

EPA Explanatory Language for SIRG Results Measures Template (5-February-07)

The President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is continuing its efforts to align state grant programs with EPA's strategic goals, and to ensure that grant dollars are getting good results. The FY 2007 EPA President's Budget includes language stating that EPA will develop a standardized template that all States will use to develop and submit their State grant agreements. This requirement will apply to all federal funds appropriated to EPA on October 1, 2006 or later. The State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program has been included as part of this requirement.

In response to this language, EPA has developed a Performance Measures Template that will be an attachment to State grant workplans. The purpose of the template is to assure the development and reporting of more consistent and meaningful grant-related performance information that clearly links to EPA's strategic goals and objectives. (For general information on the OMB requirement and EPA's response, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/npmguidance/template.htm>)

The EPA Radon program has developed four specific measures for the State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program that are included in the overall EPA template. EPA sent out a draft of the measures and the guidance in early April 2006, and received comments from many states and tribes. The measures, as finalized, are:

- The number of homes mitigated each year
- The number of homes built with radon resistant new construction (RRNC)
- The number of schools mitigated or built with radon resistant new construction
- States report the performance measures they use that have clear linkages to those of EPA (homes mitigated, new radon resistant homes, schools mitigated or built radon resistant). For example, many states will be able to report on the number of tests conducted to detect high levels of radon in homes.

In addition, to provide further guidance and specificity, EPA has also developed a radon specific measures template and guidance on how the measures should be applied to state programs. These documents are intended to help the states (and regions) identify specific measures that can be used for state programs, and to report results in a consistent manner that clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of the grant program.

Attached are the two supporting documents. These incorporate states feedback from the comment period.

The first page of the document entitled *SIRG State measures hierarchy and checklist* contains a visual hierarchy of example measures that can be used to meet this requirement. The second and third pages are a template checklist for states to use to identify the areas of work on which a state program is focused, and the measures a state is using to show progress. This checklist is to be submitted with state workplans.

The second attachment is a guidance document designed to provide information on how to meet this new requirement and answer some of the questions state programs may have.

These documents will also be posted on our SIRG program website at <http://www.epa.gov/radon/sirgprogram.html>. We will update these documents periodically, so please send any comments or suggestions that will make these more useful.

EPA will also be providing further information and assistance to the states in the future. EPA will be writing a document that will provide specific examples of how a state can submit results to meet the requirement. EPA will also be setting up conference calls where states and tribes can ask direct questions of headquarters staff, and discuss ideas for meeting the requirement with other states.

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