

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE
Slaughterhouse Creed Flood Mitigation Project

The City of Forsyth is holding an open house on January 22, 2024, to discuss the Slaughterhouse Creek Flood Mitigation Project with its residents. The event will take place at Forsyth City Hall, 247 N 9th Avenue, starting at 6:00 p.m. The city is considering applying to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program along with the Flood Mitigation Assistance program to assist in financing the recommended flood risk reduction project on Slaughterhouse Creek.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation and the FEMA are updating floodplain maps in Rosebud County and the areas around Forsyth. The findings of this mapping identified significant flooding risks from Slaughterhouse Creek. In the event of a 100-year flood, the existing Slaughterhouse Creek channel and culverts do not have capacity which causes flooding through much of Forsyth. To mitigate the risk, the city is developing a project to expand the hydraulic structures at Interstate 94, Front Street, and Rosebud Street crossings and enlarge the channel capacity downstream of the railroad crossing.

The purpose of the meeting is to explain why the project is necessary, describe the proposed scope of work, take your comments, and address your concerns. For more information about the project, contact Jeremiah Theys at jtheys@greatwesteng.com or (406) 495-6193 or Mayor Dennis Kopitzke at forsythmayor@rangeweb.net or (406) 346-2521.

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Office of the City Clerk-Treasurer
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Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) & Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

The Problem

The proposed FEMA Slaughterhouse Creek Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) reveals that the City of Forsyth is at a greater risk of flooding than previously thought. According to the new FIRM, most of the city is now in the 100-year floodplain, which means that without any mitigation, property owners with federally insured mortgages will be required to purchase flood insurance, which is often quite expensive. This could have a severe financial impact on Forsyth's residents and the economy.

To address this issue, the Slaughterhouse Creek Flood Mitigation project has been proposed as a solution. The City is now working with Montana DES and Great West Engineering to apply for FEMA funding to help finance the project.

Great West is currently determining the project's cost estimate and scope of work. The preliminary estimated cost of the project falls in the range of \$5 million to \$8 million. The city can expect to receive a specific cost estimate from Great West in the next few days.

What are BRIC and FMA?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's primary objective of the BRIC and FMA programs is to "shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience."

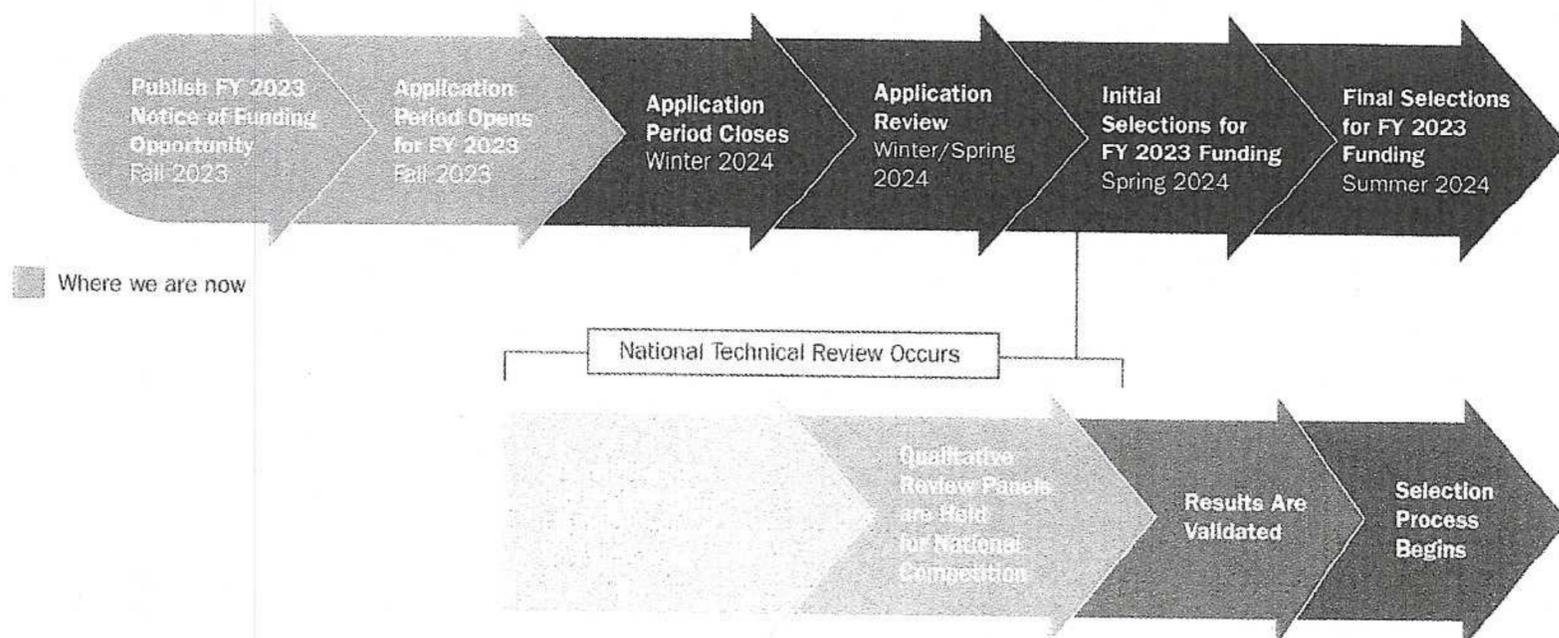
Through BRIC, FEMA invests in various mitigation activities focusing on infrastructure projects for disadvantaged communities, nature-based solutions, climate resilience and adaptation, and adoption of hazard-resistant building codes.

