



FACTSHEET

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SECRETARY

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FEMA Raises Bar for Flood Protection with New FFRMS Rule

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On July 10, [FEMA finalized a rule](#) requiring that projects built using its funds not only take into account previous and current levels of local flood risk, but for the first time consider the future risk of flooding, which is being exacerbated by climate change.

The new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), which takes effect on Sept. 9, 2024, will result in higher-elevated and better-fortified buildings, and could help break the cycle of destruction and reconstruction that has cost taxpayers billions of dollars over the past few decades.

This rule allows FEMA to consider the best available science in making projects and communities more resilient to increased flood conditions. The standard applies to FEMA-funded actions involving new construction, substantial improvement, or repairs to substantial damage. This includes applying to grants under FEMA programs such as Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), as well as grants processed by FEMA's Grants Programs Directorate (GPD) involving grants for preparedness activities.

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FEMA Raises Bar for Flood Protection with New FFRMS Rule *(cont'd)*



FFRMS applies to Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects involving structure elevation, dry floodproofing and mitigation reconstruction. This rule also puts greater emphasis on natural features or nature-based solutions, wherever possible.

“Previous approaches, based on historical data, have become outdated,” FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell said [in remarks to reporters](#). “By using the best available science,” she said, the agency will be strengthened in “protecting federal investments and reducing the risk of damage and loss.”

Expansion of the Floodplain

As climate change and other threats have increased flood risk across much of the United States, the FFRMS allows FEMA to consider the best available and actionable climate science in making projects and communities more resilient to increases in flood conditions due to sea level rise and other environmental changes.

Prior to the FFRMS, FEMA required non-critical projects to be protected to the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood to minimize flood risk. Critical projects, like the construction of fire and police stations, hospitals and facilities that store hazardous materials, had to be protected to the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood. This standard reflected only current flood risk. The FFRMS will increase the flood elevation (how high) and floodplain (how wide) to reflect future, as well as current, flood risk for actions subject to the standard.

“The federal government really has a duty to account for a future flood risk when it’s providing

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FEMA Raises Bar for Flood Protection with New FFRMS Rule *(cont'd)*

funding to build or rebuild homes or infrastructure, because it's using taxpayer dollars," Joel Scata, a senior attorney at the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council and an expert on flood policy told [The Grist](#). Under the new rule, he said, FEMA is "going to be building in a way that's not setting people and infrastructure up for future failure."

Implementing the FFRMS is an important step toward mitigating future flood risk that will benefit communities by allowing them to avoid or recover from future disasters more efficiently and effectively. Communities can protect against future flood risk by building outside of the floodplain, elevating, floodproofing, or using nature-based solutions.

"By using common-sense solutions like elevating or floodproofing critical infrastructure, today's rule will help local communities harness the best in science and engineering to better prepare for flood risks from rising sea levels and damaging storms," said National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi.

ASFPM has been involved in the FFRMS since it was first introduced during the Obama Administration. The recent addition of the [Federal Flood Standard Support Tool](#), which can help anyone determine the FFRMS floodplain (both vertical and horizontal), is a key benefit in the current environment.

"In one respect, having the rule go final this time around, there are resources to support FEMA, applicant and subapplicant compliance with the rule – having the Flood Standard Support Tool is a game changer," said Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Executive Director. "It is great to see strong, implementable FFRMS requirements first from HUD in April and now FEMA. Kudos to the Administration for seeing this through."



CRS Request for Information

In addition to the FFRMS news, FEMA also issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to receive the public's input on potential future changes to the Community Rating System (CRS). This RFI seeks further input on suggested alternative program features and approaches for a redesigned CRS program, based upon public input from the August 23, 2021 "Request for Information on the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System" published in the Federal Register.

FEMA will host virtual public meetings at the times and dates listed in the RFI announcement. All comments are due Sept. 9, 2024.

