**Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Webinar Series: NOFO Overview**

**August 20, 2020 at 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

Alix Shutello: Hi and welcome to the second BRIC and FMA NOFO webinar. My name is Alix Shutello and I am providing tech support today. Before we get started, please note that if you cannot see the screen please log off and log back on. Make sure you are on Wi-Fi and not on your VPN if that applies. This session has two parts. The first hour is a pre-recorded webinar, followed by live Q&A. Since there is no call-in number, please make sure your speakers are on and your microphone is off. If you have technical issues regarding your Adobe connection, email FEMA-HMACOMMS@FEMA.DHS.gov. The Q&A pod on the right of your screen is for FMA and BRIC-related questions only. Note that there is a planned silence between the webinar and the start of our live Q&A session. This is done on purpose as not everyone's video experience is at the same speed. Also note that these sessions are being recorded and will be posted to FEMA.gov at a later date. Now we will begin our webinar. Thank you and enjoy.

Kayed Lakhia: Good morning and good afternoon everyone. My name is Kayed Lakhia and I am the Director of Hazard Mitigation at FEMA, and I am here to kick off today’s NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) webinars for FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) and BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) pre-disaster mitigation grant programs. Hopefully some of you were able to attend our BRIC Summer Engagement Series webinars this July. And these NOFO sessions today and the next few days are meant to take a deeper dive into the requirements for application to both the FMA and the BRIC programs. I am especially thrilled to announce that for 2020 we have available $160 million for FMA and half a billion dollars for BRIC, collectively across both programs, $660 million. This is the highest level ever in the history of the program. As many of you are aware, FMA is an ongoing program and the BRIC program replaces the PDM (Pre-Disaster Mitigation) program. Many of you, through your input and feedback through the many information sharing sessions we have held, have helped shape the BRIC program. Specifically, the program allows us to address capacity- and capability-building at the community level, and also enables us to fund larger infrastructure mitigation projects that we have rarely been able to fund in the past. Let me assure you, are projects available under the PDM program are still eligible under BRIC. Most importantly, let me express a profound sense of gratitude and a huge thank you, because all of you played a large role in designing this program over the past 24 months. Before we get started I wanted to talk through a few housekeeping items. Please make sure that if you have a government computer, sign off the VPN and only join over the wi-fi. This will greatly improve the quality of the recording. Today’s session is being recorded so that we can share a link with our stakeholders and partners who were not able to attend today. The webinar portion of the session will last approximately 60 minutes, and after that we will answer questions live. Note, however, that while FEMA is answering questions live, participants can only ask questions through the Q&A pod on the right-hand side of your screen. When writing questions in the Q&A pod, please make sure you identify the question as FMA or BRIC. If you have technical questions or are experiencing technical difficulties, please email our helpdesk at FEMA-HMACOMMS@FEMA.DHS.GOV, an email address which you can see in the left-hand side of your screen. A moderator will respond to you directly and answer technical questions only. As a helpful tip, technical problems can be signing off and signing back in, clearing your computer cache, and turning on your speakers. Before we get started, once the BRIC and FMA session concludes, we will provide slides with tools and resources and then start our Q&A session, which will begin around 3 o’clock today. Please note that today’s presentation and other resources can be downloaded, and kindly refer to the file pod on the lower left-hand side of the screen. So now, let’s begin. This session is being kicked off by Ryan Janda, my Non-Disaster Grants Implementation Branch Chief. He’ll give you a short overview on non-disaster mitigation grants, applicant eligibility, and program requirements. Next, you’ll hear from Brandon Sweezea, my FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) Section Chief, and he will give you an overview of the FMA program for this year. Camille Crain is the FEMA’s BRIC Section Chief, and she will give you an overview of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, and she will also share with you resources and program information on BRIC. Upon the conclusion of Camille’s presentation, we’ll come back on to kick off the live Q&A portion of the program. With that, let me wish you all the best as you compete for both these very exciting programs, and I look forward to seeing some exciting projects to further resiliency in our nation. So with that, let’s get started with Ryan Janda. Thank you all.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much Kayed, and let’s flip to the next slide. Before I begin, I’d like to say thank to all that have helped us to get to where we are today. Without you, this would not be possible. Today’s agenda will cover the following topics. We’ll talk about specific aspects of the mitigation grant programs, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. We’ll talk about specific priorities for those two programs, as well as FEMA GO, job aids and resources, and finally questions as Kayed said a few minutes ago, and we’ll spend about 30 minutes talking through questions that were submitted to us during this webinar. Next slide please.

On August 3rd, 2020, FEMA posted the Fiscal Year 2020 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program. We’ve been working on the BRIC program since roughly October of 2018, and it’s been a long road for many of us. And again, we thank you for your patience, your support, and your continued interest in this program. FEMA’s two competitive non-disaster grant programs provide states, local communities, tribes, and territories funding for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen our nation’s ability to build a culture of preparedness while reducing disaster losses, and protecting life and property from future disaster damages. This year, we are making $660 million available for these two programs - $500 million for the BRIC program (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) and $160 million for the FMA program (Flood Mitigation Assistance). As you can see from the images, here are the amounts of available funding, and we will get into more detail during this presentation. Next slide please.

I’m not get into a whole lot of detail with the information on this slide, but you can tell who is eligible to apply for the FMA and BRIC grant programs. We'll get into more depth later during today’s discussion when we cover each program separately. Next slide please.

To apply for funding made available for FY2020 through the FMA and BRIC programs, the application and funding deadlines must be adhered to. The application opening, or start date, will be September 30, 2020. The application deadline is January 29, 2021 at exactly 3 PM Eastern Standard Time. Please know that’s 3 PM Eastern Standard Time, that’s critically important because the application system will stop receiving applications at exactly 3 PM Eastern Standard Time. We will make selections, or post our notifications on [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) in June of 2021. The period of performance will begin when the recipient accepts the first award – this will vary for all recipients. Generally, the period of performance will be 36 months from the award date. For Community Flood Mitigation Projects under the FMA program, it’s 48 months from the award date. And for the BRIC program, for highly complex projects, an applicant may submit a request for a longer period of performance in the application for FEMA to review, consider, and approve. Next slide please.

 Here are some of the requirements that are important to note for both the Flood Mitigation Assistance and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities programs. Applicants and subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of funding. Applicants and subapplicants applying for mitigation projects must provide a Benefit-Cost Analysis (also known as a BCA) or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness of projects. Mitigation planning subapplications are not required to have a Benefit-Cost Analysis submitted with them. Applicants and subapplicants applying for mitigation projects must provide information needed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related DHS and FEMA instructions and directives. In addition, communities are encouraged but not required to pursue mitigation plan integration aspects, which is a process where communities look critically at their existing planning framework and align efforts, such as integration of hazard mitigation principles into other local planning mechanisms such as comprehensive plans, transportation plans, floodplain ordinances, etc. and vice versa. It is vital to build a safer, more resilient community. This two-way exchange of information supports community-wide risk reduction both before and after disasters. Not only will the community planning efforts be aligned, but by going through the process there is a higher level of inter-agency collaboration, which is just as important as the planning mechanisms themselves. Next slide please.

