

**State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG) Needs Assessment
Questionnaire Results**

Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Association of Radon Scientist and Technologists (AARST) and the Conference of Radon Control Program Directors (CRCPD) created an assessment that was sent to representatives of state radon programs across the United States. This assessment was intended to gather the specific needs of state radon programs if State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG) were not included in the 2013 Fiscal Budget. Identifying gaps in state radon programs that may result in the face of SIRG budget cuts is a critical step to ensuring these issues are addressed in the most effective way possible. Information from this assessment will be used to sustain radon awareness, reduce radon risk and may help with effective distribution of SIRG funds if they are included in the 2013 Fiscal Budget.

State radon program representatives were sent a link to a brief SurveyMonkey feedback form comprised of 11 questions and a total of 52 state radon program representatives responded to this questionnaire. Highlights of the questionnaire include that a majority of respondents indicated that their state radon program’s outreach efforts and technical resources would be reduced or completely eliminated without SIRG funding.

Question 10 and Question 11, both open response questions, received very high completion rates by questionnaire participants. Question 10, which asked respondents to provide a brief description of each staff member’s job duties that would be cut (if applicable) without the support of SIRG funding, received 27 responses. Question 11, which asked respondents what they were most concerned about if SIRG funding is eliminated from the next fiscal budget, received 47 responses. Several participants provided very detailed descriptions of how the loss or reduction of SIRG funding would affect their state radon programs. Key themes in these responses included: loss of momentum, elimination of program and/or outreach activities, and loss of staff-members.

Additional results from this questionnaire, including information about state radon program’s outreach activities, mitigation system installations and radon certification and licensing programs, are shown in the tables below. All participants’ comments are also included below. For additional supplementary information from each question, including graphs of the results, please see the attached Excel spreadsheet.

SurveyMonkey Results

Question 1:

In what state or tribe are you located?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	<i>answered question</i> 49
	<i>skipped question</i> 3

Note: Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet for a breakdown of respondent’s state information.

Question 2:

What outreach efforts will be reduced or completely eliminated from your program without SIRG funding?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Our program will be eliminated without SIRG.	47.1%	24
Our outreach portion of our program will be eliminated without SIRG.	54.9%	28
Educational Events (e.g., Webinars, Trade Shows, Presentations).	62.7%	32
Online Resources (e.g., Website, Social Media).	23.5%	12
Print Resources (e.g., Brochures, Factsheets).	45.1%	23
Community Outreach Activities (e.g., NRAM, Poster Contest).	64.7%	33
State Outreach Campaigns (e.g., Public Service Announcements, Media Publications).	49.0%	25
Sub-Grants to Local Governments or Non Profits.	51.0%	26
Other (please specify).	17.6%	15
<i>answered question 51</i>		
<i>skipped question 1</i>		

Comments
Contract funding with other state agency.
We would reduce the number of schools and child care facilities tested.
Our two sub-grants are with the PA ALA and with the Radon Training Center at Rutgers.
We cannot answer these questions at this time. NJ's program will likely be reduced, but the degree to which that happens will depend upon the level of State funding.
Some specific unique efforts include: 1) our outreach to builders under our Gold Standard Designation for RRNC 2) Partnerships with tribes to educate, test, and mitigate homes on reservations.
There is a possibility that our program will be eliminated, but that will not be clear until a few years after SIRG ends. Our incoming cash may not be enough to keep the program going, and without some input of funds the program will most likely end.
It will wipe out our program completely. IT WILL ALL BE GONE.
Local public service announcements and local media publications.
Purchases of promotional items and test kits will be limited.
Coordination with Builders Association and Building Officials.
In States with voluntary programs, they will be eliminated; in regulatory States, the licensing activities will be all that continue, with Tribes the programs will be eliminated.
Alabama has been giving about 85% of the SIRG money to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for outreach and information dissemination. That has been cut back due to SIRG funding cuts in Region 4 and will be eliminated March 31, 2013, due the end of SIRG funding.
Our task force will disband, not serve at the Home Show, eliminate the website (which is hosted free to us).
There would be no outreach efforts what so ever if our program loses SIRG funding.

