

Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

Brown Bag Webinar Series

June 24, 2025



Your Team



Kristi More

TFG Managing Partner of Grants



Gabrielle Bronstein

TFG Grants Principal



Amanda Wylie

TFG Grants and Policy Analyst

Agenda

- Federal Funding Landscape for Emergency & Disaster Prep
- BRIC Program Deep Dive
- Other FEMA Funding Programs
- Best Practices
- Upcoming Brown Bag Webinar



Federal Funding Landscape for Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness Projects

Key Federal Agencies Involved in Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** – Cybersecurity, counterterrorism, and border security
- ★ **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – Hazard mitigation, infrastructure resilience
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** – Disaster relief and resilience in rural and agricultural communities
- **U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)** – Western water infrastructure, drought contingency planning, system reliability, efficiency, and wildfire resilience
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** – Emergency public works, debris removal, and infrastructure repair

FEMA Status

- **March 2025:** The Trump Administration releases an Executive Order shifting emergency preparedness responsibilities to state and local levels
- **April 2025:** The Trump Administration announces it is ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to ensure grant funding aligns with presidential Executive Orders
- **June 2025:** The Trump Administration announced its plan to start “phasing out” FEMA after the 2025 hurricane season



*It is unclear if or how the agency will ultimately change.
FEMA cannot be dismantled without Congressional approval.*



FEMA

Spotlighted Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness Programs

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- FEMA - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program – **cancelled**
- FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – **open**
- FEMA - Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) – **open**
- Emergency Operations Center Program (EOCP) – **earmark opportunity**



FEMA

Immediate Steps for Communities with FEMA Funding

- Seek clarification from FEMA/State Hazard Mitigation Officers
- Engage your congressional delegation on project impacts
- Communicate regularly with stakeholders and partners
- Reassess project funding strategies, including phasing or alternate sources



FEMA

BRIC Program Deep Dive

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

BRIC Program Background



FEMA

- Helped communities to proactively prepare for natural disasters by funding projects that reduce hazard risks
 - ✓ Capability and capacity building activities
 - ✓ Hazard mitigation projects
 - ✓ Management costs
- Supported scalable, replicable, and future-focused mitigation strategies
- In FY 2024 \$750 million was available to support awards
- Federal pass-through dollars to states and local communities

BRIC Application Process



FEMA

- **Lengthy Multi-Step Process:** Applying for BRIC could take over a year from state-level application to FEMA's final award decision
- **Eligibility and Application:** Local governments required to apply through their states process
- **Sub-Applicant Requirements:** Applications include a scope of work, budget, Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review, and a FEMA-approved mitigation plan.
- **FEMA Review and Evaluation:** FEMA first checked eligibility, then applied technical and qualitative criteria

FEMA's Role in Hazard Mitigation



FEMA

BRIC Program Timeline

1997: Launch of Project Impact: grassroots hazard mitigation

2000: Disaster Mitigation Act creates Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program

2018: Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) gives rise to BRIC, a robust funding source from major disaster declarations

2020: First BRIC application cycle begins

BRIC Under the Trump 47 Administration



FEMA

April 2, 2025: FEMA internal memo directs:

- Cancellation of FY24 NOFO
- Freeze on project extensions
- Halt to management cost obligations
- Review of ongoing BRIC projects

April 4, 2025: FEMA formally cancels BRIC and FY20–FY23 applications

Impacts on Ongoing BRIC Projects



FEMA

Fully Obligated & Under Construction: Allowed to proceed



Fully Obligated but Not Started: Projects will end



Phased Projects: May stop after Phase 1 or a logical point



NOTE: FEMA will not be extending project deadlines without the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the FEMA Administrator's approval. Management costs will only continue for partially or fully obligated projects

Other Funding Programs for Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness Projects

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)



What It Funds

- Mitigation Planning (e.g., hazard mitigation plans (HMPs), post-disaster building code enforcement)
- Flood Protection (e.g., elevating structures, drainage improvements)
- Retrofitting Infrastructure (e.g., structural upgrades for wind/flood/wildfire)
- Construction Projects (e.g., community safe rooms, slope stabilization)



