

# *Updates on HUD's Efforts to Address Residential Radon Exposure*

Office of Environment and Energy and  
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy  
Homes



# HUD Radon Testing & Mitigation Demonstration Grant Program

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

# Radon Testing & Mitigation (RTM) Demonstration Grant Program

- Program goals:

- Provide funds to public housing agencies to test for and mitigate elevated radon levels (i.e.,  $\geq$  the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L) in housing developments they manage.
- Support the development of a plan for future testing and mitigation.
- Provide important information on methods and costs for radon testing and mitigation in public housing.

- Aligns with HUD’s FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

- Strategic Objective 4B: Strengthen Environmental Justice

Grant Program Funding at a Glance

	FY21 (\$4M)	FY22 (\$5M)	FY23 & FY24 (\$5M + FY24 funds, so far)
Total Amount Requested	\$9.1M (Received 29 Applications; 24 eligible applicants)	\$8.5M (Received 24 Applications; 18 eligible applicants)	\$3.1M (Received 7 Applications; 7 eligible applicants)
New Awards	~\$4M (9 Awards)	~\$5M (10 Awards)	TBD
Min. # of Residents Protected From Risk of Radon Exposure	10,700 Residents, including children	11,500 Residents, including children	TBD

# FY22 RTM Grants

- \$5M available
- 24 applications received
- Ten awards made, ranging from \$253,650 to \$600,000, totaling approx. \$5M
- Funding is expected to protect at least 11,500 residents, including children

ZONE	LEGAL NAME	STATE	FY22 FUNDING RECEIVED
1	Huntsville HA	AL	\$558,800
2	Lake County	IL	\$593,670
1&2	East Chicago	IN	\$561,786
1	City of Topeka	KS	\$435,750
1	Bowling Green	KY	\$484,483
1	Louisville Metro	KY	\$600,000
1	City of Lee's Summit	MO	\$425,952
1	Springfield Metropolitan	OH	\$590,435
2	Newport	TN	\$253,650
1	Roanoke	VA	\$449,000

# HUD's Proposed Departmentwide Radon Policy

Office of Environment and Energy

# HUD's Departmentwide Radon Policy: How We Got Here

- In 2020, the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an evaluation of HUD program offices' policies and approaches for radon.
  - As a result of the evaluation, the OIG recommended, among other things, that HUD “[d]evelop and issue a departmentwide policy that notes that radon is a radioactive substance and outlines HUD's requirements to test for and mitigate excessive radon levels in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(i)(1) and 58.5(i)(2)(i).”
- To resolve this recommendation, OEE proposed a two-prong approach with short-term and long-term actions:
  1. OEE will develop a departmentwide policy that identifies radon as a radioactive substance and requires radon to be considered as part of environmental reviews for activities that are Categorically Excluded Subject to 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.5 (CEST), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)(i).
  2. Enact radon testing and mitigation requirements through rulemaking.

# The Draft Proposed Radon Policy

- The draft policy lists four options for considering radon in the contamination analysis:
  - **Preferred, Best Practice:** ANSI/AARST radon testing and mitigation standards
  - **Alternative strategies** that can be used (if testing not otherwise required by law/reg):
    - Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Testing: Use of individual DIY home radon test kits
    - Continuous Radon Monitoring Devices: for use by trained local government staff in remote areas
    - Review of science-based data on radon in the area where the project site is located: state/tribal geologic data, CDC radon test data
- **Note:** Actual testing for radon is *not* required under the draft policy
- If use of any of the above methods determine that indoor radon levels are or may be above 4 pCi/L, then the RE must document and implement a mitigation plan.
  - The mitigation plan must: identify the radon level; describe the radon reduction system that will be installed; establish an ongoing maintenance plan; establish a reasonable timeframe for implementation; and require post-installation testing by a licensed radon professional, where feasible.
- HUD Grantees can use existing HUD funds to cover radon costs

# Next Steps: Getting to A published Final Policy

- The policy is *not in effect yet*
- HUD is working on finalizing the policy, and expects to have it published within the next month or two
  - The final policy will now take effect 90 days after publication
  - An email announcement will be sent out to the HUD Exchange environmental review email list
- HUD-OEE Radon Webinar Series
  - HUD's Office of Environment and Energy is putting on a series of three webinars about residential radon exposure and its radon policy
    - Two of three webinars have occurred, and the third webinar- which will be all about the policy- will occur shortly after the policy is published
    - All webinars are recorded and will be posted on the [OEE webpage on The HUD Exchange](#)
- Technical assistance: for any questions about HUD's environmental review requirements, including addressing radon, you should go to your regional HUD environmental contact



# HUD Resources on Radon

## RTM Grant Program

- Link to view radon grant opportunity:

[www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349163](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349163)

- Contact for Radon Grant Program:

[Rhona.P.Julien@hud.gov](mailto:Rhona.P.Julien@hud.gov)

## Addressing Radon for HUD Projects

- Find your HUD regional environmental (OEE) staff contact:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/environment\\_energy/staff](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/environment_energy/staff)

- HUD Exchange Environmental Review Webpage:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/>

- Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/administration/hudclips/guidebooks/hsg-GB4430](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/guidebooks/hsg-GB4430)

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