



May 27, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director, United States Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young:

The BuildStrong Coalition writes to applaud the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Administration for the most recent fiscal year's \$1 billion funding allocation into the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. BuildStrong advocated for the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA), which authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to create the BRIC Program and implement a consistent formula to fund pre-disaster planning and mitigation, rather than waiting for disaster to strike. While this was a significant step forward, we continue to see an overwhelming nationwide demand for mitigation, as evidenced by the oversubscription for the program. During the last application period, FEMA received requests from every state, tribe, and territory for a total of \$4.16 billion, well over the \$1 billion made available.

While last year's \$1 billion allocation was unprecedented, we recognize there is room to grow given the statutorily authorized funding mechanism (as you know, DRRA authorized FEMA to transfer up to 6 percent of Disaster Relief Funding into BRIC). **We strongly encourage the Administration to go beyond last fiscal year's allocation of \$1 billion to help drive down the federal costs of disasters and assist FEMA with the oversubscription of the BRIC Program.**

Our organization has been a longtime partner with Congress and the Federal government to investigate causes of, and devise the solutions to, the rising costs and impacts of disasters in the U.S. The BuildStrong Coalition is made up of a diverse group of members representing firefighters, emergency responders, emergency managers, insurers, engineers, architects, contractors, and manufacturers, as well as consumer organizations, code specialists, and many others committed to building a more disaster resilient nation. As evidenced by recent GAO [testimony](#) before Congress, we understand that there is a federal desire to improve our national preparedness. We recognize and support the premise that pre-disaster mitigation works. In fact, according to the National Institute of Building Sciences, it has been found that mitigation efforts, such as adopting latest editions of building codes, can save up to \$11 per \$1 invested.

On behalf of our Coalition membership, we encourage your office and the Administration to enhance the upcoming funding allocation to better address our growing resilience and mitigation issues. We look forward to working with you, FEMA, and Congress to support the success of the BRIC program by increasing the resources necessary into pre-disaster mitigation and in line with Congressional intent.

Sincerely,

Jimi Grande  
Chairman  
BuildStrong Coalition

Phil Anderson  
President  
BuildStrong Coalition