There’s a whole lot of information on this one slide, even though there’s not a whole lot of text. For the cost shares, both for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, as well as Flood Mitigation Assistance program, there is a cost share requirement. A cost share is required for all subapplications funded under these programs. The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or in-kind third party services, materials, or any combination thereof. FEMA will provide 100% federal funding for BRIC management costs the cost share for BRIC is as follows. Generally the cost share for this program is up to 75% federal and 25% non-federal. For small, impoverished communities there may be an increase in the cost share up to 90% federal, 10% non-federal. A small impoverished community is a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified the applicant. It is economically disadvantaged with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80% of the national per capita income based on the best available data. For insular areas, and this is for both the BRIC program and FMA program, these territories include American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. FEMA will automatically waive the non-federal cost share for the recipient for the non-federal cost share if the entire award is under $200,000, the recipient may request a waiver in its application. For FMA specifically, federal funding is available for up to 75% of the eligible activity cost. However, FEMA may contribute the following federal cost share for properties that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program at the time of application, and meet the following definitions. Please pay close attention to these definitions. For severe repetitive loss there are two parts to the definition. First, a property that has received four or more NFIP claim payments that have been made with the amount of each claim exceeding $5,000 and with the cumulative amount of claims payments exceeding $20,000. The second part of the SRL property definition is at least two separate NFIP claim payments –those are building payments only - that have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure. For SRL properties FEMA may provide up to 100% federal cost share. For repetitive loss properties FEMA may provide up to 90% federal cost share. A repetitive loss property has incurred flood related damage on at least two occasions in which the cost of the repair on the average equaled or exceeded 25% of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event. This concludes some of the common aspects of the FMA and BRIC programs. I'm now going to turn it over to Brandon Sweezea the FMA Section Chief for detailed information on the Flood Mitigation Assistance program for FY2020. Thank you, and have a great day and thank you again for your interest in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program as well as the Flood Mitigation Assistance program.

Brandon Sweezea: Thank you, Ryan, for the introduction. Again, my name is Brandon Sweezea and I’m with the flood mitigation, I am the Flood Mitigation Assistance Section Chief at FEMA headquarters in D.C. Before I begin, I want to bring your attention to four FEMA resource documents we have available in the resource guide, available in the Adobe pod below. And these documents are for the FMA program and they include the Flood Mitigation Assistance NOFO fact sheet, a project scoping fact sheet, a community flood mitigation project fact sheet and a geospatial file eligibility criteria job aid, which can be used to develop benefitting area maps, which I will discuss later in my presentation. These resources are also available on the FEMA FY20 NOFO page on FEMA.gov. If you have any questions during my presentation, please provide them in the question-and-answer box on the right, and please put FMA in front of your question so that we can properly sort it. So let me begin with the FY2020 Flood Mitigation Assistance offering. And just to give you background, the purpose of the FMA program is to reduce and eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. And that’s primarily because funding for FMA originates from the National Flood Insurance Fund from policyholders that have NFIP policies. Next slide please.

So getting at the eligibility requirements. Eligible applicants include the states, District of Columbia, U.S. territories and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. And applicant entities shall designate one agency to serve as the applicant for all of the FMA funding applications and may submit only one FMA grant application to FEMA as an applicant. Grant applications are made up of several grant subapplications, which fund individual projects for subapplicants. And subapplicants are local governments and include cities, townships, counties, special district governments and can also be Indian tribal governments, including federally recognized tribes, who choose to apply as subapplicants. And if a tribe is applying as a subapplicant, they have to submit subapplications to eligible state, territory or tribal applicant agencies. All subapplicants for FMA are required to be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, as the Flood Mitigation Assistance program is funded by premiums paid by NFIP policyholders. And they also have to be in good standing with the NFIP. That means that they’re not on probation or suspended. The National Flood Insurance Program community status book can easily be verified to see what your community status is. And if you just search FEMA.gov or even Google, you can find the FEMA community status book to look up your community standings with the NFIP. Further, for individual property mitigation projects (we’re talking about elevations, acquisitions, those types of projects), all of the structures that are included in subapplications must have an NFIP policy in force at the time of the application opening, which is September 30, 2020. And the policy must be enforced through the selection, award, project implementation, and in cases where a mitigated structure remains after the project, for the life of the structure. FEMA is going to verify NFIP policy status at different times throughout the review, selection and implementation cycles for compliance with this requirement. Next slide please.

So FMA follows a waterfall funding distribution process, as the priority caps are met. So as you can see in this graphic, we have $160 million of total funding available for the FY20 FMA program. So going down to the first pool, if you may, up to $4 million for priority 1 will be available for project scoping activities. And then we will be shifting to the second priority once we have met that cap of eligible projects to the community flood mitigation projects, and we’ll be selecting up to $70 million in projects for that priority. And then as we move to the last pool, it’ll be priorities 3 and 4, which are flood planning and technical assistance. And then finally the priority 5, which is our traditional individual flood mitigation projects, and those are composed of elevation, acquisition, relocation and reconstruction projects of severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss structures. If any of these priorities are not met, so if we only got $2 million in eligible project scoping, priority 1 projects, then that funding will just flow down the line and be available essentially to priorities 3, 4 and 5, as they don't have a cap. Next slide please.

We have many eligible types of flood mitigation activities under FMA. This isn't meant to be an exhaustive list, but it just gives you an idea of the construction activities that we do have eligible. Again, the purpose of the FMA program is to reduce future claims against the NFIP. And with that in mind, these flood activities are eligible under the program, and are contained within the 2015 Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance. This is a list of eligible construction activities and isn't meant to be exhaustive. And most of these activities that are instructive (are construction based) fall within two priorities we have that I outlined in the previous slide, and that’s the community flood mitigation priority, which I will get to in a following slide. And then also our individual flood mitigation project types. In addition to these activities, we also have hazard mitigation planning, technical assistance funding and management costs for managing the grant projects, if they are awarded. Next slide please.

So getting into the priorities, under the FY20 FMA offering, we have priority number 1, which is project scoping. And this has been improved for this year. In previous years, the priority was called advanced assistance. So it's not a new priority, but we just renamed it to be more in line with what the activity is trying to accomplish, what essentially is seed funding for future projects. So based on the feedback that we have received from stakeholders, we have expanded project scoping to not only apply to the development of community flood mitigation projects but also to individual property mitigation projects. Those are the mitigation of individual SRL, RL and NFIP-insured properties. The following represents eligible property scoping activities that benefit NFIP-insured structures, recognizing that applicants and subapplicants may have needs that extend beyond what has been included here. All project scoping activities should result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for FMA, or another funding opportunity such as BRIC or the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Project scoping activities may include conducting meetings, outreach, coordination with subapplicants and community residents, developing or conducting engineering, environmental feasibility, benefit cost analysis, hydrologic or hydrogeologic studies (also known as H&H studies), undertaking activities that lead to development of project applications, evaluating facilities to identify mitigation activities, and using staff or resources to develop cost share strategies. But please note you can't use funds for the sole source of funding a position. We have received some applications that the whole goal is to fund a position and project scoping is not eligible for that type of activity if it is solely for funding an individual position. For the FMA project scoping priority, there is a cap of $600,000 per applicant. And more information can be found on the FY20 FMA project scoping fact sheet, which is available in our resource guidance. Next slide please.

