

2016 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): Sixteen local health or environmental agencies will be funded to deliver eight services of a single objective, each agency to multiple counties (a region), concerning: outreach, public consultation, proficiency certification, coordination with DPH, database, and field site visits.

Local health agencies other than RICs may be funded for \$3,500 outreach projects. The number of agencies funded is limited by the budget allocated in the EPA State Indoor Radon Grant. Interested agencies must respond by email, by August 27, 2015 to a July 28, 2015 letter requesting proposals, with a brief project outline and budget. Those to be funded will be selected from the applicants, and template objectives will be put on the GAC for them. This funding is suitable for experienced agencies *and* those having little or no prior experience with radon.

\$3,500 Award

Agencies applying for the radon outreach funding will conduct all of these activities:

- Send staff to EPA radon Measurement proficiency training, and **optionally** the Radon Mitigation (2.5-day) training, scheduled for Spring 2016 in or Fall 2016. Course locations and dates are updated regularly and posted at the [DHS radon website](#). An online course offering for the Measurement course will also be made available.
- Promote testing of homes using social media, news releases, and informational campaigns publicizing local radon measurement results, radon mitigation information, and the lung cancer risk from radon
- Provide local availability of radon test kits. To ensure results reporting, kits must be purchased through the Radon Information Center (RIC) serving the agency, and the names, addresses and test kit serial numbers for distributed kits must be kept;
- Participate in radon training meeting by the RIC, and conduct local outreach for the Radon Action Month media blitz in January 2016, along with the RICs and DHS.
- Track results and follow up with residents with radon test results ≥ 4.0 pCi/L
- Present on radon to at least two local realtor groups.

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 zip-code radon 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 Regulations/Guidelines:

- 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/Administrative Rules/Guidelines:

- WI 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:

- Radon measurement for building types other than homes will not be funded. Advising them is done only by DPH in coordination with RICs, because measurement protocols, interpretation of results in terms of risk, and methods of mitigation can differ from those for homes.
- Funds will not be provided to pay for radon mitigation itself.

Relationship to State Health Plan: *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020:*

System Priorities:

- Community health improvement processes and plans
- Coordination of state and local public health system partnerships

State Health Plan Priorities:

- Access to primary and preventive health services
- Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards; *Environmental Radiation*

Essential Public Health Services:

- Identify, investigate, control and prevent health problems and environmental health hazards in the community
- Educate the public about current and emerging health issues
- Promote community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Create policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Link people to needed health services

Methodology Used to Determine Health Priorities (*Page 105 of plan*), ***Environmental and occupational health hazards:*** By 2020, increase the percentage of homes with healthy, safe environments in all communities. (Safe environments are free from lead paint hazards, mold or moisture damage, environmental tobacco smoke and safety hazards, and include carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, and radon testing and mitigation.)