Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW
Washington, DC 20024

Commissioner Jacqueline Bray
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
1120 Washington Avenue
Building 7A Suite 710
Albany, NY 12246

Re: New York City Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

As Members of New York City's Congressional Delegation, we are pleased to write in support of New York City agencies' subapplications to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs. When awarded, these ten projects will advance resilience in New York City (City) through the scoping of future projects as well as "shovel ready" capital projects that will meaningfully reduce risk to New Yorkers – particularly the City's most socially vulnerable – to climate change and extreme weather events.

We are committed to taking action to protect our city and prevent future tragedies like those from the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Sandy and Ida, but we cannot do it alone. We are thankful for the support your agencies have provided to New York City thus far, but we need to do more. Climate change increases the City's risk of experiencing tropical storms, flash flooding, and extreme heat. Just this past September, a heavy rainfall event flooded infrastructure and homes, causing widespread damage across Brooklyn and Manhattan. To combat the higher frequency and intensity of these hazardous events, we are working citywide to increase coastal protection and cloudburst infrastructure, enhance building codes to tackle stormwater flooding, and plan multi-hazard climate resiliency projects. We need additional federal support through FEMA's BRIC and FMA programs to protect our communities.

New York City is a national leader in resilience and mitigation and has been a successful and impactful steward of billions of dollars in natural hazard mitigation and resilience projects. My office is a strong advocate for agencies seeking funding sources, such as BRIC and FMA. Critically, we recognize the value of implementation and will support these projects in efficiently building resilient and cost-effective infrastructure for New Yorkers. With so many New Yorkers

facing flood risk and vulnerability to natural hazards, we have a moral imperative to protect our residents and advance city-wide infrastructure protection efforts.

New York City is adapting to the realities of climate change in real time and doing everything we can to keep New Yorkers safe. We are committed to the BRIC/FMA FY23 projects, which will increase resiliency and reduce future impacts to New York City.

BRIC/FMA FY 2023 Project Descriptions:

Project Name	Agency	Project Description	Cost
Central Harlem Cloudburst Hub	Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	This project will install porous pavement, storage, and drainage interventions to maximize stormwater captured for high-intensity rainfall events. This neighborhood-scale stormwater management project will benefit over 45,000 New Yorkers living in the hub area of Central and East Harlem by reducing property damage, mitigating localized street flooding, and overall improving quality of life.	Total: $104,812,800 Federal funding request: $50,000,000
East Elmhurst Cloudburst Hub	Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	This project will install porous pavement, storage, and drainage interventions to maximize stormwater capture for high-intensity rainfall events. This neighborhood-scale stormwater management project will benefit over 34,000 New Yorkers living in the hub area of East Elmhurst by reducing property damage, mitigating localized street flooding, and overall improving quality of life.	Total: $79,464,960 Federal funding request: $50,000,000
Polo Grounds Towers Coastal Storm Protection	New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)	This project will install a cost-effective coastal storm surge barrier with multi-functional benefits that will improve the overall resiliency and quality of life of Harlem's Polo Grounds Towers and Public School 46. New York City is embracing an innovative design solution that will embed urban amenities within a perimeter coastal storm surge barrier. On a sunny day, passersby may enjoy community designed murals, accessible seating, bike parking, native vegetation, enhanced lighting or other community-determined amenities. During extreme coastal storms, the perimeter barrier will protect this property—including critical infrastructure, walkways, structures, residents, and students-- from coastal storm surges.	Total: $16,044,614 Federal funding request: $12,224,468

