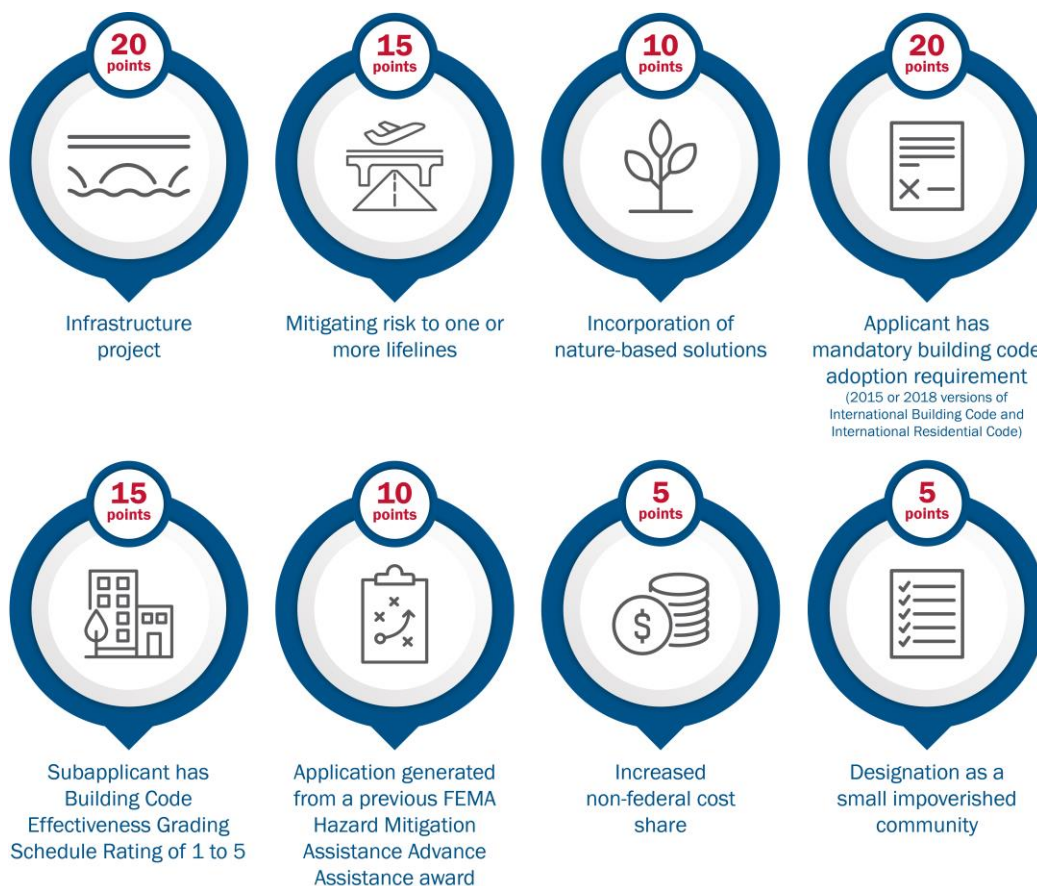


BRIC Technical Criteria

This program support material provides detailed information about the eight technical evaluation criteria that will be used in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) national competition. The conditions that must be met to receive the point allotment for each criterion are described below. Additionally, application instructions are included for each respective criterion to guide information submission in FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO).



BRIC National Competition Technical Criteria and Point Values

Background

As described in Section E.1.a (Application Review Information – Application Evaluation Criteria, Programmatic Criteria) of the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), FEMA will use technical evaluation criteria to score subapplications submitted to the national competition. As referenced in the NOFO:



FEMA

“If needed based on the number of subapplications submitted to the BRIC program, FEMA will use the technical evaluation criteria scoring as a program priority screening tool for the qualitative evaluation review. FEMA will send subapplications valued up to twice the amount of available funding to the BRIC qualitative evaluation panel. FEMA will ensure that at least one eligible subapplication from each Applicant will be sent to the qualitative evaluation panel for review.

The technical evaluation criteria offer incentives for elements valued by FEMA. In order to ensure transparency and efficiency in competition project selection, technical evaluation criteria are binary point awards; projects either receive the full points allotted or zero points for each criterion.”

