Overview of the EPA's State & Tribal Indoor Radon Grants Program:

A Focus on Activities Conducted During 2024

Introduction

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, radioactive gas and is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking in the United States. Effective, affordable measures to reduce indoor radon are available and when employed, can prevent radon-induced lung cancer and save lives.

For more than 30 years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided critical funding to support state, territory, and Tribal efforts to reduce radon exposure through the State & Tribal Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG) program. While the EPA's SIRG funding requires a significant matching investment for most recipients, nearly every state and a growing number of territories and Tribes leverage this funding to support radon programs. This cooperative partnership between the states, territories, Tribes, and the EPA is a powerful tool in reducing radon risk and saving lives.

Despite notable progress, radon remains a serious public health concern in the United States. Millions of homes continue to have elevated radon levels, and approximately 21,000 Americans die annually from radon-induced cancer, including people who have quit smoking or have never smoked. In fact, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and ranks among the top ten causes of all cancer deaths in the United States among adults who have never smoked.[1,2] This high level of risk reinforces the need for additional radon testing in homes and schools, public health-focused policy adoption, and risk reduction measures such as radon mitigation of elevated radon levels in existing homes and radon-resistant new construction (RRNC) practices. State, territory, and Tribal radon programs are vital to implementing successful programs aimed at reducing radon risk.

Improving indoor air quality (IAQ) is a growing and important public health priority for many families and communities. State and Tribal radon programs, industry professionals, National Radon Action Plan (NRAP) member organizations, and public health agencies address indoor radon as a critical IAQ issue by building partnerships to tackle emerging challenges and advance risk reduction.

[1] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2014. "Health Risk of Radon [Overviews and Factsheets]." https://www.epa.gov/radon/health-risk-radon.

[2] Samet, J. M., E. Avila-Tang, P. Boffetta, L. M. Hannan, S. Olivo-Marston, M. J. Thun, and C. M. Rudin. 2009. "Lung Cancer in Never Smokers: Clinical Epidemiology and Environmental Risk Factors." Clinical Cancer Research 15 (18): 5626–5645.

EPA 402-S24-001

Summary of the Report

This annual report highlights successful state and Tribal grantee approaches in six key focus areas: 1) adoption of radon-reducing strategies; 2) testing in schools and childcare facilities; 3) addressing radon in homes and during residential real estate transactions; 4) adoption of radon in cancer control plans (CCPs); 5) education and outreach to the medical community; and 6) broader outreach and technical support. The report covers activities conducted during the 2024 SIRG reporting cycle (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024).[3]

In 2024, 47 states (including Washington, D.C.), 2 territories, and 22 Tribes requested and received SIRG funding to support their radon programs. Four new Tribes received funding to help establish radon programs: the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. A full map of the United States below (Figure 1) shows the current funding status for each grantee.