(Taken from ASFPM - The Insider July 2024)



FALL WORKSHOP



Date: Friday, October 18, 2024

Location: St. Charles Parish

Time: 8:00AM – 12:30PM

Contact: Danielle Honor-Young dhonor@stcharlesgov.net

CECs: Anticipate 3.5 CECs through ASFPM

Register: Coming Soon

Hotel Room Block: Coming Soon



Louisiana Floodplain
Management Association

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Rising Demand for FEMA’s BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding

The [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) program](#), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is the United States’ flagship pre-disaster grant program. Since 2020 BRIC has allocated more than \$5 billion for investment in community projects that can alleviate human suffering and avoid economic losses from wildfire, floods, and other disasters. BRIC is a relatively new and innovative program, and while it receives far [fewer resources](#) than post-disaster mitigation programs in the United States, an examination of its latest round of funding selections demonstrates a growing and unmet need for projects that reduce disaster risk in communities throughout the country.

Headwaters Economics analyzed this year’s selections, building on our [previous analyses](#), to assess trends in the number of applications for BRIC funding, the geographic distribution of funds, and the ability of local governments to secure funding. Our findings show that the demand for pre-disaster, risk reduction investments is increasing. The total funding that communities requested in applications submitted to FEMA exceeded BRIC’s available funds by more than five times in the latest round of funding.

We also found that many [low-capacity communities](#), those with limited city staff and resources, continue to struggle to access BRIC grants:

- Low-capacity counties received 19 times less BRIC funding than high-capacity counties. Across the four rounds of funding, \$3 billion in national competition projects will benefit high-capacity counties, compared to \$157 million for low-capacity counties.
- In the latest round of funding, 67% of BRIC funding is slated for East and West Coast states



Rising Demand for FEMA’s BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding (cont’d)

compared to 33% for Interior and Gulf Coast states.

- BRIC funding earmarked for states is often unallocated. Only 17 states have used 90% or more of their state allocation funds across the four rounds of BRIC funding, and four states (Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, and West Virginia) have used less than half of their total allocated funds.

Demand for BRIC’s pre-disaster, risk mitigation funding is increasing

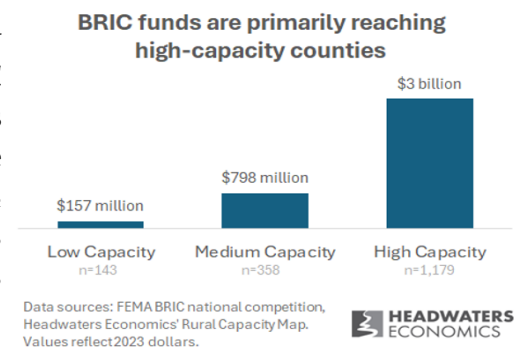
BRIC launched in FY2020 with a total budget of \$500 million, representing a groundbreaking increase in funding for projects that help communities reduce risks from a range of disasters, many of them increasing in frequency and severity. COVID recovery funding bolstered the program in subsequent years – to \$1 billion in FY2021 and \$2.3 billion in FY2022, and then back to \$1 billion in FY2023. Respectively, the corresponding values in 2023 dollars are \$586 million, \$1.1 billion, \$2.4 billion, and \$1 billion.

Each year the requests made by communities to BRIC have increased, outpacing available funding. In this latest funding round, more than 1,200 communities submitted applications to BRIC, totaling more than \$5.7 billion in requests. Of the applications submitted, 718 requests summing to \$1 billion in planning and implementation projects were selected for further review – leaving more than \$4.7 billion in unfunded community needs.

Local government capacity stands out as a barrier to accessing BRIC funding

FEMA’s BRIC program has made critical disaster resilience investments throughout the United States. However, FEMA’s budget for BRIC has been volatile between funding rounds, creating planning challenges for communities that are uncertain about the availability of funds in the future. Applying for BRIC funding is complicated and time intensive, sometimes requiring 12 months or more to assemble components of the application. Many communities lack the capacity to even evaluate their eligibility, much less develop competitive proposals and navigate the application process.

The latest BRIC selections demonstrate that higher-capacity communities continue to be more successful at accessing BRIC funding. For example, many higher-capacity communities have secured multiple national competition awards over the four rounds of funding. New York City has received 14 separate BRIC awards totaling \$429 million, Philadelphia has received five awards totaling \$139 million, and Sacramento has received four awards totaling \$110 million.



