



Virginia Department of
Emergency Management

FY 24 & FY 25 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Applicant's Briefing

April 8, 2026

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Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Overview

The BRIC grant program provides federal funding to support hazard mitigation initiatives aimed at reducing long-term disaster impacts and associated costs. The goal is to shift the focus of federal investments away from reactive post-disaster spending towards proactive infrastructure-focused hazard mitigation.

The program prioritizes investment in infrastructure and construction projects that deliver immediate, measurable risk reduction to communities vulnerable to natural hazards.



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Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Subapplicants:

- Communities
- Local governments
- Cities
- Townships
- Counties
- Special district governments
- Tribal Nations (including federally recognized Tribal Nations who choose to apply as subapplicants)
- Subapplicants are **required** to have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan (in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Part 201) by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award
- Proposed project must be an identified strategy in the Hazard Mitigation Plan



Cost Shares for BRIC FY 24-25

Standard	Small Impoverished Communities*
75% Federal Share 25% Non-federal Share	90% Federal Share 10% Non-federal Share *Additional guidance in the NOFO



Available Funding for BRIC FY 24-25

\$1 Billion available nationwide with \$757 million available for competitive project applications across the country

Federal cap for each project is \$20 million

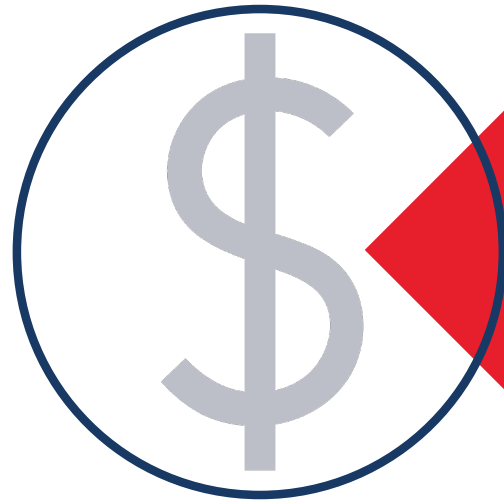
State/Territory Allocation Subtotal: \$112 million

State/Territory Building Code Plus-Up Subtotal: \$56 million



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Total Funds Available for Virginia



State Set-Aside

\$2 million in
Federal Share

State Building
Code Plus-Up

\$1 million in
Federal Share



Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)

All projects are required to have a BCA calculated at the 7% discount rate to validate cost-effectiveness of the project



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Notable Definitions

- **“Infrastructure”** means critical physical structures, facilities, and systems that provide support to a community, its population, and its economy. This includes natural systems.
- **“Directly supporting infrastructure”** means activities that have a clear, immediate, and primary purpose of improving, protecting, or enabling the construction, resilience, or operation of critical infrastructure systems (such as transportation, utilities, water, wastewater, communications, public buildings, or other critical facilities).
- **“Natural systems”** refers to nature-based solutions and environmental features that act as infrastructure by providing protection against natural hazards



Allowable Project Types

Capability- and Capacity-Building Activities:

- Activities that directly support infrastructure resilience, such as the adoption, enforcement, and implementation of hazard-resistant building codes.
- Only capability and capacity-building activities that are **directly tied to infrastructure projects** such as building code adoption/enforcement, related technical training and project scoping activities for specific infrastructure are eligible.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan development or updates are not eligible



Allowable Project Types

Hazard Mitigation Projects:

- Cost-effective infrastructure and construction projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards
- **Only infrastructure and construction projects that have, at a minimum, a conceptual design are eligible**



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Eligible Activities

Project Examples:

- Project scoping activities for specific infrastructure
- Drainage/Localized Flood Control/Stormwater
- Infrastructure Protective Measures
- Water and Sanitary Sewer Protective Measures
- Building Code Adoption/Enforcement
- Acquisitions
- Generators for Critical Facilities



Eligible Activities

What you can ask for in your application:

Pre-Award Costs (outside of the open application period)

- These are directly related to developing the BRIC grant application that are incurred prior to the date of the grant award are allowed subject to FEMA approval at time of award
- Examples: gathering data to be used for preparing environmental reviews required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), developing a BCA, or preparing design specifications (**NO CONSTRUCTION COSTS**)

Management Costs

- Management costs may only be used to support the administration and management of the grant project
- Up to 5% of project budget
- Examples: quarterly reporting, submitting reimbursement requests, time meeting with grant administrator/VDEM, time spent in EM Grants, staff salary costs directly related to performing the activities, etc.