FEMA developed several of the technical evaluation criteria based upon factors it is required to consider by statute in addition to comments received through summer of 2019 stakeholder engagement efforts. For example, comments indicated that stakeholders strongly support prioritizing projects that integrate nature-based solutions, incentivizing building code improvements, and promoting previous Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Advance Assistance efforts.

For more information on BRIC and stakeholder engagement efforts, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/bric>. Application instructions are included below for each respective criterion to guide information submission in FEMA GO. More information on navigating the new FEMA GO system and the full application process can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go>.

Technical Criterion 1: Infrastructure Project (20 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the subapplication must explain how the project mitigates natural hazard risk to critical physical structures, facilities, and systems that provide support to a community, its population, and its economy. The following statements are provided as examples that a community might submit in a subapplication to describe how their project is an infrastructure project:

- Through the proposed nature-based solution that will reduce risk from high-intensity rainfall events, we will be providing enhanced protection to our wastewater treatment plant, which supplies fresh water to our community of 30,000 people.
- Retrofitting our food bank to have stronger structural integrity and the ability to operate off-grid will ensure a critical service in our community can remain operational following an earthquake.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Scope of Work Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 2: Mitigating Risk to One or More Lifelines (15 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the subapplication must indicate that the project will mitigate risk to at least one of the seven Community Lifelines to enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions essential to human health and safety or economic security.

Community Lifelines are the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function. More information on Community Lifelines can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/lifelines> and in the [Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit](#). The seven Community Lifelines are shown in the graphic below.



FEMA Community Lifelines

To better understand how mitigation projects can incorporate Community Lifelines concepts, please refer to the Mitigation Action Portfolio (MAP) at <https://www.fema.gov/bric>. The following MAP projects offer examples for each of the seven Community Lifelines:

- Safety and Security: Spring Creek (South Dakota) Drainage Improvement Project
- Food, Water, Shelter: Renovation of Alexander Theater (St. Croix)
- Health and Medical: Mercy Hospital (Missouri) Rebuild
- Energy (Power & Fuel): Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe (California) Microgrid
- Communications: ConnectArlington (Virginia) Communication Infrastructure Upgrades
- Transportation: La Guardia Airport (New York) Flood Control
- Hazardous Materials: Washington DOT Landslide Mitigation Action Plan and Rail Corridor Improvements

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Scope of Work Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 3: Incorporation of Nature-Based Solutions (10 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, the subapplication must indicate and describe how the project incorporates one or more nature-based solutions, which are sustainable environmental management practices that restore, mimic, and/or enhance nature and natural systems or processes and support natural hazard risk mitigation as well as economic, environmental, and social resilience efforts. Nature-based solutions use approaches that include, but are not limited to, restoration of grasslands, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, dunes, and reefs; living shorelines; soil stabilization; aquifer storage and recovery; and bioretention systems.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Scope of Work Section and Cost Effectiveness Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 4: Applicant has Mandatory Building Code Adoption Requirement (20 points)

For Applicants and subapplicants to receive the point allotment for this criterion, the Applicant must have adopted codes based on either the 2015 or 2018 versions of both the **International Building Code (IBC)** and the **International Residential Code (IRC)** model codes published by the International Code Council (ICC). The following adoption status combinations are the only ones that qualify for the point allotment:

- 2015 version of both the IBC and IRC
- 2018 version of both the IBC and IRC

- 2015 version of the IBC and 2018 version of the IRC
- 2018 version of the IBC and 2015 version of the IRC

If an Indian tribal government (federally recognized) has not adopted the code as listed above, the tribe must demonstrate alternative compliance with IBC and IRC (2015 or 2018) or be covered under another jurisdiction's (state or territory) code adoption status in order to receive the point allotment.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Evaluation Section of FEMA GO. Additionally, Applicants/subapplicants should attach documentation verifying adoption status. Information about Applicant adoption status may be found in the following examples of reference documents, which also represent acceptable adoption status verification documents that can be included as an attachment to the application:

- State, territory, or tribal legislation or code that demonstrates adoption status
- Insurance Services Office's (ISO's) *National Building Code Assessment Report – Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule* (2019 Edition)
- ICC's *Our Most Up to Date Adoption Chart: State Adoptions* located under the "Code Adoption Resources" tab of the ICC Advocacy page (<https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/>)

Technical Criterion 5: Subapplicant has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Rating of 1 to 5 (15 points)

The BCEGS is an independent assessment of a community's building code adoption and enforcement activities, resulting in a score of 1 (best) to 10. For more information on BCEGS, please visit the ISO-Mitigation website at <https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>.