Question 3:

What technical resources, will be reduced or completely eliminated from your program without SIRG funding?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Our program will be eliminated without SIRG	48.0%	24
State Radon Hotline	32.0%	16
Trainings and Conferences Conducted by Your State	60.0%	30
Studies or Surveys	52.0%	26
Contractor Assistance	52.0%	26
Other – (please specify)	28.0%	14
<i>answered question</i>		50

Comments	
Most of our training is through the Radon Training Center.	
We cannot answer these questions at this time. NJ's program will likely be reduced but the degree to which that happens will depend upon the level of State funding.	
Texas' SIRG is also on the cutting board internally because the grant falls below a proposed \$250,000. It costs more in staff time and internal resources than it brings to the agency. Texas is unregulated.	
We currently provide mitigation information (certified mitigation list and mitigation education) and all will be eliminated.	
Without our outreach efforts, the mitigators in our state will be forced to look for other work. Without our outreach efforts, many people won't test their homes, and will therefore not need radon systems installed. Our efforts educate the public about radon; they test their homes and find elevated radon levels; they ask us what to do about it; then they call the mitigators. Take us out of the equation and you have zip.	
Probably any conferences.	
Free radon testing.	
RRNC training.	
Some or all technically proficient staff will be lost.	
The Regional program will provide minimal assistance to States and Tribes, until FTE becomes an issue.	
Cooperative Extension.	
There will be no one at the Ecology Action Center to answer questions, sell test kits and provide awareness to public.	
Radon Mitigators in the state of Nevada will be forced to look for other work.	
The EPA Region 7 Stakeholders meeting may be eliminated. This happens in each state in Region 7 once every four years.	
<i>skipped question</i>	2

Question 4:

Does your state currently have a mechanism in place for checking performance on installed mitigation systems?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	34.0%	17
No	66.0%	33
answered question		50
skipped question		2

Question 5:

If you answered "Yes" to number four, will you lose your mechanism for checking performance on installed mitigation systems if SIRG funding goes away?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	18.9%	7
No	16.2%	6
N/A	64.9%	24
answered question		37
skipped question		15

Question 6:

If you currently provide test kits and testing information to the public, will you be able to continue without SIRG funding?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, but at a reduced level	20.4%	10
Yes, at the same level	0.0%	0
No	75.5%	37
N/A	4.1%	2
answered question		49
skipped question		3

Question 7:

If you are a regulatory state (requiring a license or certification), will your licensing or certification program continue without SIRG funding?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	21.7%	10
No	8.7%	4
N/A	69.6%	32
answered question		46
skipped question		6

Question 8:

If you are a non-regulatory state, will you continue to provide the National Proficiency Lists to the public?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.3%	15
No	33.3%	16
N/A	35.4%	17
<i>answered question</i>		48
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Question 9:

Will you have to let go of any staff without the support of SIRG funding?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.9%	27
No	47.1%	24
<i>answered question</i>		51
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Question 10:

If you answered "Yes" to number nine, please provide a brief description of each staff member's job duties that you may have to cut?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	27
<i>answered question</i>	27
<i>skipped question</i>	25

Comments
There is only one FTE (Keith Keemer) for radon related activities for the District of Columbia. Mr. Keemer coordinates and participates in numerous outreach activities throughout the city; provides radon workshops at community and governmental staff meetings; ensures the District's radon hotline is manned and calls are returned; orders, distributes and monitors radon test kits; responds to radon hotline and radon related calls; receives visitors with radon related concerns and attends local and national radon related seminars.
The loss of SIRG funds would result in the elimination of one FTE in that program. It would mean the end of our free test kit program, a reduction in the number of home shows and health fairs we could attend, the loss of our attendance at the national radon conference and the Regional Stakeholders' Meeting, a reduction in our school testing program, the elimination of our outreach encouraging RRNC, and the reduction or elimination of some other outreach such as the governor's proclamation and NRAM activities, and the training of realtors and local health agencies.
1 full time and 1 part time staff: responsible for carrying out the SIRG grant.
Two staff will likely be let go: 1) our 'Radon Planner' who manages partnerships, stakeholder meetings, radon

