# Federal cuts to FEMA’s BRIC programme threaten Kentucky disaster resilience projects



Federal reductions to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) programme are set to place a number of local projects in Kentucky in jeopardy. The BRIC initiative provides critical funding aimed at enabling communities to strengthen infrastructure and prepare for severe weather events before they occur. The recent cuts will affect over $9 million in grant funding meant for projects across the state.

Carey Johnson, a floodplain manager and founding member of the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers, highlighted the wide-reaching impact of these financial setbacks. Speaking to WEKU, Johnson explained, “That's a big blow to communities across the state, like Jeffersontown, Salt Lick, Floyd County, Powell County, Franklin County, that have had some of those projects awarded that they now will not be able to, well, not only not move forward with, but not implement at all.”

He emphasised the critical nature of the federal funding, noting that BRIC grants make up approximately 75% of hazard mitigation money used by state and local governments. “There certainly can be pivots to other authorised programs, potentially, that would come from the federal level. But simply stated, without federal inputs, mitigation at the state and the local level will come to a standstill,” Johnson said.

FEMA has issued a national statement criticising the BRIC programme, characterising it as “wasteful and ineffective” and suggesting that it has been “more concerned with political agendas than helping Americans affected by natural disasters.” In light of the federal cuts, Johnson expressed hope that the funds could be reallocated through another federal programme after a period of organisational restructuring.

The reduction of funding to the BRIC programme underscores significant challenges for Kentucky communities intending to advance their resilience against natural hazards through infrastructure improvements and hazard mitigation efforts. As these projects face uncertainty, local officials and mitigation managers are considering alternative federal funding routes to maintain momentum in disaster preparedness.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.floods.org/news-views/fema-news/fema-ends-bric-program-leaving-states-in-the-lurch/> - Corroborates the ending of the BRIC program and its implications for state and local communities, highlighting the program as a cornerstone of national hazard mitigation strategies.
* <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20250404/fema-ends-wasteful-politicized-grant-program-returning-agency-core-mission> - Supports FEMA's announcement and characterization of the BRIC program as 'wasteful and politicized,' aligning with their decision to end it.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Provides context for the original article discussing the BRIC program cuts affecting Kentucky communities and the impact on local projects.
* <https://www.fema.gov/about-history> - General information on FEMA's history and mission might provide context for understanding the role of the BRIC program in FEMA's overall strategy.
* <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4667> - Details the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, which established the BRIC program as a stable funding source for mitigation projects.