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Changes from Previous Years

- Phased projects are not eligible
- Hazard Mitigation Plan development or updates are not eligible
- Project scoping activities not directly supporting a specific infrastructure project are not eligible
- Decrease to \$20 million in federal share for the National Competition



Scoring Criteria



Infrastructure Project Construction Readiness

5

Infrastructure projects with basic conceptualization and design (i.e., at least 30% design) will receive 5 points

OR

15

Infrastructure projects with refined and detailed design including major systems, materials, dimensions and draft specifications (i.e., greater than 30% design) will receive 15 points

OR

30

Infrastructure projects with detailed drawings and specifications for bidding, permitting and actual construction (i.e., 90% design or greater) will receive 30 points



New Applicant or Subapplicant

15

The subapplication is submitted from a subapplicant that has never been selected in the BRIC National Competition.

OR

15

The subapplication is submitted by a subapplicant from a state, territory or tribal applicant that has never been selected in the BRIC National Competition.



Building Code Adoption and Enforcement

5

Subcriteria 3.1:

The subapplication will receive 5 points if the community where the project will be developed has locally adopted current or next most recent hazard-resistant consensus-based model building code such as both the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) model codes published by the International Code Council (ICC) from 2021 or 2024

AND

5

The subapplication will receive an additional 5 points if the locally adopted building codes by the community are based on the applicant's mandatory state-, tribal-, territory-wide adoption of current or next most recent hazard-resistant consensus-based model building code such as both the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC) model codes published by the International Code Council (ICC) from 2021 or 2024.

AND

10

Subapplicant has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Rating of 1 to 5.

OR

5

Subcriteria 3.2:

Any subapplicant that has not received points under Sub-criterion 3.1 could receive 5 points by providing a narrative demonstrating that they hold higher hazard-resistant standards for the primary hazard they have identified in their subapplication.



Small Impoverished Community

5

Designation as a small impoverished community as referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a) will receive 5 points.



Risk Reduction

20

A narrative in the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO will be scored based on the sufficiency of the responses (20):

- 1) Effectively reduce risk: Identify the risk(s) being reduced and state what action will reduce the identified risk.**
- 2) Increase resilience within the community based on their primary natural hazard risk (including the benefits quantified in the BCA): Detail ability to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruption for the useful life of the infrastructure asset.**
- 3) Realize ancillary benefits: Identify benefits other than the project's primary risk reduction objective**



Implementation Measures

10

A narrative in the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO will be scored based on the sufficiency of the responses (10):

- 1) Cost management: Describe the processes by which project costs will be managed including any identified challenges or obstacles.**
- 2) Schedule management: Provide a description of the project schedule and the measures taken to manage the schedule including any identified challenges.**
- 3) Successful implementation, and incorporation of any innovative techniques: Detail pre- and post-implementation monitoring strategies being used and how progress will be measured. Describe innovative techniques implemented.**
- 4) Technical and managerial staff, and resources availability: Identify technical and managerial staff and resources used to successfully implement the project.**



Important Dates

Pre-applications are open now in VDEM EM Grants!

Pre-application MUST be submitted in VDEM EM Grants and approved by the Hazard Mitigation team to begin a full application

**Full Applications Due to VDEM
on May 25, 2026**



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Mitigation Grant Administrator Regions 2026

