Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Qualitative Evaluation Criteria

The following details the six qualitative evaluation criteria that will be used for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) National Competition. Information in this PSM is intended to guide applicants and subapplicants in the development of their subapplications. It will also assist panelists in the qualitative review of projects.

This is not a request for information.

BRIC Qualitative Evaluation Criteria



Figure 1. Qualitative Evaluation Criteria

Background

FEMA will convene a National Review Panel, comprised of panelists from federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, to review BRIC subapplications submitted to the National Competition. FEMA will use technical evaluation criteria scoring as a program priority screening tool for the qualitative evaluation criteria review. Subapplications valued at three times the amount of available funding, and all subapplications for projects within or primarily benefitting Community Disaster Resilience Zones, will be reviewed by the BRIC National Review Panel.

Each applicant who submits subapplications that exceed the available funds in their allocation/set-aside will have at least one eligible subapplication sent to the National Review Panel for review. The National Review Panel will score subapplications based on qualitative evaluation criteria to increase transparency, build capability and partnerships.



The criteria are narrative submissions that allow flexibility in explaining the project's strengths and are scored on graded scales.

For Fiscal year 2024 BRIC, FEMA will assign up to 10% of the BRIC National Competition funding for project scoping activities. Project scoping subapplications submitted to the National Competition will be scored based on the evaluation criteria.

Four of the six BRIC qualitative evaluation criteria ask you to tell how the project will benefit disadvantaged communities. Those criteria are Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness, Population Impacted, Community Engagement and Other Outreach Activities, and Leveraging Partners. Point allocation and criteria content are now more inclusive of the subapplication's proposed benefits for disadvantaged communities.

TIP: In your narrative, define the disadvantaged community and detail how the project directly benefits them. Provide documentation that supports your details on the disadvantaged community (e.g., by using the <u>Climate</u> <u>and Economic Justice Screening Tool [CEJST]</u>).

Evaluation Process and Scoring

National Review Panelists will assess the degree to which subapplications meet the six Qualitative Evaluation Criteria:

Panelists will score each criterion using the options in Table 1. Point values vary among each criterion. The graded scoring and point scales for each criterion are included later in this document. The subapplication's final score is based on the average scores from each panelist.

Table 1: Qualitative Criteria Scoring Options

Scoring Option	Description				
Not at all	The subapplication does not address the criterion at all.				
Minimally	 Subapplication does not address all components of the criterion. Subapplication lacks clarity and has some inconsistencies. Subapplication lacks support and the impact is unclear. 				
Partially	 Subapplication addresses some of the criterion. Subapplication may lack clarity or has some inconsistencies. Subapplication may lack strong support or the impact is unclear. 				
Mostly	 Subapplication addresses most of the components of the criterion. Subapplication needs more clarity and includes minor inconsistencies. Subapplication includes strong support for most components of the criterion and the impact is clear. 				
Entirely	 Subapplication addresses all components of the criterion and has a compelling narrative. Subapplication is clear, concise, and complete. 				

Scoring Option	Description
	 Subapplication includes strong, data-driven support for all components of the criterion and clearly demonstrates a whole-community impact.

Application instructions for each criterion are included below to guide submission in the application system, FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO). More information on navigating FEMA GO and the full application process can be found on FEMA's <u>Grants Guidance</u> webpage.

Prompts are included for each criterion to get applicants and subapplicants started. FEMA designed these prompts to clarify terms and provide guiding questions to consider when writing a subapplication. Panelists will also have this information to reference. Please note that answering every question, while informative, will not necessarily guarantee an "Entirely" score. Finally, the prompts are by no means exhaustive. Any additional information to support the merit of the subapplication is welcome. The information provided here supplements the qualitative evaluation criteria found in the BRIC funding opportunity.

Applicants and subapplicants should include information about the qualitative criteria in FEMA GO, as outlined in all six qualitative criteria. Applicants and subapplicants should highlight attachments within the narrative. The information in any attachments should support your qualitative narrative. Do not write "see attachment" in the Scope of Work section and then put all your information in the attachment. The Scope of Work section should capture the qualitative criteria.

