



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Project Title: Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities (IAQTC)

Total Project Cost: \$700,000

Project Period: October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2014

Contact information: Mehrdad Khatibi, Interim Director
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Ph: 928/523-0946, Email: mehrdad.khatibi@nau.edu

The goal of this project is to facilitate, communicate, and put in motion tribal Indoor Air Quality activities, by providing training and educational resources, tools and technical assistance to assist tribes with improving Indoor Air Quality in homes and tribal facilities. The IAQTC website will include a variety of resources including web-based case study examples of tribes in different regions of the country implementing Indoor Air Quality activities. The project will improve tribal expertise in identification of IAQ issues and reduction of risk. The project activities will focus on prevention and control of indoor air contaminants, including radon, indoor asthma triggers, and indoor air quality management in schools. The four project tasks are:

- Conferences, Meetings, and Outreach to Tribes
- Seminar Development and Delivery
- Web Resources
- Technical Assistance Projects

ITEP will take the lead in implementing the project in cooperation with the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center and the EPA project officer.

The project team will initially include:

- Mehrdad Khatibi: ITEP Interim Director, Principle Investigator
- Mansel A Nelson: IAQTC Project Coordinator
- Graylynn Hudson: Project Coordinator
- Carol Seumtewa: IAQTC Administrative Assistant
- USEPA Project Officer: Chris Griffin

Project Summary and Work Products

ITEP will perform the following work tasks:

- 1) **Conferences:** The ITEP staff will recruit tribal staff to participate in national conferences and provide travel scholarships. ITEP staff will coordinate outreach and recruitment with USEPA HQ and USEPA Regions staff. The ITEP staff will also provide input on the conference agendas to ensure the agenda meets the needs of the tribal participants. The national conferences include:
 - USEPA National Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Symposium
 - USEPA National Asthma Forum
 - Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM)

- ITEP's National Tribal Forum (NTF) on Air Quality Management
- 2) **Seminars:** The ITEP staff will help deliver seminars in conjunction with the EPA Indoor Environments staff for tribal participants at national conferences identified in task 1. The focus of these seminars will be on tribal IAQ issues with an emphasis on:
 - Reducing Exposure to Indoor Asthma Triggers
 - Indoor Air Quality Management in Schools
 - Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (Alaska)
 - Radon assessment and mitigation (NTF)
 - 3) **Web-based Resources:** The ITEP staff will create web-based resources to dissemination information on a variety of IAQ issues. The focus of the web-based resources will be asthma, schools, and radon, along with case-studies and concerns raised by tribal staff. The web-based resources will include
 - Webinars
 - Audio / Video Podcasts
 - Case Studies
 - 4) **Technical Assistance Projects:** The ITEP staff will provide technical assistance to tribal staff working on IAQ issues. The technical assistance will include responding to technical and non-technical questions about radon mitigation, asthma, and developing IAQ programs for schools. A major focus of the technical assistance efforts will be to facilitate development of partnerships and collaborations within tribal community to address IAQ issues. Developing the community-based solutions will require collaboration with tribal leadership, including tribal councils. As appropriate, the ITEP staff will travel to the tribal communities, using a variety of techniques to address the IAQ needs, including, but not limited to: mini-courses, meetings, technical demonstrations, presentations, and measurements to develop community-based partnerships to address radon, asthma triggers and IAQ management in schools.

Anticipated Outcomes

In addition to many specific outputs and outcomes, the ITEP staff anticipates the following long-term outcomes.

- Decrease in asthma emergency room visits and inpatient hospital admissions.
- Improved attendance in school for students with asthma.
- Reduction in number of students sent home early due to asthma symptoms.
- Reduction in use of rescue medication used and improved quality of life indicators.
- Decrease in lost school/work days due to IAQ issues.
- Increase in student performance and productivity attributable to IAQ success.
- Reduction in lung cancer deaths.