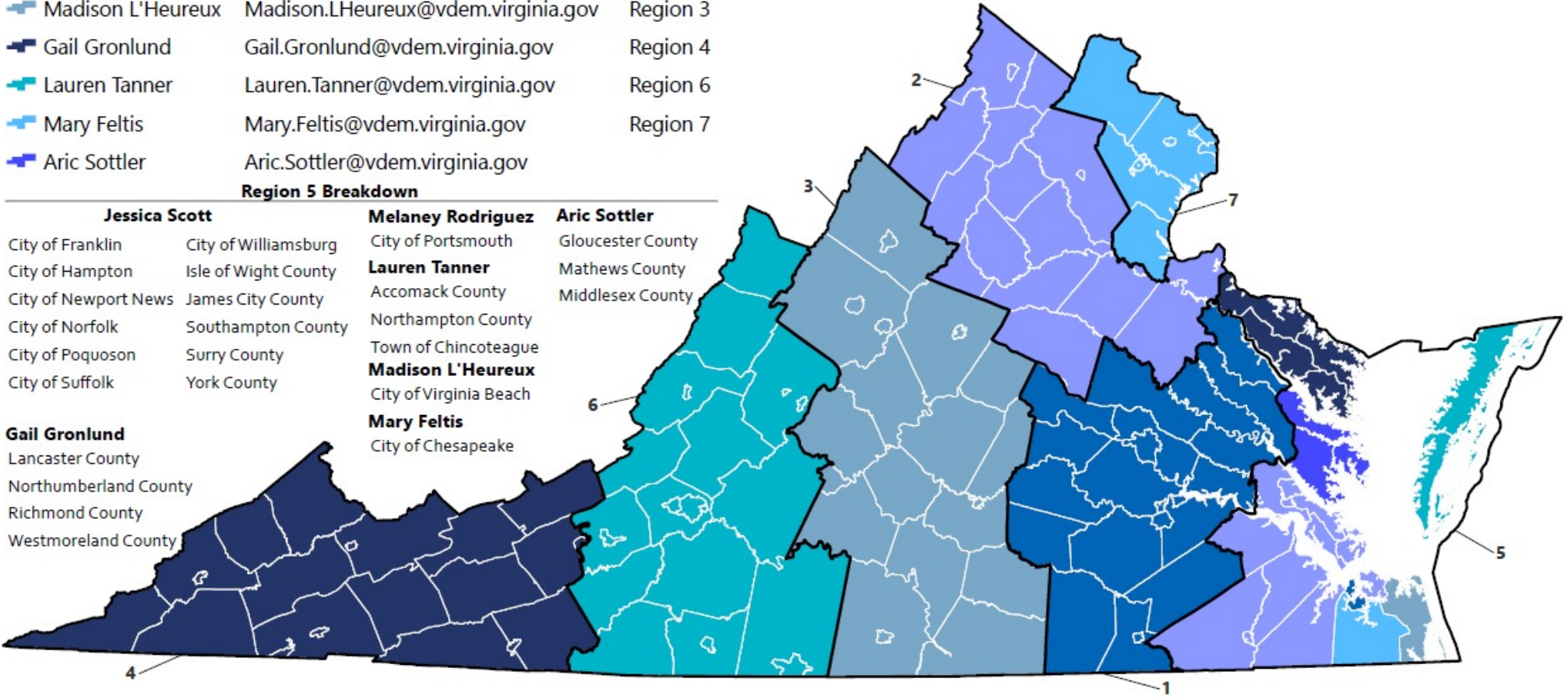
	Melaney Rodriguez	Melaney.Rodriguez@vdem.virginia.gov	Region 1 & State Wide Shelter Upgrade Assistance Grant
	Jessica Scott	Jessica.Scott@vdem.virginia.gov	Region 2 & State Agencies
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	Lauren Tanner	Lauren.Tanner@vdem.virginia.gov	Region 6
	Mary Feltis	Mary.Feltis@vdem.virginia.gov	Region 7
	Aric Sottler	Aric.Sottler@vdem.virginia.gov	

Region 5 Breakdown

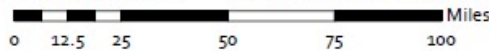
Jessica Scott		Melaney Rodriguez	Aric Sottler
City of Franklin	City of Williamsburg	City of Portsmouth	Gloucester County
City of Hampton	Isle of Wight County	Lauren Tanner	Mathews County
City of Newport News	James City County	Accomack County	Middlesex County
City of Norfolk	Southampton County	Northampton County	
City of Poquoson	Surry County	Town of Chincoteague	
City of Suffolk	York County	Madison L'Heureux	
		City of Virginia Beach	
		Mary Feltis	
		City of Chesapeake	

Gail Gronlund

Lancaster County
Northumberland County
Richmond County
Westmoreland County



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Questions?



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THANK YOU!



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