TIP: If you cite an attachment in the subapplication, include the attachment name and location within the description and/or narrative. Be sure to follow proper file-naming conventions and ensure all attachments are relevant. Include a page number so the citation can be easily located.

For each of the six qualitative criteria, the prompt following the criterion is similar to the scoring prompt that reviewers will use. Applicants and subapplicants must ensure they address each criterion clearly. The panelists are a diverse group from all over the country. They have different types and years of experience. Write the subapplication clearly so that panelists with varying levels of experience can understand the information.

Applicants and subapplicants should carefully review each of the sections below. They describe how to thoroughly address each criterion to achieve a high score.

Qualitative Evaluation Criterion 1: Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness (30 possible points)

FEMA defines resilience as the ability to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruption.

The score received for Criterion 1 will reflect how well the subapplication details the following elements:

(1) Effective risk reduction.

(2) Effective increase in community resilience.

(3) Providing ancillary benefits.

Ancillary benefits could include how the project will:

- Address inequities and support those with the greatest need.
- Reduce greenhouse gases by using low-carbon materials or developing low-carbon or net-zero energy projects.
- Enable greater community resilience through cybersecurity best practices.

Table 2: Scoring Points for Criterion 1: Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness

Not at all	Minimally	Partially	Mostly	Entirely
0	7.5	15	22.5	30

Applicants and subapplicants should include risk reduction/resilience effectiveness information in the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO.

For <u>Project</u> subapplications, include information in response to the following questions:

- "Describe how the project is technically feasible and will be effective in reducing the risk by reducing or eliminating damage to property and/or loss of life in the project area."
- "Will the project address the hazards identified and what risks will remain from all hazards after project implementation (residual risk)?"

For <u>Project Scoping</u> subapplications, include information in response to the question, "What are you doing to consider other risks in the project area?"

Any attachments that support this criterion should be uploaded to the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO and labeled accordingly. Cite the page number and location of the supporting data related to the qualitative criteria.

Prompts for the Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness Criterion

Below are additional considerations for completing the application/subapplication.

Interpreting Responses to Effective Risk Reduction

The subapplication should describe how the project will reduce risk in the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO. It should identify the risk being reduced and state what action will reduce the risk. The details should be clear and reasonable. The subapplication should identify how the project will mitigate the subject's most prevalent risk and any other risks that may be mitigated. Priorities for BRIC include reducing the risk from both acute events and chronic stressors that are made worse by observed or expected events and climate change. However, FEMA does not limit review of risk reduction to quantifiable actions. FEMA encourages alternative explanations of risk reduction. How will the proposed project reduce risk(s) and to what level?

For example, a proposed project could be designed to provide 100-year-level flood protection to a neighborhood with 250 people, 135 homes, and 15 publicly owned structures that support several <u>Community Lifelines</u>. It could also protect a variety of cultural, historic and environmental resources. Subapplicants may also have high Building Code

Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) scores, which show commitment to reducing risk through adopting strong building codes and enforcing those codes.

Interpreting Responses to Increases in Resilience

The subapplication should describe how the proposed project will improve resilience. Resilience refers to the capacity to prepare for expected hazards, adapt to evolving conditions, and withstand and quickly recover from disruptions. The description should identify what aspects of resilience are increasing and state what actions will increase the identified aspect. The description should be clear and reasonable.

For example, retrofitting a library to serve as a tornado shelter could include tornado (and other hazards) preparedness, resilience, and hazard mitigation information. This could enhance the community's resilience by educating the public about the risks they face and building a culture of preparedness.

Interpreting Responses to Ancillary Benefits

Ancillary benefits refer to benefits other than the project's primary risk reduction objective. They should be added in the Scope of Work section. Ancillary benefits could be related to water/air quality, habitat creation, energy efficiency, economic opportunity, reduced social vulnerability, reduced carbon emissions, cybersecurity, cultural resources, public health, and mental health. They may also support mission areas of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based groups, and other partners.

Subapplicants should consider the following:

- What ancillary benefits will the project provide and how?
- Does the project consider multiple hazards (e.g., wind/storm surge, wildfire/mudslides) to address risks beyond the proposal's primary goal?

