

**AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)  
REGION 7, AIR, RCRA AND TOXICS DIVISION**

**TITLE: 2006 Tribal Radon Project Grants in Region 7 – EPA-R7ARTD-06-006**

**TYPE: Notice of Request for Applications**

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.032 – State and Tribal Indoor Radon Project Grants**

**Date Issued: May 26, 2006**

**Application Deadline: July 31, 2006**

**(Grant period is anticipated to begin October 1, 2006 and expire no later than September 30, 2007.)**

## **SUMMARY**

In the last several years, a growing body of scientific evidence shows that air within buildings can be more seriously polluted than outdoor air. People spend as much as 90% of their time indoors. Thus, for many people the risks to health may be greater due to exposure to air pollution indoors than outdoors.

The Indoor Radon Abatement Act (IRAA) of 1988, Section 306, 15 U.S.C. 2661: Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title 1, Section 10(a), authorizes EPA to fund State and Tribal Agencies to provide education, outreach and encourage testing and mitigation for indoor radon exposures, so that indoor exposures to radon may be eventually reduced to no greater than outdoor exposures which is about 4 pCi/L. EPA recommends fixing your home if the results exceed 4 pCi/L. With today's technology, radon levels in homes can be reduced to 2 pCi/L or below. The current Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for Radon Programs and Projects is 66.032. The purpose of this solicitation notice for Tribal Indoor Radon Project Grants, will aid in achieving EPA's Healthier Indoor Air Objective under the Government Performance Results Act of 1993 which states that through 2008, 22.6 million more Americans will live or work in homes, schools, or office buildings with healthier indoor air than in 1994. It is required that applications link their grant activities to the results that are being achieved as stated in the Clean Air Act Section 103(a)(5).

Projects must occur within one or more of the four states within EPA Region 7 - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. There will be approximately \$26,695 for eligible applicants through assistance agreements ranging in size from no less than \$10,000 to \$26,695 (total Federal share). EPA will make no more than two awards. Eligible applicants will submit full application packages (see Section IV for application and submission information).

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was mandated by Congress under Title III of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), also known as the Indoor Radon Abatement Act (IRAA), to fund State and Tribal Agencies to provide education, outreach and encourage testing and mitigation for indoor radon exposures, so that indoor radon exposures may be eventually reduced to no greater than outdoor exposures. Under IRAA, the Congress may allocate funding up to a maximum of \$10 million to fund projects by grants to State or Tribal organizations. The State Organizations with the responsibility for addressing radon in the respective states are to be specifically designated by the Governor of the State. The Tribal Chair or Tribal Council performs the same determination for their Tribal lands.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this notice for Tribal Indoor Radon Project Grants is to support the achievement of EPA's Objective, Goal 1, Objective 2, under the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) that by the year 2005, 15 million more Americans will live or work in homes, schools, or office buildings with healthier indoor air than in 1994. This Congressional Mandate under IRAA, is being met through this funding opportunity in Tribal lands to meet Tribal needs.

**Environmental Results:** Measurable environmental results for all projects must be included in the work plans submitted under this announcement. Environmental results not only assess the success of an applicant's project, they also gauge the effectiveness of EPA's programs by ensuring that EPA's limited resources are used to further the Agency's Strategic Goals. Under the revised Goal 1 of EPA's GPRA Objective 1.2 Healthier Indoor Air Objective, it states that through 2008, 22.6 million more Americans than in 1994 will be experiencing healthier indoor air in homes, schools, and office buildings. Specifically, 7.8 million additional students and staff will experience improved air quality in their schools. It is required that all proposals link their grant activities to the results that are being achieved as stated in Clean Air Act Section 103(a)(5)"....relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention and control of air pollution." The following discussion covers these results that should be discussed within your application.

Expected outcomes and outputs relating to the radon program priority areas, will need to be addressed in your application. The term "outcome" means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced over a period of time or specified date.