<p>data, and outreach activities; and 2) our 'Radon Gold Standard Outreach Coordinator' who educates and recruits builders into the program and conducts outreach to real estate professionals.</p>
<p>Radon Specialist position will be eliminated. The Radon Specialist conducts all radon activities for the Tribe.</p>
<p>1 full-time position was funded completely by grant funds. General Duties - customer service, poster contest, tracking of radon reporting from sub-grantees, presentations to public, coordinating outreach events.</p>
<p>2 staff funded under SIRG provide all outreach and education activities and technical assistance.</p>
<p>The administrative assistant is fully funded by SIRG and will be eliminated. A portion of the program manager position will need to be refunded.</p>
<p>Our local health department currently employs one full-time health environmentalist. This position may be reduced to part-time without SIRG funds.</p>
<p>2 contractors for radon program implementation will be cut and radon technical assistance will be eliminated.</p>
<p>Education and outreach quality control and assurance of measurement consultants and mitigation systems data entry and maintenance of radon data base.</p>
<p>All 5 Radon Educators jobs will be eliminated.</p>
<p>Respond to inquiries from the public. Provide list of NEHA/NRSB certified Michigan radon testers and mitigators. Develop new radon informational literature and outreach materials. Order literature and outreach materials to maintain sufficient inventory to support the Michigan indoor radon program, LHD indoor radon programs, and cooperative partner programs. Make indoor radon issue informational and training presentations. Respond to legislative and media inquiries. Attend and participate in EPA-sponsored radon issued trainings, workshops, symposia, and seminars. Participate in EPA radon issue conference calls. Serve as a liaison with Michigan's LHD on the indoor radon issue. Serve as a liaison with radon issue cooperative partners. Develop radon program projects for the annual SIRG application package. Coordinate implementation of SIRG projects. Provide information needed to generate SIRG program performance reports per grant requirements. Assist with monitoring SIRG expenditures to assure that they are within grant funding allotment. Provide LHD with radon measurement devices and report measurement results to LHD. Supply LHD with radon literature and outreach materials.</p>
<p>The staff person conducting outreach and a staff person who inspects mitigation systems. We MAY continue regulatory/licensing duties for a time after SIRG, but the income is not enough to support the same level of duties as current. They will be reduced, and so a staff person will be let go.</p>
<p>Program Director: Writes and administers the State Indoor Radon Grant. Develop and implement projects with school districts, builders, and business. Coordinates all radon outreach efforts. Test MS Schools for radon gas. Conduct statewide radon awareness activities. Collect, compile, and maintain the radon data base. Radon Technician: Input data into Radon database. Maintain Radon Hot Line.</p>
<p>About 2.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions will be eliminated. The Nevada Radon Education Program's Program Director (handles radon outreach; answers citizen inquiries and questions; serves as a liaison with certified radon mitigators and testers; administers the program; writes and disseminates news articles; writes the quarterly Radon Newsletter; handles the database of radon results; brings in partnerships; answers the Radon Hotline, etc.); Radon Education Coordinator (assists in radon outreach and education; handles test kit requests; assists in test kit organization; and coordinates Nevada's radon social media projects); and the Southern Area Radon Coordinator (handles the Clark, Lincoln and Southern Nye county radon outreach program; answers questions and disseminates news articles). In addition, another employee who helps with test kit distribution and GIS zip code mapping will have to find other work to supplement his salary.</p>
<p>State Radon Program Manager 1 FTE, entire program will be eliminated.</p>
<p>The outreach program, conducted through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, which has the infrastructure in place in the Zone 1 counties, will not be conducted. Citizens will not receive any type of</p>