Ancillary benefits should include how a project will lead to equitable outcomes and support those with the greatest need. Ancillary benefits could also address climate-related benefits. In this particular case, the project could achieve significant ancillary benefits, consistent with the <u>Inflation Reduction Act Section 70006</u>, FEMA building materials program, and <u>considers the use of low-carbon materials</u> or is developed as a low-carbon or net-zero energy project. Reference the Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) of the materials used when possible. A product-specific Type III (third-party verified) EPD must be shown and reported in a third-party dataset, such as the Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3).

Qualitative Evaluation Criterion 2: Climate Change and Other Future Conditions (20 possible points)

Future conditions are difficult to predict. However, noting the potential effects of climate change when designing a project is important. Planning with climate change and future conditions in mind helps a community invest in choices that protect lives and property for a longer period of time. Projects that consider future conditions can minimize damage and losses. They can also save or restore the benefits of natural systems.

Criterion 2 scores will depend on how well the subapplication details how the project will:

- (1) Enhance climate adaptation.
- (2) Respond to the effects of climate change.
- (3) Respond to the effects of other future conditions (population/demographic/land use, etc.).
- (4) Cite data sources, assumptions, and models.

FEMA will accept the following three definitions of climate change:

- "Changes in average weather conditions that persist over multiple decades or longer. Climate change encompasses both increases and decreases in temperature, as well as shifts in precipitation, changing risk of certain types of severe weather events, and changes to other features of the climate system" (Fourth National Climate Assessment).
- "A change in the usual weather found in a place. This could be a change in how much rain a place usually gets in a year. Or it could be a change in a place's usual temperature for a month or season" (<u>National Aeronautics and</u> <u>Space Agency</u>).
- "Any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer" (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]).

According to the EPA, climate change involves significant changes in average conditions—such as temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and other aspects of climate. The changes can occur over years, decades, centuries, or longer. Climate change involves longer-term trends, such as shifts toward warmer, wetter, or drier conditions. These trends can occur naturally over time, or stem from human activities that add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, such as burning fossil fuels for energy.

The subapplicant should indicate which definition of climate change is used in the project narrative.

Table 3: Scoring Points for Criterion 2: Climate Change and Other Future Conditions

Not at all	Minimally	Partially	Mostly	Entirely
0	5	10	15	20

FEMA works with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to increase resources and capabilities that help ensure the nation can withstand present and future climate hazards. Applicants and subapplicants should use evidence-based, best-available climate datasets, information resources, and decision-support tools, including federal resources, to identify current and future climate risks over the project's expected service life. Climate projections, emission scenarios, or other suitable scenario conditions should be based on the project's service life and the applicant's risk tolerance, as appropriate and available. Applicants should document how their planned project design and operations can withstand any identified current and future climate risks.

Subapplications should describe how the project builds climate adaptation and resilience using the best available data. They should detail how the project accounts for the effects of climate change (such as sea level rise, increased

rainfall, increased likelihood of flash flood due to wildfire, etc.) and/or other future conditions (population, demographic, land use, etc.). The subapplication should also cite data sources, assumptions, and models.

The subapplication type will determine where applicants and subapplicants should include climate change and other future conditions.

For <u>Project</u> subapplications, include information in the Evaluation section in response to the question, "Discuss how anticipated future conditions are addressed by this project." Additional attachments that support this criterion should be uploaded to the Evaluation section of FEMA GO and labeled.

For <u>Project Scoping</u> subapplications, include information in the Scope of Work section in response to the question, "What are you doing to consider other risks in the project area?" Additional attachments that support this criterion should be uploaded to the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO and labeled.

Include supporting information such as data sources, studies, models, etc. Available supporting data sources that applicants or subapplicants may use include <u>Climate.gov</u>, <u>Drought.gov</u>, <u>Heat.gov</u>, <u>the Sea Level Rise Viewer</u>, <u>the National Climate Assessment</u>, the <u>Wildfire Risk to Communities tool</u>, <u>Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation</u> (<u>CMRA</u>) portal, the <u>National Risk Index</u> and the <u>U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit</u>. Cite the page number and location of the supporting data.