Our second priority is the community flood mitigation project type. And for FY20, it has actually been enhanced. So in previous years, we had $30 million available per project, and this year the set-aside has been increased to $70 million fed share for these types of projects. FEMA's going to select the highest scored eligible community flood mitigation project subapplications, based on the FEMA scoring criteria, which is contained in the fact sheet for the community flood mitigation project that is available in the guidance documents that we have available. So if you want to get more information on how we do the scoring, the priorities are contained within that document with descriptions on how we do our point system. Additionally, projects are going to be evaluated to ensure that they provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program in accordance with Title 44 of the CFR and Part 79 and in accordance with the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance. And primarily how we will be assessing benefits of these projects is through the benefitting area maps, which will be submitted. And these geospatial maps essentially, they are described on how to make the maps in our geospatial job aid, which is also available. And what we are looking for is maps that are drawn that will show the area that will be benefitting from the mitigated project that is proposed. And it’s typically supported by a report or study, such as an H&H study. And when we get these reports we will be overlaying the severe repetitive loss or repetitive loss properties that we have available from insurance, as well as national flood insurance policy holders. And this, by overlaying all of these, we will be able to inform our confidence level in determining whether these projects, relative to their federal share, are going to be reducing claims to policyholders, NFIP policyholders in the benefitting area. And so again, these types of projects are really aimed at mitigating flood on a community level and are different from the individual flood mitigation that we’ve typically been done in the past. More information, again, can be found on the community flood mitigation project fact sheet that is available in the Adobe Connect resources link. Next slide.

So the purpose of the community flood mitigation projects is to lessen the frequency or severity of flooding to NFIP structures within isolated drainage areas that are not hydraulically linked or connected to larger basins. These projects include, but are not limited to, floodwater storage and diversion, floodplain and stream restoration, stormwater management through installation or modifications of culverts or other stormwater management facilities. Modifications must be for the purpose of increasing risk reduction capabilities of the existing structures and cannot constitute only repairs or maintenance or those sorts of activities. It is crucial these projects don't duplicate the flood prevention activities of other federal agencies and may not constitute a section of a larger flood control system. So, they really need to be on their own as standalone mitigation solution. Further, individual property mitigation project such as the elevations Part 80 voluntary acquisitions, relocations, reconstruction are not eligible under the community flood mitigation project type, as they are considered in priority 5 of the individual property mitigation priority. Next slide please.

So a crucial component of the community flood mitigation projects is providing a proposed project that benefits NFIP-insured properties. And this is completed through the submission of a benefitting area map and associated geospatial file. So we accept shape files, KML, KMZ, geodatabase and other GIS-enabled documents. And the purpose of, these maps essentially need to delineate the proposed project footprint boundary, if available, so where the work is being done, and then the area benefitting from the project. And again, these are supported through like a hydrologic and hydraulic study or similar report showing that the realized project benefits will reduce flooding to the structures contained within the benefitting area. And then, so basically once those maps are received by FEMA through the application process, the benefitting area maps will be overlaid, as I explained, with NFIP policies, severe repetitive loss structures and repetitive loss properties, and we’re going to be reviewing them for confidence in reducing claims to the NFIP in relation to the funding requested. Again, for more information on developing these benefitting area maps, there is a geospatial file eligibility criteria job aid that is contained within the available documents in this presentation and also available on the FY20 FMA NOFO website. Next slide please.

For priorities 3 and 4, these are our typical priorities that we've had: technical assistance that’s available for applicants (so if you are an applicant that was awarded at least $1 million in funds last year for FY19, then you’re eligible for technical assistance) and flood mitigation planning--FEMA funds under FMA we fund the flood component only of a hazard mitigation plan. So it won't fund the entire mitigation plan, but we can do the flood portion. Next slide.

Lastly, for priority 5, is our traditional individual flood mitigation project type. So, funds for this are going to be distributed on a competitive basis for individual property flood mitigation projects. And there are essentially two large priority buckets. So we have subapplications, that include 50% or more of structures that meet in this order the SRL, BII which is that first box A, RL or SRL BI. And so those are the different definitions that we have, and they have already been categorized through our insurance process and prioritized in this manner. So we will be prioritizing the first bucket of projects that contain 50% or more structures that are included in the application will be in that first priority. As mentioned by Ryan earlier, the SRL and RL project cost shares are different than the traditional 75/25 cost share of other grants. SRL property mitigation projects are 100% federal cost share, so there is no local match required. And for RL, for the repetitive loss, it’s a 90% federal cost share and 10% nonfederal match. Again, more information on this project type can be found in the FY20 FMA NOFO fact sheet that’s available on the resources link and on our website. Next slide.

So for the sub-priority of the individual flood mitigation project type, the second one is for projects that have less than 50% of SRL, RL properties within it. And so we will be further prioritizing those projects based on additional project factors. And this includes the highest percentage of projects that meet the SRL, RL definition, and then the largest number of structures that meet the definition. And then we’ll be looking at the highest percentage of structures that are determined substantially damaged by the community as determined through a substantial damage letter that is admitted by the community determined on the property. Then, through the highest percentage of structures that are listed as primary residence, per their NFIP policy declarations page. And lastly, we’ll be looking at the FEMA validated benefit cost ratio submitted. And so this kind of just gives you an idea of how we go through the rack and stack of funding priorities as we move down. Next slide please.

Under the FMA program, we do have some application limits. Applicants may include the following in a grant application. You can have one management cost subapplication, which will be for the management cost for the applicant. You can have one technical assistance subapplication if that applicant received at least a million dollars in the previous year. And then there’s no limit on our project subapplications submitted under project scoping, community flood mitigation or individual mitigation projects. So you can submit as many projects as you want under that priority. Next slide please.

So under FMA, we do have some funding limits. So for project scoping project type, we have a $600,000 per applicant funding limit. So we will fund up to $600,000 in project scoping activities up to the cap that we established per applicant. For the community flood mitigation projects, the cap is per subapplication. So per project that we receive, projects can be up to $30 million federal share. And both of these caps are new for FY20 based on feedback that we have received. The rest of the funding caps are pretty standard that we have had year after year. And so with that, again I just want to draw your attention, that we do have those four resource documents available, both on this Adobe Connect and on our FEMA.gov website under the FY20 FMA NOFO page. So with that, I would like to turn things over to Camille Crain, who will give us an overview of the BRIC program that is new for FY20. Take it away, Camille.