For the fiscal year 2023 grant cycle, \$800 million is available for the FMA grant program, and \$1 billion is available for the BRIC program. There is no limit on the size of the grant awards, but a 25% match from a non-federal source is required.

The Application Process

In February, the Department of Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) will apply for funding to FEMA for BRIC and FMA funding on behalf of disaster mitigation projects in Montana. The City of Forsyth will be a sub-applicant with the Slaughterhouse Creek Flood Mitigation Project. The City is working on its application with the support of Great West Engineering. The deadline to submit the sub-application to the State of Montana is January 26th. Montana DES will determine which of the programs best suits the Slaughterhouse Creek Project. FEMA expects to announce grant awards this summer.

Application Timeline and Funding Cycle





FEMA

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

About BRIC: Reducing Risk through Hazard Mitigation

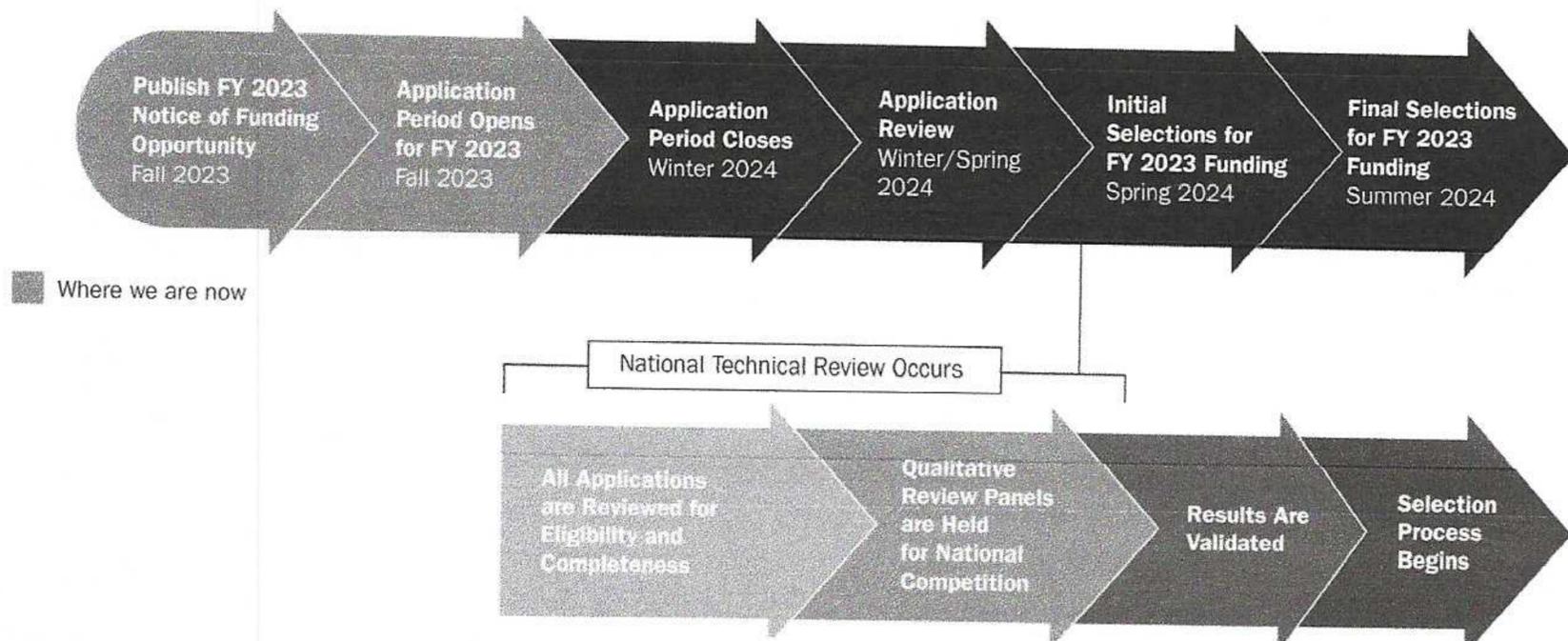
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The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience. Examples of BRIC projects are ones that demonstrate innovative approaches to partnerships, such as shared funding mechanisms, and/or project design.

For example, an innovative project may bring multiple funding sources or in-kind resources from a range of private and public sector partners. Or an innovative project may offer multiple benefits to a community in addition to the benefit of risk reduction.

Through BRIC, FEMA continues to invest in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects benefitting disadvantaged communities, nature-based solutions, climate resilience and adaptation and adopting hazard resistant building codes.

BRIC Timeline and Funding Cycle



This graphic illustrates the process and timing of the BRIC program.

Once the FY 2023 funding opportunity is published, the application period for the BRIC funding cycle will open on Oct. 16, 2023. The application period will close on Feb. 29, 2024. From there, applications are reviewed and initial selections, for the state set-aside funding, are announced in late spring.

Several steps occur during the initial selection phase.

- Applications are reviewed for eligibility and completeness.
- Application submitted for the the national competition undergo a qualitative review process, by a panel
- Results are then validated and the selection process begins for both the initial selections and national competition.
- Final selections, which include national competition selections, are announced each summer.

Program Resources

Program Support Materials