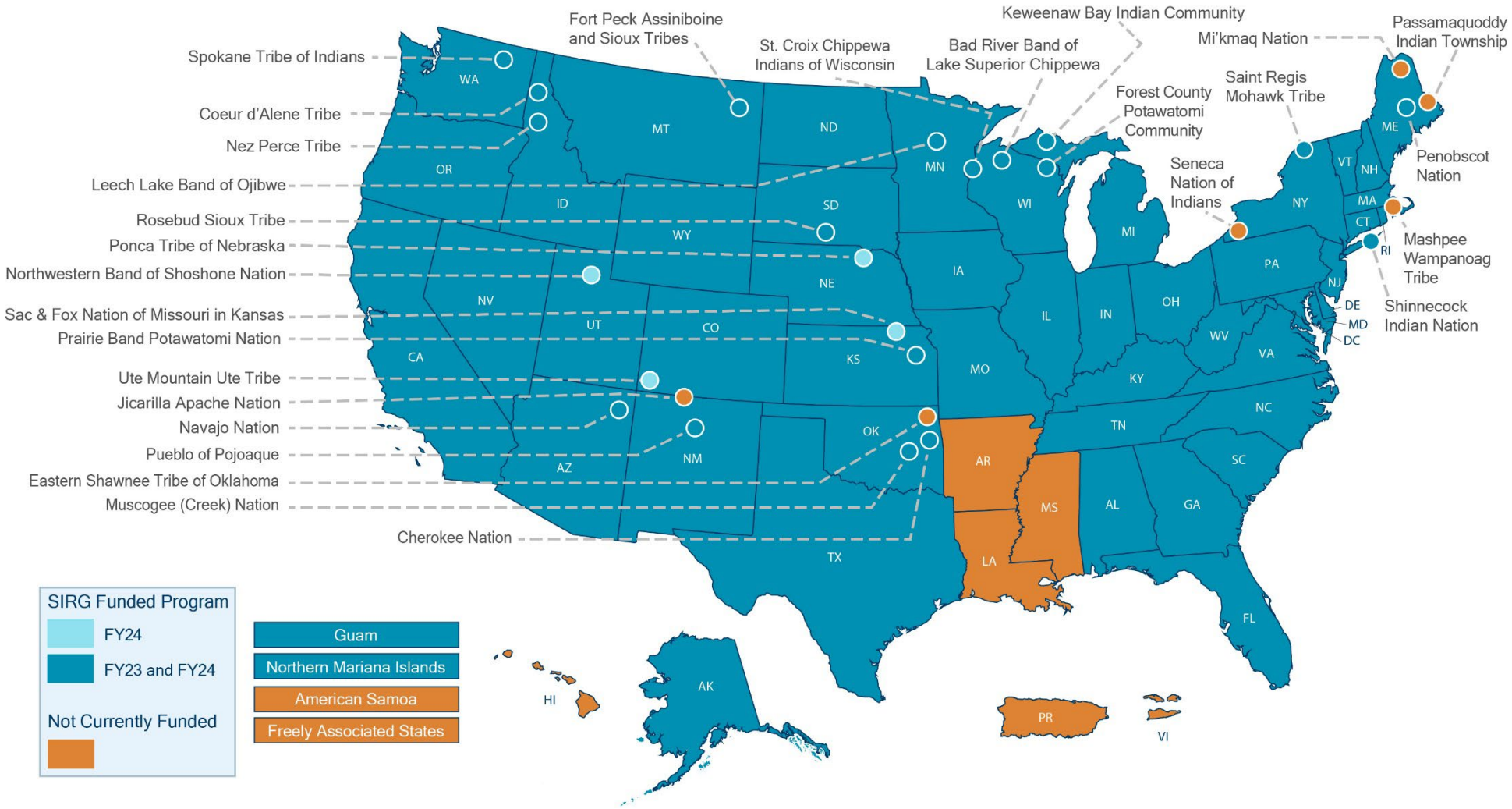
In addition to supporting states, territories, and Tribes, SIRG funding can also help localities and communities. Some radon programs pair SIRG funding with other healthy housing, housing finance, and/or radon mitigation assistance programs to expand opportunities to access testing and radon mitigation resources.[4] This report demonstrates the importance of partnerships, community-tailored programs, and established approaches for radon risk reduction throughout the United States through highlighting various program activities and approaches shared by radon programs.

Key Take-Aways and Significant Progress:

- For this annual SIRG cycle, 45 of the 47 states (including Washington, D.C.) and 12 of the 22 Tribes that received 2024 SIRG funding submitted information on planned and conducted radon activities.
- The EPA's Tribal outreach efforts were successful, and expanded impact, as the number of Tribes receiving funding increased from 19 to 22 during the reporting cycle.
- Grantees continued progress in adopting radon-related standards[5] and RRNC requirements at the state and local level. Notable highlights include:
  - **New Hampshire** revised a statute requiring those engaged in the design or installation of airborne radon mitigation devices to hold certifications from the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB).
  - Teton County and the city of Coeur d'Alene in **Idaho** now require radon-resistant measures on new constructions, following RRNC practices.

[3] While the 2024 SIRG reporting cycle is from October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, some grantees submitted data that includes activities completed from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, based on state- or Tribe-specific fiscal calendars and grant cycles.
[4] The National Center for Healthy Housing and the American Lung Association. 2024. "Finding Funding to Fix Radon Problems." Available at: https://nchh.org/resource-library/2024.06.25_ala-nchh-webinar_finding-funding-to-fix-radon-problems_common-questions.pdf
[5] American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) Consortium National Radon Standards: https://standards.aarst.org/

Figure 1. Map of Current Funding Status for Grantees Across the United States



Spotlight: Successful Approaches for Reducing Radon Risk

This section showcases examples of state and Tribal projects and activities under key risk reduction strategies funded primarily by the EPA's SIRG program.

Adoption of radon-reduction strategies, including policies, regulations, and/or building codes:

- Beginning in 2022, radon testing was included on northern **Nevada** real estate forms, and new statewide forms are currently being developed that incorporate radon testing requirements.
- In **North Dakota**, the City of Fargo adopted RRNC standards into their building codes. In the future, Fargo aims to conduct building inspections jointly with RRNC inspections and collaborate with the North Dakota Medical Association to expand radon-reduction strategies in the community.
- The **Forest County Potawatomi Community** adopted a residential building code ordinance that incorporates a section specifically requiring RRNC, which ensures that new homes are built with radon mitigation in mind.

Testing and remediation of schools and childcare facilities:

- In **Florida**, more than 250 schools and daycares were tested for radon. Educational efforts included a poster contest announcement sent to over 2,500 middle school students, with several county health departments distributing contest materials to 35 middle schools and brochures to 45 daycares. Radon training sessions were also provided to more than 40 county health departments which helped to enhance local expertise and preparedness.
- The **Massachusetts** Department of Public Health (MDPH) linked American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) radon industry standards on their website to make them accessible for code officials and school administrators. During this reporting period, nearly 20 schools received radon testing recommendations as part of IAQ program assessments. Additionally, MDPH provided case-by-case radon assistance, including guidance on RRNC, proper testing protocols, and technical advice for buildings with elevated radon levels.
- In **Pennsylvania**, 115 schools and daycares were tested and two schools were mitigated for radon during this reporting cycle. In addition, hospitals participated in a program to provide new families with a copy of the *New Parent's Citizens Guide to Radon* booklet and a free radon test kit, aiming to ensure more families are aware of and address elevated radon levels.

