



# Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities FEMA's New Approach to Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funding

## Who is Hagerty?

Hagerty Consulting is an emergency management consulting firm that helps clients prepare for and recover from disasters. Established in 2001, Hagerty's offices are in Evanston, Illinois (corporate headquarters), Austin, Texas, New York City, NY, Sacramento, CA, and Washington, D.C. Hagerty professionals live in all 10 FEMA regions and provide a rich breadth of emergency management experience to client assignments.

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- 874-1: Integrated Consulting Services
- 874-1RC: Integrated Consulting Services
- 874-7: Integrated Business Program Support Services
- 874-7RC: Integrated Business Program Support Services
- 520-11: Accounting
- 520-11RC: Accounting
- 520-13: Complementary Financial Management Services
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## Learn More

To learn more about the innovative and customized solutions Hagerty Consulting can provide to your entity, jurisdiction, business, or organization, contact:

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## What is Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)?

The **Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)** established a National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster fund that will focus on mitigation and resilience projects by setting aside up to 6% of estimated disaster expenses. This new fund will be available to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) entities for investment in mitigation before a disaster and is expected to be a major increase in funds available to SLTTs to prepare before disaster strikes. Previously, funding for **pre-disaster mitigation (PDM)** grants relied on congressional appropriations that varied from year to year. Now, with a more reliable stream of funding tied to Presidential disaster declarations, SLTTs will be able to more consistently plan and execute mitigation programs to reduce disaster risk. FEMA's draft policy for this new funding, **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)**, was released in April 2020, with the final policy anticipated in the fall of 2020. Since the guidance for this new funding opportunity has yet to be finalized, communities must remain flexible and prepare begin to pivot as more details of the program are announced.

## What Can You Do Now?

- ✓ **Identify potential shovel-ready, BRIC-eligible hazard mitigation and resiliency projects**  
A **key component to success is frontloading** — early identification of potential projects that are technically feasible, programmatically eligible, and cost effective. This analysis starts with the review of planning studies, hazard/risk analyses, feasibility studies, capital project plans, new budgetary need requests, and previous Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) applications.
- ✓ **Go beyond project eligibility**  
The identification of **"good"** BRIC projects requires experience. It takes a significant amount of time and resources to fully develop mitigation applications. Current FEMA guidance allows projects that appear eligible to move forward to the intensive application development phase, when in fact such projects may not be feasible, be cost effective, or otherwise meet numerous FEMA requirements. Therefore, a further qualitative triaging is needed beyond basic eligibility. Additional vetting for program feasibility, cost effectiveness, and the likelihood of achieving the intended implementation outcome, prioritizes the more viable potential projects and reduces the time and money spent chasing **"bad"** projects.

## How Hagerty Can Help!

Hagerty can assist communities to take advantage of this funding source. Our team can help communities to further develop their projects into BRIC applications. Support from Hagerty's experts might include the following services:

- Developing a detailed Scope of Work (SOW) including the location, purpose, objectives, approach, feasibility, expected outcomes and benefits of the activity.
- Drafting a work schedule for all tasks identified in the SOW.
- Composing a cost estimate and narrative that describes all anticipated costs associated with the SOW.
- Completing a well-documented Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA).
- Gathering and assessing sufficient information about potential impacts on environmental resources and/or historic properties in the project area.
- Accounting for other project considerations, including shovel readiness and duplication of funds.