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## EPA Moves to Improve Indoor Air Quality



The [EPA](#) is awarding 17 agreements to nonprofit organizations and a university totaling almost \$2.4 million to improve indoor air quality across the nation.

Statistically Americans spend approximately 90% of their time indoors, facing levels of [air pollution](#) two to five times higher than outdoors.

Indoor air pollutants ranging from dust mites to radon can have serious debilitating effects on individuals breathing the contaminated air.

“EPA is proud to be working with our partners nationwide to improve the air we breathe at school, work and home,” says Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation.

“American communities face serious health and environmental challenges from air pollution. This effort gives us an opportunity to improve indoor air quality by increasing awareness of environmental health risks.”

[From the announcement](#), the cooperative agreements of this project will:

- Motivate Americans to improve their home’s indoor air quality
- **Increase effective indoor air quality practices**
- Increase the number of homes tested for radon and built with radon-resistant features and increase mitigation of radon in existing homes
- Create awareness to reduce asthma triggers in the home and encourage the use of an **asthma management plan**
- Promote positive indoor air quality management practices in **schools** nationwide, including holistic approaches to environmental issues

These projects are designed to educate Americans to better recognize and reduce the dangerous possibilities related to poor indoor air quality.

### An Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

#### Cooperative Agreement Funding

The Indoor Environments Division has created partnership with public and private sector entities to help encourage the public to take action to minimize their risk and mitigate indoor air quality problems. In some cases, IED is able to provide funding support through cooperative agreements, such as with tribes, non-profit public health organizations and industry.

[10/20/2010] \$2.4 million in cooperative agreements is being awarded to improve indoor air quality nationwide. The goal of these projects is to educate Americans on how to reduce the environmental risks of indoor contaminants. [Read the EPA Press Release.](#)

The 17 selected applicants to be awarded a cooperative agreement are (listed alphabetically):

Partnership	State For More Information
American Association of School Administrators (AASA)	VA <a href="http://www.aasa.org">www.aasa.org</a> 
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)	VA <a href="http://www.clinicians.org">www.clinicians.org</a> 
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)	VA <a href="http://www.asbointl.org">www.asbointl.org</a> 
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)	MD <a href="http://www.aafa.org">www.aafa.org</a> 
Asthma and Allergy Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA)	VA <a href="http://www.aanma.org">www.aanma.org</a> 
Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)	MA <a href="http://www.bphc.org">www.bphc.org</a> 
Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD)	KY <a href="http://www.crcpd.org">www.crcpd.org</a> 
<b>Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI)</b>	<b>AZ</b> <a href="http://www.cefpi.org">www.cefpi.org</a> 
Environmental Law Institute (ELI)	DC <a href="http://www.eli.org">www.eli.org</a> 
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.	NY <a href="http://www.healthyschools.org">www.healthyschools.org</a> 
Kansas State University (KSU)	KS <a href="http://sosradon.org">http://sosradon.org</a> 
National Association of School Nurses (NASN)	MD <a href="http://www.nasn.org">www.nasn.org</a> 
National Education Association Health Information Network (NEAHIN)	DC <a href="http://www.neahin.org">www.neahin.org</a> 
National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEEFUSA)	DC <a href="http://www.neefusa.org">www.neefusa.org</a> 
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)	CO <a href="http://www.neha.org">www.neha.org</a> 
<b>Northern Arizona University (NAU)</b>	<b>AZ</b> <a href="http://home.nau.edu">http://home.nau.edu</a> 

Cooperative agreement recipients conduct demonstration, training, education, and/or outreach projects that seek to reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants. Demonstrations generally involve new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches, where the results of the project will be disseminated so that others can benefit from the knowledge gained in the demonstration project. Recipients must measure the results of their activities related to indoor air quality issues including pollutants — radon, environmental tobacco smoke, and indoor environmental asthma triggers — and building types, such as schools, commercial and homes. Although achievement of the end environmental outcome may not be able to be attributed to, or measurable within, the time frame of a single assistance agreement, results must involve:

- **Outputs** — an activity, effort and/or associated product related to a larger environmental or programmatic goal or objective to be produced or provided over a specific period of time or by a specified date and that will be measurable, either qualitatively or quantitatively, within the assistance funding period.
- **Outcomes** — a measurable impact, result, effect or consequence that occurs from carrying out the program or activity. It may be programmatic, behavioral, environmental or health-related in nature. Impacts of programs or changes in behavior are typically intermediate outcomes that will eventually lead to desired changes in environmental or health status or end outcomes.

For information on funding opportunities available from EPA's Office of Air and Radiation — OAR — visit Air and Radiation's Grants and Funding website at [www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html#oap](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#oap).