### **Program Priority Areas**

The following lists the priority areas that EPA believes SIRG recipients should emphasize in their efforts to achieve health risk reduction. The recipient should provide measurable environmental results, as well as outcomes and outputs, that indicate of level of success relative to these areas:

- Promote radon-resistant construction techniques in new homes and schools;
- Encourage testing and mitigation, when necessary, in conjunction with real estate transactions;
- Develop radon projects in high-risk areas;
- Plan and/or promote school testing and mitigation, where necessary,
- Consider ways to target funding in innovative projects and/or research in support of implementing alternate innovative radon strategies to improve the radon program,
- Set measurable environmental radon goals that can be met within the grant project period, and
- Promote and/or develop State, Tribal, Local, and private sector indoor air coalitions that include measures to address radon exposure issues.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include (but are not limited to) educational and training workshops designed to increase the understanding of the tribal community, as to the methods that can be used to minimize radon exposures in the indoor environments in their homes, schools and buildings; schools testing projects; residential testing projects; radon mitigation demonstration projects (these are very limited and have additional restrictions that must be met); and informational presentations to the tribal community at any type of health fair or speaking engagement on radon issues.

EPA recommends that Tribes pursue partnerships with other agencies and organizations, e.g. local health departments, State and local environmental agencies, American Lung Associations, and American Cancer Societies to leverage limited resources available under this solicitation.

### **Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes**

Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants **must** discuss environmental outputs and outcomes in their workplan.

**Outputs:** The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.

Expected outputs from the projects funded under this solicitation may include but are not limited to the following: number of tribal members educated on the health risks associated with exposure to elevated radon levels in their homes, schools and office buildings through presentations, workshops or in-home consultations; number of tribal residences, schools and buildings tested; number of new construction built using radon resistant new construction techniques; number of schools tested and where necessary, mitigated for radon.

**Outcomes:** The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, or health-related, but “must be quantitative”. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of environmental outcomes from the projects to be funded under this announcement may include, but are not limited to, the following: increased understanding of the health risks associated with long-term exposure to elevated radon levels; reduction of radon exposure in homes, autos and schools; improved health through the reduction of exposure to elevated radon levels in homes, schools and buildings (health benefits achieved).

All applicants are required to link their projects to environmental results. Environmental results are used as a way to gauge a project’s performance using output and outcome measures. The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product that is related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specific date. The term “outcome” means an environmental result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective.

Environmental results not only assess the success of an applicant’s project, they also gauge the effectiveness of EPA’s programs by ensuring that EPA’s limited resources are used to further the Agency’s Strategic Goals. The Strategic Goal for indoor air is:

- Goal #1 – Clean Air and Global Climate Change
- Objective #1.2 – Healthier Indoor Air

**All projects must demonstrate how they will result in Healthier Indoor Air.**

For more information on EPA’s Strategic Plan go to: <http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/plan.htm>

## **II. AWARD INFORMATION**

There will be approximately \$26,695 for eligible applicants through assistance agreements ranging in size from no less than \$10,000 to \$26,695 (total Federal share). EPA will make no more than two awards which is dependent upon the number of acceptable applications submitted. Eligible applicants will submit a full application package (see Section IV for application and submission information).

### **Start Date**

Anticipated budget and project periods will begin on October 1, 2006.

### **Performance Period**

Project period duration should not exceed one year from the onset of grant funding.

### **Type of Assistance Instrument**

Project Grant

### III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

#### **A. Eligible Applicants**

Consistent with the Applicant Eligibility Section of CFDA No. 66.032 – State and Tribal Indoor Radon Project Grants and EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), competition under this announcement is being limited to recognized Indian Tribes, Tribal Designees or Tribal Governmental entities that will perform the work under this project in Region 7 on tribal lands.

#### **B. Cost Sharing or Matching**

There are no cost share requirements for these projects. All grants are subject to Federal audit.

#### **C. Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for funding, applicants must address or meet all of the following criteria, failure to address or meet these criteria will result in the proposal being disqualified for funding consideration:

1. Be an applicant who is eligible to receive funding under this announcement;
2. The applicant must address a minimum of three of the program priorities listed in Section I above.
3. The application must comply with "all" directions for submittal contained in this notice.

### IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

#### **A. Address to Request Application Package**

Grant application forms, including Standard Forms SF 424 and 424A, are available at <http://www.epa.gov/region07/economics/appforms.htm> or by contacting the EPA Region 7 Competition Advocate (see Section VII for Agency Contact Information).

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this grant program is 66.032. Please use this number in box 10 of the SF-424 form.

#### **B. Content and Form of Application Submission**

Your application must include the following:

- Workplan describing the project's purpose and results to be achieved;
- Budget narrative connecting resources to activities;
- Schedule of key project tasks and timeframes;
- Brief description of the Tribe's infrastructure as it relates to its ability to implement the proposed project;
- List of key project personnel;
- Plan for tracking and measuring progress in achieving expected outputs/outcomes as discussed in Section 1 of this announcement
- Milestones Chart, including Expected Accomplishments, Project due dates if applicable,
- Description of how the proposed project meets the Evaluation Criteria (listed under the Section V.A. Criteria, below).
- Standard Application Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance.
- SF-424A, Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs
- SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- EPA 4700-4, Pre-award Compliance Review Report

- Quality Assurance Requirement Form
- Certification Regarding Lobbying
- Method of Payment

### **C. Project Description**

Provide a brief project description that describes the tasks and activities that will be conducted as they relate to the program priority areas and your stated objectives. Provide a timeline or schedule of anticipated target dates and milestones to achieve specific tasks and accomplishments during the budget and project period.

### **D. Specific Environmental Outputs**

Identify the specific outputs (activities or deliverables) that will be accomplished by the project during the project period. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative, but must be measurable during the funding period. Expected outputs from projects funded by this solicitation may include but are not limited to: number of tribal members educated on the health risks associated with exposure to elevated radon levels in their homes, schools and office buildings through presentations, workshops or in-home consultations; number of tribal residences, schools and buildings tested; number of new construction built using radon resistant new construction techniques; number of schools tested and where necessary, mitigated for radon.

### **E. Specific Environmental Outcomes**

Specify the quantitative or qualitative outcomes of the project, which will include the type of measurement and how you will measure and evaluate the results of your project. These may include, but are not limited to: increased understanding of the health risks associated with long-term exposure to elevated radon levels; reduction of radon exposure in homes, autos and schools; improved health through the reduction of exposure to elevated radon levels in homes, schools and buildings (health benefits achieved).

### **F. Environmental Results Past Performance**

Submit a list of all federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years (preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you have no relevant or available past performance reporting history, please indicate this in the proposal, and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

### **G. Programmatic Capability**

Submit a list of all federally funded agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you were (i) technically able to successfully carry out and manage those agreements, and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports.

In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the

applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you have no relevant or available past performance or past reporting history, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for the elements of this factor under Section V.

In addition, provide information on your experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project; your staff expertise/qualifications and knowledge; and resources or the ability to obtain them to successfully achieve the goals of the project.

#### **H. Detailed Budget**

Provide a brief budget narrative containing the following categories:

- ◆ Personnel
- ◆ Fringe benefits
- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Equipment (materials that are greater than \$5,000 per piece)
- ◆ Supplies (materials that are less than \$5,000 per piece)
- ◆ Contractual
- ◆ Other/miscellaneous costs
- ◆ Total direct costs (sum of above costs)
- ◆ Indirect charges (a negotiated rate with a federal agency or calculated "actual" rate)
- ◆ TOTAL

(Please include a brief breakdown of costs such as salary and benefit rates, number of trips taken and cost per trip, etc.)

#### **I. Submission Dates and Times**

EPA will consider all hard copy applications that are received no later than 5 p.m., Central Daylight Savings Time on July 31, 2006, at the EPA Region 7, Kansas City, Kansas office from the U.S. Postal Service, hand-delivered, courier, or express delivery by this time and date. Only one form of delivery listed above is required to meet the deadline. EPA will not accept faxed submissions. Applications received after the due date will not be considered for funding.

#### **All applications should be mailed or delivered to:**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Attention: Vickie Angell (ARTD/RALI)  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
Email: [angell.vickie@epa.gov](mailto:angell.vickie@epa.gov)

#### **J. Intergovernmental Review**

Applicants must comply with the Intergovernmental Review Process and/or consultation provisions of Section 204, Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act, if applicable, which are contained in 40 CFR Part 29. This program may be eligible for coverage under E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." An applicant should consult the office or official designated as the single point of contact in his or her state for more information on the process the state requires to be followed in applying for assistance if the state has selected the program for review. Further information regarding this requirement will be provided if your application is selected for funding.

