



FEMA

June 5, 2026

Greg Engle, Administrator
Wisconsin Emergency Management
2400 Wright Street, P.O. Box 7865
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Dear Administrator Engle:

The Cuba City School District in Cuba City, Wisconsin, submitted a project subapplication that was selected for further review under the Fiscal Year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The subapplication, designated EMC-2022-BR-008-0011, proposed to construct a community safe room as part of a new gymnasium building for the Cuba City School District, with a federal share of \$8,792,147.34 requested. While the project was *Identified for Further Review* in the national selection process, FEMA has determined this subapplication to be ineligible for BRIC funding due to the initiation of construction prior to award.

An article published by *Education Week* on May 1, 2026, revealed that the school district has moved forward with groundbreaking and construction of the gym structure that was to have incorporated the safe room elements included in the BRIC grant proposal. Wisconsin Emergency Management staff confirmed that construction is underway, which is also supported by video updates on the Cuba City School District Facebook page. The Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance 2015, Section E.2 *Ineligible Activities*, states that projects for which actual physical work, such as groundbreaking, has occurred prior to award or final approval are not eligible for funding. The Fiscal Year 2022 BRIC NOFO also states in Section 3 *Other Eligibility Criteria* that construction activities for which ground disturbance has already been initiated are not eligible for funding.

As indicated in the Fiscal Year 2022 BRIC NOFO, an eligible applicant or subapplicant may request an appeal of FEMA's denial of its application or subapplication for hazard mitigation projects for which there is an indication of a substantive technical or procedural error. The appeal must be submitted according to the following procedures:

- The applicant must submit an appeal in writing to FEMA within 60 days after receipt of a notice of the action that is being appealed. Within this 60-day period, the subapplicant must submit its appeal in writing to the applicant, after which the applicant must review and evaluate the subapplicant's appeal before submission to FEMA.

- The appeal must identify any substantive technical or procedural error committed by FEMA, and FEMA will only consider the information provided in the application or subapplication as supporting documentation.

Wisconsin Emergency Management will be notified in writing of the disposition of the appeal or the need for additional information. All appeal decisions are final.

Should you have any questions, please have your staff contact Mitchell Troup at 202-717-0562 or Mitchell.Troup@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Julia McCarthy
Mitigation Division Director

cc: Heather Thole, State Hazard Mitigation Officer