Camille Crain: Thank you, Brandon. My name is Camille Crain, and I am the BRIC Section Chief at FEMA headquarters. BRIC is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, our new grant program that we are really excited to launch this year. Next slide please.

So as a reminder, if you do have BRIC-specific questions as we run through (or I run through) this presentation, please feel free to type those into the Q&A pod we have. And just put BRIC before your question, that way, just like Brandon said with FMA, we can sort out which program you are asking your questions for. So BRIC came about through the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, back in October of 2018. After that, we gathered a lot of stakeholder feedback and our leadership got together using that stakeholder feedback and our research on what other grant programs do and created the six guiding principles that we developed our program around. So I want to just give some context and walk through those guiding principles. One, we want to be a program that supports community capability and capacity building. We want to encourage and enable innovation, promote partnerships, enable large infrastructure projects, maintain flexibility and provide consistency. And hopefully, as I talk to some of the details of the program, you will see how we are bringing those principles to life. We also support FEMA's strategic plan by increasing the mitigation investment we support goal 1 of building a culture of preparedness by enabling projects that protect lifelines, we are readying the nation for catastrophic disasters. And as we designed the program, we tried to take into account or we did take into account reducing the complexity of FEMA. Next slide please.

So what are the BRIC priorities? These are the priorities for our program as listed in the NOFO. One, we want to incentivize public infrastructure projects. And when I say public infrastructure, we are talking about infrastructure that benefits the public. We know a lot of the infrastructure in the United States is actually owned by the private sector. And they, that infrastructure can also be mitigated as long as it is supported by the subapplicant and the applicant. We want to incentivize projects that mitigate risk to one or more of the community lifelines. We want to incentivize projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, and we want to increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest editions of building codes. And you will see those four priorities show up in our competition criteria as well as some of the requirements of our program. Next slide.

So we are very excited to announce we have $500 million available for year 1 of BRIC. As a reminder, BRIC funding actually comes from disaster activity. So after a presidentially declared disaster happens, 180 days later, a 6% estimate is taken for the cost of that disaster. And that goes into our BRIC piggy bank you see there on your screen. And then once a year we crack open our piggy bank and we scoop out the dollars. And this year we have those $500 million available. We are splitting that $500 million amongst three different funding mechanisms. The first is our state and territory allocations. That is up to $600,000 available for each applicant, those are states, each, so the 50 states, the territories and the District of Columbia. Each can apply for up to $600,000, so that’s a total of $33.6 million. Our federally recognized tribes, we have set aside $20 million for our federally recognized tribal applicants. And then the balance of the funds will be spent on a national competition that is open to all of our applicants. So that’s the states, the territories, the District of Columbia and our federally recognized tribes. And that’s for $446.4 million estimated. Just like Brandon, we have a waterfall effect, too. With the allocation, the tribal set-aside, if any of those monies are not spent in the allocation of the tribal set-aside, they will go into the national competition. Next slide.

So how can the funds be used? How can these $500 million funds be used? We have three different types of projects. One is management cost and you heard Ryan talk about management cost a little earlier. That can be put in for projects that are under the allocation, the set-aside and the national competition. Subapplicants can apply for up to 5% management cost to administer their award or administer their project. And that is a line item in your budget. Applicants can apply for 10% for all the subapplications they are putting in and for BRIC that is 100% federally funded. We also have the capability- and capacity-building activities. I will talk more about what those are in a minute. They are fundable under the allocation and the tribal set-aside. And then mitigation projects are fundable under each of those: the allocations, the tribal set-aside and then the national competition. Next slide.

So let me go through a little bit of our funding limits. So the state and territory allocation is capped as I said at $600,000 per applicant. And that can be spent on those C&CB (capacity- and capability-building) activities and mitigation projects. The only cap we have within the $600,000 is no more than $300,000, or half of it, can be spent on mitigation planning and planning-related activities. And that’s per applicant. Under the tribal set-aside, we’ve applied the same cap of $600,000 for C&CB activities. So each tribal applicant can apply for up to $600,000 for capacity- and capability-building activities, and within that $600,000, up to $300,000 of that can be used for mitigation planning and planning-related. In the national competition, we have a cap of $50 million federal share per subapplication. So each subapplication for a mitigation project that’s going to be submitted at the national competition can be for up to $50 million. And there’s no limit on the number of project subapplications that can be submitted per applicant. Next slide please.

So in addition to the eligibility requirements that Ryan talked about before, we have one additional for BRIC. And that is that it’s per the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, there’s a requirement that each applicant must have a disaster declared within the past seven years to the opening of the application period. So for example, our application period opens September 20- 30th this year, September 30, 2020. You must have had a disaster declared within the past seven years. I’m very happy to report that all of our states, all of our territories, the District of Columbia and our federally recognized tribes meet this requirement. So all have, are eligible this year for BRIC per the Disaster Recovery Reform Act seven-year disaster requirement. Next slide.

So talking a little bit about the capacity- and capability-building projects that can be applied for in the tribal set-aside and the state and territory allocation. There are four different project types. They include building codes, and this is a project that could help if a community did not have code, could help put together the work to adopt a code if a community does or a state does have a code but wants to better it, it could help do that. Or it do the enforcement. We also have partnerships. We talked about that partnerships are one of the six guiding principles of BRIC, so we wanted to put a lot of intention. And we understand a lot of communities say, I’d love to have a partner, how do I get a partner? So we have put funding towards that effort to help communities find partners to increase their resiliency. Just like Brandon, we have project scoping as well, which is what was formerly known as advance assistance. And this is seed money to help put together a project application for future submittals. And then planning and planning-related activities. BRIC is supportive of mitigation planning, and so you can apply for either the creation, the update of a 201 mitigation plan, or planning-related activities, where it might be updating, implementing or integrating your plan with other planning mechanisms. What I really want to point to is we have a program support material which offers a lot more information on each of these four types. That’s available, or more information is available, on our website and in the resource guide that you see in the downloadable, in the download pod. That the PSMs also will talk about where you apply or what kind of application you use in FEMA GO. So if you’re interested in applying for any of these four project types, please be sure to check out those PSMs, or program support materials. Next slide.

