




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 15 2019

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

SUBJECT: Guidance on the FY2019 State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) Appropriation and House Report

FROM: David R. Rowson, Director 
Indoor Environments Division

TO: Air Division Directors

This memorandum contains guidance applicable to the FY2019 SIRG appropriation. The first part gives an overview of the FY2019 SIRG appropriation and Regional SIRG allocation. The second part briefly summarizes House Report recommendations. The third part outlines how the House Report recommendations will be addressed within the SIRG program.

FY2019 Appropriation and Regional Allotments

Congress appropriated \$8.051M for the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program in FY2019. The FY2019 EPA appropriation represents straight-line funding levels enacted for the program, for the last two years.

As with other Agency funding, the \$8.051M appropriation for SIRG was subjected to a rescission. Consequently, \$7.789M was transferred to Regional account holders; these funds have been loaded into the Regional accounts. Due to the addition of a state grantee in Region 1, the FY2019 allotments contain modest refinements, applied on a pro rata basis for each region. (See regional allotments at: <https://www.epa.gov/radon/state-indoor-radon-grant-sirg-program>).

House Appropriations Report Language on FY2019 SIRG Program

Over the last few years, Congress has outlined recommendations and areas of emphasis for SIRG funding through annual House Reports. FY2019 appropriations language references [House Report 115-765](#) which directs EPA to continue operating the program following the priorities and direction provided in House Report 114-632, with an added focus on distributing the Health Care Providers Guide to physicians.

EPA will continue to address the recommendations in the context of the Indoor Radon Abatement Act (IRAA)¹ and its statutory priorities. In addition, consideration has been given to the status of the activities outlined in the House Report within states' current workplans, capabilities and capacities.

¹ See Toxic Substances Control Act, Title III; 15 U.S.C. 2661-2671

House Report 115-765 (and House Report, 114-632 by reference) recommends that EPA continue to focus SIRG funding in three broad areas:

1. Promoting radon awareness through the medical community, state cancer control plans, child care providers and real estate transactions.
2. Informing local school systems about radon exposure risk in schools and providing sample school testing and mitigation plans.
3. Providing training and technical support on voluntary consensus standards for radon testing and mitigation, identifying and spreading best practices for building homes radon resistant and adopting radon in building codes.

In addition, the following three program approaches should be considered when awarding grants with FY2019 funding:

1. Adopting, or seeking to adopt, radon building codes for single family homes.
2. Providing radon awareness building and/or education activities that target homebuyers.
3. Utilizing an established process to ensure appropriate credentialing of radon testing and mitigation service providers.

Many of these recommendations have been or are being addressed currently through grantee workplans. EPA will continue to monitor and track radon activities through annual reporting.

Implementing House Report Recommendations

Grantees receiving federal funds are to place priority on the broad focus areas and program approaches listed above.

As a reminder, grantees are required to comply with the term and condition that requires state grant recipients to maintain a list of qualified radon service providers. This term and condition supplements guidance in the State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants Program Guidance and Handbook (January 2005) and clarifies requirements for satisfying IRAA § 306(h)(3).

To remain in compliance states must list radon service providers who are credentialed either through:

- (1) an existing process to credential radon service providers established under state regulatory requirements (e.g., state license), or
- (2) one of the two organizations currently responsible for credentialing radon service providers (i.e., NRSB or NRPP).

Additionally, grantees receiving FY2019 SIRG funding must also report on current and completed work within the three focus areas and three program approaches outlined above as required by the reporting term and condition (see Attachment A). Regional SIRG project officers should work with Regional Grants Specialists to add the term and condition when obligating any FY2019 SIRG funds. IED recognizes that grantees receive awards on different cycles which can result in activities being conducted during a fiscal year with more than one appropriation source. Generally, FY2019

funding primarily supports activities that will be conducted during FY2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020). Therefore, reporting should include activities conducted during that timeframe. However, because of varying funding cycles it is also acceptable for grantees to include some activities conducted during the last half of FY2019 in submitted reports.

This Spring, IED is exploring potential new reporting pathways, through a SIRG-specific EPA Lean Management System (ELMS) project. Based on the results of this process, and in collaboration with regional SIRG project officers, IED plans to develop a new reporting template. IED will share an updated reporting template this summer and will require SIRG recipients use it for reporting on FY2019 activities.

In addition to using the new reporting template, IED is clarifying the deadlines for submitting reporting templates. Grantees will submit reporting templates to their regional SIRG project officer no later than September 30, 2020. Regional SIRG project officers will review and submit completed reporting templates for each SIRG recipient to IED no later than October 14, 2020.

Regional SIRG project officers will begin obligating FY2019 funds following receipt of the funds. As described above, SIRG recipient workplans for FY2019 funding should include:

- program approaches that address single family code adoption and/or homebuyer awareness,
- the term and condition, clarifying requirements for satisfying IRAA § 306(h)(3), and finally
- the attached term and condition to report on radon activities (Attachment A).

This memorandum also includes an attachment containing additional information SIRG project officers should share with their states on state cancer control plans, consensus standards, and codes (see Attachment C).

Questions about this guidance or its attachments should be directed to Kirsten Hesla (hesla.kirsten@epa.gov, 202-564-2984) or Peggy Bagnoli (bagnoli.peggy@epa.gov, 202-343-9338).