Prompts for the Climate Change and Other Future Conditions Criterion

Examples of future conditions include:

- Expected population changes.
- Land use and development shifts.
- Aging population.
- Shifts in income or employment.
- Changes in housing needs.
- Increasing temperatures.

- Sea level rise.
- More frequent high tide flooding.
- More intense rainfall events.
- Increasing storm frequency.
- Persistent and prolonged droughts.
- Changing groundwater tables, etc.

Increased wildfire risk.

The following considerations may help you complete the application/subapplication:

- What anticipated future conditions apply to the project?
- How is the project responsive to any identified anticipated changes? Does the project consider future conditions in its design, planning, and operations workflows? For example, for climate adaptation, a proposed project in a coastal area that is at risk to coastal flooding due to sea level rise might include how the proposed activities may mitigate the impacts of climate change. Details might include anticipated rate of sea level rise, construction techniques to elevate or mitigate future flooding, or other information a reviewer could use to determine how the proposed project accounts for future changes.

- How was the project informed by, or connected to, plans and planning efforts and the assessment of future conditions? For example, a local hazard mitigation plan may identify climate change as a threat or risk and include the proposed project as a mitigation response. Relevant plans may include hazard mitigation plans, comprehensive plans, climate adaptation plans, long-range transportation plans, small area plans, coastal zone management plans, capital improvement plans, etc.
- What data sources and assumptions guide the project? For example, when citing a sea level rise projection, what timeframe and scenario of sea level rise are assumed?

Qualitative Evaluation Criterion 3: Implementation Measures (15 possible points)

To carry out a project, subapplicants must understand expectations, ensure human capital and financial resources are in place, and develop a realistic timetable. If implementation measures are thoroughly developed, the subapplicant has a roadmap to successfully meet the project's main objectives.

The score for Criterion 3 will depend on how well the subapplication describes:

(1) How the costs will be managed.

(2) How the schedule will be managed.

(3) How the project will be successfully carried out, and how innovative techniques to do that will be incorporated.

(4) The technical and managerial staff and resources available to carry out this project.

(5) Whether and how strong labor standards are built in to ensure high-quality work, prevent costly delays, and promote efficiency.

Table 4: Scoring Points for Criterion 3: Implementation Measures

Not at all	Minimally	Partially	Mostly	Entirely
0	3.75	7.5	11.25	15

In the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO for project and project scoping subapplications, applicants and subapplicants should include implementation measures information in response to the question, "How will the mitigation activity be implemented?" Any attachments that support this criterion should be uploaded to the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO and labeled accordingly. Cite the page number and location of the supporting data related to the qualitative criteria.

Prompts for the Implementation Measures Criterion

Below are additional considerations for completing the application/subapplication.

 Are strong labor standards incorporated? These include the use of project labor agreements; compliance with all applicable wage and safety laws; requiring workers' wages to be at or above the prevailing rate; use of local hire Learn more at fema.gov
 January 2025 8 provisions; proactive steps to comply with all applicable workplace safety laws; use of a directly employed workforce (as opposed to a subcontracted workforce); use of an appropriately skilled workforce (e.g., through registered apprenticeships or other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers— particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded); and use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., meeting all appropriate and relevant pre-existing occupational training, certification, and licensure requirements).

- Does the application inspire confidence that the project can be completed successfully as designed, given the stated implementation measures?
- What potential implementation challenges and obstacles are identified (e.g., technical, political, financial, public support, environmental/permitting, constructability)? What solutions are proposed to address these challenges?
- How do project cost estimates and the schedule identify and address potential challenges and obstacles?
- What pre- and post-implementation monitoring strategies are proposed for the project? What specific evaluation elements will measure progress and ensure the project is executed as designed?
- What technical and managerial staff and resources are available to successfully complete the project? How will anticipated staff and resource gaps be filled?
- Are examples of successfully completed projects included to demonstrate effective implementation measures?

Qualitative Evaluation Criterion 4: Population Impacted (25 possible points)

The identification of the population impacted by a hazard is just as—if not more—important than the intensity of the hazard. Certain demographic or socioeconomic characteristics may place community members at greater risk of harm before, during, and after a disaster.

