funds can only be used to match the non-federal share of another federal agency's grant if expressly authorized by statute. Typically, the funds must meet the eligibility requirements of both federal agencies' programs. The authorizing statute for the HUD CDBG program expressly authorizes use of CDBG funds to meet the non-federal share of other federal "grant-in-aids." See 42 U.S.C. § 5305(a)(9).

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**Question from Jaleesa:** What are the top 3 things you would recommend communities do to prepare for BRIC while the policy is being approved?

Speaker response:

- Take advantage of this year's PDM cycle, particularly the Advance Assistance (\$12.5M available) and the Resilient Infrastructure competition (\$125M available)
  - When updating mitigation plans, coordinate with other agencies and private partners to identify projects that mitigate risk across lifelines
  - Leverage existing funding sources to advance mitigation priorities, including HMGP and 406 Mitigation
  - Conduct a needs assessment to determine where best you might use technical assistance or capability building support
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**Question from Virginia Michelin:** For the new BCA model, is there updated training available for it?

Speaker response: Updated training is available at <https://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis> under the "Training" tab.

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***For all other questions:***

Speaker response: FEMA is still in the design and development phase of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, and as such, we cannot provide responses to your questions at this time. We appreciate your interest and thought-provoking questions. FEMA will be posting a draft policy in the Federal Register in the upcoming months and we encourage you to review the policy once it is posted and submit comments for FEMA's consideration and adjudication. To sign up for Federal Register email updates, please go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

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**Comments, Suggestions, or Questions for the Natural Hazard Center?**

Please contact: [katherine.murphy-1@colorado.edu](mailto:katherine.murphy-1@colorado.edu).

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