Attachment A: Special Term and Condition – FY2019 SIRG Funds

Attachment B: *Radon Activities Reporting Template – FY2019 [Not included at this time, will be shared separately.]*

Attachment C: Fact sheet on State Cancer Control Plans, Consensus Standards, and Radon-resistant Residential Construction Resources.

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**United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) Program**

Attachment A: Term and Condition for FY2019 SIRG Funds

Grant-specific Programmatic Conditions

B. Performance Reporting for FY2019 House Report 115-765

Performance Reports:

- The recipient shall submit a report characterizing activities that will be conducted during FY2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020), utilizing the designated reporting template. (The reporting template will be made available at <https://www.epa.gov/radon/state-indoor-radon-grant-sirg-program>.) In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.328, the recipient agrees to provide the information in the reporting template and submit it with their annual progress report no later than September 30, 2020.

Instituting this reporting requirement is an important step in addressing the SIRG recommendations contained in House Report 115-765, referenced by the FY2019 SIRG appropriation. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328(2)(d)(1), the recipient agrees to notify EPA of problems, delays, or adverse conditions which materially impairs their ability to satisfy this specific requirement.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
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Attachment C: Fact Sheet on State Cancer Control Plans, Consensus Standards, and Radon-resistant Residential Construction Resources

A. State Cancer Control Plans (CCPs). As background, radon is absent from the CCPs in these 14 states: AZ, CA, CT, DE, GA, HI, LA, MS, MT, NE, NH, NM, WA, and DC. For the remaining states, radon does appear in their CCPs, albeit to differing degrees.

B. Consensus Standards of Practice and Resources for Measurement and Mitigation

1. Radon measurement devices, measurements and mitigation; single & multi-family, schools, large buildings.

1.1 AARST Bookstore:

<https://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/store/>

- (a) MAH: Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon/Decay Products in **Homes**.
- (b) SGM-SF: Soil Gas Mitigation Standards for Existing **Homes**.
- (c) MAMF: Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon/Decay Products in **Multifamily** Buildings.
- (d) RMS-MF: Radon Mitigation Standards for **Multifamily** Buildings.
- (e) MALB: Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon/Decay Products in **Schools** and Large Buildings.
- (f) RMS-LB: Radon Mitigation Standards for **Schools** and Large Buildings.
- (g) MS-PC: **Performance** Specifications for Instruments and Systems Designed to Measure Radon Gas in Air.

1.2. ANSI Bookstore:

http://webstore.ansi.org/?source=google&adgroup=ansi_standards&gclid=CNep84Cr_8sCFVBZhgodhlgPmQ
Search radon for ANSI/AARST standards.

1.3. ASTM Bookstore:

<http://www.astm.org/Standard/index.html>
Search radon; E2121 for mitigation.

1.4. EPA Radon Program

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-radon-test-kit-or-measurement-and-mitigation-professional#who>
General information and locating a qualified radon services provider.

C. Consensus Standards of Practice and Resources for Radon-resistant Residential Construction

1. New Construction Standards

1.1. AARST Bookstore:

<https://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/store/>

- (a) CCAH: Reducing Radon in New Construction of 1 & 2 Family Dwellings & Townhouses (**Homes**).
- (b) CC-1000: Soil Gas Control Systems in New Construction of Buildings (**Schools** & Large Buildings).

1.2. ANSI Bookstore:

http://webstore.ansi.org/?source=google&adgroup=ansi_standards&gclid=CNep84Cr_8sCFVBZhgodhlgPmQ
Search radon for ANSI/AARST standard CCAH (**Homes**) and CC-1000 (**Schools** & Large Buildings)

2. EPA Radon Program

2.1. Radon-resistant construction basics and techniques.

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/radon-resistant-construction-basics-and-techniques>

2.1.1 Resources for builders (architectural drawings, *Building Radon Out*).

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/builder-and-contractor-resources-radon-resistant-new-construction-rrnc>

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Construction Resources

3. Model National Building Codes (ICC and NFPA)

3.1. International Code Council (ICC)

3.1.1. International Residential Code (IRC)

http://www2.iccsafe.org/states/seattle/seattle_residential/PDFs_residential/Appendix%20F.pdf

See Appendix F for radon provisions for **homes**.

<http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Proposed-Changes-to-Appendix-F.pdf>

Or see substitute (suggested revisions) of Appendix F for radon provisions for **homes**.

3.1.2. International Building Code (IBC)

<http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Proposed-IBC-Appendix-N.pdf>

Suggested language for **schools** & large buildings provisions.

3.1.3. International Green Code (IgCC)

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IGCC2018>

Radon provisions for building RRNC, testing and fixing found in section 801.3 and 1001.3.1.9.

3.1.4. ICC/ASHRAE-700-2015 National Green Building Standard

<http://www.homeinnovation.com/ngbs>

Revision under construction with proposed provisions for building RRNC, testing and fixing commercial, schools, multi-family and single-family homes as well as during renovations.

3.1.5. State code adoption maps

https://www.iccsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/Code_Adoption_Maps.pdf

3.1.6. ICC code adoption toolkit:

<https://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/code-adoption-resources/>

Resources to assist in the development and adoption of codes by states, counties, municipalities, etc.

3.2. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 5000 Model Code

Contains mandatory language for radon in the body of the code similar to the ICC/IRC Appendix F.

<http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/document-information-pages?mode=code&code=5000>

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