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Rising Demand for FEMA’s BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding (cont’d)

Using FEMA’s data, Headwaters Economics compared the national BRIC competition awards to the [Rural Capacity Index](#) to understand how the grant program is benefiting lower-capacity counties. Across the four rounds of BRIC funding, \$3 billion (76%) will benefit higher-capacity counties, \$798 million (20%) will benefit medium-capacity counties, and \$157 million (4%) will benefit low-capacity counties.

FEMA has recognized that capacity barriers limit program access and is working to streamline the BRIC application process, such as by [waiving the benefit-cost analysis requirement](#) for projects less than \$1 million in total cost and expanding its [Direct Technical Assistance](#) program. Notably, in this funding round, FEMA selected 67 communities, three territories, and 23 tribal nations to participate in its Direct Technical Assistance program. These investments in technical assistance are key to improving access to BRIC funding.

BRIC allocations continue to favor coastal states

FEMA designed BRIC to fund large, ambitious resilience projects, and by design, the program will have geographic disparities in any given funding round. However, this analysis found patterns in round after round where the same states – and in some cases the same communities – are securing funding repeatedly, leaving many other regions behind. While BRIC is a relatively small grant program within the larger field of federal competitive grants programs, these patterns reinforce broader trends of [regional disinvestment in the U.S.](#)

In this latest round, every state applied for and received funding from the BRIC program. But 67% of funds went to states on the East and West Coast whereas only 33% of funds went to Interior and Gulf Coast states. While states in the Southwest and Intermountain West (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY) face worsening droughts and wildfires, they struggled to access BRIC funding in this funding cycle. These states requested more than \$443.5 million, but only \$29 million in project costs were selected – approximately 3% of FEMA’s FY2023 budget for BRIC.

The three states that received the most BRIC funding (California, New York, and Louisiana) collectively will receive 50% of BRIC’s total budget. The bottom 30 states collectively secured less than 10% of the total funding.

Across the four funding rounds, patterns of which states can secure funding – or not – are emerging. The two tables below show the five states that have received the most funding and the five states that have received the least funding in each funding round and across all funding opportunities within the BRIC program.

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Rising Demand for FEMA’s BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding (cont’d)

Top 5 BRIC Recipients by Funding Round

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
California	California	California	California
New Jersey	Utah	New York	New York
Washington	New York	Florida	Louisiana
District of Columbia	Florida	Oregon	Pennsylvania
South Carolina	Washington	North Carolina	Maryland

Lowest 5 BRIC Recipients by Funding Round

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Mississippi	Kentucky	West Virginia	Mississippi
Minnesota	Tennessee	Kentucky	Tennessee
Oregon	Rhode Island	New Hampshire	Missouri
Maine	Arizona	Delaware	New Hampshire
Montana	West Virginia	Rhode Island	Arkansas

BRIC funding available to every state often goes unallocated

In addition to its national competition grant program, BRIC has allocation funding for states and U.S. territories. In the first funding round, each state could apply for up to \$600,000 in state allocation funds. The state allocation amount expanded to \$1 million per state in the second round of funding and then \$2 million per state in the third and fourth rounds.

Communities typically use state allocation funding for planning, scoping, or designing projects since most implementation and construction proposals exceed the \$2 million cap. Strategies for applying to the state allocation pool differ from state to state, with most states adopting internal ranking systems to decide which applications to submit to FEMA.

Applications submitted for state allocation funds are far more likely to be funded than in the national competition pool. Over the four funding rounds, the selection rate for state allocation funded applications was 86%, compared to 14% for the national competition.

Despite higher approval rates, many states have struggled to secure their full allocation. Collectively, only 17 states have used 90% or more of their state allocation funds in the four rounds

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Rising Demand for FEMA's BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding (cont'd)

of BRIC funding. In the fourth funding round, eight states received less than half of their state allocation: Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, and Tennessee.

Reasons that a state may not use their full allocation range from submitting applications that do not meet FEMA requirements, requesting only partial amounts of the allocation, and struggling to identify projects that fit within the limited budget. State capacity, including the number of state employees available to help identify projects and assist with grant writing, varies widely and can also limit the ability of states to successfully use their allocated funds.