So I always get a question of, well what kind of projects are going to be eligible under BRIC for that national competition? So what I want to start with is, the eligible activities that were, or the projects that were eligible under PDM, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, are still eligible under BRIC. You’ll find a list of those in the 2015 HMA, or Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Guidance. In addition to those, we’ve added additional project types. So for example, the project scoping, the building code activities, the additional activities that we’ve had for wildfire and wind that were under Section 1205, and early earthquake warning, which was brought to us from the DRRA Section 1233. At the end of the day, we want to encourage innovation. So with that, what a project must be is those things to the right, or that blue box that’s on the right. Which is it must be cost-effective, and that’s done through a FEMA benefit cost analysis module. It must reduce or eliminate the risk and damages from future natural hazards. If it’s a construction project, it must meet one of the latest two consensus codes, so for example if constructing a building that would be the 2015 or 2018 international building code. It must align with Hazard Mitigation Plan. We have that planning requirement that Ryan mentioned. And at both the applicant and subapplicant level. And it must meet the environmental and historic preservation requirements. An additional bullet I have on here I want to talk about for just a second is pre-award cost. One change we have in the BRIC Program is the timing of pre-award cost. So pre-award costs are those costs that can be incurred prior to award to help put the project together. Not for the implementation of the project but helping maybe with design or benefit cost analysis or environmental permitting. There used to be a requirement or a limitation that those costs cannot be incurred before the opening of the application period. We have removed that limitation. Those costs can be incurred at any time prior to award. Once again though, you do not receive those unless you receive the award or your project actually gets approved. But we think that is a gamechanger because it allows a longer lead-out time to be able to start putting together an application. Next slide.

So as we talk about the projects for the national competition, we have 200-point system that is broken into what we’re calling technical criteria and qualitative criteria. I’ll talk about the technical criteria first. These are eight different priorities of the program and they equal 100 points. In each of these criteria, it’s either a yes or a no. So like for example, with infrastructure, you either get the 20 points or you get zero points. We have a program support material that is going to give you lots of detail, I want to make sure that you, if you’re submitting projects to the national competition, it is a roadmap to how to score these 200 points. So there’s one for the 100 points for technical criteria. It’s going to tell you exactly what we’re meaning by each of these criteria or what the requirement is to get the points. It’s also going to tell you how to put that information into your FEMA GO application. So just quickly walking through them for today, we are looking for projects that protect infrastructure, and that is worth 20 points. We are looking at projects that mitigate against the risk of one or more of FEMA’s community lifelines. So these are mitigation projects, so natural hazard mitigation projects, that also protect a lifeline like transportation. That’s worth 15 points. We want to see how you are incorporating nature-based solutions--were they considered, does your project use one or more nature-based techniques, and if it does have one or more nature-based techniques, that’s worth 10 points. We want to look at the applicant, so at the applicant level, has there been adoption of a mandatory building code? So is the 2015 or 2018 international building code and international residential code been adopted by the applicant? If it has, they get 20 points. Then looking at the subapplicant level, does the subapplicant have a building code effectiveness grading schedule rating of 1 to 5? And if they do, that’s 15 points. In addition to the PSM for technical criteria, we also have the PSM for building codes. And there’s more information in that PSM, if you do not know your BCEGS, or building code effectiveness grading schedule rating, you can find more information there. If the application has previously or results from a previous advance assistance award from FEMA, that gets 10 points. If our subapplicant is a small and impoverished community, that’s five points. And if the subapplication has an increased nonfederal cost share, so traditionally our programs are 75/25 (75% federal, 25% nonfederal), if it has larger than 25%, then you get the nonfederal you get five points for an increased nonfederal cost share. Next slide.

The other 100 points of our competition, so once again it’s a 200-point system, 100 points for technical criteria the 100 for qualitative criteria. And this will be judged by a peer-review panel made up of state, local, territorial and tribal partners and other federal agencies. And they will be reviewing the applications against these six criteria. And these are not binary, these are gradient. So each one of these goes in five-part increments. So for example, our biggest point-getter is our risk reduction resiliency effectiveness criterion. And so it would be a gradient level of seven, 14, 21, 28, or 35 points depending on how well the reviewers think the application meets this criteria. Once again, we have a program support material that is dedicated to information regarding the qualitative criteria. It goes through each one of these and lists prompts or questions that the that the panelists will be looking to see how the application answers. So we really want you to read this program support materials so you know exactly what the panelists are going to be looking for to achieve the 200- the 100 points for qualitative criteria. So walking briefly through them, once again, the biggest one is risk reduction resiliency effectiveness, worth 35 points. In that one, we’re looking to see looking for a narrative about how well the project reduces risk, increases resiliency, takes all the benefits including ancillary benefits into account, and is innovative. Then we’re looking at future conditions. That’s worth 15. So how does how did the project when being developed take not only the risk of today but the risk of tomorrow into consideration? And what data or assumptions were used? There’s 15 points for implementation measures. So this is about, do we have confidence that the project that’s been submitted can be successfully completed with the resources and staff that have been listed in the application? Fifteen points then for population impacted. So we want to know the percentage of the community’s population that will benefit from the project, as well as how were different socially vulnerable groups both was that looked at both either positively or negatively might be impacted by the program or by the project. We have five points for outreach activities. So how has there been engagement with the community on the project and how has the planning process been included or how has the mitigation plan been used in developing this project? And then 15 points for leveraging partners. What kind of partners were brought in to assist, either with the development of the application or will assist with the development of the or the implementation of the project? Is it technical services, is it communication or technical expertise, is it potentially of a partner that is helping with the non-federal cost share? Next slide.

Another piece of our program that is outside of the $500 million that we’re really excited about is our non-financial direct technical assistance. So this is new for us, and what it is, is it’s the idea that for some communities that may not have the capacity or capability to put together an application, but have needs, this is a way for them to get some direct technical assistance from FEMA. For the first year of BRIC, we’re looking at doing 10 up to 10 communities, which will be one per FEMA region. We have, once again, program support material or PSM that explains the direct technical assistance piece of the program. It’s going to talk about what are the different things you can apply for, what the process is for how to apply, it is not completing an application, it is writing a letter of intent and submitting it to an email. And then it also talks about the commitment and some of the criteria we will use when trying when selecting the 10 communities. We have left the aperture open that you can ask for a lot of different things as long as it is solving or helping to create a solution that the community has around the area of natural hazard risk reduction community resiliency. Next slide.

So these are some of the priorities that FEMA will use when selecting the communities for the direct technical assistance. We’ll look at, have you received a HMA award in the past five years? We’ll look at, are you a tribal community? Are you a small impoverished community? And do you demonstrate a compelling need? So once again, this is non-financial direct technical assistance, so there’s not a budget required. This will come in the form of hands-on technical assistance by either FEMA or one of its partners. Next slide.

Another new element that we’ve added to our program is the idea of Go and No-Go milestones. So these will be included in the projects that are submitted to the national competition. And this is that throughout the schedule, you will determine at least one Go/No-Go milestone where we FEMA will track at least one Go…

Or you may need some more information like the final design to be able to produce the final budget. So what we are doing is we are allowing those projects to come forward in BRIC. The idea is that you would put the entire project into FEMA GO, but you would label which part is Phase I versus Phase II, with Phase I being the soft cost to get ready for construction and then Phase II being the construction. In your budget you would want to make sure that as you label those line items, you label if it is Phase I cost or Phase II cost. And then if your project is approved, you would basically get the funding for Phase I to finish the design, finish all the work needed for construction approval and then once that is submitted and approved, you would then move to the construction and those monies would be obligated. This is different than project scoping, with the project scoping being just for the soft cost. It doesn't have the tie to the construction budget. And the way I look at it is project scoping is when you have less of an idea or need to do more work. Phasing is where you have a pretty solid idea of what needs to be done, you’re conceptually there, you just need to move to final. We also don't have a limit on phased projects. So where the project scoping is kept to the $600,000 in the C&CB activities, phase projects do not have that cap. The just fall under the $50 million cap for the project competition or the national competition. Next slide.

