



# DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

## Request for Proposals (RFP): *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC*

*Issued January 21, 2024; applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2025*

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is announcing the availability of up to \$10 million in non-federal matching funds to support communities applying for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program \(FEMA BRIC\)](#).

DEEP's *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC* program is a new funding initiative and is part of the new *Deployment* category of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF). DCRF supports implementation and construction for community and energy resilience projects.

DEEP is launching this opportunity to complement the January 6, 2025, FEMA announcement of up to \$750 million in funding for communities to reduce their risks from natural hazards. DEEP's *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC* will provide part of the matching funds that FEMA BRIC requires, addressing a common barrier that deters Connecticut communities from developing successful applications for these important federal funds. DEEP's *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC* is open to municipal governments, local public utilities, federally recognized Tribal nations, and other entities that are eligible for, and submitting applications to, FEMA BRIC. Any such applicant should continue to coordinate its application to FEMA through the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

### Program background

Connecticut is already experiencing climate change impacts, including 8 to 9 inches of sea level rise since 1880, accelerating coastal erosion, a warming of Long Island Sound, warmer hottest and colder coldest days of the year, increasing annual rainfall, decreasing annual snowfall, and more intense rainstorms. Connecticut's communities are responding by developing innovative approaches to increase their resilience to climate-driven hazards, often seeking to fund resilience projects through state and federal grant programs.

To support this critical local and regional work, DEEP established the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF). In the fall of 2024, DEEP issued a Request for Information (RFI) to guide the development of an expanded DCRF that will offer funding categories across the entire project pipeline for resilience activities, including categories for *Planning*, *Advancement*, and *Deployment* phases of project development. This expanded DCRF is DEEP's primary vehicle for funding resilience projects that

address vulnerabilities to climate-driven hazards – such as flooding, drought, extreme heat, and wildfires – and reduce impacts to critical infrastructure. *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC* is being launched in advance of the RFP for other grant categories within the expanded DCRF to allow communities to pursue an immediate opportunity through FEMA BRIC and to further develop other concepts for the *Deployment* category that were outlined in the Request for Information. DEEP is using the feedback from the RFI to develop and release a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the expanded DCRF in Spring 2025.

FEMA BRIC is one of the largest sources of funding for projects that make communities more resilient, providing grants of up to \$50 million. Communities often struggle to take advantage of FEMA BRIC, however, because the program requires one quarter of the project cost be covered with non-federal funding. To reduce this barrier, DEEP will make up to \$10 million in state bond funds available, with up to \$4 million for any individual applicant. The total funds that DEEP awards may be adjusted depending on the quality and number of applications. Through *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC*, DEEP will award non-federal funds to cover between 25% and 75% of FEMA BRIC's required match, dependent on project scope, location, and the applicant pool (see **Program details**, below).

## Program overview

**The funding announced through this Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC RFP can only be used to provide a portion of the non-federal cost share for applications to the [FY 2024 FEMA BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).**

DEEP will review applications submitted under this RFP and award funds under an expedited timeline (see below) to align with the closing date for FEMA BRIC (April 18, 2024) and CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's (DEMHS) [sub-applicant deadline \(date TBD\)](#).

Applicants that receive awards under this RFP will receive a Conditional Letter of Commitment for state bond funds that can be included in their applications to FEMA BRIC. DEEP will provide the awarded funds to applicants that receive FEMA BRIC funding, subject to State Bond Commission allocation. Awardees must notify DEEP once FEMA notifies them about their FEMA BRIC applications. Due to the significant effort required to develop FEMA BRIC applications, DEEP recommends that applicants to DEEP's *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC* continue to develop their FEMA applications during DEEP's review period.

## Program details

**Eligible applicants:** Municipal governments, local public utilities, federally recognized Tribal nations, and [other entities eligible for FEMA BRIC funding](#)

**Total amount available:** Up to \$10 million total. Individual awards are not expected to exceed \$4 million.

**Funding range per award:** The non-federal cost share required for FEMA BRIC projects is [typically 25% of the total cost](#).<sup>1</sup> The base percentage that DEEP will award is 25% of this non-federal cost share. Additional percentage amounts can be awarded to projects based on the following:

- Up to an additional 25% of the non-federal cost share for projects that benefit environmental justice communities as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a](#).
- Up to an additional 25% for projects that incorporate nature-based solutions.

The maximum percentage that may be awarded is 75% of the non-federal cost share for a project. Under the maximum award for a project under this RFP, applicants are required to provide at least 25% of the non-federal cost share.

