

BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (DTA) INITIATIVE

Are you a local community that needs help building resilience capabilities and capacity? Think about applying for FEMA's BRIC DTA Initiative now!

WHAT IS IT?

FEMA offers wide-ranging non-financial support to BRIC DTA communities and tribal nations for 36 months. This consists of hands-on support from FEMA grants and outreach specialists, scientists, engineers, and other partners. The support is tailored to each community and can include climate risk assessments, community engagement, assistance in partnership building, the development of mitigation and climate adaptation plans, and project development.

Did you know the BRIC grant program works to shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience? Over the 36 months, many communities will develop one or more applications to do just that! In the most recent grant cycle, \$1 billion in BRIC funding will be awarded nationwide to fund projects that protect people and infrastructure from natural hazards and the effects of climate change.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

This non-financial program is like having a set of in-house experts to help your community move the needle on mitigation!

Participating BRIC DTA communities and tribal nations have a unique chance to receive technical assistance to help reduce disaster damages, build community resilience and sustain successful mitigation programs. The BRIC DTA Initiative can help your community access the federal dollars needed to address problems such as vulnerability to climate change impacts and natural disasters.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You do not need to have a past BRIC grant sub-application or award, or an approved hazard mitigation plan, to be considered for selection.

Eligible entities include:

- Cities.
- Towns/Townships.
- Parishes.
- Boroughs.
- Counties.
- Special District Governments.
- Federally Recognized Tribes.
- Groups of two or more communities that fit the above criteria.

HOW DO I APPLY?

The Fiscal Year 2023 BRIC DTA Request Period is open now through February 29, 2024. Submit the [BRIC DTA Request Form](#) to the [BRIC DTA inbox](#) to be considered for this next cycle of selections. Some of the form's questions are even optional! Visit the [BRIC DTA page](#) on FEMA's website for general application instructions.



EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT REQUESTS

Currently, 74 communities and tribal nations receive support from BRIC DTA. There are seven BRIC DTA communities in FEMA Region 3:

- 1 Crisfield, Maryland** asked for help to address coastal flooding and storm surge.
- 2 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** requested help to address sea level rise-related flooding in the Eastwick neighborhood. Eastwick is the city's lowest-lying neighborhood.
- 3 Railroad Borough, Pennsylvania** asked for help to maximize limited resources and move the development of flood reduction and community resilience projects.
- 4 Federalsburg, Maryland** asked for help understanding the current condition of one of the town's dams to make necessary repairs, update the dam's Emergency Action Plan and conduct community outreach.
- 5 Denton, Maryland** requested help to address stormwater issues in the Choptank River area.
- 6 Tremont Borough, Pennsylvania** asked for FEMA to conduct hazard mitigation capacity building workshops to help the borough submit successful grant applications.
- 7 Hampton Roads (Public Transportation), Virginia** requested support for a risk assessment and mitigation of a specific transportation-related hazard.



SPOTLIGHT: CRISFIELD, MD

Crisfield, MD, a coastal community in Somerset County, experiences numerous and sometimes severe flooding events every year. High tide flooding often shuts down schools and businesses. Sea level rise is expected to make conditions worse and more frequent. Although the city was already working with partners on relevant assessments, they still needed assistance addressing aging stormwater and tidal infrastructure on a limited budget.

COMMUNITY-LED DTA SUPPORT IN CRISFIELD IS ONGOING AND HAS INCLUDED:

- Planning and capacity building.
- Coordinating concurrent planning efforts and studies led by the city's other partners to ensure work and partnerships are aligned.
- Conducting community engagement activities and involving residents in the resilience planning process.
- FEMA's team of engineers and scientists reviewing existing studies and plans and developing a preliminary concept of a mitigation strategy to address flooding.
- Applying for the first of two planned BRIC grants this year!