The score received for Criterion 4 measures how well the subapplication describes: (1) community-wide benefits; (2) the proportion of the population that will be impacted, including a description of the disadvantaged communities as identified in <u>CEJST</u>; (3) how the project maximizes positive impacts and minimizes negative impacts to any disadvantaged populations as referenced in Executive Order 14008; and (4) how the proposed project clearly benefits a disadvantaged community. Executive Order 14008 defines a disadvantaged community as follows:

"A disadvantaged community may be characterized by variables including, but not limited to, low income, high and/or persistent poverty, high unemployment and underemployment, racial and ethnic segregation, linguistic isolation, high housing cost burden and substandard housing, distressed neighborhoods, high transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access, disproportionate environmental burden and high cumulative impacts, limited water and sanitation access and affordability, disproportionate climate impacts, high energy cost burden and low energy access, and all geographic areas within Tribal jurisdictions."

If the impacted population does not include a disadvantaged community, then the highest point allotment available is "Partially." A subapplication(s) that clearly states the proposed project benefits a disadvantaged community can score "Mostly" or "Entirely."

Subapplicants should document their community's status as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community (as referenced in <u>Title 42 of United States Code [U.S.C.] Section 5133[a]</u>) or as a Community Disaster Resilience Zone (as defined in <u>Title 42 United States Code Section 5136[a]</u>). State whether the project is within or primarily benefits a census tract identified as disadvantaged by the <u>Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool</u> or <u>CEJST</u>. Include a narrative in the subapplication of how the community is disadvantaged and impacted. Attach all supporting documentation.

- Subapplications that demonstrate a direct positive impact to a disadvantaged community will receive a score of "Mostly."
- Subapplications that thoroughly describe the population impacted and demonstrate a high positive impact including on a disadvantaged community—will merit a score of "Entirely."

TIP: FEMA recommends clearly describing disadvantaged communities in the narrative and providing documentation.

Table 5: Scoring Points for Criterion 4: Population Impacted

Not at all	Minimally	Partially	Mostly	Entirely
0	6.25	12.5	18.75	25

Applicants and subapplicants should include the population impacted information in the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO.

For <u>Project</u> subapplications, include information in response to the question, "Provide detailed description of population impacted."

For <u>Project Scoping</u> subapplications, include information in response to the question, "What are you doing to consider other risks in the project area?"

Any attachments associated with this criterion should be uploaded to the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO and labeled. Cite the page number and location of the supporting data.

Prompts for the Population Impacted Criterion

Below are additional considerations for completing the application/subapplication.

- Community size, scale, and definition can vary in different local contexts. Explain what "community-wide" means in the context of the proposed project.
- Describe what quantity (e.g., percent) of the population will directly benefit from the project (i.e., experience direct community-wide benefits) and how the estimate was calculated. The subapplication should include percentages of the community's population that will directly and indirectly benefit from the project.
- Identify the most vulnerable members of the community where the project is proposed. Describe how the project will minimize negative impacts to disadvantaged members of the community.

Explain whether the project will maximize positive impacts to disadvantaged members of the community. Impacts
can be directly related to the risk reduction activity or indirectly related, such as with ancillary impacts (i.e.,
social, environmental, and economic impacts).

Superstorm Sandy: People in wheelchairs who rely on electricity to leave and enter buildings in New York City (i.e., electric elevators and wheelchair lifts) were not adequately considered during local emergency planning efforts per a 2013 court ruling. Without backup power systems in place or evacuation measures for people in wheelchairs, the widespread power outages caused by Superstorm Sandy led to people in wheelchairs being stranded across the city (Calma, 2017).

For more information on considerations for people with disabilities in hazard mitigation see <u>FEMA's Guide to</u> <u>Expanding Mitigation | Making the Connection to People with Disabilities</u> (November 2021).

Qualitative Evaluation Criterion 5: Community Engagement and Other Outreach Activities (5 possible points)

A key element in the hazard mitigation process is the discussion it promotes among community members about creating a safer, more disaster-resilient community. Community engagement and other outreach activities that capture a community's values and priorities lend a project greater legitimacy and earn support. This can lead to greater success in carrying out the project.