**DEEP program requirements:**

- Applicants must be applying to the [FY 2024 FEMA BRIC NOFO](#).
- Applicants must be applying to FEMA BRIC for implementation or construction.
- Final design components and permitting components, as per eligibility for FEMA BRIC, are allowed provided greater than 50% of the funds would be used for construction.
- DEEP will provide a Conditional Letter of Commitment for state bond funds for applications.
- Awardees must notify DEEP about their application status once fiscal year 2024's FEMA BRIC awards are announced.
- Commitment letters will *not* transfer to other grant programs or years. If the application to fiscal year 2024's FEMA BRIC is not successful, awardees would need to reapply for consideration in the future.

**FEMA BRIC eligibility:** FEMA BRIC funds pre-disaster hazard mitigation and climate adaption projects that will enable communities to withstand or rapidly recover from future disasters. For fiscal year 2024 funds, FEMA is prioritizing projects that align with multiple [BRIC program objectives](#) and the [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#). These objectives include addressing multiple hazards, incorporating risk-informed nature-based solutions, eliminating disparities across disadvantaged communities, and mitigating current and future risk to public infrastructure. Given these priorities for fiscal year 2024, DEEP encourages applicants to develop projects that use innovative approaches to build community resilience across multiple hazards and impacts. Projects may include components that consider energy resilience, including measures that protect energy infrastructure from natural hazards or deploy microgrids and other backup power systems. Examples of projects that were awarded BRIC funds can be found in [FEMA's Mitigation Action Portfolio](#) and [the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation FEMA BRIC project summaries](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Some applicants from FEMA-designated Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities or Community Disaster Resilience Zones may qualify for a reduced cost-share percentage. DEEP will work with prospective applicants on the appropriate funding range, as applicable.

**Review criteria for *Matching Funds for FEMA BRIC*:** Applications will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria. Projects that best meet the criteria below will be prioritized for funding.

- Benefits environmental justice or vulnerable communities, as defined by the [CEJST tool](#), [Community Disaster Resilience Zones \(CDRZs\)](#), or [C.G.S. § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#)
- Overall potential to improve community-level climate resilience
- Is consistent with the applicable [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- Is consistent with the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development
- Creates co-benefits (e.g., reduces greenhouse gas emissions, addresses multiple issues, creates an amenity to the community, takes a comprehensive approach to risk reduction)
- Connects with CIRCA's [PERSISTS](#) framework
- Project and applicant meet FEMA's funding requirements for BRIC, including a [Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.0 or greater](#)
- Incorporates the impacts of climate change into project design based on FEMA's [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard \(FFRMS\)](#)
- Includes elements of nature-based solutions, as per the [FEMA FFRMS](#), when possible
- Describes activities that are technically sound and feasible
- Details costs that are allowable and reasonable
- Applicant has a record of successfully completing grant deliverables if applicant has previously received funding through DEEP
- Is located in a community that has a stormwater authority

## Timeline

- Applications open: **January 21, 2025**
- Applications due: **March 3, 2025**
- DEEP notifies applicants: by **March 14, 2025**
- DEMHS state deadline for 2024 FEMA BRIC applications: **TBD, but likely March 18, 2025**
- Fiscal Year 2024 FEMA BRIC application deadline: **April 18, 2025**

*DEEP strongly encourages applicants to continue work on FEMA BRIC application while DEEP is reviewing applications in order to meet the above state and federal deadlines.*

## Application process

**Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2025.**

- Complete a brief DEEP application (available on the [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund webpage](#)). Please note that the application requires a map of the project area and a copy of DEMHS's [Notice of Intent](#) to apply for FEMA BRIC funds.
- Submit DEMHS's [Notice of Intent](#) to apply for BRIC funds. Save a copy of the PDF to submit to DEEP.
- Email the DEEP Matching Funds application and a copy of the DEMHS Notice of Intent to [DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov). Applicants must include **"DCRF MATCHING FUNDS APPLICATION"** followed by the **applicant's name** in the subject line of the email.

## DEEP informational meetings

DEEP will hold two office hours to give applicants opportunities to ask questions:

- **Wednesday, February 5 from 12pm-1pm**  
Register: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/ODdtEeoyTG2M0ijXRA798g>
- **Tuesday, February 18 from 2pm-3pm**  
Register: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/S5hY9XrYQviLp1iW5aJm5A>

For questions about this RFP, please email [DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov).