



**Center for Healthy Homes & Environment
Environmental Health Risk Assessment Program
Community Outreach, Education & Assessment Short-Term Funding Opportunity**

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is offering short-term funding opportunities of up to \$4,950 each to eligible entities for projects to support and expand upon Environmental Health Risk Assessment Program's (EHRAP's) efforts to engage with and educate communities on the impact environmental hazards have on public health.

Background:

Through EHRAP, RIDOH aims to investigate the public health implications of hazardous chemicals in the environment, educate affected communities and stakeholders about these implications, and proactively manage risks by exploring innovative solutions. Funded through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR's) Cooperative Agreement Program, EHRAP evaluates contaminated sites and analyzes potential links between site contaminants and community health outcomes.

As an ATSDR-funded program, EHRAP prioritizes abandoned hazardous waste sites included on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [National Priorities List](#), also known as Superfund sites. Additionally, EHRAP prioritizes sites with potential contaminants and related impacts on human health that are a significant cause for concern for nearby communities.

Opportunity and Eligibility:

EHRAP's intention is to award up to eight (8) projects across both currently available short-term funding opportunities (Lead in Soil and Community Outreach, Education & Assessment), not to exceed \$4,950 per award. Some organizations may request and receive less than the maximum Short-Term Funding Opportunity amount. Eligible applicants must be affiliated with or a part of a nonprofit, school, community-based agency, coalition, and/or grassroots organization that has a Federal Employer Identification Number or Federal Tax Identification Number. For-profit entities are not eligible.

RIDOH will fund eligible entities to conduct community outreach and education activities that amplify and complement its federally funded efforts. These efforts may be related to a specific site of concern or more generally related to health-related implications of environmental hazards in Rhode Island. RIDOH may also fund eligible entities' own site-based investigations.

Under ATSDR funding, EHRAP does not investigate or evaluate issues arising from activities that are already regulated by EPA or DEM (such as vehicles or permitted industrial pollution) and will not be able to fund projects that address these concerns through this special project opportunity. However, EHRAP is able to investigate and evaluate emergencies and illegal releases occurring during the course of industrial operations.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include

- Community workshop series for residents near a former industrial site educating them about indoor air vapor intrusion risks and mitigation strategies they can implement in their homes.
- Educational campaign about consuming fish from waters near contaminated sites, including guidance on species selection, preparation methods that reduce exposure, and understanding fish consumption advisories.

- Educational materials and workshops for private well owners on groundwater contamination from past activities and its impact on human health.

RIDOH suggests a four-month project period but welcomes alternative proposals that will enable organizations to achieve special project opportunity deliverables.

Application:

Completed Community Outreach, Education & Assessment Short-Term Funding Opportunity Applications must be submitted electronically to Melissa Orpen-Tuz at melissa.orpentuz@health.ri.gov no later than 4 p.m. on March 13, 2026. Submissions should not exceed eight (8) pages. Applicants must score at least 60 of the 100 points to be eligible for this Short-Term Funding Opportunity.

Questions relative to this solicitation may be submitted in writing to Melissa Orpen-Tuz at melissa.orpentuz@health.ri.gov by no later than close of business on Friday, February 27, 2026. At the conclusion of the Q & A period, all questions and all official answers will be posted as an addendum on the RIDOH website. RIDOH will not be responding directly to applicants. Please monitor the RIDOH website accordingly.

Upon award, RIDOH will provide recipients with a reporting schedule and templates to use for the mid-cycle and final reports and invoices. RIDOH requires two (2) invoices: RIDOH will require recipients to submit a first invoice and mid-cycle project report midway through the agreed-upon project duration and a second invoice accompanied by a final project report upon conclusion of the project timeline. RIDOH reimburses organizations after receiving program reports and invoices that demonstrate completion of work. RIDOH will not reimburse organizations for activities carried out prior to the issue date on the Purchase Order.