- The **Muscogee Creek Nation** plans to work with the Okmulgee Muscogee Creek Nation Child Development Center and the Okmulgee Head Start programs to conduct short-term testing for radon.

Addressing radon in homes and during residential real estate transactions:

- In **Kansas**, more than 9,100 housing units were tested for radon, of which more than 1,900 housing units were mitigated for radon and nearly 100 new housing units were built with RRNC. The Kansas Radon Program actively engaged in outreach by offering educational courses and training to real estate groups. The state provided free realtor trainings focused on radon hazards and communication, along with ongoing distribution of technical guidance.
- **Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes** tested 16 housing units for radon and installed mitigation systems in three housing units. Additionally, the Fort Peck Tribes Office of Environmental Protection tested more than 25 Fort Peck Housing Authority units following approval of the Radon Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- **Alabama** tested nearly 650 housing units in total with 55 housing units tested during real estate transactions. A mitigator in Huntsville educated residents about radon and provided free resources during meetings, including approximately 50 short-term test kits and information packets.

Inclusion of radon in cancer control plans (CCPs):

- In **Nebraska**, radon remains a primary prevention priority area in the state's new CCP, which was published in March 2025. The Nebraska Radon Program attended planning meetings for the creation of this 2025-2030 Nebraska Cancer Plan.
- The **New Mexico** CCP includes a section focused on radon education, exposure, and mitigation. It includes strategies such as education for residents, homeowners, building owners, sellers, realtors, and policymakers about the risks of lung cancer from radon and the benefits of testing for and implementing RRNC features in homes.
- **Michigan**'s 2021-2030 CCP includes strategies for addressing radon by increasing the proportion of new single-family homes constructed with radon-reducing features from 10.4% to 11.4%. The plan also seeks to advance radon awareness through a series of workshops and seminars for builders and code officials covering RRNC methods and facilitate collaboration with environmental, health, licensing, and cancer prevention stakeholders.

Education and outreach to the medical community:

- In **Wisconsin**, a state radon information center developed and distributed a pamphlet for medical professionals on available health department services that includes information on radon resources and test kits. Two county-level radon information centers also launched education and outreach initiatives to distribute information on the health hazards of radon gas at local clinics, educate nursing staff about radon, and provide them with educational materials.
- Three **New York** hospitals are currently participating in a program that distributes free test kits to parents of newborns. During the reporting period, nearly 200 test kits were distributed and more than 50 were analyzed. New York hopes to expand the number of participating healthcare facilities in the upcoming year.
- In **Colorado**, stakeholders developed a radon healthcare forum to identify gaps in radon knowledge among healthcare professionals and to address those gaps effectively. The radon sub-committee of the Lung Cancer Task Force continued to meet to further advance the goals and efforts of the forum.
- The **Nez Perce Tribe** conducted outreach with medical professionals at the Nimiipuu Health Clinic about sharing information regarding Radon Action Month, CDC Radon Awareness Week, and the Northwest Radon Poster Contest. The Tribe also partnered with Nimiipuu Health to record three radon public service announcements.

Continuing education, outreach, and technical support:

- **Tennessee** distributed more than 7,800 test kits and certified 95 radon testers and 50 mitigators through the NRSB and NRPP certification process. Additionally, Tennessee launched seven radon-related courses, held 18 events, and developed four training courses.
- In **Missouri**, more than 4,900 test kits were distributed during 2024. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services conducted a radon training to educate realtors about radon and trained 160 individuals. Additionally, the state developed a revised technical guidance resource on radon safety and awareness.
- The **Keweenaw Bay Indian Community** distributed 100 test kits and trained 3 employees on radon testing and mitigation techniques. The Tribe also created 10 radon awareness and education publications and distributed them to the community.
- **West Virginia** experienced an increase in radon awareness statewide. Over 1,000 free test kits were requested and distributed during the reporting period. This increase in awareness stemmed from the state partnering with local county health departments to provide free test kits and brochures and by placing those resources in communities with low testing rates to raise awareness about radon tools and resources.

Additional Success Stories

The following states and Tribes engaged in radon risk reduction activities that fall outside the six key areas of focus and may draw on separate sources of funding.

- A pilot project using Housing & Urban Development (HUD)'s Healthy Homes Program funds to test for radon in **Rhode Island** through the Lead Safe Providence Program was a major success and led to an expansion of the program in the cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Newport.
- To aid **Oregon**'s health goals, the Oregon Radon Awareness Program connected with the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a radon presentation through a community-based group that support Spanish speaking communities statewide.