Project Name	Agency	Project Description	Cost
Climate Resilience Assessment and Scoping Project to Safeguard Public Buildings	Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)	DCAS will lead, with support from a city-authorized engineering consultant, a collaborative portfolio-wide risk and resilience assessment to identify vulnerabilities and develop mitigation strategies for a subset of these facilities, which include buildings such as City Hall, borough halls, courts, and other administrative buildings that are critical to civic operations of New York City. The study will focus primarily on flooding and extreme heat, which have already significantly impacted DCAS facilities in the past and align with citywide climate adaptation priorities.	Total: $965,995 Federal funding request: $724,092
Climate Resilience Assessment and Planning Project to Safeguard Public Buildings	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)	DOHMH is proposing to perform a climate resilience assessment and scoping project for 11 DOHMH-managed health center facilities to identify and address multi-hazard climate risks. The health centers house a range of DOHMH and NYC Health + Hospitals programs, such as adult and pediatric care, dental care, vision, mental health services, as well as operations and administrative functions. Many of these facilities have been impacted by past climate events, and this project will result in a project subapplication to protect them in the future.	Total: $747,461 Federal funding request: $560,500
Flood Hazard Scoping Study for Vulnerable Multi-Service Community Centers	Department Social Services (DSS) and Human Resources Administration (HRA)	DSS and HRA are proposing a portfolio-wide hazard mitigation scoping study of five HRA-owned multi-service centers across the City, including two in Brooklyn, one in Manhattan, one in Queens, and one in the Bronx. Each of these facilities provides critical services to underserved communities, including after school programming, family services, domestic violence prevention, employment readiness programs, and space for civic meetings. The key objective of this scoping project is to determine the two sites best suited for subsequent FEMA capital grant funding to implement flood mitigation measures.	Total: $644,975 Federal funding request: $515,980
Shoreline Flood Mitigation Scoping Alternatives Analysis	New York City Police Department (NYPD) and New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)	NYPD will perform an alternatives analysis to determine the most feasible flood protection measures for NYPD-operated facilities on NYC Parks property at Rodman's Neck in the Bronx, in coordination with NYC Parks. This project will safeguard against coastal flooding and superstorms, preserving safety and lifelines for the surrounding communities. Its focus on nature-based solutions will improve overall sustainability and resilience of the shoreline, ensuring ecological enhancement and strengthening of coastal ecosystems to endure and rebound from climate change impacts.	Total: $705,000 Federal funding request: $528,750

Project Name	Agency	Project Description	Cost
Stormwater Flooding Building Code Provisions Development	New York City Department of Buildings (DOB)- Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ)	NYC DOB and MOCEJ are collaborating on this grant to develop building code provisions designed to mitigate inland stormwater flooding risk. Current NYC building code includes provisions to mitigate flood risks in the coastal floodplain but does not address inland stormwater flood risk, leaving a gap in the City's flood-resistant building codes. This grant would support the City in developing building code provisions specifically tailored to prevent stormwater flood risk through research, analysis, and engagement with key stakeholders in the City. This subapplication is for the newly created "Building Code Plus-Up" funding that FEMA established this year.	Total: $654,500 Federal funding request: $498,667
Flood Risk Assessment Scoping Project	New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)	DOT is proposing a flood risk assessment of 27 facilities across all five boroughs of NYC focused on coastal, tidal, and stormwater flooding; combined sewer back-ups; and groundwater rise. The facilities selected include repair and maintenance workshops, asphalt plants, equipment storage warehouses, and administrative offices. The study will include a phased hazard exposure assessment of all facilities to define current and future operational flood risks, detailed site risk, and impact assessments for 15 prioritized sites. The goal is to develop mitigation strategies for the 8 most at-risk facilities and to develop a future BRIC/FMA subapplication for another 4 facilities.	Total: $998,083 Federal funding request: $899,574
Flatlands-Fairfield Industrial Business Zone Mitigation Scoping Project	New York City Small Business Services (SBS)- Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ)	To analyze climate risks to the city's industrial areas and develop mitigation strategies, MOCEJ, in partnership with NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and NYC SBS, proposes to investigate the relationship between NYC's industrial areas and neighborhood climate vulnerabilities and develop a framework for future projects that will increase industrial resilience. The focus of this study is Flatlands-Fairfield, a 1.1 square mile Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) in southeast Brooklyn that borders the communities of Canarsie, East New York, and Brownsville. This scoping study will include several analyses to understand the current vulnerabilities of the Flatlands-Fairfield IBZ and will design hazard mitigation projects to effectively reduce risk to critical infrastructure and communities. The study will also develop resilient typologies that support sustainable industrial area retention and growth and serve as a model for further analyses across the city's other IBZs.	Total: $840,000 Federal funding requested: $760,000

Ultimately, through the use of these grants, the City will be able to complete the projects listed above, which will advance stormwater resilience and meaningfully reduce the risk of flood to millions of New Yorkers, including our most vulnerable communities. Therefore, we respectfully request that FEMA grant the City's BRIC and FMA applications and ensure that our infrastructure is as resilient as our people.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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