Solutions to improve access to BRIC and other federal resilience funding

Consistent with Headwaters Economics' prior research on BRIC, this analysis reveals an increasing demand for pre-disaster investments and sheds light on the difficulties that lower-capacity parts of the country face when trying to access resources. Solutions include steps to simplify the application process, reduce the need for communities to find matching funds, increase state assistance and allocations, and build local government capacity and thus their ability to secure funding.

Solutions to improve access to BRIC and other federal pre-disaster programs

Simplify applications and reporting. FEMA has already made changes to its application and selection process to ensure better access to the program, but further streamlining is needed. Simplified application and reporting requirements would enable more rural, disadvantaged, and lower-capacity communities to apply. FEMA can also combine the BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) applications into one form to improve access to both programs. The U.S. Forest Service's Community Wildfire Defense Grant tool offers an example of one federal strategy being used to reduce the administrative burden. This free online resource informs communities whether they are eligible for the grant and, if so, provides the data they will need to fill out the application.

Reduce or waive grant match requirements for more communities. Local match requirements prevent many rural and low-capacity communities from applying for federal grants. While BRIC offers a reduced local match for small, economically disadvantaged communities, the eligibility requirements are too restrictive. Reducing and waiving the local match requirements for more communities would make the program more accessible. State governments can further help lower-capacity communities by creating programs to assist with local match requirements for federal grants. For example, Texas's Infrastructure Resiliency

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Rising Demand for FEMA's BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding (cont'd)

provides funding that communities can use to pay for federal local match costs.

Increase state, territory, and tribal allocations. BRIC's state, territory, and allocation funding ensure more inclusive distributions and also enables smaller but critical mitigation projects – such as culvert replacements and feasibility studies – to be funded without having to compete at the national level. Increasing the state, territory, and tribal allocation portions of BRIC would enable more of these types of projects and expand the geographic reach of BRIC.

Create more technical assistance for low-capacity communities. BRIC's direct technical assistance program is providing critical services to rural and lower-capacity communities, but its reach is limited. FEMA needs more resources and staff to meet the need. FEMA could invest in partnerships with more nonprofit organizations, regional hubs, and navigator programs to ensure that communities with limited resources are able to access federal funding programs. Given the rise in funding and grant programs across federal agencies, FEMA can also take a lead in interagency coordination and help match communities with funding for their projects that reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience.

Solutions for building capacity

Invest in local and state mitigation capacity. States play an outsized role in [BRIC funding distributions](#), but many state agencies lack the staff and resources to assist their rural, disadvantaged, and lower-capacity communities. FEMA's Emergency Management Performance Grant is used by many states to fund local and state emergency management personnel and mitigation efforts, but funding levels have [not kept up with needs](#) and are often unpredictable from year to year. Congress can build local and state capacity for emergency management and mitigation by increasing funding for this program and authorizing it for multiple years. FEMA can also establish cooperative agreements with state governments or regional entities to directly fund more local mitigation staff. Without direct investments in staff, many communities—particularly those that are rural or disadvantaged—will likely be left behind in the nation's efforts to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

Integrate capacity considerations into federal vulnerability maps. Local government [capacity](#) is an important dimension of need that has [not yet been incorporated](#) into federal vulnerability maps, such as [Community Disaster Resilience Zones](#) (CDRZ) and [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST), which help prioritize the allocation of BRIC and other federal funding programs. Accounting for local government capacity in grant and technical assistance prioritization could increase accessibility to programs that struggle to reach many rural and disadvantaged communities.

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Rising Demand for FEMA's BRIC Program Far Exceeds Available Funding (cont'd)

Fund regional organizations and promote multi-jurisdictional projects. Funding regional organizations and projects that leverage urban-rural partnerships to decrease disaster risk can strengthen capacity in low-capacity communities. Regional approaches often face high organizational expenses due to the time and cost of coordinating across government jurisdictions and multiple stakeholders. FEMA and other federal agencies can support these critical approaches by offering more operational funding and providing application templates to encourage regional submissions, including directions for how to conduct a benefit-cost analysis for watershed-scale efforts. State governments can also help support and coordinate regional approaches by providing funding, staff, and other resources.