To apply, complete and submit the following items by the deadline and delivery methods outline above:

1. Short-Term Funding Opportunity Cover Form;
2. Short-Term Funding Opportunity Application and Proposed Budget;

Please note:

RIDOH requires that recipients provide a 10%-in-kind match (more details are provided in the budget section of the application).

Submit completed applications to:

Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Program Manager
Center for Healthy Homes & Environment
Rhode Island Department of Health
melissa.orpentuz@health.ri.gov



**Center for Healthy Homes & Environment
Environmental Health Risk Assessment Program
Community Outreach, Education & Assessment Short-Term Funding Opportunity Application**

Due Date: 4:00 p.m. on March 13, 2026

Short-Term Funding Opportunity Cover Form

Organization/Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____

Federal Employer Identification # (FEIN): _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Submissions should use the templates provided and not exceed eight (8) typed pages*. This includes the required forms noted below:

- **Short-Term Funding Opportunity Cover Form;**
- **Short-Term Funding Opportunity Application;**

Email application to:

Melissa Orpen-Tuz, Program Manager
Center for Healthy Homes & Environment
Rhode Island Department of Health
melissa.orpentuz@health.ri.gov

Submit any questions in writing to Melissa Orpen-Tuz at melissa.orpentuz@health.ri.gov by no later than close of business on Friday, February 27, 2026. At the conclusion of the Q & A period, all questions and all official answers will be posted as an addendum on the RIDOH website.



**Center for Healthy Homes & Environment
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Short-Term Funding Opportunity Application

Important: Please provide your response either directly within this template or in a separate document that follows the template structure, ensuring the application does not exceed eight (8) pages.

Section I: Agency Capacity (10 points)

Briefly describe your organization and its experience in conducting outreach, education, and/or assessment of environmental hazards and their potential effects on public health outcomes.

Section II: Personnel (10 points)

List the personnel who will work on the project and briefly describe their experience working in this area.

Section III: Project Scope (25 points)

Please provide a summary of the proposed project and project goals, which must include a description of the types of contaminants to be addressed and their connection to negative human health impacts. Discuss how the project will support and expand upon EHRAP program goals. If you have carried out a similar project, please describe it here as well as your success in achieving the outlined goals. Describe the population you aim to serve and how you will ensure that project activities meet their needs.

Section IV: Work Plan (25 points)

Explain your plan for completing the proposed project. Identify program activities, materials, work products, and associated timelines. Describe how you will measure project outcomes and gauge success.

Section V: Budget (30 Points)

Briefly describe your proposed expenses for this project. The maximum allowable budget is \$4,950. **Stipends, gift cards, costs associated with child care at events, and food and beverage are not permitted under this funding source**, however, can be used toward the 10% in-kind match.

RIDOH requires that funded entities provide a 10% in-kind match. Most organizations use cash, computer hardware, software, office supplies, salaries, space, and volunteer services for matching funds. If using volunteer services, you may use the market rate for similar work. Bureau of Labor Statistics data for Rhode Island, which can be used to determine the market rate, can be found here: https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ri.htm. Generally federal funds cannot be used as a match for another federal grant; however, there are some exceptions. If you receive federal funds from another source, you must confirm with the grantor before using these as matching funds.

Staff			
Name, Title	Hourly Rate	Total Number of Hours	Total Cost
Total Staff Budget			\$
Operating and Program Expenses			
	Per Unit Price	Number of Units	Total Cost
Copying/Printing			
Postage			
In-State Travel (for 2026, .725 per mile)			
Equipment/Supplies			
Total Operating Expenses			\$
Other Expenses			
	Per Unit Price	Number of Units	Total Cost
Describe Expense:			
Describe Expense:			
Describe Expense:			
Total Other Expenses			

10% In-Kind Match			
	Per Unit Price	Number of Units	Total
Describe:			
Describe:			
Describe:			
	Total (must equal 10% of budget)		
Indirect Costs/Admin Costs*			\$
TOTAL REQUEST AMOUNT			\$

*If including indirect charges in the budget, a copy of your federally approved indirect rate must be attached. If you do not have a federally approved indirect rate, you may charge a 10% de minimis rate.