radon education.
The duties include coordination of the distribution of radon test kits, education campaign for the public and consultation with individuals following elevated readings.
1. Provide outreach/technical information to the public and regulated industry. 2. Oversight of most or all regulatory functions. 3. Training of regulated industry, stakeholders, and the public. 4. Technical assistance to the regulated industry, other state agencies, organizations, and the legislature. 5. Maintain knowledge of radon standards, protocols, and guidance.
The two full time employees at Extension will be eliminated or reassigned and the one half time employee (in radon) at Public Health will continue.
I serve as the McLean County Radon Consultant at the Ecology Action Center. I depend solely on SIRG funding.
The Radon Education Program Director will lose her position that deals with radon outreach; is the liaison with certified radon mitigators and testers, administers the program; writes news releases; writes the quarterly radon newsletter; handles the database of radon results; brings in partnerships; answers the radon hotline. The Nevada Radon Education Program coordinator will lose her position where she assists the Radon Program director in completing the Nevada Radon Education presentation to the general public, realtors and builders across the state. The coordinator organizes and implements the annual radon poster contest, acquires state, county and local government proclamation for NRAM, answers inquiries, identifies new target groups to partner with, represents the radon program in public venues to included exhibit booths at home shows and health fairs, coordinates all social media promoting the program, and creates innovative, interactive graphics and multimedia for the education program. The Southern Area Radon Coordinator handles the Clark, Lincoln and Southern Nye County radon outreach program. The GIS coordinator assists in multimedia, creates Geographical Information Systems maps for Radon levels within Nevada, and assists the program coordinator in preparing for exhibit booths.
Program Director, Nevada Radon Education Program - Directs and conducts all public information and outreach activities. Education Coordinator, Nevada Radon Education Program - Conducts public information and outreach efforts for entire state.
The Radon Program Manager will cease to exist and he will be re-assigned or fired.
A person that is involved in outreach activities and contracts

Question 11:

What are you most concerned about if SIRG funding is eliminated from the next fiscal budget? (e.g., elimination of the entire radon program, the loss of momentum, contractors not doing quality work)	
Answer Options	Response Count
	47
<i>answered question</i>	47
<i>skipped question</i>	5

Comments
Despite our enthusiastic radon program activities, there are still countless District residents who are unaware about radon and the potential harmful effects of long-term exposure to elevated indoor radon. While a few of our residents may purchase radon test kits from local hardware and retail stores, several residents have called asking about qualified radon testers and radon contractors. Still, countless calls have also been received from

contractors and residents asking about radon licensure requirements. I am most fearful that our senior citizens and our single mothers are targeted prey for unscrupulous contractors. We believe that we are getting close to amending our District radon law to include national certification for all residential and commercial radon activities. Without funding and a radon program, our citizenry is at great risk.
Loss of program; inability to conduct outreach and surveys.
We expect the greatest impact from the loss of SIRG funding would be the loss of momentum for the MO radon program. Mitigations are at an all-time high in Missouri, and have increased more than 35% in the last twelve months. Radon is on the verge of becoming a mainstream issue in Missouri. The reduction of SIRG funds would reduce radon to "something that used to be a problem."
Total elimination.
Our ability to continue to effectively reach out to the public, schools, realtors, and builders. This may also cause us a loss of credibility.
We cannot answer these questions at this time. NJ's program will likely be reduced but the degree to which that happens will depend upon the level of State funding.
Loss of momentum
1) Elimination of the entire radon program 2) The loss of momentum 3) Contractors not doing quality work 4) Possible loss of matching state funds to match federal grants 5) Possible repeal of RRNC law 6) Impact on laboratories and contractors being able to stay in business.
Elimination of the entire radon program.
Public Health Risk.
Elimination of the entire program and no technical assistance to existing and new homeowners that are uninformed about radon and lung cancer.
Elimination of the entire radon program.
Staff reduction.
Oregon has had some success in adopting radon regulations in recent years. Loss of SIRG funding would certainly result in a loss of momentum. In addition, my section will continue to receive calls on radon, which will be on top of all the other indoor air quality calls that we receive for which there is no funding (mold, CO, formaldehyde, etc.). It is simply unsustainable.
Our community will no longer have access to free radon test kits. We will no longer provide outreach services in the schools.
Without federal support the radon program in Nevada will be eliminated.
Program elimination.
Our Radon Program will no longer exist and radon professionals will not be trained anymore for radon testing in schools which is required every 5 years. There will be no more education and outreach, no more radon conferences for NRAM...the list goes on and on. It would be a shame.
All of the above. If the program is eliminated, radon testing and mitigations will dramatically decrease, inferior contractors work will increase, radon induced lung cancer will increase, and the radon program will lose 10 years of progress!
If SIRG funding is eliminated from the FY13 budget, Michigan's efforts to educate residents about the health risks associated with exposure to radon gas may come to an end. Over 27% of radon test kits utilized in the state of Michigan are returning results at 4.0 pCi/L or higher. Staff expertise, radon test kit distribution, public service announcements, residential and school surveys, as well as outreach efforts to homebuilders and real estate agents has helped increase radon awareness in Michigan. While much work has been done over the past 20 years, there is much more work to be accomplished to further reduce the public health risk posed by exposure to radon gas, in homes, schools, and work places. The loss of SIRG would result in a loss of