Address the root causes of low capacity. Low-capacity communities have often experienced decades of disinvestment, resulting in inadequate infrastructure, economic dependence on narrow sectors, and local governments that can barely meet community needs and day-to-day operations. By prioritizing projects that address the root causes of vulnerability and low capacity, BRIC and other federal funding programs can help communities address inequities within their community, generate predictable local revenue needed to maintain infrastructure and adaptation projects, and strengthen trust in local government. Through eligibility and scoring criteria, FEMA can encourage projects that create long-term economic benefits through new jobs, affordable housing, and local amenities like outdoor recreation.

Expand and diversify mitigation funding. Demand for BRIC funding has outstripped the availability of funds in every grant cycle. Levels of BRIC funding have also been unpredictable from year to year, making it hard for communities to develop sound funding strategies. Congress can provide FEMA with consistent funding to alleviate this uncertainty. Further, many rural and lower-capacity communities will continue to struggle to access funding from competitive grants. FEMA and other federal agencies can address these equity issues by allocating mitigation funding through noncompetitive mechanisms such as direct allocations and formula or block grants.



(Taken from Headwaters Economics, July 30, 2024)



NFIP/CRS Corner

Is Your Community's "After Action Report" Meeting CRS Requirements?

The U.S. is experiencing more severe, extreme-weather events, particularly thunderstorms and catastrophic flooding. Summer has gotten off to a very active start. In June, southeast Florida received more than 20 inches of rain; the Upper Midwest saw devastating river flooding from historic rainfall that washed away a bridge and houses. The force of the water threatened dams, causing one to partially collapse. In July, the U.S. saw its first hurricane of the 2024 season, Beryl, slam into Texas as a category one storm. Days after landfall, nearly 900,000 people were still without power in the Houston area. This is why Activity 610 [Flood Warning and Response], is critical for protecting communities.

Of the more than 300 CRS communities that receive Activity 610 credit, the average score is 255 points. That's half a class of CRS credit! Floodplain Managers and CRS Coordinators who currently receive points for this activity should be asking themselves, "Is our 610 After Action Report (AAR) for a flood event or the planning exercise we conduct every year not only helping prepare and improve our procedures, but are these reports being filled out properly for CRS purposes?"

As noted in the "CRS Manual," "The objective of this activity is to encourage communities to ensure timely identification of impending flood threats, disseminate warnings to appropriate floodplain occupants, and coordinate flood response activities to reduce the threat to life and property. Therefore, the emergency manager should be the point of contact." Because this activity focuses on emergency management, the Emergency Management Director should be handling the annual progress reports for this activity.

An AAR is required not only during a cycle visit, but must be submitted for annual recertifications. The report must be related to a flood, levee failure, dam failure, nor'easter, or hurricane (any kind of flooding event). If there is no flooding event where your emergency management plan is activated, an annual exercise should be conducted. Communities should be proactive in holding an annual exercise just in case a weather event ever takes place.

Five Requirements for a Successful AAR Report:

1. The report must include a description of the exercise or flood event.
2. It must evaluate the threat recognition procedures, warning dissemination, and response operations.
3. Are there any recommendations to the plan? Review and detail what went right and what areas need improvement.

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Is Your Community's "After Action Report" Meeting CRS Requirements?

4. The report must have a date of the event/exercise and be a final copy, not a draft of a report. Be sure the report falls within your annual recertification reporting period.
5. There should be an appendix page or sign-in sheet of those who participated in the event/exercise. Communities that rely on a county or parish emergency management office for support, as well as this report, need to have someone from their municipality participate in the event/exercise and sign the login sheet to ensure they continue receiving credit for this activity.

PRO TIP: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a great "Exercise and Evaluation Program" report template that meets all the CRS requirements for an AAR. ISO/Verisk encourages CRS Coordinators to share that form with their Emergency Management Directors for consideration of use. Communities that receive credit for Activity 610/620/630 have this template included with their annual recertification packet. Please contact your Resource Specialist to request a copy of this AAR template.