Who Can Apply

- Sub-applicants include state agencies, federally recognized tribes, local governments/communities, and private nonprofit organizations
- Post-presidential major disaster declaration, state funding depends on disaster type



Match Requirement & Cost Limitations

- 25% cash or in-kind match required
- Reimbursement-based program



Must have a FEMA-approved local HMP at the time of the presidential major disaster declaration and obligation, unless applying to develop a new HMP

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program



What It Funds

- Capability & Capacity Building (C&CB): Planning, scoping, tech assistance
- Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects: Infrastructure-scale mitigation
- Individual Flood Mitigation Projects: Structure elevation, acquisition, retrofiting



Who Can Apply

- Sub applicants include local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments
- Individual project structures must have an NFIP policy (including a Group Flood Insurance Policy) in effect prior to the opening of the application period and the policy must be maintained throughout the life of the structure



Cost Share Requirement & Cost Limitations

- 25% non-federal cost share standard. FEMA will cost share up to 90% for Severe Repetitive Loss properties, and up to 100% for qualifying high-loss NFIP-insured structures



FMA is a pre-disaster competitive grant program that does not require a Presidential Disaster Declaration to apply. Entities are required to have or be a recognized annex of a local HMP.

Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (EOCGP)



What It Funds

- Construction, upgrade, or equipment of EOCs to support multi-agency response coordination
- Only portions of multipurpose facilities such as public safety facilities or police/fire stations used directly for EOC functions are eligible



Who Can Apply

- State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) on behalf of local governments
- Must have adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS)



Match Requirement & Cost Limitations

- 25% non-federal cash match required for construction activities
- Funding for new builds is proportional to the EOC's square footage within a larger facility



This is a Congressionally Directed Spending (earmark) opportunity!

Best Practices Across All Programs



Grant Strategy

One-Time Applicant

- **Purpose:** Address an immediate, project-specific need
- **Approach:** Reactive; develops application only when funding is available
- **Typical Characteristics:**
 - Limited internal capacity for grants
 - Minimal long-term planning or integration
 - May lack follow-up for future opportunities or program alignment



Strategic Grant-Seeking Agency

- **Purpose:** Incorporate into a multi-year capital-improvement and strategic growth strategies
- **Approach:** Proactive; aligns grants with master plans, regional planning efforts, community driven needs
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - Maintains a grant calendar and tracks NOFO release cycles
 - Use technical assistance, feasibility studies, planning grants as stepping stones
 - Builds relationships with Agency regional contacts
 - Invests in capacity for grant writing, reporting, and project tracking
 - Documents past applications, scoring feedback, and lessons learned
 - Uses foundation or state funding as cross-program leverage



Describing Your Project

Use terminology that aligns with the funding agency's priorities

- Local needs / interests
- Community-scale mitigation
- State and local capacity-building
- Compliance
- Cost-effective
- Infrastructure modernization
- Energy independence
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Secured data systems
- Cost reduction
- Facility hardening
- Loss prevention strategies
- System reliability
- Emergency operations capability
- Reliable service delivery



Avoid terminology that may be perceived as conflicting with Executive Orders

Budget Considerations

Match Requirements

Important Match Considerations

- Clearly distinguish federal vs. non-federal contributions
- Identify cash vs. in-kind match sources and provide documentation
- Avoid including indirect costs as match unless allowed and documented

Avoid Common Pitfalls

- Don't pad budget or underestimate costs
- Avoid unallowable items (e.g., lobbying, contingencies >10%, land acquisition)
- Ensure totals match across all documents (SF-424, SF-424A, budget narrative)

Grant Project Idea Portal



NSDA
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

NSDA Grant Project Idea Portal

This form is to collect information on priority projects for National Special District Association members seeking funding assistance. Please complete the information requested. TFG Grants staff will then evaluate potential funding sources for the project and set up a meeting to discuss options and opportunities.

