

2021 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): Seventeen 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 will not be funded in 2021.

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 radon risk 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 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 various building types.
- Funds will not be provided to pay for radon mitigation itself.

Relationship to Division of Public Health Strategic Plan

Practice: Expand the Understanding of What Creates Health

1.1 Build a Shared understanding for advancing health equity and social determinants of health.

Strategy: Housing is a social determinant of health. Engaging communities across the state in understanding that the conditions in which people live have a wide range of health outcomes. Testing and mitigating for radon can lower lung cancer risks for both smokers and non smokers.

Methodology:

- Use indicators to show increase the percentage of homes with healthy, safe environments in all communities with a focus on minority, low income, and underserved areas. Indicators for the radon program include number of test results returned and number of radon mitigations performed.
- Updating online mapping tools regularly can show risk potential for radon in areas across the state.
- Move state and local policy toward radon resistant new construction for all new homes being built.