

2026 Program Boundary Statement Radon Program

For each performance-based contract program, the Division of Public Health has identified a boundary statement. The boundary statement sets the parameters of the program within which the local public health department (LPHD), Tribe or agency will need to set its objectives. The boundaries are intentionally as broad as federal and state law permit to provide maximum flexibility. However, if there are objectives or program directions that the program is not willing to consider or specific programmatic parameters, those are included in the boundary statement.

Program Outline:

Objectives for reducing exposures to elevated indoor radon in homes are funded for two classes of agencies:

Radon Information Centers (RICs): Seventeen local health or environmental agencies will be funded to deliver eight services of a single objective, each agency to multiple counties (a region). Services include: outreach, public consultation, proficiency training, coordination with DPH, test kit/detector data collection and analysis, and field site visits.

Local health agencies other than RICs will not be funded in 2026.

Long-term Program Goals: The Outcome Goal is reduction of lung cancer incidence by reducing exposures of the public to indoor radon. An Output Goal is that every home with ground contact be tested for radon, identifying those with exposures to residents averaging higher than 4 pCi/L in occupied spaces, and reducing those to far below 4 pCi/L with the mitigation method recommended by US EPA. Another Output Goal is that new homes be built with features recommended as effective in helping to keep radon out of the indoor air.

Target Populations:

- Residents of all homes in Wisconsin having ground contact.
- Residents in regions of the Wisconsin radon risk map where higher percentages have elevated radon.

Every home with ground contact should be tested, because:

- Homes with elevated radon have been found in virtually every zip code in Wisconsin;
- The radon in any particular home is not predictable;
- Neighboring homes tend to have greatly dissimilar concentrations;
- Radon screening tests may be made for as little as \$10 and radon mitigation is available at reasonable cost.
- The only way for homeowners to know if their radon is elevated is to test.

References:

Federal Guidelines and state statute

- *US EPA: Citizen's Guide to Radon*
- US EPA: Home Buyers and Sellers Guide to Radon
- US EPA: Consumers' Guide to Radon Reduction
- State of Wisconsin Statutes s. 254.34

Program Policies

- Policies of the US EPA regarding measurement, mitigation, and risk reduction for radon in homes, as reflected in the three EPA documents above, should be recommended. No others have been specified in state legislation.

Unacceptable Proposals:

- Funds will not be provided to pay for radon mitigation itself.

Relationship to the Wisconsin Health Improvement Plan and its Priorities

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Testing for and mitigating radon in places where people live, work, and attend school and child care can help prevent future incidence of lung cancer. Radon is a component of the 2023–2027 Wisconsin Health Improvement Plan in two priority areas: Supportive Systems of Care and Healthy Housing.

Supportive Systems of Care

Objective 1: Improve the accessibility and affordability of quality early care and educational opportunities that meet the needs of families and caregivers.

- Relevant strategy: Improve quality of early childhood care and education.
- Relevant activities: Ensure, through policy, programs, education, and ongoing enforcement, that care and education facilities are safe from environmental hazards, including **radon**.
- Methods: Testing for and mitigating radon when levels are high is now required of every licensed group and family child care center in Wisconsin. The DHS Radon Program and regional Radon Information Centers will continue to support state efforts to reduce exposures to high radon in child care facilities by:
 - Offering radon education and resources to current and prospective child care providers.
 - Offering radon training to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.
 - Calculating the number of radon mitigation system installations in child care centers and the impact of those mitigations on children's health in Wisconsin. *(Note: Since the DCF enacted new rules in 2023 that require radon testing and mitigation of centers with high levels, these data are now available through the DCF.)*

Healthy Housing

Objective 3: Improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of housing.

- Relevant strategy: Improve the safety of housing.
- Relevant activities: Improve detection, abatement, and enforcement policies and programs for home hazards, including **radon**.
- Methods: The DHS Radon Program and regional Radon Information Centers will continue to support state efforts to reduce exposures to high radon in homes by:
 - Using indicators to show trends in the percentage of homes with healthy, safe environments in all communities with a focus on minority, low income, and underserved areas. Indicators for the Radon Program include number of test results returned and number of radon mitigations performed.
 - Updating mapping tools regularly to show risk potential for radon in areas statewide.
 - Moving state and local policy toward radon resistant new construction for all new homes being built.
 - Moving state and local policy toward licensure or certification for all radon measurement and mitigation professionals conducting work in Wisconsin.