

BRIC Grants Fact Sheet

Overview:

BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) Grants are a funding opportunity for communities provided by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). BRIC Grants aim to support projects that enhance the resilience of communities and critical infrastructure against natural disasters and other hazards. These grants empower communities to invest in projects that improve infrastructure resilience, mitigate risks, and enhance disaster response capabilities.

Berquist Recovery Consulting (BRC) helps communities obtain BRIC grants to protect their citizens and critical infrastructure.

Key BRIC Objectives:

1. **Enhancing Infrastructure Resilience:** BRIC Grants focus on funding projects that strengthen the resilience of infrastructure systems, including buildings, roads, bridges, utilities, and more, against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and other hazards.
2. **Mitigating Risks and Vulnerabilities:** The grants aim to identify and address vulnerabilities in infrastructure, reducing the potential impact of disasters on communities and critical services.
3. **Supporting Comprehensive Planning:** BRIC funding encourages communities to develop and implement comprehensive hazard mitigation plans that prioritize resilience, proactive measures, and long-term sustainability.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for BRIC Grants, the following criteria must be met:

1. Applicants must be state, local, tribal, or territorial governments, or eligible private non-profit organizations.
2. Applicants must be located within the United States or its territories.
3. Applicants must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in place or commit to developing one within the specified timeframe.



Types of Projects Funded:

BRIC Grants support a wide range of projects related to infrastructure resilience, including, but not limited to:

1. Infrastructure hardening and protection measures, such as flood barriers, seismic retrofits, and stormwater management systems.
2. Retrofitting and upgrading existing buildings and critical facilities to withstand natural disasters.
3. Community-wide drainage and flood control projects.
4. Acquisition and relocation of structures in high-risk areas.
5. Implementation of advanced warning systems and early detection technologies.
6. Development and implementation of comprehensive hazard mitigation plans.
7. Promotion of sustainable and green infrastructure solutions.

Application Process:

The application process for BRIC Grants typically involves the following steps:

1. Announcement: FEMA announces the availability of funding and provides guidance on the application process, including important deadlines.
2. Pre-application: Applicants may be required to submit a pre-application to demonstrate project eligibility and feasibility.
3. Full Application: Selected pre-applicants are invited to submit a comprehensive application detailing project specifics, budget, timelines, and expected outcomes.
4. Review and Evaluation: FEMA reviews and evaluates the applications based on predetermined criteria, considering factors such as project feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and alignment with program objectives.
5. Award Decision: Successful applicants are notified of their grant awards, which may require further negotiation and agreement on project details.
6. Project Implementation: Once awarded, grantees can begin implementing their projects in accordance with FEMA guidelines and regulations.



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Funding and Cost Share:

BRIC Grants provide financial assistance to support approved projects. The specific amount of funding available varies from year to year, depending on the federal budget allocation. The cost share requirements are determined based on the size and type of the applicant. Generally, non-federal cost shares for most projects may range from 15% to 75%, depending on the level of socioeconomic distress and other factors.

Conclusion:

BRIC Grants offer a valuable opportunity for communities to enhance their infrastructure resilience and reduce the risks associated with natural disasters and other hazards. By investing in these projects, communities can strengthen their ability to withstand and recover from disasters, ensuring the long-term sustainability and safety of their residents and critical infrastructure.

Getting Help Obtaining BRIC Grants:

Using a consultant like Berquist Recovery Consulting to help obtain BRIC grants can provide significant advantages and increase the likelihood of a successful application. The BRC team has been helping communities across the country recover from disasters for almost two decades.

We know firsthand the incredible costs in suffering, time and dollars that disasters cause. Challenges communities face in the aftermath of disasters impact both the community as a whole, as well as the civic leaders, who are often victims themselves. We extend that expertise to help craft thorough, fundamentally sound BRIC grant applications.

Here are some reasons why someone may consider hiring a consultant like Berquist for help with their BRIC grants:

1. **Expertise and Knowledge:** BRIC grants can be complex, involving intricate application processes, eligibility requirements, and specific guidelines. A consultant who specializes in grant applications and FEMA programs can bring valuable expertise and knowledge to



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- 1.(cont.) navigate through these intricacies. We understand the nuances of the grant process, know how to interpret guidelines, and can offer insights on developing a strong application.
2. Grant Writing Skills: Consultants experienced in securing grants possess strong grant writing skills and know the right things to emphasize. We know how to effectively communicate a project's goals, objectives, and expected outcomes in a compelling manner. Their ability to craft a persuasive narrative can significantly improve the chances of success. Moreover, we can help with developing a clear and comprehensive budget and aligning project activities with the specific requirements of BRIC grants.
3. Strategic Planning: A consultant can assist in developing a strategic approach to maximize the potential of obtaining a BRIC grant. They can help assess the community's needs, identify eligible projects, and prioritize initiatives that align with the grant program's objectives. By providing guidance on project selection, they can ensure that the proposed project addresses the most critical vulnerabilities and demonstrates a strong case for funding.
4. Proposal Review and Feedback: Hiring a consultant allows for an additional layer of review and feedback on the grant proposal. They can conduct a thorough review, identify potential weaknesses or gaps in the application, and provide recommendations for improvement. This critical review process can enhance the quality and competitiveness of the proposal, increasing the likelihood of a successful outcome.
5. Grant Management Support: Once a BRIC grant is awarded, consultants can continue to provide valuable assistance with grant management. They can help ensure compliance with reporting requirements, budget management, and project implementation. Their expertise can help streamline the administrative processes associated with managing the grant, allowing the applicant to focus on successfully executing the project.
6. Time and Resource Efficiency: Applying for grants can be time-consuming, requiring significant effort and resources. Engaging a consultant can alleviate this burden by dedicating their time and expertise to handle the grant application process. This frees up the applicant's resources to focus on their core responsibilities, while the consultant handles the intricacies of the application, increasing efficiency and maximizing the chances of success.

It is crucial to select a reputable and experienced consultant with a proven track record in successfully obtaining grants. BRC has helped communities and not-for-profits in 22 states obtain millions in FEMA funding. Contact us today for a free consultation.