So that wraps up my brief BRIC NOFO overview. But before we get to the questions and answers, I want to talk about some next steps as you move to starting your application. So one, we are using the new FEMA Grant Outcomes or FEMA GO, that is our new web-based application system. And you’re going to see here a link to how to get on FEMA GO's portal. There’s also a link there for where you can look at FEMA guides and resources to learn more. And most importantly, the helpline and the toll-free number. So if you have questions about FEMA GO, where you can go get more information. So as a reminder, our application period opens on September 30, 2020. Applications must be received in FEMA GO by January 29, 2021 at 3 P.M. Eastern time. We always suggest that you work on submitting your applications prior to the deadline. For example, you will see there that if you are experiencing technical problems that are outside of your control, that are going to potentially prohibit you from being able to submit your application on time, those must be identified and notified to FEMA no later than January 27, 3 P.M. Eastern time of 2021. Next slide.

So this is just a cap here of all those program support materials that Brandon and I have talked about. You’ll also find as we both stated in the download pod there’s a resource document for BRIC and for FMA that has more information about each of these and has links as well. Next slide.

And then just to cap us up, here’s some additional resources. Most importantly, the websites for both FMA and BRIC, as well as the helplines for FEMA GO, benefit cost analysis, technical feasibility and effectiveness, historic preservation and environmental compliance, and just our in general program helpline. Next slide.

So at this point I’m going to turn it back over to Ryan so we can begin our questions and answers section. Thank you.

Ryan Janda: Good afternoon and thank you for your time today as we’ve been discussing the Flood Mitigation Assistance and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Notices of Funding Opportunity. Before we start getting into questions, I want to make sure we have Camille and Brandon on the line. Camille, are you on the line?

Camille Crain: I am, Ryan!

Brandon Sweezea: And this is Brandon.

Ryan Janda: Brandon’s on? Great, thanks, guys. So we received many questions. And we’ve been, I've been trying to categorize them and make sure that we are able to get to as many of them as we possibly can in the next 30 minutes. We are going to start first with Camille, and it’s a question about subapplicants and applicants, as well as subapplications and applications. Can you explain the differences between them, Camille?

Camille Crain: Sure. I will start with an applicant. So an applicant is the organization that can apply directly to FEMA. That is made up of states, territories, the District of Columbia and federally recognized tribes. A subapplicant, are organizations that apply to the applicant. And that can include state agencies, territories, federally recognized tribes and tribal agencies as well as local units of government, whether that’s counties, cities, parishes, whatever it might be. A subapplicant completes a subapplication and that is a subapplication is for the actual project for the mitigation activity. The applicant completes an application. An application is where they attach all the subapplications they are going to submit to FEMA. So that’s where, for example, a state would receive those subapplications in, they would review them, they would prioritize them, select which ones they want to forward to FEMA for funding, attach those to their application and then that is what gets submitted to FEMA.

Brandon Sweezea: Hey Ryan, are you muted?

Camille Crain: So Brandon, while we’re waiting for Ryan to come back on the phone, can you tell us a little more about management costs? We’ve gotten a lot of questions in about state management costs.

Brandon Sweezea: Yeah, absolutely Camille. So I’m going to talk about management costs first under BRIC and then under FMA. So under BRIC, management costs are broken down between the applicant and subapplicant. So if you are the applicant as Camille has pointed out, we have states and federally recognized tribes, so they are eligible for 100% of the cost share up to 10%, sorry let me restart. So of the total project costs that are submitted and awarded, up to 10% of those can be, up to 10% of that amount can be awarded for state management cost. And the federal amount that is available is 100, the cost share is 100% federal share. There is no local or state cost share that is required for those management costs. And a state management cost has to be submitted as a separate subapplication with the state's application that’s submitted. For the subapplicant, they can receive up to 5% of the calculated total project cost, and again it’s paid for 100% federal cost share. And to submit for subapplicant management costs you just have to put a line item in your budget. You don't have to submit a separate subapplication like the applicants do. Under FMA, it’s the same sort of thing except the cost shares are pretty different. So the state management cost share is dependent on the federal cost share that’s available. It’s dependent on the type of project or types of properties that are submitted under the application. So for severe repetitive loss structures as are provided in the definition in the presentation, that is funded at 100% federal cost share. So if you have a project that is all SRL properties and that’s the only subapplication that that state gets, then it can get state management cost with 100% federal cost share, and again it’s the same thing, it’s 10% of the total project cost is the calculation for the funding cap. If there are RL properties in that, then you would only get, for that calculation for that part, you would only get up to 90% federal cost share and have to come up with the 10% nonfederal share. And then if there are any other types of projects that are not SRL or RL, then it’s the traditional 75% federal match to the 25% local state cost share. For the subapplicant management costs under FMA, oh sorry for state management costs also under FMA you also have to submit a separate subapplication in FEMA GO in order to apply for those dollars. If the request, and then under the subapplicant management cost, you again you just do the same thing, you just make a line item as you would in BRIC. So you wouldn't submit a separate subapplication, you would just make a line item. And that again is for up to the cap is 5% of the total project cost associated with those, the total project submitted by that subapplicant.

Ryan Janda: Yeah, thanks Camille, and Brandon for pitching it especially when my power flickered in my house over here. The next question goes to Camille. It’s from Amelia. The question is, Camille, if a subapplicant doesn't have a BCEGS rating and cannot get one in time, can they default to the state’s applicant’s rating, similar to the IBC criteria in the BRIC NOFO technical evaluation criteria?

Camille Crain: So yes, looking at the technical criteria, we have two different criteria points or criterion points regarding building codes. There’s one about an applicant having, it’s one for the applicant’s building code, and that is that the applicant has, and so that’s a state, territory, District of Columbia or federally recognized tribe that’s applying directly to FEMA, must have an IBC and IRC adoption of either the IBC or IRC from 2015 or 2018, that’s the international building code or the international residential code. As it relates to the BCEGS, that’s at the subapplicant level. So for example, local government. If the subapplicant does not have a BCEGS rating, they can get a free survey, and that should be completed by the time, if you ask for it now, should be completed by the time that the application is to be done. If you look on our support material, and there is a resource guide in the download pod, yes in the file download pod that gives some information. And you’re going to find those on the BRIC website, FEMA .gov/BRIC. The technical criteria PSM goes into details on that. It also talks about where to contact, if you would like to, either you don’t have a BCEGS score or you don’t know your BCEGS score. We cannot default, if there is not a BCEGS rating for the community, we cannot default to the applicant’s BCEGS score. The applicant’s BCEGS score is generally a roll-up of all communities that have BCEGS scores. We really want to see what the building code effectiveness or how that subapplicant is, has implemented building codes in their community where that project is going to be done. So we need to get the points, the subapplicant has to provide their BCEGS score.