(Taken from NFIP/CRS Newsletter, June/July 2024)



CRS Webinars

The CRS Webinar Series provides both live and on-demand training to communities that are not yet participating in the Community Rating System, local government staff who are new to the CRS, and those with experience in the program. The Series includes basic introductory sessions and more advanced topics, most averaging about an hour in length. These webinars help communities understand and meet their CRS requirements. Many will be recorded, so they can be accessed later. Registration is free but required, as space is limited. [Click here](#) and type "CRS" in the search field to view webinars that are now open for registration. Some courses provide continuing education credits for certified floodplain managers (CFMs). All webinars begin at 12 pm Central time.

- September 17Annual CRS Requirements
- September 18Repetitive Loss Properties and the CRS
- October 15.....Introduction to the CRS
- October 16.....CRS and Higher Regulatory Standards
- November 19.....Preparing a Verification Visit
- November 20.....Developing a Flood Insurance Assessment

If you would like to have a webinar on a particular CRS activity, contact your ISO/CRS Specialist. For more on the CRS webinars, go to the Training tab of the [CRS Resources website](#). If you have questions about or suggestions for the CRS Webinar Series, contact Becca.Croft@atkinsglobal.com. ☰ ☰ ☰



FEMA NEWS



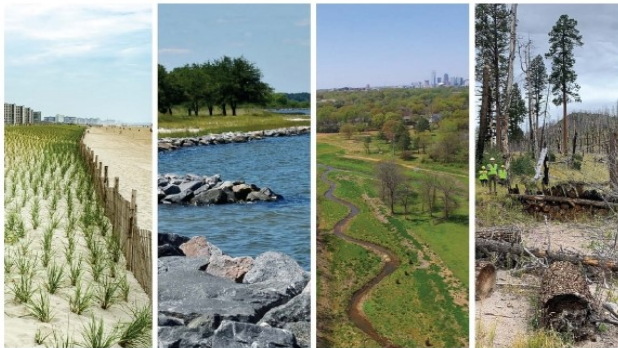
Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide

FEMA’s [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) (HMA) programs provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that protect life and property from future disaster damage to build a more resilient nation.

FEMA has released the 2024 HMA Program and Policy Guide (HMA Guide). This release reflects policy changes and stakeholder feedback received since the 2023 HMA Guide publication.

The HMA Guide provides helpful information for prospective applicants and subapplicants from state, local, tribal and territorial governments on the application and grant processes for four hazard mitigation grant programs.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide




Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and Flood Mitigation Assistance

Effective July 30, 2024
Version 2.0

Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) Number: FP-206-21-0001



The 2024 HMA Guide update incorporates existing policies and guidance materials issued since March 23, 2023 and makes other policy updates and clarifications.

A full list of changes made since the 2023 version can be found in part 15 of the HMA Guide and in the [2024 Summary of Changes document](#). The 2023 HMA Guide may be found on the [archived documents](#) page.

[Read the Guide](#)

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FEMA NEWS (cont'd)



Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide

Key Updates

The 2024 HMA Guide update incorporates feedback from applicants, subapplicants and FEMA regions nationwide. Building on the comprehensive effort to update the HMA Guide in 2023, these insights and recommendations help make the guidance as clear and user-friendly as possible by:

- Clarifying and consolidating guidance to reduce redundancy and unnecessary language.
- Making corrections.
- Providing new and expanded content by incorporating new policies, clarifications, administrative updates, and updated project specific information.

The 2024 HMA Guide continues to improve FEMA's guidance around climate resilience. Notable 2024 changes include updating the eligibility for projects addressing extreme temperature, incorporating air quality considerations in the wildfire section, integrating drought content from the Drought Mitigation Policy Aid and consolidating application guidance for early warning systems.

Other key updates include clarifications and updated policies in strategic funds management, phased projects, benefit-cost analysis, building codes, capability and capacity building and mitigation planning.

A full list of changes made since the 2023 update can be found in part 15 of the 2024 HMA Guide.