* Required

Contact Information

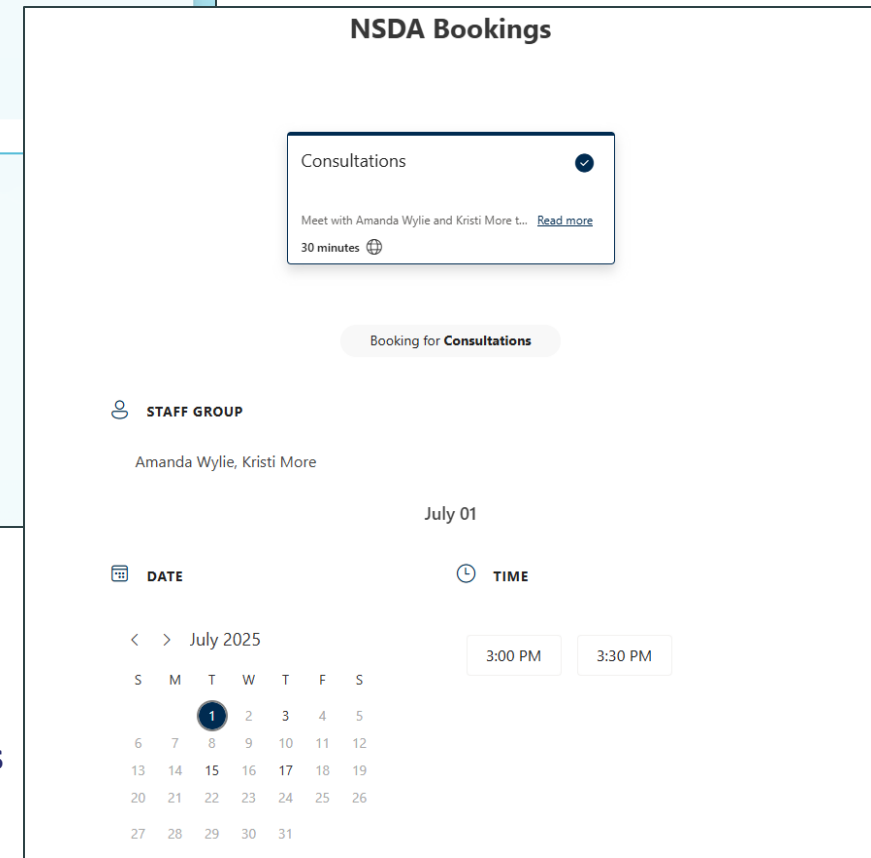
1. Name of Your District *

2. Which NSDA Member Association is your district affiliated with? *

- Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts
- Association of Water Board Directors - Texas
- California Special Districts Association
- Florida Association Special Districts
- South Carolina Association of Special Districts



Book a consultation!



NSDA Bookings

Consultations ✓

Meet with Amanda Wylie and Kristi More t... [Read more](#)

30 minutes 🌐

Booking for **Consultations**

STAFF GROUP

Amanda Wylie, Kristi More

July 01

DATE **TIME**

< > July 2025

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3:00 PM 3:30 PM



Resources are linked at
www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/grant-services

Final Upcoming Brown Bag Webinar

Water Resources and Supply

May 6, 2025

This session will explore funding opportunities through the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on grants for water infrastructure, conservation efforts, and sustainable water management. Participants will learn about available funding programs and strategies to develop competitive grant applications.

Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

June 24, 2025

Designed for special districts responsible for emergency management, this session will highlight federal funding options for improving disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Experts will discuss available grants, application best practices, and how to align funding requests with federal priorities.

Fire Suppression and Response

September 10, 2025

With wildfires and fire-related emergencies becoming more frequent, securing funding for fire prevention, suppression, and response is more critical than ever. This session will cover key grant programs that support fire districts, including funding for equipment, training, and fire mitigation efforts.



Kristi More

TFG Managing Partner of Grants

Thank you!

Contact us at

NSDAGrants@tfgnet.com



Gabrielle Bronstein

TFG Grants Principal



Amanda Wylie

TFG Grants and Policy Analyst