Ryan Janda: Thank you very much, Camille. Brandon, the next question goes to you and it’s from Samantha. Do the properties have to be in the Special Flood Hazard Area?

Brandon Sweezea: This is a great question, Samantha. So under FMA, properties don't have to be located in the Special Flood Hazard Area, or SFHA, the FEMA acronym that we use for it. That being said, though, BCA eligibility will be very difficult to pass for projects that are not in the SFHA. To be eligible for all of our federal grants, you have to, for all of our FEMA grants, you have to have a benefit cost ratio, so those benefits are calculated for the project, are equal one to one with the project cost and which include not only the construction, the development costs, all of that but also the future maintenance. So all of those calculated benefits have to equal out. And so with a lot of, with our flood mitigation projects typically what they do is they have documented flooding activity, historical flooding, losses on the property. And they plug that into the BCA in order to get it to pass BCA eligibility. If you're outside of the SFHA you may not have substantiated damages that’ll be able to get you past the BCR. Further, one of the big tools that we have available to make, to allow projects to be cost-effective for our BCAs are precalculated benefits that are available for acquisition and elevation project types. And so this precalculated benefit is only available for those acquisition elevation projects that are located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. If the total acquisition project costs are less than $275,000, or for elevations $175,000, then that precalculated benefit waiver can be used to meet your BCA requirement. But again, those projects, those properties would have to be located in the SFHA in order for them to use that waiver. SO in short, yes, they would be eligible but it would be very difficult from what we have seen to pass BCA. One last thing is that the properties must be insured by the National Flood Insurance Program, must have a current NFIP policy in force. And our first check is at the beginning of the application period in September.

Ryan Janda: Thanks a lot, Brandon. The next question comes from Amelia again, I think. She asks, and this is for Camille, hey Camille, can you explain the impact of the go/no-go milestones and the potential for POP extensions, large-scale infrastructure projects that will struggle to meet a 36-month schedule? Would like to understand more about the go/no-go milestones, how many, are they standardized?

Camille Crain: So the go/no-go milestones are in the competition projects for BRIC. You must identify at least one, preferably more, go/no-go milestones and you tie those to what are the major milestones in the project. So as you build out a work schedule, you’ll have a series of milestones and you’re going to identify which ones of those are major that you want to hit. Is there potential? We know things happen and that’s just the nature of our business, especially when you’re dealing with weather. So yes, there is potential for extension, if there is justifiable cause of a no-go milestone. But really, the point is that for these infrastructure projects especially that are more complicated and take longer to complete, we want to make sure those projects are continually moving. As it relates to the period of performance, cause period of performance is different than the go/no-go milestones. The period of performance for BRIC is 36 months from the date of the first, from the federal award, and that federal award is made when the first sub-award is approved, so it’s 36 months later. There is the ability in BRIC, as you’re looking at those larger infrastructure projects in your subapplication, you can request a longer period of performance. So you can put in your work schedule if you think that project is going to take longer than 36 months, fill out that in the work schedule and in the scope of work. As FEMA is reviewing the project, we have to see if that is justifiable and we do have the ability to have a longer award period of performance if justified.

Ryan Janda: Thanks, Camille. The next question goes to Brandon. And the question is from Steve. Brandon, here's the question: Will FEMA be releasing a spreadsheet of RL and SRL properties that qualify for reduced estimated cost shares as they have in the past?

Brandon Sweezea: Hi Steve, yeah, thank you very much for that question. So the severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss lists that we send out are essential for communities to develop applications that mitigate our most high risk NFIP insured properties that have repetitive flood claims. With that, every year we send out a list but it is, because these lists do contain sensitive, personally identifiable information, there is a lot of hoops that have to, that states have to jump through in order to acquire these lists. So what we have done is, in the past year we have really tried to enhance or improve efficiency of it and really reduce some of the hassles involved. And so last year our ISAA, the information sharing access agreement, was developed so that it had instead of a one-year, a three-year shelf life. So of all the states that submitted an ISAA last year, they are good to get the SRL and RL lists, so the lists that contain all of those repetitive loss properties on it, automatically this year. We won’t have to do another ISAA for them. With states that did not complete it last year, we are still working through the ISAA process to get a 2020 agreement together. And we are working with our privacy staff to streamline that. In regards to your question about where is the list, because last year, Pivot came online which is our new system for which policy claims, NFIP policyholder information can be located, there is different data requirements and how the data and the columns come into play. So I’m, we are working with the FIMA insurance side of the house who controls all of this data. And they have been working on developing those SRL and RL lists and we are under review of the first draft that’s come back based on these new system requirements. I imagine that we will have, in the next few weeks, lists to send out, and we will be sending them out to those states that did complete an ISAA last year. Please be in touch with your state hazard mitigation officer. And if you are a state hazard mitigation officer, be in touch with the Region, as will have the updated ISAA or if there isn’t a new process, available if you do not complete an ISAA last year. With that, we should have those lists developed soon. But again, because of Pivot requirements, there is a little bit of a delay.

Ryan Janda: Thanks, Brandon. I’m going to flip it over to Camille now. Camille, we have a question from Thomas. Are power generation, energy power, cogeneration for wastewater treatment plants, food production storage, etc. eligible?

Camille Crain: Thanks, Ryan. So Thomas, if you notice in our competition criteria, the supporting of FEMA’s community lifelines is one of those criterion points. And one of FEMA's community lifelines is energy. So as we are looking at doing mitigation projects that reduce the effects from natural hazards, energy resiliency for facilities and communities is important. Whether that’s from wildfire, wind, rain, whatever it might be. An example of an energy resiliency project that Ryan and I got to tour last summer was the Blue Lake Rancheria tribe facility in Northern California. They really looked at a whole energy solution for their facilities, looking at using the combination of microgrid generators and battery backups. So that’s what we are really looking for in the BRIC program is eligibility. Is definitely if something is, will help in energy resiliency for that facility, like I said, or community facility I think is what you're talking about with the wastewater treatment, what’s the energy need there, what’s that energy resiliency to mitigate the effects of natural hazards?

Ryan Janda: Thanks a lot, Camille. I’m going to throw it over to Brandon now. Brandon, a question from Serena. Can you please confirm an approved local hazard mitigation plan is required for any project proposed?

Brandon Sweezea: Yes. A local hazard mitigation plan is required, and it has to be approved prior to the application, application closing date I believe.