Guide Applicability

The HMA Guide covers four mitigation grant programs:

- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC)
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA)
- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) (HMGP)
- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire](#) (HMGP Post Fire)

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FEMA NEWS (cont'd)

The effective date of the HMA Guide was July 30, 2024. The 2024 HMA Guide supersedes the 2023 HMA Guide and all the policies and guidance issued between March 23, 2023 and July 30, 2024, and applies to the HMA programs as follows:

- For Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), the 2024 HMA Guide applies to applications/subapplications submitted and awards/subawards made under BRIC and FMA NOFOs issued on or after July 30, 2024.
- For the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the 2024 HMA Guide applies to major disaster declarations issued on or after July 30, 2024, unless indicated otherwise.
- For the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire (HMGP Post Fire), the 2024 HMA Guide applies to Fire Management Assistance Grant declarations issued on or after October 1, 2023, through the entirety of the open application period.

For information on HMA programs not covered in the HMA Guide, visit the following pages:

- [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program](#)
- [Pre-Disaster Mitigation Congressionally Directed Spending](#)

Additional Materials

Guidance Documents

[Policies and Guidance Documents](#)

[Archived Documents](#)



(Taken from www.fema.gov)



FEMA NEWS (cont'd)

FEMA Region 6 Makes Community Flood Risk Information More Accessible by Releasing Estimated BFE Viewer in Spanish and English

FEMA Region 6 released its updated Estimated Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Viewer (estBFE) resource. For the first time, this resource shares information in both English and Spanish. This new tool will better serve Spanish-speaking floodplain management officials, by offering clearer instructions and easier navigation in a language they understand.

The estBFE Viewer is an interactive online tool that provides Base Level Engineering (BLE) datasets, photographs, maps and reports. It allows users to visualize and download flood risk data specific to their communities. By using the estBFE Viewer, local officials, developers and property owners can determine if they reside in high-risk areas. They can also find effective methods to safeguard their valuable investments.

FEMA Region 6 aims to bridge knowledge gaps in communities by making the BLE data accessible on the estBFE Viewer. With the updated resources, both Spanish and English-speaking officials can assess their flood risk and make informed decisions about how to mitigate their risks.

Across the five Region 6 states, more than 50% of the population is Hispanic or Latino, with more than 35% speaking a language other than English at home. These communities are often more vulnerable to flood hazards due to historic inequities.

FEMA Region 6 is dedicated to improving accessibility to flood risk data, especially in communities lacking data or relying on outdated flood maps. The team will continue to update and translate BLE resources, allowing more communities to take advantage of this free and user-friendly data. Additionally, these resources will guide local officials in incorporating this data into future community planning endeavors.

You can view the English and Spanish versions of the “Using the Region 6 estBFE Viewer” factsheet on the FEMA Region 6 BLE Resource Library ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)).

To learn more, reach out to Region 6’s Communications and Outreach Coordinator Dustin Busse at Dustin.Busse@fema.dhs.gov.

Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA)

Why does a community need one?

Before FEMA can provide NFIP data (Policy, Claim & RL/SRL) to a community, there must be an approved NFIP Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA) in place. The ISAA is a written form that must be fully executed before FEMA may release NFIP data to a community. The purpose of the ISAA is to enable FEMA to share personally identifiable information (PII) that is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 (Privacy Act), as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, with the community. NFIP data can be used to enhance a community's floodplain management and CRS programs. It can also be used to identify high risk flood areas and target potential hazard mitigation activities. A fully executed ISAA is valid for one to three years, depending on how they are written and approved, and multiple data requests may be made under the ISAA. Updated NFIP data can be requested anytime as long as the NFIP ISAA has not expired. A separate agreement would not be needed to receive disaster related NFIP data but an additional ISAA may be needed to receive information related to Individual Assistance (IA) inspections or other disaster related data. The following information is needed for FEMA Region 6 to draft a NFIP ISAA:

- 1.) Name of Community
- 2.) Explanation of how the NFIP data will be used
- 3.) Name and title of the person with authority to sign sharing agreement for the community
- 4.) The following information for at least one point of contact, but no more than five:
 - Name _____
 - Title _____
 - Phone _____
 - Email _____





Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

If you or someone you know would like to receive future copies of this newsletter please contact our office:

LA DOTD
Floodplain Management Section
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With Thanksgiving being just around the corner, we would like to say...

We hope you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday!!

From: Susan, Pam, Tatanisha, Angela and our **NEW** team member, Grant!