



# MEMORANDUM

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**Resolution 25-052, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Cancellation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant to Adopt and Implement the 2021 Edition of the International Building Code. City Manager/City Planner.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Lord and City Council  
**Date:** May 14, 2025  
**From:** Ryan Foster, City Planner  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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**Summary:**

Homer's FEMA BRIC grant application for funding to adopt and implement building codes has been canceled and that the City staff will not continue to pursue the adoption and implementation of building codes unless directed by the City Council.

Building Safety and Code Enforcement was identified as a Council priority during the 2022 Visioning work session held in March at the Pratt Museum, with the goals of ensuring buildings in Homer are safe, that the City has a system for enforcing regulations, and allowing for a denser pattern of development in the future. In November 2022, the Homer City Council approved Resolution 22-086 authorizing the City to apply for a BRIC Grant for funding to adopt and implement building codes in Homer.

Due to the recently announced decision on April 4, 2025, by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Community (BRIC) Program has been shuttered and will no longer exist in its current form. As per the DHS/FEMA guidance all projects not yet awarded from FY2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 will not be awarded. Unfortunately, this includes the City of Homer BRIC award for adopting and implementing building codes, as well as many other projects across Alaska. The State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management tells us that at this time there is no appeal process to save projects that have not yet been awarded. If there is a change in policy, or the creation of a new program that provides opportunities such as the ones in BRIC we will be notified. At this time, they have no further guidance on if a program like this will return in the future.

**Recommendation:**

Review and adopt Resolution 25-052 acknowledging the cancellation of Homer's FEMA BRIC grant application for funding to adopt and implement building codes and that the City staff will not continue to pursue the adoption and implementation of building codes unless directed by the City Council.

**Attachments:**

Resolution 22-086 with backup

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager

**RESOLUTION 22-086**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR A FEMA BUILDING  
RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITIES GRANT TO ADOPT  
AND IMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2021 EDITION

WHEREAS, Building Safety and Code Enforcement was identified as a Council priority during the 2022 Visioning work session held in March at the Pratt Museum; and

WHEREAS, Homer does not have an adopted building code, and only commercial structures are reviewed by the State Fire Marshal for any kind of code compliance; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant program to support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, FEMA provides up to 75% matching funds for building resilient infrastructure and communities projects for up to three years; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is a qualified applicant for FEMA BRIC grant assistance for adopting and implementing building codes; and

WHEREAS, The City proposes to apply for up to \$500,000 in FEMA BRIC grant funds to adopt and implement International Building Code 2021 Edition over a total of three years; and

WHEREAS, The City proposes to match grant funds for up to \$125,000 of City staff time and materials to meet the grant match requirements of 25% over a total of three years; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer intends to use these funds to hire a consultant firm to adopt the IBC 2021 Edition and develop the plan/framework for creating a City of Homer Building Division; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer intends to use these funds to hire a Building Official to begin implementation of the newly adopted IBC 2021 Code for commercial building projects; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer intends to use these funds to hire a Building Inspector to begin implementation of the newly adopted IBC 2021 Code for residential building projects; and

WHEREAS, After three years the City of Homer will have an established Building Division, with a Building Official and Building Inspector, enforcing IBC 2021 Edition building codes for both commercial and residential projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, supports preparation and submission of a FEMA BRIC grant application for up to \$500,000 and authorizes the City Manager to submit the appropriate documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its commitment to match grant funds with up to \$125,000 of City staff time and materials to meet the grant match requirements of 25%.

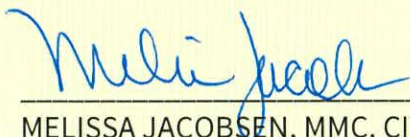
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A





## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

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### Memorandum 22-205

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
FROM: Ryan Foster, Special Projects Coordinator  
DATE: November 15, 2022  
SUBJECT: Resolution 22-086 Authorizing the City to apply for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities grant to adopt and implement International Building Code Edition 2021

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Building Safety and Code Enforcement was identified as a Council priority during the 2022 Visioning work session held in March at the Pratt Museum, with the goals of ensuring buildings in Homer are safe, that the City has a system for enforcing regulations, and allowing for a denser pattern of development in the future. Currently, Homer does not have an adopted building code and only commercial structures are reviewed by the State Fire Marshal for any kind of code compliance. This is not a safe nor sustainable solution in the long term. We also have significant challenges with code enforcement without a Building Official or dedicated code enforcement staff member.

Given the current circumstances, City staff are proposing to move forward with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant program application requesting up to \$500,000 to provide funding and resources for adopting the International Building Code (IBC) 2021 Edition and implement the building code by creating a City of Homer Building Division staffed by a Building Official and Building Inspector. In hiring a consultant firm to adopt IBC 2021 and establishing a City of Homer Building Division to implement building codes, staff recommends a three-year process:

- Year 1 – Hire a consultant firm to adopt IBC 2021 Edition and create the plan/framework for creating a City of Homer Building Division
- Year 2 – Hire a Building Official to begin implementation of the newly adopted IBC 2021 Code for commercial building projects
- Year 3 – Hire a Building Inspector to complete the staffing of the Building Division and implement the IBC 2021 Code for residential building projects

What it is: The BRIC program is designed to promote a national culture of preparedness and public safety through encouraging investments to protect the nation's communities and infrastructure and through strengthening national mitigation capabilities to foster resilience. The BRIC program seeks to fund effective and innovative projects that will reduce risk and increase resilience and serve as a catalyst to encourage the

whole community to invest in and adopt policies related to mitigation. A 25% match is required by the City of Homer if awarded and the cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Staff recommends using staff time and materials for the 25% match, up to \$125,000, spread over three years. The application deadline to the State of Alaska is December 23, 2022, the State deadline to submit applications to FEMA is January 27, 2023, with grant awards anticipated for Summer 2023.

What Homer gets:

1. Delivery of an adopted IBC 2021 Edition Building Code
2. Public and key stakeholder outreach to better inform, guide, and educate on IBC 2021 Codes
3. Presentation of the IBC 2021 Edition to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Economic Development Commission, and City Council public hearings for recommendation and approval
4. Detailed plan/framework for the creation of a City of Homer Building Division and its processes for enforcement
5. A Building Official for the first two years of implementation
6. A Building Inspector for the second year of implementation

What Homer receives when complete: A building code and Building Division that guides the future development of the City with a focus on public safety by ensuring buildings in Homer are safe and that the City has a system for enforcing regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.