Ryan Janda: You are correct. Just to follow up with what Brandon is saying, thanks a lot, Brandon. For any of the competitive mitigation projects or any other kind of structural project in BRIC, and any project submitted to the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, a local hazard mitigation plan is required at the time of application submission and at the time of awarding of the sub-award for that project. So definitely if you are really close to having your local mitigation plan complete, you are going to be, I don't know if you are going to quite make it this go-round because our application period start date is September 30, and it usually takes a little bit of time. If your local hazard mitigation plan is with the FEMA regional office for review right now, you might want to ask them what the status of that local hazard mitigation plan is right now. Thanks a lot, Brandon. The next question for Camille. Camille, I have two questions about C&CB activity and building codes. Here's the first one and I will ask you the second one after this one. So the first one is from Joy. The question is: C&CB activity: would improvement of local BCEGS ratings be considered an eligible activity under C&CB?

Camille Crain: Hi, Joy, absolutely. So as I was talking about before, we have a series of program support materials, you saw them listed on the, on one of the slides that listed all of the program support material. There’s also, there is a file download like I said for the resource guide. One of them is particularly on building code project types that can be submitted to, as one of the C&CB activity types. So yes, that is eligible and we have a full 2 - 3 page document about what is an eligible building code project type. I encourage everyone to check out our program support materials that we have for both FMA and BRIC.

Ryan Janda: Thanks, Camille. The second question from Steve is, will BRIC pay for staff of existing building code enforcement offices to enforce statewide building codes?

Camille Crain: So as you look at the building code work that you could apply for under BRIC, we can't just straight fund staff. So what I mean by that is, we can't have an application come in and says I need two people to run my department please fund them for the next three years. What we can do is have deliverables that you talk about, this is the work that needs to happen in our building code department, whether it is having code, improving code or enforcing that code and have deliverables. And work hours can go towards that, but it can't just be flat hiring people.

Ryan Janda: Thanks, Camille. I have one more, maybe there’s more down the road, but at least one more for code enforcement from Steve again. The question is, are BCAs using FEMA software required for code enforcement activities?

Camille Crain: That’s a great question. I’m glad it was asked. So anything under the C&CB project types, so that included planning, building codes, partnership and project scoping. None of those require a FEMA BCA or benefit cost analysis be included with the subapplication.

Ryan Janda: Thank you. Hey Brandon, here's a question from Richard. He asks: How can I find out if my community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program?

Brandon Sweezea: Yeah, that’s a great question. So communities are documented on, in what they call the National Flood Insurance Program community status book. And in that status book they provide communities that are participating in the NFIP, does not participate in the NFIP, and whether they are suspended or sanctioned. The community status playbook is updated every day, and it’s available on FEMA.gov. If you do a quick Google search for FEMA community status book, it’s the first result, if you use Bing it’s the second, at least for me. But if you do that search it will pop right up and I think it is also available as one of our resources. You can easily find your status there. In regards to FMA, all subapplicants submitting applications must be participating and in good standing with the community, with the NFIP. This may be a little bit different if you have gone through the HMGP program, our disaster grant program, as only those projects that are located in the SFHA have to have, be from communities in good standing and if it’s outside of the SFHA then there is no check for that. So just one thing to note under the FMA program, that all communities must be participating and in good standing in order to be a subapplicant.

Ryan Janda: Thanks a lot, Brandon. The next question goes to Camille. Camille, question from Nadia. She asks, are applications with a higher than 25% nonfederal match scored better?

Camille Crain: So an increased nonfederal cost is part of our competition criteria. It is worth five points. So if subapplications come in with a higher nonfederal cost share than 25%, they will be awarded those five points.

Ryan Janda: Thanks a lot, Camille. Don't mind me for just a second. Here's a question, hey Camille, while you are right there, here’s another question. This one is from Cecile, and the question is: Should a state emergency management agency apply for the state/territory allocations? Or can another state agency partner with the state? Can they apply?

Camille Crain: So another state agency outside of the emergency management agency in the state can serve as a subapplicant to the applicant, which would be the state emergency management, or agency. So the state emergency management agency will get that allocation of $600,000 and they can have subapplications apply to that $600,000. So it would be possible for another state agency to apply as a subapplicant under BRIC to the applicant, which is usually the state emergency management agency.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Camille. Camille, again, since you're right there, from Joan. This is a long one, so prepare yourself. Can you please explain the difference between the state versus national competition? We are a local government water agency, so can we apply for the state BRIC program that’s at $600,000 per project, and can we also apply for the national competition? And is that $50 million per project or is that the total available under the entire program?

Camille Crain: So a subapplicant, a local community in your case: yes, you could apply to both the state allocation and to the national competition. The state or territory allocation of $600,000, the state, territory or District of Columbia will decide how they want to use that $600,000. It can be a combination of those C&CB project types, the planning, building code, project scoping and partnership as well as mitigation projects. So they will decide how they want to spend that and then they will put forward $600,000 worth of applications toward, or subapplications towards that. As it relates to the competition, the state, territory, federally recognized tribe, District of Columbia, those applicants can submit an unlimited number of applications, or subapplications I should say, to the national competition. Each of those subapplications cannot be for more than $50 million federal share. But they can apply for multiple of those. So in total, what we have for the nation right now is $446 million for that competition. But we can receive an unlimited number of subapplications to the national competition worth up to $50 million apiece.

Ryan Janda: Thank you, Camille. Just going through this really quick. We had a couple of questions about municipalities and submission and submitting the grants to FEMA. So just as a reminder, as Camille was talking about earlier I think, there are applicants and subapplicants. Applicants are usually state emergency management offices for the BRIC program. Typically state emergency management offices and sometimes the water development board or an equivalent natural resources department for the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. Territories are very similar and federally recognized tribes can also be an applicant. If you are from a local jurisdiction or a local government, you really need to get in touch with your state offices. For BRIC, it’s typically out of the state emergency management agency, and again for FMA, it’s typically either the emergency management agency or maybe like in the state of Texas, the Texas water development board. To find out what their due date is, for you as a local community, sometimes that deadline is 30 days before the application deadline and sometimes it is 60 days or more. So get in touch with that office. If you are looking for FEMA's typical point of contact in a state, we have a listing of state hazard mitigation officers on our website. The easiest way to find it, don’t laugh too hard, is to go to Google or some search engine and type in FEMA and then space SHMO, S-H-M-O for state hazard mitigation officer. On that page, contact information is made available for all of the state hazard mitigation officers in the country. And we are running out of time really quick so I want to remind everyone to make sure you answer the polling question that is going to be made available to you right now, if it hasn’t been up there already. I had a power glitch, things aren’t working quite as perfectly as I would like them to, but please make sure you answer the polling question. I’d also like to say that we’re sorry we couldn't get to all your questions. If you are from a local government, please make sure you reach out to your state agencies and ask your question to them. If you are from a state agency, territory agency or federally recognized tribe, please reach out to your FEMA regional office and the regional tribal liaison with any questions that you might have that we haven't been able to get to today. We really thank you for your time. We have done a tremendous amount of work here at FEMA, and the reason why this has successful is because of the partnership we’ve had with all of you, for the many months and years that we have had together. So again, thank you for your time, we appreciate your effort and we look forward to just an excellent application cycle. Thank you and have a great day.