momentum in radon testing and mitigation in the state of Michigan.
Elimination of the entire radon program in NE, no oversight of contractors, no assistance to the general public.
We will lose most if not all of our outreach efforts.
Elimination of the entire radon program. Loss of employment. Loss of momentum. Contractors not doing quality work, and no one to monitor them.
<p>I am concerned on many levels. Momentum is not an issue if SIRG funding is gone. With the loss of SIRG funding, the entire Radon Education Program in Nevada will cease to exist, NEVER TO COME BACK AGAIN. The only momentum that will continue is an increase in the number of ill-informed individuals regarding radon. Radon gas effects will continue to rise, the number of incidences of radon-induced lung cancer will increase, and health care costs to fight lung cancer will increase. I am concerned for Nevadans, as many will not hear about radon and its health risks once our program is gone. With more than 11,625 valid test results in Nevada's database, one in four homes in the state has elevated radon levels (at or above the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/l). In some counties, elevated radon levels have been found in one out of two homes. Since the program's inception in 2008, we have made more than 43,000 direct contacts. Most of these individuals had never heard about radon until they saw our sign, our TV PSA, or TV reports, heard about it on the radio from a news release, heard it from us at a health fair or community group presentation, or read our articles in the newspaper. They would never have known about radon, nor tested their homes, had they not heard about radon through us. Through our efforts, 13,870 Nevada homes were tested for radon either through our test kit devices or certified radon testers. Out of those 13,870 homes, there were 11,625 usable/valid test results, with 3,023 (26%) having radon levels over the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/l. Out of those 3,023 homes, we have documented at least 451 homes (14.9%) as having been mitigated. If we are not here to help these people, the number of mitigated homes will not increase as much, nor will EPA ever know the number of tests and mitigations that take place because there will be no one to document the information. I am concerned for the certified mitigators in our state, as well as the certified testers. Without our education efforts, the mitigators within Nevada will experience a sharp decline in radon system installations. Their businesses will suffer. Without our outreach efforts, many people will not test their homes, and will therefore not need radon systems installed. The loss of SIRG funding will have a major impact on their ability to stay in business, as they would have to shoulder the cost of educating citizens on why they should test their homes and mitigate radon problems (a main focus of the Nevada Radon Program). Hearing the message from the industry (and/or government entities) is often viewed as suspect and their message will not be as well received by the public as it was from our program's efforts. I have been involved in radon education for the past 15 years with two different state programs. I have seen the need for education, as well as encouragement to test their homes for radon. I have seen how those people who are educated want to have their homes mitigated because they just don't want the carcinogen, radon, in their homes. I have seen both programs grow in their outreach and how they have made a difference in the lives of those they touch. I am deeply disappointed that EPA has abandoned radon and thrown the state programs and this cancer-causing health risk under the bus. I am greatly saddened that our efforts will end soon, NEVER TO RETURN.</p>
The general public will continue to expect that our local health department has a radon program and we will not. The science teachers in the schools will have to be told that we no longer will be able to come to their classes when they touch on the subject of radioactive materials. The general public expecting that our local health department has coupons for radon test kits and we will not have these. All positive momentum will be lost. Positive working relationships with contractors will be lost.
Elimination of the entire radon program including the school testing program. By eliminating SIRG funding, it will appear to the average citizen that the Federal Government is no longer concerned about indoor radon.
Program elimination, loss of momentum, no contractor tracking/mediation with homeowners, no