The score received for Criterion 5 reflects how well the subapplication describes (1) the outreach strategy and supporting activities of the project and community that advance hazard mitigation; (2) the types of community planning processes leveraged; (3) how input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including people from disadvantaged communities, was gathered and incorporated into project conception and design; and (4) how community planning and stakeholder input will continue to direct project execution.

Table 6: Scoring Points for Criterion 5: Community Engagement and Other Outreach Activities

Not at all	Minimally	Partially	Mostly	Entirely
0	1.25	2.5	3.75	5

Applicants and subapplicants should include information about community engagement and other outreach activities in the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO. Attachments that support this criterion should be uploaded to the Scope of Work section of FEMA GO and labeled. Cite the page number and location of the supporting data.

Prompts for the Community Engagement and Other Outreach Activities Criterion

Below are additional considerations for completing the application/subapplication.

 To what extent did community members and stakeholders and/or stakeholder groups contribute to this project? What community member and stakeholder collaboration activities occurred? What outreach information has been included in the subapplication? How was the community/impacted population made aware of this potential project?

- What planning processes were leveraged during the development of the project proposal to advance mitigation? How did the project involve disadvantaged members of the community in the planning and decision-making processes? Were town hall meetings held with affected communities? How many community members and stakeholder groups were represented? Suggestion: document attendance and outreach efforts.
- What information (e.g., resilience goals and outcomes, partnership opportunities, project implementation progress) will be shared with the public? What public outreach and engagement strategies will be used to present project information to and gather feedback from stakeholders and members of the community? How will the information be shared?
- What support or conflicts emerged through the project planning process? How will conflicts be resolved as the project is carried out? How is support being used to complete the project?
- How are your hazard mitigation plan and local land use requirements connected? How does the linkage make your community more resilient? For example, a local hazard mitigation plan may state that certain areas of the community are at a greater risk of future flooding. Do the associated land use plans have a floodplain classification, land use classification, or zoning ordinance to prevent development in that floodplain?

TIP: Because FEMA GO does not ask directly about community engagement, subapplicants should ensure their narratives clearly differentiate this criterion from Criterion 6: Leveraging Partners.

Qualitative Evaluation Criterion 6: Leveraging Partners (5 possible points)

Leveraging partners allows subapplicants to access complementary strengths from neighboring communities, states, the federal government, and non-profit and private partners. This can help the subapplicant financially and serves the local community's greater good. Partners may provide resources including funds or in-kind services.

The score received for Criterion 6 will depend on how well the subapplication incorporates (1) partnerships (e.g., state, territory, tribal, private, district, local community) that will ensure the project meets community needs; (2) an explanation of how these partnerships benefit disadvantaged communities; and (3) an explanation of the anticipated outcome of those partnerships (e.g., leveraging financial, material, or educational resources; coordinating multi-jurisdictional projects; and focusing on equity-related issues).

Table 7: Scoring Points for Criterion 6: Leveraging Partners	

Not at all	Minimally	Partially	Mostly	Entirely
0	1.25	2.5	3.75	5

In the Evaluation section of FEMA GO, applicants and subapplicants should include information about leveraging partners when asked to "Describe involvement of partners to enhance the mitigation activity outcome." Attachments that support this criterion should be uploaded to the Evaluation section of FEMA GO and labeled. Cite the page number and location of the supporting data.

Prompts for the Leveraging Partners Criterion

Below are additional considerations for completing the application/subapplication.

- What partners helped in the project design? How did partners contribute to the application; what resources were provided? What partners will help carry out the project? Partnerships can take many different forms. For example, partners may contribute financially, support and promote the proposed project, or help generate community-wide awareness of the risks the proposal is designed to address, etc.
- To what extent were NGOs—including those organizations that represent disadvantaged groups, universities, or other government entities—consulted for advice or assistance? How has collaboration with surrounding jurisdictions supported project development?
- To what extent have other federal programs or funding sources been used for the project? To what extent have partners provided funding (or in-kind services, such as grant writing support, procurement support, expertise, supplies, etc.) that increases the non-federal cost share?
- How have partnerships been used to increase community resilience? What community groups will participate in this project? What potential exists for partnerships to continue beyond completion of the project?