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant at the local level (including those located in territories) must have a BCEGS rating between 1 and 5 (considered by FEMA as a disaster-resistant code) when the application is submitted. To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a state or territory acting as a subapplicant must:

- Have a class ranking between 1 and 5 on both the Commercial and Residential BCEGS State Averages as indicated on the respective State Page in ISO's *National Building Code Assessment Report – Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule* (2019 Edition); or
- Submit a BCEGS score provided by ISO (for territories and the District of Columbia)

Subapplicants at the state or territory level may submit documentation verified by ISO that provides more updated information on their BCEGS rating, if applicable. BCEGS scores for tribal Applicants/subapplicants are required but can be dependent on the relationship between the local municipality and the tribal entity that determines how building code requirements are managed.

The best source for relevant information at the community level is the local building inspector or code enforcement office.

Bureau States

Bureau states have their own insurance rating organization that is not part of ISO. To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant at the state or territory level for the five Bureau states not included in ISO's *National*

Building Code Assessment Report – Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (2019 Edition) must provide a state-verified BCEGS score at the state level. For subapplicants at the local level within Bureau states, BCEGS scores should be provided by the state. BCEGS Bureau state contact information is as follows:

Hawaii Insurance Bureau, Inc.
715 South King Street, Suite 320
Honolulu, HI 96813-4118
808-531-2771

Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau, Inc.
5440 Franklin Road, Suite 101
P.O. Box 6430
Boise, ID 83707
208-343-5483

Property Insurance Association of Louisiana
433 Metairie Road, Suite 400
Metairie, LA 70005
504-831-6930

Mississippi State Rating Bureau
2685 Insurance Center Drive
Jackson, MS 39216-5231
or
P.O. Box 5231
Jackson, MS 39296-5231
601-981-2915

Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau
200 1st Avenue W, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119-4219
206-217-9772

If a subapplicant does not have a BCEGS score, a survey to obtain one can be requested. **BCEGS surveys are provided at no cost, do not negatively impact credit ratings, and can take 2 to 4 months to complete. Communities intending to apply for BRIC funding are encouraged to initiate the process as soon as possible.** To request a BCEGS survey, please refer to the submission instructions referenced on the ISO-Mitigation website at <https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>. Questions about the BCEGS survey can be directed to BCEGS_Info@verisk.com.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Evaluation Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 6: Application Generated from a Previous FEMA HMA Advance Assistance Award (10 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant must indicate the project was generated from a previous FEMA HMA Advance Assistance award and the award is directly related to the current proposal. HMA Advance Assistance provides Applicants and subapplicants resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner.¹

This type of grant may have been awarded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), or Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program at any time since HMA's Advance Assistance award inception.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Evaluation Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 7: Increased Non-Federal Cost Share (5 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, a subapplicant must indicate the non-federal cost share exceeds 25 percent.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Budget Section of FEMA GO.

Technical Criterion 8: Designation as a Small Impoverished Community (5 points)

To receive the point allotment for this criterion, local government subapplicants must document their status as a small impoverished community (a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the applicant that is economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80 percent of the national per capita income, based on best available data²). A state, territory, or Indian tribal government (federally recognized) serving as a subapplicant must document the small impoverished status of the community in which the project is planned to receive the point allotment for this criterion.

Population information can be found through the U.S. Census website. For the most current information on the national income, see <http://www.bea.gov>.

Applicants/subapplicants should include this information in the Budget Section in FEMA GO and attach required support documentation.

¹ This definition is derived from the Advance Assistance description on page 22 of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance (HMA Guidance; 2015), which is available at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance-and-addendum-fy15>.

² This definition is derived from the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.