<p>outreach/education/assistance to the public, no test kits for the public, no radon hotline or website for the public to access, nowhere for homeowners to report issues with contractors, no central information point for contractors at the state level.</p>
<p>Reduction in the amount of information that will be provided to the public, losing the level of service that's been provided, loss of public confidence in radon professionals, back sliding on the radon information level that's been achieved through hard work and dedication of staff.</p>
<p>Loss of momentum in the state. Our licensing program provides funding for staff; however, the outreach program is totally funded from SIRG. The state retains less than 20% of SIRG funds and provides the rest of funding through sub-grants to locals and non-profits.</p>
<p>Elimination of the entire radon program.</p>
<p>Residents will remain unaware of the dangers of radon exposure. The general public is not aware of the threat or the need to test. Contractors provide very limited information which often conflicts with best practices.</p>
<p>Possibility of eliminating test kit distribution. We provide them free of charge and may not be able to continue this outreach. The public loves that we provide free test kits. I work for Franklin County in Ohio.</p>
<p>The loss of momentum of a program that still has not reached enough people to make them aware that radon is a problem. I still get phone calls where people say they have never even heard of radon. Also, contractors in our state thrive on the training we provide and the outreach and support for their business. Their businesses will suffer immense loss without the support of local and state health departments enriching the message about the health hazards of radon. We train our local health department staff annually and give refreshers on radon health hazards and techniques for mitigation. Without SIRG funding, these local resources will not be a source of updated information and staff expertise will eventually be lost with turnover. The SIRG funding overall is not that much money. The work we see coming as a result of the funding, far exceeds the finances put in. Local and state health departments put in more staff time on radon training and outreach than the SIRG funding gives them. The government is getting a major bargain with this money!</p>
<p>We are fortunate that our program has found funding elsewhere within state government. Albeit at a reduced rate. My concern is that in the future, this funding too will be eliminated and then the program will essentially cease to exist because we will not be able to pay the salaries of radon employees.</p>
<p>Elimination of the entire radon program. Less radon testing by homeowners.</p>
<p>Loss of coordination and support from builders association and momentum with building officials. Note: Could not answer 6 correctly as worded. We provide testing info, but not kits. We will lose a third of our public information capacity with SIRG.</p>
<p>Likely elimination of all current staff with transfer of regulatory duties to other, untrained programs; resulting in poor or no actual oversight of industry and an overall degradation in quality of radon work.</p>
<p>Lack of testing and lack of knowledge. More people will suffer the health effects of high radon levels because they will not know they HAVE high radon and will not be educated on what radon is and why they should be concerned.</p>
<p>The IRAA goals will not be achieved and risks to the public will increase dramatically.</p>
<p>Loss of outreach programs conducted by Alabama Cooperative Extension.</p>
<p>Loss of momentum, public outreach, cohesiveness of the radon task force, support for the Midwest AARST chapter, Ecology Action Center may stop selling test kits without a resource person on staff.</p>
<p>Elimination of the entire radon program in Nevada. If Nevada Radon Education Program loses funding, 3 people within the department will become unemployed. Without education, the public is left uninformed of Radon and its potential adverse health effects and Nevada's mitigators will lose business.</p>
<p>Elimination of the entire program and therefore all of the above because citizens are unable to get motivation</p>

and information on which to make informed decisions.

Complete elimination of the radon program in all of its aspects.

We could also loose the entire licensing program since all fees from licensing (\$225,000-\$250,000) go to the state general fund instead of the Radon Program and we currently have no funds allocated from the legislator to run the state radon program.