## **K. Funding Restrictions**

EPA grant funds may only be used for the purposes set forth in the grant agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other Federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity. All costs identified in the budget must conform to applicable Federal Cost Principles contained in OMB Circular A-87 "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments"; A-122 "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations"; and A-21 "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions". Ineligible costs will be reduced from final grant award. No construction activities are allowed. Cost incurred prior to award by the Agency (Pre-Award Costs) will not be allowed.

## **L. Confidential Business Information**

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

## **V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **A. Criteria**

EPA will review all applications that meet the eligibility criteria listed in the Preliminary Eligibility Screening Requirements Section III.C. They will be evaluated and ranked by a selected panel of EPA reviewers based on the following evaluation criteria and weights:

1. Completeness of the proposal which addresses the extent and quality of the anticipated "outputs" and short and long term "outcomes" and how they are linked to EPA's Strategic Plan for Healthier Indoor Air. **(25 points)**
2. Project implementation plan and technical merit of the proposal which includes a description of how the activities will achieve the desired "environmental results" of the proposal and the means for tracking and measuring those results. **(25 points)**
3. Extent to which the proposal contributes to the prevention, reduction and elimination of radon in the tribal community, and that it clearly stated objectives, goals, and reasonable timeframes. **(15 points)**
4. Clarity of the budget and reasonableness of costs in relation to the expected benefits of the proposal. **(15 points)**
5. Programmatic capabilities will be considered as follows: (a) Past performance in successfully completing federally and/or non-federally funded projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project within the last two years; (b) history of achieving reporting requirements on prior or current assistance agreements with federal and/or non-federal organizations, and if requirements were not met, an explanation as to why not; (c) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project; and (d) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project. **(10 points)**

6. Environmental Results Past Performance Criterion: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. **Note:** In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor. **(10 points)**

### **Final Evaluation Process**

The final funding decision will be made based on the availability of funding and the following additional factors:

1. Cost of the project compared to the relative benefit; and
2. Extent of anticipated environmental impact of the project in the region.

### **B. Review and Selection Process**

Final selection of successful proposals will be made by the Region 7, Director, Air, RCRA and Toxics Division.

### **C. Anticipated Announcement and Award Date**

Project award is anticipated no later than October 1, 2006. The Agency reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards.

## **VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **A. Award Notices**

Once applications have been reviewed, evaluated and ranked, applicants will be notified regarding the success of their application.

### **B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

#### **Statutory Authority and Applicable Regulations**

The general award and administration process is governed by regulations at 40 CFR part 30 ("Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations"), 40 CFR part 31 ("Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments") and 40 CFR part 35, subpart A ("Environmental Program Grants for State, Interstate, and Local Government Agencies") and subpart B ("Environmental Program Grants for Tribes") as applicable.

The tribal radon project grants will be awarded under TSCA 10(a), and must consist of activities within the statutory terms of this EPA grant authority.

#### **Quality Assurance**

If environmental activities include direct measurements or data generation, environmental modeling or compilation of data from literature or electronic media as part of the funding agreement, a Quality Assurance Project Plan and submission date to EPA for approval, will be required unless the organization

can show a previously EPA approved Quality Management Plan. No federal funds may be expended or requested for reimbursement for data collection or environmental sampling activities prior to submittal and approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan to/by the EPA Project Officer.

### **Copyrights**

EPA reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, for Federal Government purposes in accordance with 40 CFR 31.34: (a) The copyright in any work developed under a grant, subgrant, or contract under a grant or subgrant; and (b) Any rights of copyright to which a grantee, subgrantee or a contractor purchases ownership with grant support.

### **DUNS Number**

Applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number with the full application for Federal grants or cooperative agreements. Individuals are exempt from this requirement. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

### **Disputes Process**

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/resolution.htm> . Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Agency Contacts listed in Section VII.

### **C. Reporting**

The successful applicant(s) will be required to submit to EPA either electronic or hard copy performance reports, at a frequency required by their grant conditions and/or approved workplan, to illustrate their progress and document any issues or challenges in accordance with 40 CFR 31.40 or 30.51, as applicable, and a final report in accordance with 40 CFR 31.41 or 30.51 as applicable. An EPA Project Officer will work with the applicant to achieve the project goals and to provide necessary technical assistance.

## **VII. AGENCY CONTACTS**

Vickie Angell  
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